

## **Encouraging Leadership With Integrity**

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

Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and

Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ's church at heart, and

Whereas, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and

Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and

Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church, and

Whereas, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of leading with integrity was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that, as we continue this period of transition the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity.

Be it further resolved that the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference asks all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.

Be it further resolved that we encourage the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Board of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

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, Belmonters 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