

RS- 212 – MAKING EVANGELISM A HIGH PRIORITY

(Submitted by Thomas W. Bentum)

(Adopted after amendment on Sunday Morning, June 15, 2008)

WHEREAS, Natural Church Development research has shown that Needs-Oriented Evangelism is one of the eight essential qualities of healthy churches;

WHEREAS, the majority of churches in the New England Annual Conference do not have a strong evangelism emphasis and/or ministry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The New England Annual Conference mandate that all local churches make evangelism a high priority by considering implementation of the following activities;

1. Identify all members who have the gift of evangelism and build an evangelism team.
2. Develop a strategy for evangelism utilizing personal relationships, small group activities, worship, and all aspects of church life
3. Develop a profile of the spiritual needs of the people in your church community;
4. Empower laity to witness verbally to their friends, associates, relatives and neighbors by establishing a regular program in personal evangelism training.
5. Establish small groups and plan special events tailored for spiritual seekers.
6. Become sensitive to the needs of spiritual seekers in worship and all our church ministries.
7. Use an appropriate communication system to invite persons to know Christ;
8. Establish and maintain a system of discipleship for new Christians and new members
9. Understand that ministries of social justice bring us into meaningful contact with people who are ready to hear of the power of love that we receive from Christ expressed in actions for the disadvantaged. (While our first reason for carrying out social justice is that it belongs to the central mandates of God in the Bible, actions of social justice also contribute to the central mandate of evangelism.)