

Recommendation Regarding Clergy Electronic Mail

*Submitted by Commission on Communications in
Consultation with Conference Staff
Adopted April 1, 2010 via email ballot
Number on agency: 9 Number present when voting: 8
Number voting for: 7 Number voting against: 0
Number abstaining: 0*

In order to provide greater accessibility and to acknowledge the importance of electronic communication,

be it resolved that all active clergy in the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall obtain and maintain a valid email address which is accessible by Conference staff and the public.

**Recommendation Regarding
Local Church Communications Coordinator**

*Submitted by Commission on Communications in
Consultation with Conference Staff*

Adopted April 1, 2010 via email ballot

Number on agency: 9 Number present when voting: 8

Number voting for: 7 Number voting against: 0

Number abstaining: 0

In recognition of the importance of the role of communication in providing a welcoming presence to visitors and in informing members, each local church in the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall create and maintain a “Communications Coordinator” position. Such position may be filled by a volunteer or by paid staff, as deemed appropriate by church leadership.

The Communications Coordinator shall oversee all vehicles for local church communication, including, but not limited to, such weekly bulletins, paper and electronic newsletters as are deemed appropriate by church leadership; such social media accounts and communications as are deemed appropriate by church leadership (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter); the church's Find A Church information; the church's page on the Conference website; and any independent website(s) such as may have been, or may be in future, created for the church.

The Communications Coordinator shall be responsible for insuring, to the best of his or her ability, that all published information is accurate and up-to-date, particularly as pertains to electronic communication.

Item 33

Recommendation Regarding Local Church Internet Presence

*Submitted by Commission on Communications in
Consultation with Conference Staff
Adopted April 1, 2010 via email ballot
Number on agency: 9 Number present when voting: 8
Number voting for: 7 Number voting against: 0
Number abstaining: 0*

Background:

We recognize the increasing importance of the role of electronic communication in providing a welcoming presence to visitors and in informing members of each one of our local churches. Each local church has a presence on the Find A Church site and on the Conference website.

Therefore, be it resolved...

- 1) That each local church in the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall maintain an Internet presence in some form.
- 2) That it shall be the responsibility of each local church to ensure that information published on those sites is monitored and updated on a regular basis to maintain its accuracy.
- 3) That each local church be encouraged to expand its Internet presence beyond the Find A Church site and the church's page on the Conference website, to include social media (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter) and/or a stand-alone website.
- 4) That it shall be the responsibility of the local church Communications Coordinator to manage, or to assign someone to manage, the church's Internet presence.

**Recommendation to Discontinue Dunsmuir United Methodist Church
Submitted by District Superintendent Ben Silva-Netto**

Background:

The Dunsmuir United Methodist Church has been a faith witness in the community of Dunsmuir for close to a hundred years. During the early years when the railroad industry was booming, it was the most vital and active church in the community with hundreds of members and a variety of effective programs. In recent years the railroad industry has collapsed resulting in the movement of a significant population out of town. The congregation has dwindled to the point that their ability to support the ministry programs. The congregation is to be commended for paying its apportionments in full, until this last year, despite the dwindling attendance.

The process outlined in Paragraph 213 of the Book of Discipline was initiated in 2003 and resulted in a decision to try to revitalize the congregation according to the suggestions of the study committee. There was discussion of merger with Mt. Shasta UMC in 2003 and again in 2004, but each year the decision to continue as a separate, independent congregation was made. On October 14, 2009, a meeting was called to discuss the discontinuation of Dunsmuir UMC.

Despite these efforts the reported average worship attendance has fallen below 15 for the last two conference years. The District Superintendent, in consultation with the Cabinet recommends the discontinuance of the Dunsmuir United Methodist Church.

Care of the remaining members of the congregation by the Pastor and ministry of Mt. Shasta UMC, as per requirement of Paragraphs 229 and 423.10 of the 2008 Book of Discipline. All relevant records of the discontinued congregation will be placed with Conference Commission on Archives and History as required under paragraph 423.10 of the 2008 Book of Discipline.

