

Resolution to the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church

June 1, 2008

WHEREAS, since the days of John Wesley, Methodists have had a strong belief in social justice, mission, and outreach ministries; and,

WHEREAS, United Methodists' concern for the poor is deeply rooted in scripture, where we are instructed not only to show concern for the poor, but also to provide proactive ministries which relieve both the suffering of poverty and its causes; and

WHEREAS, Alabama's unfair tax system puts an unacceptably heavy burden on our poorest citizens while at the same time it fails to provide sufficient revenue for state services, particularly those that benefit children and the poor; and,

WHEREAS, Alabama is one of only two states that fully taxes groceries; and

WHEREAS, Alabama imposes the nation's highest income tax on a family of four at the poverty line (\$423 at the poverty line of \$21,201 in 2007); and,

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline states in the Social Principles that we "support efforts to revise tax structures and to eliminate governmental support programs that now benefit the wealthy at the expense of other persons;" and,

WHEREAS, fairness demands not only lower taxes for those who have paid too much, but also higher taxes for those who have paid too little; and,

WHEREAS, the record shows that the Alabama-West Florida Conference passed a similar resolution in 2003,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alabama-West Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church joins our brothers and sisters in other faith communities in Alabama in calling for tax reform that promotes fairness, adequacy, transparency, and simplicity; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that we call upon the Governor, members of the Legislature and other elected officials of the State of Alabama to provide the leadership needed to bring about such a tax structure.

Submitted by:

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