



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 *2012 Book of Discipline* states in the Social Principles (§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 300,000 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, approximately 185,000 of these uninsured adult Alabamians are employed in important but low-paying jobs, such as department store clerks, gas station attendants, fast food workers, etc., 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, the federal government is offering 100 percent funding for 2015 and 2016, and the state of Alabama would be required to contribute no more than 10 percent of funding for the expanded coverage in future years, and

WHEREAS, accepting the federal funding for this expansion would return to the state of Alabama millions of dollars that Alabamians have paid to the federal government that could be providing coverage and peace of mind for their uninsured neighbors,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Alabama 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.

A quorum majority of the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions voted concurrence with this Resolution.