

1 **Resolution 1**

2 **Subject: Resolution Against The Expansion Of Legalized Gambling In Indiana**

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4 WHEREAS: As people of faith, we believe that gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the  
5 best interests of moral, social, economic and spiritual life, and destructive of good government;  
6

7 WHEREAS: Those who can least afford to gamble are those who tend to play the lottery. The  
8 state should not be involved in promoting an activity that adversely affects the poor who will be  
9 using state services and need state care. Each year more than an estimated 20,000 compulsive  
10 gamblers endanger their families with financial ruin.

11  
12 WHEREAS: The Indiana State General Assembly believes that the social costs, caused by the  
13 amount of casino gambling in Indiana, does not outweigh the financial gain of gambling revenue  
14 to the state. This according to "A Benefit-Cost Analysis of Indiana's Riverboat Casinos for year  
15 2005," released in January 2006 by the Indiana Legislative Council and the Indiana Gaming  
16 Commission.

17  
18 WHEREAS: The Indiana State government has become dependent upon legalized gambling  
19 revenue as a steady flow of income to finance government supported programs. Indiana can't be  
20 a healthy state and have public policy driven by its addiction to gambling revenues. The state has  
21 received more than \$8 billion in gambling revenue since 1989.

22  
23 WHEREAS: The Indiana General Assembly has recently expanded legalized gambling in the  
24 state of Indiana by legalizing casino-style slot machines at horse tracks in Shelbyville and  
25 Anderson permitting 4,000 more slot machines to be introduced into the state.

26  
27 WHEREAS: The Hoosier State Lottery, which is marketed heavily to lower-income citizens, is  
28 an abuse of the main goal of state government to provide for the common welfare of its citizens  
29 and that the Indiana General Assembly has considered leasing the Hoosier State Lottery which, if  
30 approved would expand legalized gambling as well as keep that expansion in place for 30 years.

31  
32 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist  
33 Church:

- 34
- 35 • Endorses public policy measures through a Public Question to end the expansion of legalized  
36 gambling in any and all forms by the Indiana State General Assembly permitting the citizens  
37 of Indiana to have their say,
  - 38 • Calls for a permanent freeze on the expansion of legalized gambling in state sanctioned  
39 riverboat casinos, the Hoosier State Lottery, in bars and private clubs, and the slot machine  
40 facilities at the state's two horse racing tracks.
  - 41 • Opposes legislation which leases the Hoosier State Lottery, which will expand lottery  
42 gambling in Indiana, and
  - 43 • Opposes legislation that will permit electronic gambling devices to be placed in bars,  
44 restaurants, private clubs and other businesses which hold a liquor license.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist  
46 Church will inform its members and the general public of its endorsement of this Resolution, and

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1 work to educate the Governor and the members of the General Assembly about the toll of  
2 gambling on Indiana families and the need for aggressive action to prevent and reduce gambling  
3 in the state, especially by families.

4

5 Scott Shoaff

6 Gambling Concerns Chair, North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

7 May 12, 2008

**Resolution – 2****Subject: Mission Resolution for a New Conference**

Whereas the North Indiana and South Indiana Annual Conferences are moving toward creating a new conference for more effective ministry in the state of Indiana;

Whereas we seek the common goal of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

Whereas we seek to preserve our leadership role in mission in the United Methodist Church and to guarantee that ministry with the least among us is not lost;

Therefore those committed to the mission of the Church ask that these essential elements of our missions mandate be included in the plan for the new conference:

- That a network of leaders in mission be convened as a think tank for imagining mission in a new conference.
- That the new conference holds as core values intentional diversity and the empowerment of the margins in cutting edge ministries.
- That the new conference makes bold decisions around missional priorities.
- That the new conference be fully engaged in the missional initiatives of the General Church.
- That the new conference continues its commitment to the ministries of the North and South Indiana Conferences through their health and welfare institutions, community ministries, and Advance Special projects.
- That the new conference uses the best of systems analysis in assessing our missional effectiveness, including that which we choose to measure and report to one another.
- That the new conference includes a strong program of mission training and education. (Including programs such as VIM)

*The basic points of this resolution were prepared in a joint meeting of North Indiana and South Indiana missions leaders.*

1 **Resolution - 3**

2 **Subject: Resolution to call for an end to the Iraq War and De-escalation of**  
 3 **Conflict in the Region**

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 6 WHEREAS: The Iraq war has caused great loss of life among U.S. and coalition troops,  
 7 contractors and Iraqi civilians and has served to destabilize the region;

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 9 WHEREAS: We are called to remember Christ's blessing in Matthew 5 to the peacemakers, to  
 10 those who hunger and thirst after righteousness sake, who show mercy, who are persecuted for  
 11 righteousness' sake;

12  
 13 WHEREAS: Our Social Principles recorded in the *Book of Discipline* states that "We believe  
 14 war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ... We insist that the first moral  
 15 duty of all nations is **to work together** to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises  
 16 between or among them;... that human values must outweigh military claims as governments  
 17 determine their priorities; that the militarization of society must be challenged and stopped;...  
 18 Consequently, we endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective  
 19 international control." (Changes approved at the 2008 General Conference reflected in **bold**);  
 20

21 WHEREAS: A copy of the resolution, "Support and Services for U.S. Military and Rebuilding  
 22 Iraq," will be sent to the U.S. president, vice president, secretary of state, secretary of defense,  
 23 congressional leadership and leaders of partner countries with troops in Iraq;

24  
 25 WHEREAS: The 2008 General Conference accepted the resolution on Peacemaking which states  
 26 "The General Board of Church and Society to serve as public policy advocate for actions that  
 27 promote peace and oppose war, to provide resources on peacemaking to annual conferences and  
 28 local congregations, and to facilitate training for nonviolence that applies Jesus' teaching in the  
 29 Sermon on the Mount" and the Conference Board of Church and Society wish to accept the  
 30 challenge of assisting in this process by resourcing the local churches in nonviolence training;

31  
 32 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist  
 33 Church:

- 34     ▪ Agree to the formation of an Iraq War Task Team to function under the North Indiana  
 35     Conference Board of Church and Society to address the Iraq War issue;
- 36     ▪ Support the Task Team's efforts in drafting a letter to the President of the United States  
 37     and Congress to:
  - 38         ○ Take positive and immediate steps to end the war and de-escalate the conflict in  
 39         the region;
  - 40         ○ To end aggressive rhetoric in relation to Iran and pledge that there would be no  
 41         pre-emptive strike against Iran;
  - 42         ○ Enter into dialogue and diplomatic efforts with all parties involved in the conflict,  
 43         including Iran and Syria;
  - 44         ○ Return control of oil resources, and the political and economic life of Iraq, with  
 45         continued assistance in reconstruction aid to alleviate the destruction caused by  
 46         the war;

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- 1           ○ Increased support for U.S. Middle East war veterans and their families; and
- 2           ○ Increased support for soldiers suffering from mental and emotional distress due to
- 3           the war.
- 4        ▪ Encourage our churches to pray for peace and the safe return of all U.S. military
- 5        personnel, and take any action that the congregation members feel are appropriate to
- 6        support peace and reconciliation in the Middle East, including personal correspondence
- 7        or contact with their own legislators.

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10 Church and Society Resource Team, North Indiana Conference  
11 Submitted May 20, 2008