

U. MASTER PLAN FOR DISTRICT PARSONAGES

(Modification by 1996 Annual Conference)

WHEREAS the 1985 annual conference Master Plan to build uniform parsonage/office complexes of high standards in each district already has been modified to allow for some alternatives by the "Stamm motion" of 1988;

AND WHEREAS conference budget support for the "Capital Improvements" line which funds the Master Plan has been severely reduced in recent years in keeping with annual conference efforts to exercise greater fiscal responsibility;

AND WHEREAS attempts by the conference Trustees to legislate ideal housing and office arrangements for district superintendents have met with frequent resistance and counter proposals by district committees on superintendency;

AND WHEREAS the "ideal family" envisioned by the Master Plan of parsonage/office complexes fails to account for the proliferation of family models in society at large;

AND WHEREAS the virtues of fairness and excellence which motivated the construction of the parsonage/office complexes under the Master Plan should not preclude the emergence of other important virtues such as collective stewardship and personal choice of a simpler lifestyle;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the annual conference does hereby modify its Master Plan to build parsonage/office complexes in the nine districts of the annual conference;

AND FURTHER that there shall be a cooperative effort in each district between the committee on superintendency, the conference Board of Trustees, and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to arrive at housing and office arrangements in accord with the respective wishes of the superintendents, but not to exceed an equitable total amount in each district as determined by the conference Board of Trustees.

AND FURTHER that the options to be considered in each district shall include the following: a parsonage/office complex built according to the sealed plans of 1992, a parsonage (received, built or purchased) with office outside the home in rented space, or the granting of a housing allowance;

AND FURTHER that it shall remain the prerogative of the conference Board of Trustees to determine the order of expenditures from the Capital Improvements line of the budget which it requests from the Council on Finance and Administration.