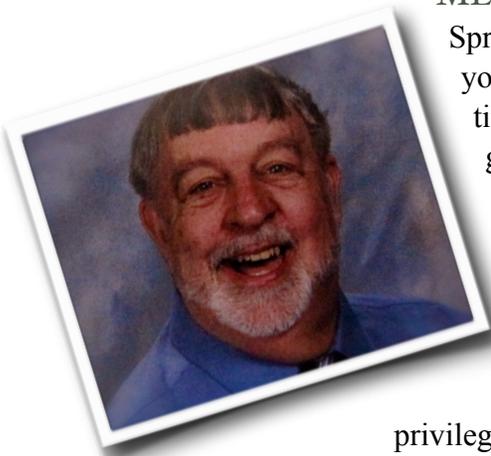


MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring Greetings to you. Spring is a time of renewal, growth and rebirth ... the greening of our lives. Spring also means the joy and

privilege of serving as your President for the year

2009-2010 will soon be completed. When you read this column some of us will have gathered at Spring Fling and all of us will have an opportunity to fellowship together at our Annual Conference Luncheon Friday, June 18th.

I shared in my column in January that God is always creating, renewing and doing a new thing. Our Faith and Hope does not disappoint us. The Chinese word for conflict is we chi meaning dangerous opportunity. We have great opportunities that lie before us as a nation; as an Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; and as retired clergy and spouses. Many of us rejoice that the Health Care Reform Bill has finally passed Congress and has been signed by President Obama. As we seek to be faithful to serve "the least of these our brothers and sisters" this bill is a great beginning. Praise God!

The costs of retired clergy health care, past service pension obligations, and current pension plans are a critical concern for all retired and active clergy and the members of every church in our Annual Conference. Bishop Brown has sent clergy and members of the conference a letter outlining four major steps that we as a conference must make to transition into a positive and healthy future. I urge you to attend one of the six conference meetings with Bishop Brown if you are able to do so.

As we consider these complex issues, let me share some good news for retired clergy and spouses. First, the Conference Board of Pensions has recommended that retiree contributions for health care remain at 30% for 2011. That is great news because it was feared that the rate might go up to 35 or 40%. Premiums will go up in 2011, but our contribution rate will remain at 30% of the premium. Second our retired clergy pre- 1982 pension rate frozen at \$828/ year of service is still the highest in the nation of all annual conferences.

The Clergy Benefit Task Force is bringing to Annual Conference a two year plan to move us to direct billing of current clergy pension costs to each local church. The recommendation reads as follows:

Beginning 1/1/2012, the cost of clergy pensions and benefits under the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) will be billed to each local church or charge with clergy participants in these plans. Each church or charge will be billed for the CRSP/CPP cost of its appointed clergy. Don Cunningham has an article in this issue spelling out the details and benefits of this proposal. I ask you to consider it prayerfully and carefully. Tony Ubalde, past RCA President who represents us on the task force; Nancy Daley, and I urge your support and yes vote. The Board of Pensions has endorsed the recommendation and will bring the standing rule changes to Annual Conference Session for vote. Your RCA Board will meet on Wed., May 19th to vote on this recommendation. If your RCA Board votes approval we will send out a special email urging your support as well. The retired clergy of our Annual Conference have both voice and vote. Our support might mean the difference between passage or failure. I urge you to continue to be involved the health care and pension decisions that affect all of us in our conference.

I remind you that our 4th RCA VIM trip to New Orleans will be Nov. 5-13. You can contact me for more details or to express interest in going with us. I give thanks for our very creative, dedicated, and involved RCA Board that has assisted me this year and continues to represent you and concerns of retired clergy and spouse. Continue to use our new website ca-nv-rca.org for news, prayer

requests, and concerns. I look forward to seeing many of you at Annual Conference. You may contact me at jsangove@surewest.net or 916-781-6785.

May God's Peace – Shalom be upon you,

~Jerry Angove

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GREETINGS and salutations! I hope this issue of Days of Grace finds your days filled with grace indeed.

It was great to see so many of you at Spring Fling. There were 90 of us gathered for fellowship and some insight into the Gospel and Film. Next year will have David Felten as our featured speaker. You might know him from *Living the Questions* series. Save April 13-14, 2012 and plan on attending! It promises to be enlightening!

