

## Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies

A resolution submitted to the 2023 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference

Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC is a testament to a more complete image of God, which includes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and

Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC allows all United Methodists to offer their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, as followers of Jesus, to further Christ's mission, and

Whereas, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God calls and includes all persons into the life and leadership of the Church, transcending the limitations of human categorization, and

Whereas, the current language in the Book of Discipline places limits on Christ's teaching and example of God's universal love, and

Whereas, the current language in the Book of Discipline falls short of embodying the spirit of John Wesley's simple rules to do no harm, do all the good we can, and love God, and

Whereas, legislative changes to the Book of Discipline would reduce barriers and allow movement toward wider diversity and inclusion in our United Methodist Church.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference supports the removal of all discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation, and urges delegates to adopt the following petitions; petitions already submitted and that will be before the voting body of the next General Conference:

**Petition No: 20730-CB-¶161-G;**

Entitled: Revised Social Principles-161 and 162

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 208](#)

Summary: Removes the statement that affirms marriage as only between "one man and one woman." Removes the statement that only affirms "heterosexual" marriage. Removes, "The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

**Petition No: 20177-FO-¶304.3**

Entitled: A Simple Plan #3

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 624](#)

Summary: Removes ¶304.3 which states, "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church." Also removes the corresponding footnote stating that "self-avowed practicing homosexual is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual."

**Petition No: 20469-OM-¶341.6**

Entitled: A Simple Plan #5

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1041](#)

Summary: Removes ¶341.6, which states (under unauthorized conduct), “ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

**Petition No: 20181-FA-¶613-G**

Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 6 of 8

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 504](#)

Summary: Removes ¶613.19, which prohibits annual conferences from giving “United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality . . . “

**Petition No: 20190-FA-¶806-G**

Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 7 of 8

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 508](#)

Summary: Removes ¶806.9, which tasks GCFA with “ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council gives United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group . . . “

**Petition No: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G**

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #11—Amend Episcopal Responsibilities

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 977](#)

Summary: Removes statements prohibiting bishops from commissioning, ordaining, or consecrating persons determined to be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

**Petition No: 20387-JA-¶2711.3-G**

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #22—Penalties

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 933](#)

Summary: Removes predetermined, mandatory minimum penalties for clergy who officiate same sex weddings.

**Petition Number: 20365-JA-¶2702.1-G**

Entitled: Next Generation UMC #21 - Chargeable Offenses

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 924](#)

Summary: Removes chargeable offenses that target “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” and clergy who conduct same-sex weddings.

**Petition No: 20420-OM-¶310.2d-G**

Entitled: A Simple Plan #4

[ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1022](#)

Summary: Removes statements from Footnote 3 that repeat phrases being removed from other paragraphs in the BOD.

Be it further resolved that the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to: all General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and alternates, the Commission on General Conference; and the Council of Bishops.

Submitted by:

**From Belmont UMC:**

- Rev. Paul Purdue, Sr. Pastor
- Rev. Heather Harriss, Pastor

- John Pearce, Delegate to Annual Conference
- Emma Bushong, Delegate to Annual Conference
- Alisa Bradford, Chair, Belmonsters for Inclusion
- Jeff Sheehan, Chair, Administrative Board
- Louis Jordan, Lay Leader

**From Blakemore UMC:**

- Rev. Dr. Sandy Shawhan,
- Zachary Lalor
- Michael Friddell

**From Briensburg UMC:**

- William Lawson
- Cheryl Lawson
- Gregory Waldrop
- Steve Milam
- Ginalee Wyatt
- Jerry Wyatt
- Bob Gooud
- Jeanne Gooud
- Mitch Clark
- David Sprinkle
- Peg Riley
- Karen Heise
- Betsy McClain
- Becky Blanchard
- Steve Rayburn
- Jeri Lake

**From Calvary UMC:**

- Rev. Eric Mayle
- Youth Group
- Covenant Class
- Horizons Class
- Encounter Class

**From East End UMC:**

- Ginny Tacker, Reconciling Minister Chair
- Rev. Brandon Baxter, Pastor
- Rev. Keri Cress, Associate Pastor

**From Edgehill UMC:**

- Lindsey Dye
- Deen Thompson
- Rev. John Feldhacker

**From Erin UMC:**

- Ann Hagler
- Beth Flynt
- Mary Beth Childs
- Charles Lee Childs
- Mary Douglas
- Tammy Smith
- Chad Smith

- Mark Churness
- Pam Churness
- Amy Phy Jernigan
- Mary Phy
- Charles Phy

**From First UMC Humboldt:**

- Joyce Lynn Kole

**From First UMC Jackson:**

- Scott Murray
- Rhonda Murray
- Olivia Murray
- Gary Lackey
- Adam Johnson
- Brian Taylor
- J. V. Thompson
- Erin Thompson
- Mona Miller
- David Eblen II
- Jacob Hamilton
- Mitzi Hamilton
- JoLeigh Sutton

**From Glendale UMC:**

- Rev. Steph Dodge

**From St. John's UMC:**

- Rev. Judi Hoffman

**From Trinity UMC:**

- Kay Jordan
- Craig Jordan
- Amy Moritz
- Brad Moritz
- Sam Goff
- Sara Goff
- Sara Corum
- Chris Glover
- Mike Potter
- Rosemary Potter
- Joey Hopper
- Charles Abraham
- Melba Abraham
- Sandy Guntharp
- Irene B. Dycus
- Robert Landrigan