

Resolution #
RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Recognition of Christ Servant Ministries Program Opportunities
Presented by the Conference Work Team on Christ Servant Ministries

WHEREAS Lay Methodists in the United States have a long and distinguished tradition of serving that dates back to 1769 when the Leeds Conference following John Wesley's guidance officially commissioned lay workers Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore to provide support for the growing Methodist movement in America, and

WHEREAS early circuit riders would leave to attend to other churches on their charge, and instruct members of the congregation who became known as exhorters to fill the pulpit and other laity to conduct the business of the church, and

WHEREAS the original term of exhorter evolved to lay speaker and at the 1992 General Conference included the adoption of a Lay Speaking logo emphasizing caring, leading, and communicating, and

WHEREAS because of the many persons across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who felt the name "Lay Speaker" did not adequately capture these three dimensions of lay ministry and at the Annual Conference of 1997 officially adopted the name, *Christ Servant Ministries* with instructions to follow the rules for Lay Speakers as stated in the *Discipline*, but to go a step further and specifically recognize laity in their area of training -- speaking, leading, and caring, and

WHEREAS these lay servants of Christ continue to minister with and to groups of Methodists, Christians and other communities in a multitude of ways that include not only preaching, but also sharing, caring and leading,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each church in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourage lay leadership, lay caregivers, and all laity who seek to be servants of Christ to take advantage of training opportunities provided by the *Christ Servant Ministries* program... so that by the 2007 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference – the 10th Anniversary of Christ Servant Ministries - all churches have Christ Servant Ministers within their congregation.

Persons responsible for presenting this resolution: George J. Hollich, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Alfred Maloney