

PETITION TO GENERAL CONFERENCE: CHANGE THE NAME LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES TO CHRIST SERVANT MINISTRIES

WHEREAS the 1992 General Conference instructed the leaders of Lay Speaking programs to emphasize training in the areas of caring, leading, and communicating, and

WHEREAS there were many in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference who felt the name *Lay Speaker* did not adequately capture these three dimensions of lay ministry, and

WHEREAS the result of numerous conference meetings and discussions that occurred over the next five years resulted in the 1997 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference officially adopting the name, *Christ Servant Ministries*, and

WHEREAS by the action of the 1997 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, the *Christ Servant Ministries* program was instructed to follow the rules of Lay Speakers as stated in the *Discipline*, but to go a step further and specifically recognize laity in their area of training (i.e. speaking, leading, caring), and

WHEREAS the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is unique in The United Methodist Church in the use of the name of *Christ Servant Ministers* to identify those laity who are trained to help others and serve Christ wherever and whenever they are needed, and

WHEREAS the name *Christ Servant Ministries* seems to more fully describe a lay ministry that is focused on caring, leading, and communicating,

THEREFORE, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference petitions the *2008 General Conference* to change the name *Lay Speaking Ministries* to *Christ Servant Ministries*, Para. 267ff.