

1 Replace # 3395 Affirmation of Rural Chaplains and # 3396 Ministries of rural Chaplains with the
2 following:

3 **Rural Chaplains**

4 **Whereas, the General Conference for the past four quadrennia has affirmed the Rural**
5 **Chaplains Association and the ministries of rural chaplains, and called on the United Methodist**
6 **Church to prepare rural chaplains as a significant means of enabling renewal in towns/villages and**
7 **rural churches and communities globally; and**

8 **Whereas, the Rural Chaplains Association has women, men, laity and clergy members, both**
9 **United Methodist and ecumenical, in the USA and some from the international community; and**

10 **Whereas, rural chaplains are lay and clergy persons who have sensed the call to live in,**
11 **work with, and advocate for town and rural persons, families, congregations and communities; and**

12 **Whereas, special emphasis is placed on advocacy for justice issues among all people,**
13 **regardless of ethnicity, gender, age or economic status; and**

14 **Whereas, rural chaplains meet annually for support, encouragement, networking,**
15 **resourcing, and enrichment by means of focus events to enrich person-related chaplaincy-type**
16 **skills, Biblical understandings and experiential exposures related to issues such as immigration,**
17 **migrant workers, farm works, rural businesses and communities; and**

18 **Whereas, rural chaplains work with other prophetic persons/groups on the local level who**
19 **are committed to long-term involvement aimed at developing local and outside resources to assist**
20 **with transformation of the lives of rural congregations and communities; and**

21 **Whereas, the Rural Chaplains Association greatly empowers the development of lay**
22 **leadership, serves as one way of recognizing the gifts and graces of rural peoples, and unleashes**
23 **new possibilities for God's spirit to move across the countryside; and**

24 **Whereas, rural chaplains will be an asset to the General Board of Global Ministries in its**
25 **ministry through the four emphasis of the General Church, and especially with the Rural**
26 **Chaplains ongoing relationship with the Rural Urban Network (RUN); and**

27 **Whereas, the Rural Chaplains Association continues to work to expand its**
28 **international/global linkages by exposing participants to the cultural, economic, political, ecological**
29 **and religious life of their people;**

30 **Therefore be it resolved that Rural Chaplains continue to be recognized as having a special**
31 **relationship to the General Board of Global Ministries as those called to serve others; and**

32 **Be it further resolved that the United Methodist Church commend and reaffirm its**
33 **commitment to the Rural Chaplains Association as rural chaplains continue to carry out their**
34 **ministries with hurting people and communities; and**

35 **Be it further resolved that the General Board of Global Ministries be encouraged to**
36 **continue an active relationship with the Rural Chaplains Association in the future.**

37 **Date:** September 10, 2011

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

39 Rev. Roger Grace, President UMRF
40 2755 Independence Court
41 Grove City, Ohio 43123
42 614-871-1083 (H) 614-222-0602 (Office)
43 E-mail: rogergrace@yahoo.com
44

45 Rev. Peggy Paige, Legislative Task Force Co-Chairperson
46 901 Fairbanks St.
47 Iron Mountain, MI 49801
48 906-828-1010 (H) 906-221-7677 (Cell)
49 E-mail: peggy4249@yahoo.com