Annual Conference time is rapidly approaching. Registration is available online through the conference website. If you are unable to register online yourself, your pastor at your local church can assist you in this regard. If you still need assistance, please give me a call and I can register you while you are on the phone. It's a quick process, so it will only take a few minutes.

Some of the legislation that will be before the conference is printed in this issue. You may need a magnifying glass to read it all, and for that I apologize. But I didn't want to make this issue a book!

You will also find the registration form for the Annual Luncheon inside. As usual, the

luncheon will be held on the Friday of Conference and will once again take place at the Sheraton.

If you are planning on staying overnight, the Hyatt is the only hotel offering a special rate. Other area hotels/motels are also available. I plan on being at the Sheraton once again if you need to find me. I will also have my spot on the plenary floor.

I look forward to seeing you at Annual Conference and the luncheon!

Peace,

Nancy



CLERGY BENEFITS TASK FORCE

Dear Friends in RCA:

This is an invitation to each and all of you to join me in thoughtfully supporting the Proposal To Direct-Bill Active Clergy Pension Costs recommended by the Clergy Benefits Task Force to the 2010 Annual Conference. If adopted, Direct-billing will be phased in during 2011 and 2012.

For more than two-and-a-half years the Task Force has been working to develop actions that will secure adequate clergy benefits amidst declining financial resources. Over the last year we have carefully considered the pros and cons of moving from the apportionment system to distribute clergy pension costs across the churches to an approach that will bill pension costs to each local church or charge for its appointed clergy. This is a radical change. It means leaving a system that has worked well for us in paying pension costs until recently. It means embracing a system that, though used by the vast majority of our Conferences (I think all but 7) and **all** of the other Conferences in the Western Jurisdiction, is untried and untested by our Conference. It will require major shifts in resource allocation among our

churches. It surely will bring unanticipated surprises that we cannot foresee at this time. Yet the Task Force unanimously believes this is the way forward.

The recommendation calls for a transition year in 2011. During that year we will continue to use the current apportionment system to distribute pension costs. We will count on each church paying 100% of their clergy pension apportionment. For some 165 churches this will mean paying more--for some much, much more--than the pension costs for their appointed clergy. The proposal also calls for each church whose apportioned amount is less than the pension cost for their clergy to pay **an additional** direct billed amount. That bill will be **half** of the difference between their apportioned amount and the actual cost of their clergy's pension. For some 200 churches this will mean paying more than they have been asked to pay in the past. Then in January 2012 active clergy pension costs will be billed to and paid by each church for its appointed clergy.

This will be a huge challenge for all of us! Why should we take on and meet this challenge now?

First, for the sake of our mission. In his Lenten letter Bishop Brown wrote, *"It is time for us to return to our calling to work connectionally on behalf of the mission of Christ...This will require a shift away from the comfort of the familiar, well-worn path of what we have always done and already know. Instead, we will need to learn, collaborate and innovate as we develop effective systems that form and support us in becoming faithful disciples of Christ...in faith-filled, compassionate, efficient and fiscally responsible ways."* as an entire Conference, we are, in Bishop Brown's words, *"to recommit to living the Wesleyan way,"* to regain *"our focus on actively living our discipleship,"* and *"to return to our calling to work connectionally on behalf of the mission of Christ"* we must redirect how our money is spent and our clergy deployed. To adopt this proposal will not do it all, but it will involve every corner of our Conference in reallocating our resources. It will provoke change!

Second, the Task Force and I believe that this is a *"faith-filled, compassionate, efficient and fiscally responsible way"* to proceed now. We believe that placing the responsibility for paying the appointed clergy pension cost, as well as all other compensation costs, on the site where the work is done is fitting in this time and place.

Third, I have discovered in my fifty-plus years of ministry that real change never happens unless reallocation of resources (how money is spent and staff deployed) happens. If,

I hope you will give careful thought to the proposal of the Task Force, and that you will support it with both your voice and vote.

