

Resolution by Lock's Memorial United Methodist Church

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial Methodist Church assumed the title “United” after the union of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), which was approved at the 1972 General Conference; and

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church fulfilled its mission under the Book of Discipline and the Social Principles; and

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church members confirmed their baptismal oath: “Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?” and;

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church lived out our ministry based upon Biblical principles according to the most recent 2016 Book of Discipline, which states under Section IV Social Principles: Paragraph 161 Section II The Nurturing Community G) Human Sexuality: “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” (Reference: In an historic plenary session the General Conference delegates ended the church’s prohibition on ordaining “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”)]

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 2, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church lived out our ministry based upon Biblical principles under the 2016 Social Principles regarding the performance of marriages and the use of the church facilities for such. [Reference: The church’s top legislative body on May 2, 2024 voted to remove the denominational stance that declares homosexuality to be “incompatible with Christian teaching.” In the same vote, delegates affirmed “marriage as a sacred, lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith (adult man and adult woman of consenting age or two adult persons of consenting age) into a union of one another and into deeper relationship with God and the religious community.”)] and;

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 2, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church lived out our ministry of support through “our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service,” [Reference: The ban on funding for LGBTQ education and preservation was lifted at General Conference, and a center devoted to the heritage of LGBTQ United Methodists will open at the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, located at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.] and;

WHEREAS, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did break the covenant under which Lock’s Memorial United Methodist Church presumed an extension of Paragraph 2553, the provision to depart the denomination with their property “for reasons of conscience” related to homosexuality, if they met certain procedural and financial requirements, and to gain release from The United Methodist Church’s centuries-old trust clause, which states that church property is held in trust for the benefit of the entire denomination. [Reference: General Conference delegates voted to delete Paragraph 2553, the church disaffiliation policy, from the Book of Discipline. They required Annual Conferences to set a reaffiliation policy for churches that want to return.]; and

Whereas, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in plenary vote on May 1, 2024 did arbitrarily end the “season of disaffiliation,” that is Paragraph 2553 Disaffiliation Policy without extending the December 31,

2023 deadline, even though there were churches which held their decision in abeyance until General Conference rulings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Memorial United Methodist Church petitions the TWKUMC Annual Conference for an extension of Paragraph 2553 Disaffiliation Policy so that the church congregation does not feel “trapped,” as noted by Delegate Dixie Brewster, a delegate from the Great Plains Conference. Dixie Brewster spoke of her fear that churches troubled by the changes passed by General Conference will be trapped, according to Heather Hahn of the United Methodist News.

“I speak in favor of disaffiliation,” Brewster said. “I’m very nervous because I want a place for our conservative churches with traditional values to have a way to go peacefully. I don’t want them to be caught up in our court system.”

Respectfully submitted,
Bertram Layne, Administrative Board Chair
William L. Smith Lay Delegate, Annual Conference