

1 **RESOLUTION #2005-017**  
2 **RESOLUTION TO FULL SESSION OF 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
3 **Relating to the Recognition of Christ Servant Ministries Program Opportunities**  
4 **Presented by the Conference Work Team on Christ Servant Ministries**  
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6 **WHEREAS**, Lay Methodists in the United States have a long and distinguished tradition of  
7 serving that dates back to 1769 when the Leeds Conference following John Wesley's  
8 guidance officially commissioned lay workers Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore to  
9 provide support for the growing Methodist movement in America; and

10 **WHEREAS**, early circuit riders would leave to attend to other churches on their charge, and  
11 instruct members of the congregation who became known as exhorters to fill the pulpit and  
12 other laity to conduct the business of the church; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the original term of exhorter evolved to lay speaker and at the 1992 General  
14 Conference included the adoption of a Lay Speaking logo emphasizing caring, leading, and  
15 communicating; and

16 **WHEREAS**, because of the many persons across the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference who  
17 felt the name "Lay Speaker" did not adequately capture these three dimensions of lay  
18 ministry and at the Annual Conference of 1997 officially adopted the name, *Christ Servant*  
19 *Ministries* with instructions to follow the rules for Lay Speakers as stated in the *Discipline*,  
20 but to go a step further and specifically recognize laity in their area of training -- speaking,  
21 leading, and caring; and

22 **WHEREAS**, these lay servants of Christ continue to minister with and to groups of  
23 Methodists, Christians and other communities in a multitude of ways that include not only  
24 preaching, but also sharing, caring and leading.

25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that each church in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
26 Conference encourage lay leadership, lay caregivers, and all laity who seek to be servants of  
27 Christ to take advantage of training opportunities provided by the *Christ Servant Ministries*  
28 program....so that by the 2007 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference – the 10<sup>th</sup>  
29 Anniversary of Christ Servant Ministries - all churches have Christ Servant Ministers within  
30 their congregation.

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32 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** George J. Hollich, Jr.  
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