

1 **Indiana Area Foundation**

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3 **North Indiana United Methodist Foundation**
4 **United Methodist Foundation of South Indiana**

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Indiana United Methodist Loan Fund

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8 Our three Foundations have long shared histories of ministry to United Methodists throughout
9 the state. With the advent of the new Indiana Annual Conference comes the dawn of new and
10 exciting opportunities to create a single institution to serve Methodism in Indiana, drawing on the
11 best of our pasts and the hope for a bright future.

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13 In early 2008, the presidents and executive directors of the three Foundations and the Indiana
14 United Methodist Loan Fund formed a taskforce to engage in a dialogue about the possibilities
15 for creating a new, single Foundation. The Executive Assistant to the Bishop, David V. W.
16 Owen, has helped to moderate the discussion and Gene Robbins, President of the Indiana Area
17 Foundation, was asked to chair the group. The taskforce has met nearly monthly and engaged
18 in robust discussions among themselves and with several outside consultants,

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20 Those involved have approached the task with enthusiasm and optimism. We have been careful
21 to follow the example of the Annual Conferences' Imagine Indiana process and think about
22 ways a new institution could best support the Indiana Annual Conference in their mission to
23 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. While there is a deep
24 awareness of the concern for integrating the ministries of the existing Foundations, the focus
25 has been on discerning what God is calling us to become.

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27 The three Foundations have existed as organizations separate from the Annual Conferences
28 and Area, but in the case of NI and SI with a membership defined as common to the Annual
29 Conferences. In other words, the Foundations have been separate from, but related to the
30 Annual Conferences.

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32 The consultants all challenged the task force to think about a new entity as an "edge"
33 organization; that is, one that is closely aligned with the Annual Conference, but able to be more
34 nimble, responsive and innovative; to be able to 'walk on the edges' much as a coach
35 encourages and equips those who move inside the boundaries of the field of play. Rather than
36 relying on churches to invest with and in a new Foundation, the focus has been reoriented to
37 how a Foundation would be invested in the future of the church.

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39 **A (n Un) Common Vision and Purpose**

40 The following "working statements" were presented to the four Boards of Directors as guiding
41 the development of a new, single Foundation to serve the Indianan Conference:

42 We envision a future where the church, as the Body of Christ, is no longer constrained
43 by money, but where Christian generosity and faithful stewardship combine to provide
44 abundant resources for the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of
45 the world.

1 The Foundation exists to strengthen the Church by promoting faithful stewardship of the
2 abundant resources God has provided, by connecting (donor) resources with Christian
3 ministries, and working to ensure that sources of funding are available to the Church
4 until Christ comes again.

5 To that end, it is hoped that the mission of the new Foundation would include but
6 perhaps not be limited to:

- 7 • *strengthen the administrative and financial effectiveness of local units of*
8 *ministry through training, consultation and collaboration;*
- 9 • *enhance clergy leadership and leadership development skills, financial*
10 *literacy and administrative competence;*
- 11 • *create sources of funding for ministries both at home and abroad, through*
12 *fund-raising, capital campaigns, grant development, lending programs,*
13 *planned giving, and the development of permanent funds;*
- 14 • *be an agent of responsible change and accountability as the church*
15 *responds to the ever-changing needs of its people.*

16 17 **From Current Ministries to the new mission**

18 The ministries of the new Foundation flow naturally from that of the existing organizations.
19 Within the 'family' of foundations, we are currently engaged in strengthening congregational
20 effectiveness through a number of activities. It is presumed that most, if not all, of the current
21 ministries of the organizations will continue in some form in the new Foundation.

22 As an 'edge' institution, the new Foundation can engage the Annual Conference, its clergy and
23 its laity to develop the means to think in new ways about what it means to follow Christ and to
24 engage the world. Sponsoring forums and engaging in discussions with a variety of religious,
25 civic and community leaders and experts, the Foundation can become a place where new ideas
26 are encouraged and new ministries are encouraged to become self-sustaining. As an agent of
27 responsible change and accountability, the Foundation can become an incubator for fresh ideas
28 and provocative ministries.

29 On March 23, 2009, a gathering of the Boards of Directors of the four existing organizations
30 gathered to hear the proposal developed by the taskforce (and summarized above.) There was
31 a consensus of affirmation for the proposal, and a charge for the taskforce to move towards a
32 plan for implementation. It needs to be stressed that any ultimate change in the governance of
33 the North or South Foundations will need to be brought before their respective memberships
34 before they can be effected.

35 The taskforce would like to offer its thanks to Clarian Health Partners, who made a \$15,000
36 grant from a Methodist Hospital charitable fund to help us begin our work. We would also like to
37 acknowledge Jim Borgmann of DeFur Voran, Muncie, for his review and advice on a variety of
38 legal issues.