

the ministry, decided that the time had come to close their doors one final time to say goodbye to the East Haven United Methodist Church, East Haven; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent, has recommended the Discontinuance of the East Haven United Methodist Church, East Haven, Vermont and has received consent from the presiding Bishop, a majority of the District Superintendents, and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Haven United Methodist Church, East Haven, Vermont be declared discontinued effective January 1, 2013, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the building belonging to the East Haven United Methodist Church, East Haven, Vermont and any other assets and property belonging to said church which were not otherwise designated prior to the date of discontinuance, shall become the property of the Trustees of the New England Annual Conference, and that assets shall be deployed as directed by the Book of Discipline and the New England Conference policies.

RS – 217 – AN INVITATION

(Submitted by Rebecca Girrell)

(Adopted Saturday, June 14, 2014)

The New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church strives to be an inclusive conference that celebrates, develops, and affirms God-given gifts for lay and ordained ministry. We commend our District Committees on Ordained Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry in their work of discerning wisely, fairly, and prayerfully the readiness and effectiveness of those seeking to be accepted as candidates, commissioned as provisional members, and ordained as deacon or elder.

WHEREAS, we oppose all forms of personal bias and discrimination, including institutionalized discrimination written into our Book of Discipline, as criteria in evaluating potential clergy members, even as we confess our complicity in systems of exclusion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference affirms the following statement:

We believe God calls all persons to lay, and sometimes LLP, Associate Member and ordained, ministry. We grieve instances of systemic discrimination, prejudice, and unjust practices that cloud the discernment of this call within The United Methodist Church. The New England Annual Conference extends our invitation to people who wish to explore if their call to ministry might be affirmed and/or lived out in the New England Annual Conference.

While we do not promise to accept such persons into candidacy or membership, we do promise to discern in the Spirit with justice, fairness, and consistent standards to the best of our ability, and we entrust our District Committees on Ordained Ministry and Board of Ordained Ministry to act accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New England Annual Conference encourages its churches, Board of Ordained Ministry, and/or District Committees on Ordained Ministry, upon request from a candidate/potential member, or an individual inquiring on their behalf, to extend a written invitation to individual ordination candidates or potential members, inviting them to apply for membership in the New England Annual Conference, in accordance with Disciplinary and Annual Conference requirements.