Action Recommended:

1. Be it resolved that the Dunsmuir United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1, 2010.
2. Be it further resolved that the title to all real and personal, tangible and intangible property of the Dunsmuir UMC be transferred to the Shasta District Methodist Missions.

Recommendation to Discontinue Corning United Methodist Church

Submitted by District Superintendent Ben Silva-Netto

Background Information:

The process outlined in Paragraph 213 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline was initiated five years ago to assess the vitality and viability of the Corning United Methodist Church (UMC). The process was initiated because of significant loss of membership and financial decline. Three options were considered:

- a) Merger with another UMC (El Camino or Los Molinos)
- b) Assignment of a new pastor whose primary objective would be to grow the congregation
- c) Federated relationship with the United Presbyterian Church of Corning.

The congregation initially decided to request a chance to grow with a new pastor. Pastor Kathleen Smith (an Elder and the Cluster Leader) was appointed and supported by a CLayM Pastor, Roy Watkins (a former professor at California State University at Chico), to serve the congregation. After a couple of years' attempt to revitalize the congregation, evaluation of the congregation's ministry and growth led to the conclusion that a different path needed to be explored.

The eleven remaining members of the congregation opted to explore the federated relationship with the United Presbyterian Church. Consultants were invited to guide them in their discernment and a series of conversations were scheduled with the Pastors and leadership of the churches. A decision was made for the Corning UMC to worship with the Presbyterians at their church and the UMC building's title/deed was transferred to the Shasta District Methodist Mission (Extension Society) who then leased the property to a Hispanic congregation. The Corning UMC congregation dwindled further to only five active members worshipping with the Presbyterians. The plan for federation was abandoned.

A Charge Conference was called for March 24, 2010, to officially vote on the discontinuance of Corning UMC. Care of the remaining members, as directed in Paragraph 229 and Paragraph 423 of the 2008 Book of Discipline, has been addressed by ascertaining their choice to attend the United Presbyterian Church of Corning. Wishing to maintain their United Methodist identity, they asked to remain connected with the Tehama United Methodist Mission (cooperative parish) and the Tehama-Glenn-Colusa Circuit. All the relevant records of the discontinued church will be placed with the Conference Commission on Archives and History. The remaining deed/title to the parsonage is proposed to be transferred to the Shasta District Methodist Missions (Extension Society).

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Be it resolved that Corning United Methodist Church be discontinued effective July 1, 2010.
2. Be it further resolved that the deed/title to the parsonage of Corning United Methodist Church be transferred to the Shasta District Methodist Missions (Extension Society).

**RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ACTION AND DEMAND FOR THE
RELEASE OF THE MORONG 43, HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED
ILLEGALLY BY THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY**

*Submitted by the Philippine Solidarity Task Force as voted on March 13, 2010 with a
vote of 9 Yes; 0 No. Fiscal Impact: None*

Contact Persons: Michael Yoshii and Fel Cao

Background:

There are 43 health workers now detained by the Philippine military in suspicion of rebellion and that they are alleged as members of the New Peoples Army. They were in the town of Morong (a neighboring town of Tanay) in the farmhouse of Dr. Melecia Belmonte, chair of the Community Medicine Development Foundation undertaking training for their work among the poor people. They were alleged to be conducting a bomb-making training according to the Military which conducted the raids. Reports have circulated that there was a wrong warrant of arrest and that false evidences have been planted by the military themselves. There are evidences that they have suffered from torture and abuse and that they are not allowed to see nor to talk to their loved ones and those who are visiting to support and demand for their release.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines has requested other churches and denominations to send or sign petition letters demanding the government of President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo to order the release of the detained 43 health workers. One of the arrested and detained doctors, Dr. Alex Montes served as a Person in Mission supported by General Board of Global Ministries in partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Their immediate release is now a concern that the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches in the USA and the General Board of Global Ministries are demanding.

It has been reported that the Court of Appeals of the Republic of the Philippines has refused the release of the now known Morong 43 and dismissed petition for a writ of habeas corpus covering them while in prison. The lower court decided the petition when filed was null. It is further reported that the decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

The United Methodist Communication quoted Bishop Joel N. Martinez, the chief executive of Global Ministries, who said the incident "appears to be a continuation of a military and government campaign against persons who seek to provide services to and represent the interests of the poor."

