

1 ***Amend ¶1504.1 by addition as follows:***

2 ¶1504.1 To operate, manage, and administer the mandatory benefit funds, plans, and
3 programs established by the General Conference **so that the distribution of funds is both**
4 **equitable and sustainable.** . . .

5 ***Rationale:***

6 The addition of this phrase makes this an explicit requirement of the GBOPHB. Escalating pension costs
7 have created problems in carrying out ministry and mission locally. In addition, all clergy service is
8 equally valuable in and clergy should not receive less in pension contributions because they receive less
9 in compensation. This petition calls upon the General Board of Pensions to ensure that we enact plans that
10 are can be sustained by both annual conferences and local congregations. Many of our ethnic minority
11 clergy as well as clergy women serve in appointments with lower compensation; tying pension
12 contributions to the amount of one's compensation negatively impacts these two groups in particular
13 which is contrary to our mandate for inclusiveness and racial and social justice (¶1504) It can also be
14 argued that clergy with lower compensation have less to contribute toward retirement; pension plans with
15 components tied to compensation provides these same clergy with lower amounts at retirement.

16 ***Date:*** September 10, 2011

17 ***Submitted by:*** United Methodist Rural Fellowship

18 Rev. Roger Grace, President UMRF
19 2755 Independence Court
20 Grove City, Ohio 43123
21 614-871-1083 (H) 614-222-0602 (Office) E-mail: rogergrace@yahoo.com
22

23
24 Rev. Peggy Paige, Legislative Task Force Co-Chairperson
25 901 Fairbanks St.
26 Iron Mountain, MI 49801
27 906-828-1010 (H) 906-221-7677 (Cell) E-mail: peggy4249@yahoo.com