

**CELEBRATING AND RESPONDING TO THE NEED FOR MORE  
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**ACTION:** We request that the Northern Illinois Conference, through its secretary, call upon the Council of Bishops to appoint an international body of bishops, other clergy, and laity to prepare new proposals for strengthening our global United Methodist Church, these proposals to be presented to the 2012 General Conference for consideration and discussion and then to be finalized for presentation to the 2016 General Conference for action.

**RATIONALE:** Proposals to the 2008 General Conference regarding the Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church have been rejected by the majority of lay and clergy members of the annual conferences of the United Methodist Church, and there is a need for a vision of what the global United Methodist Church can become to represent Jesus Christ to the world through its service and witness.

This vision needs to be shaped and held not by a handful of American bishops but by a more representative group of United Methodists worldwide. This is especially true as this emerging vision may point to the need for constitutional amendments regarding the organization of the United Methodist Church, requiring approval by United Methodists in Europe, Africa, the Philippines, and the United States of America.