

A RESOLUTION FOR PEACE, PATIENCE, AND PRAYER

As amended by the author at the meeting of the Committee of Petitions and Resolutions on July 13, 2016

WHEREAS the delegates of the 2016 General Conference, took the historic step of asking the Council of Bishops to lead the church beyond the current impasse of the United Methodist Church regarding the Book of Discipline statements related to human sexuality, and

WHEREAS the Bishops offered the church a way forward through the creation of a Commission which would engage in a complete examination and possible revisions of every paragraph in the Book of Discipline related to human sexuality to be proposed at an upcoming special session of General Conference, and

WHEREAS this Commission would seek to engage leaders in the church from various perspectives on this current impasse, and

WHEREAS the Bishops also expressed their commitment to help the church live in grace with one another including ways to avoid further complaints, trials, and harm even as they uphold the Discipline, and

WHEREAS the General Conference affirmed this proposal by a majority vote, and

WHEREAS this Commission represents our best opportunity to continue the important kingdom work of the United Methodist Church by leading us beyond the impasse, and

WHEREAS every United Methodist has a part to play in the success of this Commission, and

WHEREAS we want to thank the Bishops for leading at General Conference 2016; we want to give the commission a chance to do some good, historic work; we want to unite across the spectrum of convictions on these matters to pray for the formation of that Commission and its work; we want to rely on the Holy Spirit to speak to us on these matters and on all matters of holiness; and we want to stand together as United Methodists in the South Central Jurisdiction, *therefore*

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference commit ourselves to loving one another as Jesus loves us and praying for the unity of the church as Jesus prayed on our behalf, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will pray for our bishops, boards of ordained ministry, and the United Methodist Commission on Matters of Human Sexuality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will uphold to the Book of Discipline as we have vowed to do as United Methodist leaders while we wait for the Commission to complete its work and offer its recommendations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will be gracious to all in recognition that we are not all of one mind on many issues and we will work toward improving relationships while diminishing hurtful conversations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that while the special commission is in deliberation, we the laity and clergy of the South Central Jurisdiction call upon the South Central College of Bishops and the Council of Bishops to (1) cultivate a spirit within their cabinets and clergy sessions that treats all clergy and laity respectfully and fairly regardless of their views on matters of human sexuality and (2) live out the commitment made at General Conference 2016, "We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another - including ways to avoid further complaints, trials and harm while we uphold the Discipline." (from "An Offering for a Way Forward" approved at General Conference 2016), and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we United Methodists of the South Central Jurisdiction unite in our commitment to God honoring worship, building up the body of Christ, and reaching out to a world in need of redeeming grace.

Respectfully submitted by Kip Gilts, Clergy Delegate of The Texas Annual Conference