Your brother in the mission and ministry of Jesus,

Don Cunningham



PROPOSAL TO DIRECT-BILL ACTIVE CLERGY PENSION COSTS

OUR RATIONALE

WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

Beginning 1/1/2012, active clergy pension costs (CRSP-The Clergy Retirement Security Program and the CPP- The Comprehensive Protection Plan]) shall no longer be distributed across the churches by way of the apportionment formula; these costs shall be billed to and paid by each local church (or charge) for its appointed clergy.

During 2011 we will transition to this system using an interim arrangement for one year.

OUR HISTORY WITH CLERGY PENSION PAYMENTS:

Our Conference has operated successfully for many years using the apportionment system to distribute clergy pension costs across the churches, with some churches paying more than others, based on their relative financial strength. This plan was constructed so that some churches would help other churches pay the cost of their appointed clergy.

This worked well when benefit costs were far lower in proportion to other local church and Conference expenditures. Clergy pension apportionments were viewed and explained to local congregations as being missional in nature. However, these costs now exceed \$3 Million per year, and comprise over 40% of our total apportionment collections.

WHY CHANGE NOW

The church at every level must be clear about its mission. The current system hides the full costs

of appointed clergy which in turn may cause local church and conference leaders to make decisions on the deployment of clergy without understanding the true cost and impact of those decisions on our mission.

WHAT SUPPORT OF THE DIRECT-BILLING PROPOSAL WILL DO

- Change our current practice from apportioning clergy pensions to billing local churches for the actual pension cost of their appointed clergy.
- Place the responsibility for paying the appointed clergy pension and other compensation cost on the site where the work is done.
- Allow a transition year to fully implement the change.
- Separate clergy pensions from the apportioned (shared) support for the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference and the General Church.

WHAT SUPPORT OF THE DIRECT-BILLING PROPOSAL WILL NOT DO

It will NOT close churches; Jeopardize pensions for active or retired clergy; Single out any particular kind of church in its effects; Change the number of appointed clergy or the number of appointments; Reduce the total cost of clergy pensions to the Annual Conference; Undermine our commitment to missional churches; Address every challenge we face.

-- Continued on next page --

OUR RECOMMENDATION

Beginning 1/1/2012, the cost of clergy pensions and benefits under the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) will be billed to each local church or charge with clergy participants in these plans. Each church or charge will be billed for the CRSP/CPP cost of its appointed clergy.

WE FURTHER RECOMMEND

The calendar year 2011 will be a transition year wherein the cost of these plans will be allocated to the churches and charges as follows:

1. The CRSP/CPP costs will be included in the apportionment budget. Those churches whose Pensions and Benefits Apportionment exceeds the actual pension cost of its clergy shall pay their Pensions and Benefits Apportionment in full.

2. Those churches whose Pension and Benefits Apportionment is less than the actual cost of their appointed clergy pension will pay their Pension and Benefit Apportionment in full, and they will also be directly billed for half of the difference between the actual cost of their clergy pension and their Pension and Benefits Apportionment.

WOW!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Myron and Evelyn Herrell celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on March 29, 2010.

Myron also celebrated his 95th birthday in February!

Myron and Evelyn came to California the June after they were married to join the California-Nevada Conference and was first appointed to Trinity UMC in Mountain View. He continued to serve Cal-Nevada churches until retirement in 1982.

They continue to live in Rossmoor in Walnut Creek as they have for 32 years.

Congratulations to
Myron and Evelyn!

Help Wanted!

Are you wondering who the correspondent is for your area? Are we missing a report from your area? Please volunteer to be your area's correspondent! Email Nancy Daley at nancydaley@frontiernet.net for information (it's not too difficult!). This is the perfect job for the social butterflies among us who like to chit chat with everyone! (It's a great way to keep in touch with friends!)

A Little Housekeeping...

Please check your mailing label and be sure that I have your name(s) and address spelled correctly. If there is an error, please email or drop a postcard in the mail to me with the corrected information.

nancydaley@frontiernet.net
 Nancy Daley
 9509 Baypoint Way
 Elk Grove, CA 95624



DAYS OF GRACE GOES PAPERLESS..... IF YOU WISH



As you remember from the October issue of Days of Grace, the Retired Clergy Association now has a dedicated website separate from the Conference website.

One of the benefits of having our own website is that we have the ability to deliver our communication through the website.

The RCA History, past issues of Days of Grace as well as forms and registrations are available as downloadable documents.

IF you would prefer to receive Days of Grace through the website, I ask that you **EMAIL** me at nancydaley@frontiernet.net and I will notify you via email when each issue is available to download.

The benefits of receiving Days of Grace electronically are:

- It's GREEN! No paper!
- It saves money on printing and postage for the RCA.
- It is viewable in full color.

I do insist that you email me so I can create my notification list with your correct email.

You **will** continue to receive Days of Grace in your mailbox **UNLESS** you tell me otherwise.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN THE CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Submitted by the Cabinet and the Conference Committee on District Superintendency
Approved by the full Cabinet March 5, 2010
Approved by the Conference Committee on District Superintendency March 13, 2010
(8 of 11 were present. 8 votes yes)*

The Book of Discipline divides the authority for establishing districts in an annual conference between the Office of Bishop and the Annual Conference Session.

The Bishop draws district lines, assigns superintendents, and establishes structure for administration of districts. The Annual Conference assigns the number of districts.

(Paragraph 415.4 of the Book of Discipline includes under the responsibilities of the bishop the duty “to form the districts after consultation with the district superintendents and after the number of the same has been determined by vote of the annual conference.”)

In line with Bishop Brown’s call to mission focus and fiscal responsibility, the Cabinet with the support of the Conference Committee on District Superintendency is recommending that the Annual Conference Session approve consolidation of the number of districts from 7 to 4. This change will allow for greater administrative and supervisory

consistency and efficiency across the conference. It will allow for reallocation of funds for needed executive positions for leadership development and church start/new ministries. It will build on clergy leadership through circuits and allow Superintendents to strategically focus on ministry in churches and circuits through coaching and consultation.

Superintendents will continue to meet and consult with pastors and churches as appropriate across the districts. Circuits will continue to become the primary location for ministry development within the conference. Current district leadership will work together until June of 2012 to recommend appropriate structures for district committees in the new districts. Files and records will be converted to electronic media.

The specific matter before the annual conference is simply stated in the resolution: As of September 1, 2010 there shall be four districts in the California-Nevada Annual conference.

THE RESOLUTION

As of September 1, 2010 there shall be four Districts in the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

VISIT THE BOARD OF PENSIONS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

LAURY RAND WILL BE AT THE BOARD OF PENSIONS TABLE IN THE DISPLAY AREA DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE. STOP BY, SAY HELLO AND IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, LAURY IS YOUR MAN WITH ANSWERS!

Recommendation to Change Minimum Compensation Rules

Name of Submitting Group: Equitable Compensation Commission

Vote taken **March 2, 2010** Vote: **5 for/0 against**

Contact Person: Howard Parker, Chair
howard.parker@gmail.com

Fiscal Impact to Conference Budget: The Commission administers the Minimum Compensation Fund. Our long-term goal is to lower the financial need.

WHY A CHANGE IN MINIMUM COMPENSATION STANDING RULES

Currently:

- *Discipline* sets requirements for annual conference to have an Equitable Compensation Commission.
- Conference standing rules specify a formula for setting minimum levels for clergy compensation – a percentage of Conference Average Salary (CAS) adjusted by years of service.

Problem:

- Without specific policies, matters such as housing, health insurance and professional allowances have caused confusion and misunderstanding.
- Using our Conference Average Salary (CAS) as a benchmark is outdated. Since 2007, clergy pensions are computed based on the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).
- The current formula's rigidity has reduced flexibility needed in tough economic times.