1 **Therefore, be it resolved:**

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3 1. That the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall join the General Board of Global
4 Ministries, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches in the USA
5 and the Philippines in writing the president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to demand to
6 release the Morong 43.

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8 2. That the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall send a letter to the Supreme
9 Court of the Republic of the Philippines to support the grant of Writ of Habeas Corpus to
10 the detained Morong 43.

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12 3. That copies of these letters will be sent to the Episcopal leaders of the UMC in the
13 Philippines.

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15 4. Be it further resolved that local congregations join in signing the online petition issued
16 by the NCCP at <http://www.petitiononline.com/FreeD43/petition.html>

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5 **RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT STOP THE LAIBAN DAM PROJECT IN**
6 **TANAY RIZAL, PHILIPPINES**
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8 *Submitted by the Philippine Solidarity Task Force as voted on March 13, 2010 with a*
9 *vote of 9 Yes; 0 No. Fiscal Impact: None*
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13 Contact Persons: Michael Yoshii and Fel Cao
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15 **Background:**

16 Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. headed the Pastoral and Solidarity Visit in July 2009. This
17 is the third visit to the Philippines by the Cal-Neve Annual Conference through the Task
18 Force on Philippine Solidarity under the Board of Missions. The three consecutive visits
19 have been done in partnership with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
20 and the United Methodist Church in the Philippines in helping to address the escalating
21 human rights violations and the horrendous extra-judicial killings. A visit with the Joint
22 Monitoring Committee between the Philippine Government and National Democratic
23 Front of the Philippines has affirmed from the testimonies of the advocates for justice and
24 peace that this pastoral visit is saving lives.
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26 One of the visits was the Laiban Dam Project in the town of Tanay, province of Rizal in
27 the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains. The indigenous people of the Dumagat and
28 the Remontado claim the area as their ancestral land. About 10,000 of them have lived in
29 these lands for centuries. Bishop Brown and the members of the team including the
30 Director of Connectional Ministries, the Rev. Linda Wiberg conducted a dialogue
31 between the tribal leaders and the members of the community in the presence of some
32 military personnel. The team listened to the stories of people surrounded by fear and
33 brought about by harassment and violence. The people are facing eviction; displacement
34 from their ancestral lands. The project which was conceptualized in the late 70's is
35 intended to provide water and generate electricity. The government has continued the
36 talks working with some private firms that are led to compensate the people for their loss.
37 But the indigenous people will be displaced and they have no place to go to.
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39 The team concretely observed the presence of the military detachment right in the middle
40 of the community which is unlawful for it puts the people in danger because of the
41 ongoing war between the military and the insurgents. There have been people's protest
42 march and demonstrations to stop the project that have been participated by concerned
43 human rights advocacy groups, churches with both clergy and lay people.
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45 In addition to the eviction and the displacement of the indigenous people, the loss of
46 ancestral lands, the loss of the resources of living through farming, fishing and other

1 agricultural means, the project will bring new burdens to people by shouldering the
2 nation's debt payments from the multi-national banks that finance the project. The
3 Filipino people had long been buried in foreign debts and the project will certainly add
4 disadvantages to people as consumers.

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6 **Therefore be it resolved:**

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8 1. That the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall send a letter to the president of the
9 Republic of the Philippines. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; the president of the Senate and
10 the Speaker of the House of Representatives demanding to Stop the Laiban Dam Project
11 in Tanay, Rizal, Philippines.

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13 2. The California-Nevada Annual Conference shall seek signatures of the clergy and lay
14 people supporting to denounce and stop the Laiban Dam project and send the signed
15 document to the Department of Local Government that has the jurisdiction over the area.

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17 3. That the California-Nevada Annual Conference shall encourage the members of the
18 annual conference to visit the region to be a Christian witness and present to the injustice
19 taking place in the region. We encourage the members of the annual conference to work
20 with the Philippines Solidarity Task Force in sending a delegation to the region to work
21 with the people in the region.

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23 4. Be it further resolved that copies of these letters will be sent to the Episcopal leaders of
24 the UMC in the Philippines.

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