

Subject: Nurturing and Enabling Cooperative Ministry

Delete # 3101. **National Cooperative Ministry Leadership** and # 3103. **Facilitation of Cooperative Ministry Throughout the Church** and substitute the following:

3103 Nurturing and Enabling Cooperative Ministry

WHEREAS, intentional grouping of churches in determined geographic areas into cooperative parishes has long been recognized to enable congregational nurturing, outreach to communities of the poor and marginalized, and witnessing to Christian commitments; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate broader use of existing forms of cooperative parish ministries and to enable new patterns and processes for working together, there is continuing need to bring people together for training, networking, and celebration;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the general programming agencies of The United Methodist Church – Global Ministries, Discipleship, and Higher Education and Ministry – be called upon to provide encouragement and work with constituencies in training events that expand the effective use of cooperative patterns and processes within the Church;

Be it further resolved, that the annual conferences, districts, and local churches of The United Methodist Church be called on to implement processes that will result in understandings of how to initiate needed cooperative ministries and to facilitate their participation in making disciples for the transformation of the world.

Rationale for Resolution # 3103. Facilitation of Cooperative Ministry . . .

Affirming cooperative parish ministry--church based, community-based and mission-based cooperatives--as proven viable and effective means of working at offering Christ and making disciples for the transformation of the world -- would further energize those persons who are called to this cause. The responsibilities of the cabinet and conference leaders are more clearly identified in this update.

Submitted by: Rural Chaplains Association to 2020 General Conference