New approach:

- Establish minimum compensation annually and challenge churches to exceed minimum expectations.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Standing Rules be changed as follows:

Division VII. Equitable Compensation

~~A. Equitable Compensation Commission~~

~~The Conference Board of Missions seeks to encourage missional work in the Conference. The Equitable Compensation Commission, which works in conjunction with the Conference Board of Missions, is responsible for advocating adequate and equitable compensation for each clergy position and for providing minimum compensation support in instances of established need. The Supplemental~~

~~Compensation Program using Equitable Compensation Funds will be divided into two parts: Minimum Compensation Assistance and Missional Compensation Assistance, and indicated as such by a footnote in the budget.~~

~~B. Minimum Compensation Assistance~~

~~1. Administrative Procedures:~~

- ~~a. The chairperson of the Equitable Compensation Commission is a member of the Board of Missions. The Equitable Compensation Funds are administered by the Equitable Compensation Commission, in accordance with the requirements of the Discipline and the following rules.~~
- ~~b. Minimum Compensation Assistance includes a Minimum Compensation Scale, a Maximum Scale for Benefits, plus requirements for Health Insurance and Housing expenses. Any pastor serving a pastoral charge participating in this program shall receive from local church funds, other sources, and minimum compensation supplement, a salary and other compensation equal to, but not to exceed, the amounts specified in the following plan.~~
- ~~c. The Superintendent is responsible for initiating the process and working with the local churches and pastors. The local churches and pastors complete applications according to procedures established by the Equitable Compensation Commission. A District Committee on Mission Strategy or Equitable Compensation may exist to assist the Superintendent who recommends each application. The Cabinet recommends the total package of all applications.~~
- ~~d. The Cabinet is to review and approve all Minimum Compensation Requests before the January and May meetings of the Commission on Equitable Compensation. The total of all requests should be within the total funds available for the program. Any changes after this report should be minimal.~~
- ~~e. The Cabinet shall submit by January 1 an estimate of need for the next budget year so that the Commission may make an informed request to the Council on Finance & Administration by the January 31 deadline.~~
- ~~f. Local churches where the pastor is receiving minimum compensation funds shall enter into a written agreement for a graduated program of increased local church compensation payments leading to self support in the shortest possible period. It shall include commitment of the local church involvement in the total life of the community, a financial campaign, payments of apportionments, membership recruitment, stewardship education, be approved by the Charge~~

Conference, and signed by the secretary. In addition they will supply such information as required by the Commission.	12	87
g. The Commission on Equitable Compensation will manage Minimum Compensation Assistance in the following ways:-	13	88
(1) Provide consultants and workshops for local churches relevant to issues and needs because of being on the Minimum Compensation Program;	14	89
(2) Consult with the Bishop and Cabinet,	15	90
(3) Make final approval of all applications, and		
(4) Annually present its estimate of the total funds needed to Council on Finance & Administration.		
h. As funds are available, the Conference Treasurer shall make monthly disbursements from the Equitable Compensation Fund. No payments of Minimum Compensation will be made until a completed Financial Application has been submitted.		
2. Definitions:-		
a. "Minister Year" is defined as a year of appointed service for Conference Members or full time service for local pastors (not including an appointment to attend school but including the current appointment year) for which, prior to January 1, 1982, full pension credit has been granted by an Annual Conference, or for which, after January 1, 1982, the specified contributions are made to the Clergy Pension Plan and the Comprehensive Protection Plan by an Annual Conference. The Cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation may set standards for accepting equivalent years of service given in another denomination.		
b. "Average Compensation" shall be defined and calculated by the General Board of Pensions minus the amount included for housing (This calculation includes amounts paid to pastors for purposes of making Social Security payments).		
3. Minimum Compensation Schedule:		
a. Compensation schedule:		
Clergy %Average		
years		
1-5 80		
6 81		
7 82		
8 83		
9 84		
10 85		
11 86		
b. Pastors serving more than one church shall receive an additional five percent of the pro rata share of the minimum compensation for each church.		
c. When appointed full time only, Student Local Pastors shall receive 50% of the Minimum Compensation Schedule, but all benefits as listed below shall be paid in full and appropriate housing provided.		
d. Clergy and local Pastors appointed to less than full time service may receive Minimum Compensation Program in quarter increments.		
4. Maximum Allowable Benefits:		
a. Payment of Health Insurance Premiums is allowed only for the Conference Health Plan in accordance with Conference policy.		
b. The local church shall include in its budget an amount of \$500 for continuing education to be reimbursed as used.		
5. Professional Reimbursements:		
a. Professional reimbursements will be the responsibility of the local church.		
b. Professional reimbursements shall include travel (Standing Rule VI.I.5.b), Annual Conference expenses, continuing education, and may include other items.		
6. Housing:		
a. Each local church is responsible for providing housing with either a parsonage or a housing allowance. If there is a housing allowance, it may not exceed the local rental value of a house that meets Conference parsonage standards. If by agreement, the pastor does not live in the community where the church is located, then the housing allowance may be negotiated to provide the rent necessary to house the pastor and family in an appropriate manner.		
b. Utilities should be based on actual cost or an estimate consistent with the costs of the previous year with a maximum amount of \$3,000.00.		
7. Limitations:		
a. A pastoral position, either full or less than full time, may not receive minimum compensation assistance for more than five consecutive years.		
b. Minimum Compensation Assistance shall be used only for pastor in charge.		

