

A Resolution Concerning Healthcare for the Poor in Alabama

WHEREAS, Jesus requires that we look to the needs of “the least of these,” and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in the Social Principles (Para. 162,V), “Providing the care needed to maintain health, prevent disease, and restore health after injury or illness is a responsibility each person owes others and government owes to all, a responsibility government ignores at its peril,” and

WHEREAS, health insurance remains unaffordable for approximately 200,000 adult Alabamians who do not qualify for current Medicaid coverage and whose income falls below the eligibility threshold for premium subsidies in the Health Insurance Marketplace, which is set at the poverty line (approximately \$18,000 for a family of three), and

WHEREAS, 152,000 of these adult Alabamians who do not qualify for current Medicaid coverage are employed in important but low-paying jobs, such as department store clerks, gas station attendants, fast food workers, etc., that do not pay enough to make health insurance affordable, and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the federal Medicaid program would more efficiently meet the healthcare needs of poor Alabamians whose care is now provided mainly in emergency rooms at reduced effectiveness and great cost, and

WHEREAS, after three years of 100 percent federal funding, the state would contribute no more than 10 percent of funding for the expanded coverage in future years, and

WHEREAS, the state of Alabama has chosen to forego millions of federal dollars that Alabamians have paid to the federal government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon the Alabama State Legislature and the Governor of Alabama to expand the Medicaid program so that this ready solution can meet the healthcare needs of the poor, and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Alabama and every member of the Alabama State Legislature.

Submitted by the Board of Church and Society of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.