

RS- 210 – CRISIS OF THE ORPHANS OF THE WORLD

(Submitted by David Arruda)

(Adopted on Friday Morning, June 13, 2008)

WHEREAS, “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling” - Psalm 68:5 (NIV), and

WHEREAS, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress” - James 1:27 (NIV), and

WHEREAS, “the heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love. (2004 Discipline, Paragraph 125), and

WHEREAS, the Mission and Ministry of the United Methodist church states that “the Ministry of the Community stretches out to human needs wherever love and service may convey God’s love and ours. The outreach of such ministries knows no limits. (Paragraph 126), and

WHEREAS, United Methodists Social principals state “we believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity(Paragraph 161.A), and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Social Principals state “children are a gift from God to be welcomed and received.” And, “we support and encourage greater awareness and education to promote adoption of a wide variety of children through foster care, international adoption, and domestic adoption. And, “we commend the birth parent(s), the receiving parent(s), and the child to the care of the Church, that grief might be shared, joy might be celebrated, and the child might be nurtured in a community of Christian love.” (Paragraph 161.L), and

WHEREAS, there are estimated to be over 150 Million orphans in the world today, and

WHEREAS, every 16 seconds, a child becomes orphaned by the AID/HIV crisis and less than half will live more than five years after being orphaned, and

WHEREAS, of the 800,000 children in the foster care system in this country, nearly 180,000 of these children are ready to be adopted, and less than 10% will be adopted, and

WHEREAS, adoption of the 180,000 children ready to be adopted would affect nearly all of the Social Principles (homelessness reduced 10%), teen pregnancy reduced 1%, teenage suicide reduced 2%, crime reduced 10%, prison population reduced 5%, and AIDS/HIV reduced 2%), and

WHEREAS, in one year if each local church partnered with one other local church to help one family in our local church to adopt one child, the New England Annual Conference would see growth to equal to the equivalent of five new churches.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

That the New England Annual Conference considers the World Wide Adoption/Orphan Crisis to be unacceptable.

That the New England Annual Conference, as a body of Christ, make every possible effort to aid in the elimination of the Adoption/Orphan Crisis by prayer, awareness, education, mission, ministry, and funding.

That the New England Annual Conference recognize one week each year as Adoption/Orphan Care awareness week. That the Resident Bishop of the New England Annual Conference, District Superintendents, Pastors, and Laity shall communicate and

support any and all programs, missions, and ministries for or about Adoption/Orphan Care in the local church within our Annual Conference.

That the New England Annual Conference establish a taskforce to create awareness, education, mission and ministry for and about the World Wide Adoption/Orphan Crisis in each local church within the New England Annual Conference.