C. Special Missional Compensation Assistance

1. Purpose. To assist in funding compensation packages for pastors appointed to Special Missional Ministries, according to priorities set by the United Methodist Church, the Annual Conference, the Conference Board of Missions, and the Cabinet.
2. Compensation Package. The compensation package may exceed the minimum compensation assistance guidelines as determined by the Commission on Equitable Compensation in consultation with the Cabinet.
3. Special Missional Ministries including Ethnic Ministry, Urban Ministry, Town and Country, and New Church Development are the ongoing responsibilities of the Conference Board of Missions, and the Board shall identify these ministries annually to the Conference.
4. Administration:
 - a. The Commission on Equitable Compensation will determine application and disbursement procedures for allocating the total funds available among the missional ministries which are proposed.
 - b. The funding and special ministry plans will require an annual review.

Division VII. Equitable Compensation

Pursuant to paragraph 625 of the *Book of Discipline*, the Equitable Compensation Commission shall establish minimum clergy compensation; develop guidance and advocacy on equitable clergy compensation; and administer the Equitable Compensation Fund to provide financial assistance for clergy compensation in instances of established need.

A. Minimum Clergy Compensation

1. The Equitable Compensation Commission shall annually provide the conference a separately stated dollar amount to be the minimum compensation for full-time ordained clergy appointed in full connection as members of the conference. In addition, it shall provide a separately stated minimum compensation amount for full-time clergy not in full connection.
2. Each local church shall be responsible for providing housing with either a parsonage or a housing allowance. If there is a housing allowance, it may not exceed the fair market rental value of a suitable home.
3. The Commission shall also establish the minimum benefits to be included as part of minimum clergy compensation, such as, but not limited to, health insurance for the pastor and a professional expense allowance

including the expense of attending the Annual Conference Session and continuing education.

B. Equitable Compensation Fund

1. Eligibility for all clergy compensation assistance from the Equitable Compensation Fund requires the participating pastor and local church to adhere to the requirements set forth in these Equitable Compensation rules, including but not limited to the prescribed scale for health benefits and the requirements for housing expenses. Compensation assistance is available and may apply in quarter increments to clergy.
2. Compensation assistance for pastors serving more than one church may be an additional five percent of the pro rata share of the minimum compensation for each church.
3. The District Superintendent is responsible for initiating an application process and working with local churches and pastors to establish need. The local churches and pastors seeking compensation assistance shall complete applications according to procedures established by the Equitable Compensation Commission and the completed application must include the signature of the District Superintendent recommending approval. Local churches where the pastor is receiving minimum compensation funds shall enter into a written agreement for a graduated program of increased local church compensation payments leading to self support in the shortest possible period.
4. The Equitable Compensation Commission shall review the applications approved by District Superintendents, assess each application, and make a recommendation as to each to the Bishop and Cabinet.
5. Except in unusual circumstances explicitly approved by the Commission, Bishop and Cabinet, a pastoral position, either full or less than full time, may not receive compensation assistance for more than three consecutive years. Compensation assistance may be used only for pastor in charge.
6. The Cabinet, Bishop and Commission shall submit by January 1, or as directed by the Commission on Finance and Administration, an estimate of the amount needed for the Equitable Compensation Fund for the next budget year.

