

## **A Resolution Concerning Adequate, Long-term Funding for Medicaid in Alabama and Florida**

Whereas the inspired, God-breathed words of the Old and New Testaments advocate for the care of the most vulnerable (see Matthew 25:31-46 and other passages); and

Whereas the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶162.III.V: “Health care is a basic human right.” And further states: “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. In Ezekiel 34:4a, God points out the failures of the leadership of Israel to care for the weak: ‘You don’t strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, or seek the lost.’ As a result all suffer. Like police and fire protection, health care is best funded through the government’s ability to tax each person equitably and directly fund the provider entities.”; and

Whereas the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states in ¶164.V: *A) Basic Freedoms and Human Rights*—We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections and to the freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, communications media, and petition for redress of grievances without fear of reprisal; to the right to privacy; and to the guarantee of the rights to adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care; and

Whereas the 2016 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church states in Resolution #3202. Health and Wholeness:

United Methodist congregations are encouraged to:

- become actively involved at all levels in the development of support systems for health care in the community; and
- become advocates for a healthful environment; accessible, affordable health care; continued public support for health care of persons unable to provide for themselves; continued support for health-related research; and provision of church facilities to enable health-related ministries; and

Whereas the 2016 Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church states in Resolution #4056. **Greed:**

Call to Action:

At the Local Church Level:

3. That local congregations advocate for just tax structures that ensure that all people have adequate resources for housing, affordable healthy food, clean water, energy, health care, and public transportation; and

Whereas the recent history concerning funding for Medicaid through both States’ General Funds has provided only for stop-gap funding using non-recurring sources of revenue, thus placing the availability of health care for more than one million Alabamians<sup>1</sup> and more than 3.9 million Floridians<sup>2</sup> at risk;

---

<sup>1</sup> Alabama Medicaid 2015 Annual Report

<sup>2</sup> Florida Statewide Medicaid Monthly Enrollment Report for May, 2017

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church meeting in its regularly scheduled session June 4 through June 7, 2017, does petition the Honorable Kay Ivey of the State of Alabama and the Honorable Rick Scott of the State of Florida, and the members of the Alabama and Florida Houses of Representatives and the Alabama and Florida State Senates to end the chronic funding shortfalls that threaten to curtail and/or eliminate Medicaid services in the State of Alabama and the State of Florida and to secure for Medicaid a sufficient, sustainable revenue stream; and

Be it further resolved that the United Methodists of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference be encouraged to contact their State's Legislators and urge them to work toward this end; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governors and every member of the Alabama and Florida State Legislatures.

Submitted by:  
The Conference Board of Church and Society.