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**IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY  
Resolution**

**Financial Implications: None**

**MARCHA (Methodist Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans)**

Whereas, the Hispanic/Latino population in the U.S. continues to increase at an annual rate of 14.3% to a total now of over 47 million persons and by 2010 it accounted for half of all the annual population growth in the United States; and

Whereas, in six southern states (North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Alabama) and four other states, namely, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Nevada, the increase in the Hispanic/Latino population ranged from 394% to 155% between 1990 and 2000; and

Whereas, there will be twenty-five annual conferences with 100,000 to 500,000 Hispanics/Latinos, and nineteen with over 500,000 by the years 2011, according to the projections of the United States Census Bureau; and

Whereas, Hispanic-Americans represent, not only the fastest growing segment of the population, but also the youngest with an average age of 24 – 27, compared to the national average of 36 years of age; and

Whereas, the fertility rates among Hispanic/Latino immigrants are higher than the rates in any other segment of the U.S. population, and over the next 20 years the second generation will grow to the point where they compose 36% of all Hispanics/Latinos by the year 2020, while the first generation will make up only 30% of the total; and

Whereas, God and our Wesleyan heritage call United Methodists, as part of the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ to be in ministry with people of all races, nationalities, ethnic groups and social classes, and to reach out to them with open doors, open minds, and open hearts; and

Whereas, more than 42 annual conferences are working towards the fulfillment of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry's goals, including the development of faith communities and community ministries, new church starts, and revitalization of established congregations, and the development of lay and clergy leadership to support and expand those ministries; and

Whereas, the General Council on Finance and Administration has reported a steady increase in the Hispanic/Latino membership in our denomination and the establishment of at least twenty-one congregations since 2005; and

Whereas, the National Plan is ready to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by the grow of the Hispanic/Latino population and to ACOMPANAR the annual conferences and local churches, based on experiences and resources such as seed money grants, print and multimedia resources, workshops, consultants, facilitators and other personnel in the areas of new church

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development, non-Hispanic congregations reaching out to Hispanics, justice ministries and assisting The United Methodist Church in addressing critical issues such as immigration and lay and clergy leadership development;

Therefore, let it be resolved that at the MARCHA assembly, August 9 to 12, 2007, MARCHA reaffirms the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the 2009-2012 quadrennium; and

Furthermore, let it be resolved that MARCHA requests to the General Conference to approve the continuation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry as presented before the General Conference and provide sufficient funds to fulfill its goals.

Date: August 11, 2007

Submitted by:

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