A Recommendation for the Suspension of Division V of the Standing Rules

Submitted by: the Conference Council on Ministry
 Feb. 20, 2010
 Voting for 8; Against 0; Abstaining 0;
 Number present 8
 Contact: Rob Dunning

Background

Our Annual Conference recognizes a need to “rethink church” in the way we organize ourselves in California-Nevada. We would like to be both critical in evaluating our design and creative in forming new structures that will enhance our ability to fulfill our mission. We feel we must be able to open all doors to envision a better way to do our work together. Thus, this recommendation would suspend the rules governing the way we organize conference boards and agencies, in order that we might construct a new model. By suspending the rules, we hope to be free to consider many creative options and begin to experiment with these options. Even though the current rules must be suspended for the work to be done, the current structure will remain in place until mutually agreed upon new options are developed.

This recommendation has been endorsed by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

Purpose

- To commit time and energy to evaluating our conference structure and its capacity to directly contribute to the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- To align the work of the Annual Conference and the local church with the Four Areas of Mission Focus and the conference vision.
- To critically consider the effectiveness and agility of our conference organization and increase its capacity to make decisions, utilize its resources and hold it accountable to the mission.

Recommendation

Therefore, be it resolved that the rules in Division V of the Standing Rules be suspended for the purpose of allowing flexibility and innovation in re-aligning the work of the Annual Conference with the four areas of mission focus identified by the Council of Bishops and affirmed by the major Boards and Agencies of the General Church. That the Bishop name a team to facilitate the transition with the goal of bringing new standing rules for Division V of the standing Rules to the 2012 Annual Conference Session. The transition team will work collaboratively with conference leaders during the transition and bring a progress report to the 2011 Annual Conference Session.

Be it further resolved that this suspension of the rules in no way intends to abrogate or dismiss any provisions of the *UM Discipline*.

Fiscal impact: Funds for the start up of the team in 2010 will come from the budget of the Conference Council on Ministry. The Transition Team budget will cover dialogue with consultants and gatherings organized by the team to accomplish its work. Funding request is for \$7,300.00 a year from the 2011 and 2012 conference budgets.

Registration Fee for Annual Conference Session

Submitted by: The Commission on the Annual Conference Session

Date: Feb 6, 2010 Voting For: 10

Voting Against: 0

Abstaining: 0

Number of Members Present: 10

Contact: Debbie Dillon

Background

Each Annual Conference must hold a session annually to care for the business of the Annual Conference.

The Commission on the Annual Conference Session is charged with the responsibility to evaluate the purpose and process of Annual Conference Session, designate the number and purpose of offerings, plan and arrange for worship, program, business and entertainment (Communion, Memorial Service, daily schedule, orders of the day, speakers, musicians, editor of the printed program, the bar of the conference, registration procedures), and other responsibilities relating to the Annual Conference Session. (*Standing Rule: Division V. G. 1 Annual conference Session, Commission on the*)

In order to make plans and manage the session it requires the conference to enter into contracts connected with site location, facilities and services upon which we depend to hold the gathering. The costs associated with doing the management of the session need to be stabilized so that we can fulfill our contracts and hold the session as planned and designed. Currently the budget for the Annual Conference Session is under the Office and Administration section of the conference budget. In 2009 we collected 43.17% of what was

apportioned for the Office and Administration section of the conference budget.

Recommendation

Therefore be it resolved that the expenses for the Annual Conference Session be moved out of the apportioned budget of the conference. We further propose that the full cost of Annual Conference Session be covered through registration fees.

The fiscal impact of this would be to reduce the apportioned budget beginning in 2011 by \$85,000.00. Local churches will pay for the registration of lay and clergy members and conference boards and agencies will pay the registration fee for their representatives by virtue of office.

Division 6 Finance

M. Member's Expenses for the Annual Conference Session

1. A registration fee will be charged to cover the full cost of the Annual Conference Session.
 - a. Retired clergy, diaconal ministers not employed by a local church, Clergy on Leave, shall be exempt from paying the registration fee for the Annual Conference session.

Days of Grace
Retired Clergy Association
California-Nevada Conference
P.O. Box 980250
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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<u>Calendar</u>	
June 16-19, 2010	Annual Conference
June 18, 2010	Annual Luncheon
September 15, 2010	Days of Grace Deadline