

## **Building Vital Women's Ministry in the Local Church**

Whereas, the Call to Action Project, recently adopted by the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table, concludes that congregational vitality must be the true first priority over the next decade in order for the United Methodist Church to be effective in its mission and to change the path of membership decline;

Whereas, the report (Call to Action Final Report, pg. 20) proposes that intense concentration for a minimum of 10 years be given to building effective practices in local churches using the drivers of Vital Congregations, and that attention and resources should be directed toward enriching and extending high-quality ministries in and through congregations as the primary arenas for making disciples (CTA, pg. 20), (also see ¶201 and 202, 2008 BOD);

Whereas, “multiple small groups and programs have been determined to be a key drivers of Vital Congregations” (CTA, Pg. 21);

Whereas, the report recommends that the church should demonstrate “profound respect for and then encourage and celebrate diversity in the ways churches apply the drivers of vitality that fit their local contexts” (CTA, Page 21);

Whereas, the report states emphatically that “rule-bound structures inhibit innovation, continuous renewal, and viability, a key responsibility of leaders is to suspend rules in order to test and assess the efficacy of new, worthy ideas” (CTA, Pg. 21);

Whereas, women make up 58% of the United Methodist Church and less than 14% of those women participate in the only official women's ministry of the UMC through United Methodist Women (statistics derives from General Commission on Finance and Administration 2009 annual report);

Whereas, the needs of women today are complex, dynamic, and unique in every congregation and studies show that a variety of women's ministry programs is the most effective means of enabling and encouraging women to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ, to serve effectively in their local church, and to serve passionately in mission outreach to a lost and hurting world.

Therefore, be it resolved:

The North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will empower the local church to provide supplemental women's ministry programs, in addition to United Methodist Women, that fit the unique needs of the women in their church and community;

Supplemental women's ministry programs will be accountable to the local church through the church council.

Furthermore, the 2011 session of the North Georgia Annual Conference will authorize the Secretary of the North Georgia Conference to petition the 2012 General Conference to adopt this resolution for the entire United Methodist Church.

Liza Kittle

President, RENEW Network

706-364-0166 (Office)

706-306-2851 (Cell)

[ebkittle@comcast.net](mailto:ebkittle@comcast.net) or [lkittle@renewnetwork.org](mailto:lkittle@renewnetwork.org)