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**IN SUPPORT OF HISPANIC/LATINO UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS**

**Resolution**

**Financial Implications: None**

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

Whereas, the United States Hispanic/Latino population continues to increase at an annual rate of 14.3% to a total now 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 for 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, every annual conference has a growing Hispanic/Latino population. According to the United States Census Bureau's demographic projections, by 2011 there will be twenty-five conferences with 100,000 to 499, 999 Hispanic/Latinos, and nineteen with over 500,000; and

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

Whereas, one of the tasks of the Board of Higher Education and ministry is to develop and train leadership for the whole connection. And because a high percentage of Hispanic/Latinos United Methodist are undocumented; and have no access to resources to a higher education in equal terms as the rest of the population.

Be it resolved, that the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church demands the Board of Higher Education and Ministry to eliminate the requirements of Social Security or legal status in the application process for scholarship and loans as a matter of justice and recognize as children of God.

Submitted by: MARCHA

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