

SI 2

Presenter:

Annual Conference of Presenter:

Name of Organization: MFSA

Subject to which it relates: Radical Hospitality

First Name on the Petition: (Presenter)

Number of other petitioners: 7

Whereas the Western Jurisdiction has proclaimed its radical, extravagant hospitality in 2004 and 2008, and

Whereas the Western Jurisdiction has had Extravagant Hospitality as its theme for the 2008-2012 quadrennium, and

Whereas the Western Jurisdiction has set “**Extending Extravagant Hospitality**” as its theme for the 2012 Conference, and

Whereas the Western Jurisdiction has set as a part of its mission statement “A home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation: the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is multicultural and inclusive,” and

Whereas Bishop Robert Schnase in the book “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” said, “Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ,” and

Whereas United Methodist Communications offers a training program for churches to become more welcoming (see: <http://tinyurl.com/welcomingumc>), and

Whereas many persons in our churches feel awkward in interacting with persons of cultures, races, and sexualities different from their own and therefore risk alienating rather than welcoming,

Therefore be it resolved that the Western Jurisdiction encourage local ministries to begin the process of becoming official welcoming communities of faith in the UMComm program. The communications vehicles of the Jurisdiction will provide links and instructions, testimonials and encouragement for participating in this program. In addition, the communications team will provide a resource and reading list, and a list of organizations which are already providing training in cross-cultural understanding and culture change in the areas of racism, poverty, GLBTQI issues, and disability awareness; and

Be it resolved that a comprehensive training program be developed to assist local ministries to learn what it means to be radically and extravagantly hospitable to a wide variety of persons, including those of very limited economic means, those who experience physical, mental,

developmental, and emotional disabilities, those of different races and ethnicities, and those who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Intersex and those whose gender expression is ambiguous; and

Be it further resolved that a survey or study or research study be conducted to discover and collect what “hospitality” and “welcome” mean in the 24 ethnic and racial groups in the Jurisdiction, and to share the results with all in the Jurisdiction and any others who desire it; and

Be it further resolved that radio and TV advertising spots tailored to the cultures of the West be made available for local media buys.