

## **RESOLUTION #8**

### **CREATION OF A COVENANT PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE AND THE NIGERIA EPISCOPAL AREA OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - APPROVED**

**RATIONAL:** After a call went out from the Council of Bishops to build orphanages and schools for children in Africa, the Nebraska Conference and the United Methodist Church in Nigeria entered into a covenant. It was approved by the Nebraska Annual Conference in the summer of 2001 and focused on building and supporting an orphanage in Jalingo, Nigeria. It is time to update and renew this covenant.

**WHEREAS,** the mission of The United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,”

Whereas, the Great Plains Conference is called “to equip and connect congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ,” with a commitment to “Christ-centered excellence” and strong global mission partnerships,

**WHEREAS,** the Nigeria Episcopal Area seeks to “raise faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ who are passionate to transform the world through preaching, teaching and the provision of services to care for the spiritual and physical needs of the church and the society,”

**WHEREAS,** Jesus sent his disciples out in mission “two by two” (Luke 10:1-2, NIV), and

**WHEREAS,** The United Methodist is a connectional church both with partners locally and globally and we continue to support the original mission of the Council of Bishop’s call to provide orphanages and schools for the orphaned children of Africa;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Great Plains Conference and the Nigeria Episcopal Area renew their covenant of solidarity in Christ and mutually commit ourselves to:

1. Work together in a supportive and mutual relationship for the wholistic education and leadership development of Nigerian children who have been orphaned.
2. Uplift one another in prayer on a regular basis.
3. Help people in our conferences learn about—and from—one another, including our history and culture, our blessings and challenges, and our faith and life; with a focus towards helping the orphanage students.
4. Communicate through approved channels, as established by the conferences.
5. Develop a procedure for an accountable and transparent transfer of funds for use in implementing the projects and activities made possible through this covenant.
6. Report each year to our respective Annual Conferences through normal existing channels and agencies, as seen fit by each conference.
7. Cooperate together in developing and implementing various projects and activities that support sustainability or benefits the students of the Jalingo Orphanage Ministry as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) below.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

#### **BETWEEN THE GREAT PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE AND THE NIGERIA EPISCOPAL AREA OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our current priority remains the education and wellbeing of the Jalingo Orphanage children and youth to which both parties make the following commitments:

The Nigeria United Methodist Episcopal Area shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Assume full responsibility of feeding and caring for the Jalingo Orphanage children.
2. Provide clothing and other personal needs for the Jalingo Orphanage children.
3. Identify and account for income from all other sources and non-monetary donations.
4. Identify and account for income that comes from school fees paid by non-orphans.
5. Ensure transparency in communication by including the Jalingo Board Chair, the Nigeria Project Coordinator and the Jalingo Orphanage Director.

6. Ensure that an annual audit is conducted at the Jalingo Orphanage and shared with all the partners working with the Jalingo Orphanage, including the Great Plains Conference.
7. Work toward sustainability and transition the Orphanage Ministry into a self-reliant operation over four years.
8. Ensure that the Jalingo Orphanage board and management (Director) do the following:
  - i. Prepare an Annual Budget for the expenses of the Orphanage by October 30 for the next fiscal year. This budget will indicate the cost of individual student educational expenses (the cost of teacher salaries and educational materials) for orphan and non-orphan students and the cost of annual housing, food and personal care for orphan students.
  - ii. Create a funding plan to pay teachers and support staff based on the revenue of tuition, room and board for both orphan and non-orphan students.
  - iii. Spell out a plan for sustainability to take full responsibility of the education, feeding and caring for the orphan children. The plan will include how progress will be measured.
  - iv. Identify the ideal number of orphans the orphanage has the capacity to educate, house, feed and care for.
  - v. Identify the number of non-orphans the orphanage school has the capacity to educate.

The Great Plains United Methodist Conference shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Create awareness of the orphanage ministry among churches and individuals of the Great Plains Conference.
2. Focus on raising funds to support the educational expenses of the Jalingo Orphanage children.
3. Assist with tuition for orphans attending the Orphanage School and outside secondary school.
4. Transfer funds on a quarterly basis to the Jalingo Orphanage Advance.
5. Continue and grow support for post-secondary education costs for Jalingo Orphanage graduates by bringing greater awareness to Great Plains congregations.
6. Work with the Jalingo Orphanage board to determine criteria for receiving post-secondary scholarships to attend vocational schools, colleges and universities.

**Note: This covenant shall be considered effective once approved or ratified by each of the Annual Conferences. It shall then be in effect for at least four years, at which time it MAY be renewed for an additional four years.**

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ... So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” Galatians 6:2, 10