Approved by GBHEM Executive Committee and Board of Directors March 20, 2009

Background: Per 2008 General Conference
Legislative Action

“Therefore, be it resolved that the 2008 General Conference instructs the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to complete a review as soon as possible of all policies and legal restrictions governing its student loans and scholarships and eliminate any requirements for U.S. citizenship or legal resident status for applicants.”

April, 2008

Policy and Procedural Recommendations Approved by Loans and Scholarships Committee January 23, 2009

A. GBHEM Scholarship Programs

1) U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is not required to apply for a GBHEM scholarship.

2) International students from one of the United Methodist Church Central Conferences must be a member of The United Methodist Church for a minimum of three years and be attending a United Methodist related school within the United States. For scholarship consideration, international applicants are required to submit a reference letter with the scholarship application from the UM College President or designee in the UM School in which they are to be enrolled.

3) International students from an autonomous Methodist Church (or non UMC Central Conference) must have been a member of The United Methodist Church within the United States for at least 3 years and be attending a United Methodist related school within the United States. For scholarship consideration, international applicants are required to submit a reference letter with the scholarship application from the President of the UM School or designee in which they are enrolled.

B. GBHEM Loans Program

1) International students must adhere to all loan policies previously approved by the GBHEM Board of Directors which requires a cosigner, a promissory note signed by the borrower and cosigner with appropriate notary signatures, and a review of the credit history of the borrower and cosigner.

2) In addition, an International borrower must be a member of a church in the Central Conference of the United Methodist Church for at least three years or; if the borrower is a member of an autonomous Methodist Church, must be a member of a United Methodist Church in the United States for at least three years to qualify.

3) International borrowers must secure a cosigner who is a citizen of the United States or has legal permanent resident status; and the applicant must be attending a United Methodist-related college, university, or seminary and submit a reference letter from the UM College President or designee in the college they are to be enrolled.

3/20/09