

**PETITION TO THE 2014 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: Fifth Annual Valentine’s Resolution on Global HIV and AIDS**

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

1 Since global health is a United Methodist priority, emphasizing that HIV and AIDS is a “disease of poverty” in  
2 many places around the world, the 2014 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference:

- 3 1. Endorses the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund as a “mission of the month” for February, 2015;
- 4 2. Urges every congregation on February 8 or 15, 2015, to take a special collection to support the United  
5 Methodist Global AIDS Fund (Advance No. 982345) and send those funds to the Rocky Mountain  
6 Conference Treasurer;
- 7 3. Reaffirms the previous theme of “Have a Heart—Reach Out,” emphasizing the relationship of Valentine’s  
8 Day (February 14, 2015) and Christian love and care;
- 9 4. Reminds our congregations of the biblical mandate to “care for the widow and the orphan” and how Jesus  
10 “went about all the cities and villages, . . . curing every disease and every sickness” (Matthew 9:35) and  
11 instructing his disciples also “to cure every disease and sickness” (Matthew 10:1) without condition or  
12 qualification;
- 13 5. Combines the offering with a special presentation in each church that notes how personal and social  
14 injustice is perpetuated by stigma and discrimination against persons infected and affected by HIV and  
15 AIDS, demonstrating how Christian love overcomes hate and how Christian hope heals;
- 16 6. Directs the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Global AIDS Fund Committee to specifically use a  
17 portion of the offering to help (a) AIDS orphans in Meru, Kenya, and (b) support a rural Women and  
18 Children’s Center in Namakkal, India;
- 19 7. Authorizes the Rocky Mountain Global AIDS Committee to invite the Church and Society Committee to  
20 join them in jointly developing materials, flyers, videos, bulletins, etc. promoting the 5th Annual “Have a  
21 Heart—Reach Out” Sunday, and to help provide education information and sermon ideas related to our  
22 efforts at becoming known as an anti-stigma and anti-discrimination church committed to global health;
- 23 8. Encourages communications by email and other ways to educate the church about this opportunity to  
24 celebrate Valentine’s Day with a focus on those living with HIV who too often experience not hope, but  
25 hostility, not acceptance, but alienation, not love but hate;
- 26 9. Plans several “Have a Heart” Training Days for clergy and laity so they can be prepared to educate others  
27 about HIV and AIDS and the church’s global response, and
- 28 10. Invites the District Superintendents and Bishop Elaine Stanovsky to send out pastoral letters related to  
29 global HIV and AIDS and the church’s response.
- 30 11. Asks the Rocky Mountain United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee to help develop a poster or  
31 creative logo contest around the theme of “Just Save One” to underscore the church’s commitment to join  
32 in “creating an AIDS-free world.”

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2014.

**TERMINATION DATE:** June 30, 2015

**ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION** (individual, church or organization)

**Name: Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Global AIDS; Donald E. Messer, Youngsook Kang, Gary Archer, Marla Petrini, Gil Caldwell, Sally Geis, Randy Jessen, Megan Armstrong, Bill Selby, Judy Owsley, Rhonda Dern, John Blinn, Elaine Blinn, Bonnie Messer, Sarah Harrington, Betsy Keyak, Richard O. Evans, Claudia Svarstad, Judy Orrechio, Melanie Rosa, Susan A. Burnett, Charles Schuster, Annie Arnoldy, Margaret Rush Hankins, Valerie Jackson, Ruth Ann Russell, Susan Clasen, Ann Fort**

**PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE: Donald E. Messer and Youngsook Kang**

(Note. The presenter must be available to attend one training session with the legislative committee officers at the

opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below **must** be complete with Petition.) **A person may be presenter of only ONE petition.**

**Name:** Donald E. Messer

**Address:** 7185 South Niagara Circle, Centennial, Colorado 80112

**Phone Number:** 303 877 1955

**Fax Number:** None

**E-Mail:** globalaids@gmail.com youngsook@rmcumc.com

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Will there be any financial impact to the Conference? Yes

If YES, fill in appropriate information below.

(To be completed by Originator of Petition)

Cost \$2420. \_\_\_\_\_ Period January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 \_\_\_\_\_ (Not to exceed one year.)

Funds provided by Annual Conference/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

(To be completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration)

Reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration, (date) April 24, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_

Included in the Proposed 2015 Budget Yes Yes/No. In the amount of \$2420. \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation by Council concerning funding Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Reason(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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**RATIONALE: (may attach additional pages, numbered)**

**Whereas** HIV and AIDS emerged in the world just over **30** years ago; over **30** million people are infected; and nearly **30** million people have died, and

**Whereas** many churches will not spend even **30** minutes educating their members or raising funds to help AIDS orphans and others around the world, and

**Whereas** almost half of the 34 million world-wide currently infected are women and more than 15 million AIDS orphans struggle to survive around the world, and

**Whereas** in the United States about 1.2 million are infected, but 25% of them do not know it. Every 9 ½ minutes in the USA a new person is infected, and

**Whereas** the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, at the specific urging of the 2003 Rocky Mountain Conference, established the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund as an UMCOR Advance Special (#982345), and

**Whereas** the past four years churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference have generously contributed to this “mission of the month,”

Whereas, global health, including HIV and AIDS, is one of the “5 Fruitful: 5 Marks of Vital Ministry” in the 2012-2016 Quadrennial Strategic Plan of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference,

**Whereas**, our denomination now has raised over \$3.5 million that has been distributed to over 200 AIDS ministries in 38 countries, including the USA, in programs of education, prevention, care, and treatment, and because this work toward creating an AIDS-free world requires continued financial support and promotion, and

**Whereas**, the need remains great, but available funds for AIDS ministries in our conference and internationally are extremely limited,

**therefore**, this: