

# SECTION XI

## Resolutions and Petitions

### Resolutions

#### A. Regular

##### 1. Prayer

WHEREAS, JESUS is The Supreme Model of praying to GOD THE FATHER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 5:12-16; John 17:1-26), and

WHEREAS, JESUS paid the price of time of praying to GOD THE FATHER, morning and evening (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12), and

WHEREAS, the praying of JESUS TO GOD THE FATHER shows victories in The Kingdom of God (Matthew 14:19-21; Mark 5:1-20; John 11:38-45), and

WHEREAS, JESUS shows us to be persistent in praying to GOD THE FATHER (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8), and

WHEREAS, THE HOLY SPIRIT and JESUS pray to GOD THE FATHER in our behalf (Romans 8:26; 8:34), and

WHEREAS, faithful praying by the disciples of JESUS, His mother, His brothers, and some devoted women helped to spark a flaming Pentecost and powerful Church (Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-47), and

WHEREAS, praying to GOD THE FATHER as JESUS prayed is a way of showing dependence upon the HOLY SPIRIT (Luke 4:1-5), and

WHEREAS, Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr would welcome our prayers for his many needs and for his family, and

WHEREAS, all our clergy with their families, all our laity with their families, and all our children and youth are standing in need of praying, and

WHEREAS so many of our clergy, congregations and communities are struggling for the devastation of flooding and storms, and

WHEREAS, the vital power of prayer has long been a tradition and discipline of all of those clergy and lay whose lives have been influenced by Rev. Johnny A. Dinas, who historical has presented this petition,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we continue our 12:00 o'clock noon daily prayer time for The United Methodist Church in Mississippi and beyond; whether our prayers are several seconds, minutes or longer in THE NAME OF JESUS: and that we depend upon THE HOLY SPIRIT to direct us in our praying for THE BODY OF CHRIST, and

2. That we earnestly ask our HEAVENLY FATHER'S help for the continued recovery and restoration of our brothers, sisters, youth, children, and churches effected by the many storms, and

3. That we ask our pastors to inform The Church briefly from time to time about the 12:00 o'clock hour, urging their praying, and

4. That any time during the last two weeks prior to Annual Conference each pastoral charge have some type of prayer meeting GLORIFYING GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT: asking His help as we face Annual Conference with faith, hope, and love; and to give power to live the life of CHRIST in the world.

*Rev. Arthur R. (Trey) Harper, III*  
*Director of Spiritual Leadership*

## **2. Housing/Rental Allowance For Retired and Disabled Ministers**

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church has and functions through ministers of the Gospel who are ordained or licensed; and

WHEREAS, the practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

WHEREAS, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The United Methodist Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Mississippi Annual Conference is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this conference;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. An amount not to exceed 100 percent of the pension payments received during the year of 2020 be and is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Mississippi Conference at the time of his or her retirement;

2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relation or placed on disability leave by the Mississippi Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Mississippi Conference and in other appropriate records maintained by the conference;

3. The pension payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, annual conference, or institution of The United Methodist Church, or of any former denomination that is now a part of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The United Methodist Church for such retired minister's pension.

*John Brian Jones, Chairperson, Board of Pension*

*David Stotts, CPA, Conference Benefit Officer*

## **3. Petition On Human Sexuality (Subtitled: Petition Concerning the Practice of Homosexuality)**

WHEREAS, this has been the third consecutive year that the Mississippi Annual Conference has been presented similar petitions on human sexuality without any of the petitions being voted on; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 General Conference meeting in session in St. Louis, Missouri, from February 23-26, passed the Traditional Plan, which upheld the 2016 *Discipline's* language regarding human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, the Biblical stance on the practice of homosexuality will be a continuing battle in years ahead, I petition the 2019 Mississippi Annual Conference to makes its stance known by the passage or non-passage of the following petition on human sexuality:

WHEREAS, the Scripture contained in the Old and New Testaments is the final authority that establishes the conditions in which all men and women can have a harmonious relationship with God, our Creator (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25, esp. 24; Matthew 5:17; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12); and

WHEREAS, the Scripture teaches us that God is love (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; I John 4:8, 16) and holy (Leviticus 19:2; 20:7; I Peter 1:16), and He (God) never changes (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8); and

WHEREAS, all of us are sinners (Psalm 53:1-3; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 3:23), and yet, none of us are beyond the embrace of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love through Jesus Christ (Isaiah

53:4-5; John 3:17-19; Romans 3:22; 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9), leading us to become holy in all of our conduct (I Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 1:3-6; Philippians 1:6; I Peter 1:13-15); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Christ's death on the Cross was not only for the forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28; Acts 13:38-39; I John 1:7; 2:1-2), but also to make us new, holy creatures in Christ (Romans 6; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:17-24; I Peter 2:24-25; I John 3:9); and

WHEREAS, Christ's words to the woman taken in the act of adultery, "Neither do I condemn you; go your way; from now on sin no more" (John 8:11b), should be our words to all individuals who desire to experience God's love, forgiveness and power; and

WHEREAS, love without Truth is not Divine Love, and truth without Love is not Divine Truth (Ezekiel 33:8-9; Matthew 28:19-20; John 7:24; 8:32; 14:15); and

WHEREAS, anyone, who desires to experience this newfound freedom and cleansing power in Christ, must first acknowledge his/her sinfulness and confess it before God (Psalm 32:5; Proverbs 28:13; Joel 2:18; John 16:7-11; I John 1:9); and

WHEREAS, in every reference to the practice of homosexuality in the Scriptures such practice is deemed contrary to God's holy character and unnatural in its behavior (Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Timothy 1:8-11); and

WHEREAS, the consistent Christian practice through the centuries has affirmed the Biblical judgment of homosexuality (St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Martin Luther); and

WHEREAS, the founder of our United Methodist Church, John Wesley, writes: "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out. What was their fundamental doctrine? That the (entire) Bible is the WHOLE AND SOLE RULE BOTH OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE" ("Thoughts Upon Methodism" by John Wesley, emphasis added; see also II Timothy 4:1-4); and

WHEREAS, *The 2016 Discipline of the United Methodist Church* says, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" (Paragraph 304.3), and some annual conference Boards of Ordained Ministry do not even ask the questions concerning human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, the issue of homosexuality has been an on-going struggle causing confusion within our own United Methodist Church for the past 47 years resulting in pastors and bishops officiating at same-sex ceremonies and the election of a practicing lesbian as a bishop (Karen Oliveto, Western Jurisdiction - 2017), without experiencing meaningful repercussions for their disobedience; and

WHEREAS, our homosexually inclined brothers' and sisters' rights to this liberating Truth of the Gospel are being denied due to the ambiguity of previous actions and most recently the overt defiance of *The Book of Discipline* by our leadership on all levels of our Church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2019 Mississippi Annual Conference confirm the actions of the 2019 General Conference, which confirmed the Traditional Plan upholding the provisions in our 2016 *Book of Discipline* and the repeated actions of previous General Conferences in regard to human sexuality. That the General Conference hold our leadership accountable (in light of the recent decisions, especially 1341, of the Judicial Council), mandating them to fulfill their responsibility in implementing these provisions. That the General Conference mandate that each individual Board of Ordained Ministry ask the disciplinary questions on human sexuality to each and every candidate, as we in Truth compassionately minister to the LGBTQI community and the world with God's love, grace, mercy and justice. Furthermore, that the General Conference affirm the biblical truth that the practice of homosexuality is contrary to God's standard of holiness and reaffirm Paragraphs 304.3 and 310.2(d) of not allowing the certification or ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" to serve as an ordained minister or as an appointee to serve in the United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all immorality is sin that hinders us from experiencing God's redemptive love found only in Jesus Christ, and because of the confusion regarding the morality of homosexuality within our culture and Church, let it be known the practice of homosexuality (not the inclination) misses the mark of holy conduct commanded by God in His Word, which is the FINAL AUTHORITY on what

is HOLY AND UNHOLY behavior. Furthermore, as to those who are unable to adhere to these Scriptural teachings on the practice of homosexuality and the statutes established in our *2016 Book of Discipline*, may they part amicably with a reasonable and fair solution, and may the parting be one of mutual respect, so that the United Methodist Church may have and act as a unified voice concerning the Scriptural Truth regarding the practice of homosexuality.

*George (Randy) Owen, M.Div.  
Elder in the Mississippi Annual Conference*

#### **4. Remove Age Limits on Licensing School Enrollment For Those Serving as Local Pastors**

WHEREAS, *The 2016 Book of Resolution* 3161111, 2, and 3 states, "John Wesley was a unique and remarkable educator (who) gave to the whole Methodist movement a permanent passion for education"; and

WHEREAS, "Wesley believed that persons develop their full God-given potential when they educate their mind as well as nurture their spirit;" and

WHEREAS, "the historic United Methodist concern for education is witnessed through commitment to educational opportunity for all persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or economic or social background;" and

WHEREAS, the *2016 Book of Discipline (BOD)* authorized several groups of people, including licensed local pastors and commissioned pastors (11316, 339, 340) to preside at Eucharist and the Sacrament of Baptism in the charge(s) in which they are appointed;

WHEREAS, the *2016 Book of Resolutions* policy on Worship and Liturgy, Article 8032 entitled, This Holy Mystery, states, "Some of these provisions have been in effect since 1976, to enable the sacraments to be served regularly in many small congregations that do not have elders as their pastors. The church continues to seek the best ways to meet this need and still uphold the historic linkage of ordination and administration of the sacraments."

WHEREAS, continuing decline in membership in the United Methodist Church is leaving increasing numbers of small congregations who cannot (afford) have elders as their pastors and rely solely on local licensed pastors and commissioned pastors to preside at Eucharist and the Sacrament of Baptism.

WHEREAS, the number of ordained and provision elders has decreased from 15,806 in 2010 to 14,614 in 2015. At the same time, local pastors appointed to churches climbed from 6,193 in 2010 to 7,569 in 2015, making them extremely valuable in the growth of the denomination and to fulfilling its purpose in making disciples.

WHEREAS, human life span is longer, and many older adults retain their physical, emotional and mental health and working abilities well beyond age 72.

WHEREAS, qualified and certified candidates for ministry, in accordance with the requirements in 11310.1-2 and 11315 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* are not permitted to.

attend Licensing School if or they are deemed to be too near retirement age (no later than 72) or post-retirement (after age 72) ..

WHEREAS, while focal clergy (pastors) may be newly assigned to and/or continue to serve one or multiple churches post retirement, they may not seek nor attend licensing school after age 72 and are, therefore, unable to perform the sacraments .

WHEREAS, local clergy (pastors) who are not permitted to be licensed due to age nor allowed to perform the sacraments through absolutely no fault, other than age, together with the lack of ordained elders in close proximity, results in congregations that will not be able to partake of Communion on a regular basis nor enjoy the Sacrament of Baptism performed in their church by the clergy serving the church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all age limits imposed on licensing school be removed for full-time and part -time local pastors.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that older qualified candidates, meeting all other requirements of candidacy, in accordance with the requirements in 1J310.1-2 and 1J315 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, be allowed to enroll in and complete Licensing School. If assigned or appointed, the candidate will be granted a License regardless of age.

It is requested that this Resolution be presented for approval to the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. Should this Resolution pass and be approved by the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church that it be forwarded to the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**Maureen Elva Fields**  
*Pearlington United Methodist Church, Pearlington, MS*

**Patsy “Pat” Oakes**  
*Bond United Methodist Church, Wiggins, MS*

**Dr. Reverend Larry Hilliard**  
*District Superintendent, Seashore District Preston*

## **5. A Resolution to Do No Harm**

WHEREAS John Wesley taught three General Rules that all who sought to be members of a Society Meeting in the early Methodist movement were required to adhere. The primary rule being “First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced, such as: The taking of the name of God in vain. The profaning the day of the Lord...Slaveholding; buying or selling slaves. Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing;...Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of magistrates or of ministers.” 1; and

WHEREAS the author of the Letter to the Romans, writes, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor” 2; and

WHEREAS Jesus taught us the greatest commandments: “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 3; and

WHEREAS there are numerous references throughout scripture that remind us to do no harm to others 4; and

WHEREAS in Wesleyan theology there is the understanding that the law of love means that we are required to act out of genuine love for our God and our fellow human beings even when our understanding of what that means is subject to ignorance, limits, confusion, disagreement, mistakes, and errors; and

WHEREAS ¶162 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016* speaks specifically to the rights of all persons, and states “we affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God” 5; and

WHEREAS ¶4 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016* states “the United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth” 6; and

WHEREAS the recent actions and decisions arising from the February 2019 Special Called General Conference and the subsequent rulings during the April 2019 meeting of the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church do not affirm all persons as being of equal value in the sight of God, and have caused harm to clergy and laity of the United Methodist Church, including those in the Mississippi Conference; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church:

1. seeks to be in holy conversation with all persons as beloved children of God with sacred worth and equal value;

2. encourages all clergy and laity of Mississippi United Methodist congregations to refrain from words and actions that cause harm to others;

3. asks all United Methodists of Mississippi to love God and one another as unconditionally as we human beings can;
4. affirms that all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God, and in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church; and
5. invites us to confess our sin before God and each other when we cause harm to one another, either by word or action.

**Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Ranager**  
*Elder in Full Connection, Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church*

## **6. *Petition to Discontinue Karen Oliveto as a Bishop of the UMC***

THE UNDERSIGNED, The Administrative Board of Shipman UMC, and The Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC, and James Hall, Clergy, all of Seashore District, of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, DO HEREBY PETITION, MEMORIALIZE, AND MOVE the 2019 Mississippi Annual Conference to resolve, petition, memorialize, and move THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, IN ALL ITS REGULAR, SPECIAL, AND CALLED SESSIONS ENSUING HEREAFTER, SPECIFICALLY GC2020, but not limited thereto, AS FOLLOWS, to-wit:

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council ["JC"] of the United Methodist Church ["UMC"] upheld and ruled in JC Decision No. 1341 that "Paragraph 304.3 [of the *Book of Discipline* of the UMC] prohibits the consecration as bishop of a self-avowed practicing homosexual." And,

WHEREAS, the JC also ruled in Decision No. 1341 that "It is not lawful for the college of bishops of any jurisdiction or central conference to consecrate a self-avowed practicing homosexual bishop." And,

WHEREAS, the consecration by the Western Jurisdiction of Karen Oliveto to be a bishop of the UMC was the precipitating event underlying JCD 1341, and such prohibited and unlawful act by the Western Jurisdiction has not been corrected. And,

WHEREAS, Division Two - Section II - Article IV of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church, being ¶16 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), provides, inter alia,:

The General Conference shall ... have authority as follows:

5. To ... provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of ... unacceptability.

NOW, THEREFORE, the General Conference of the UMC is hereby petitioned, resolved, memorialized, and moved to "provide for the discontinuance" of Karen Oliveto as a bishop of the UMC for unacceptability, by removing such person from such position and declaring such position vacant.

THUS MEMORIALIZED AND PETITIONED, THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2018.

**James Hall, Clergy, Pastor**  
*Shipman UMC & Winborn Chapel UMC*

**Tommie Jenkins, Local Member**  
*Shipman UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Shipman UMC*

**William Patterson, Local Member**  
*Winborn Chapel UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC*

## **7. *Petition to Require General Conference Ratification of Bishops***

THE UNDERSIGNED, The Administrative Board of Shipman UMC, and The Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC, and James Hall, Clergy, all of Seashore District, of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, DO HEREBY PETITION, MEMORIALIZE, AND MOVE the 2019 Mississippi Annual Conference to resolve, petition, memorialize, and move THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, IN ALL ITS REGULAR, SPECIAL,

AND CALLED SESSIONS ENSUING HEREAFTER, SPECIFICALLY GC2020, but not limited thereto, AS FOLLOWS, to-wit:

- A. That *Book of Discipline* (2016) ¶ 27. containing Article V. 2. of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church be amended by insertion of the following symbols and words reflected in underlined italics:
  2. To elect bishops – subject, however, to the ratification of the next ensuing regular, special, or called General Conference, failing which the election of any bishop whose election is not ratified by a majority of such General Conference present and voting shall forthwith be vacated and held for naught – and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.
- B. These changes are shown as follows:
 

*Book of Discipline* ¶ 27 (2016). Article V. of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church

  2. To elect bishops – subject, however, to the ratification of the next ensuing regular, special, or called General Conference, failing which the election of any bishop whose election is not ratified by a majority of such General Conference present and voting shall forthwith be vacated and held for naught – and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.
- C. Thus the UMC 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 27. Article V. 2. shall read —
  2. To elect bishops – subject, however, to the ratification of the next ensuing regular, special, or called General Conference, failing which the election of any bishop whose election is not ratified by a majority of such General Conference present and voting shall forthwith be vacated and held for naught – and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.”

THUS MEMORIALIZED AND PETITIONED, THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2018.

*James Hall, Clergy, Pastor*  
*Shipman UMC & Winborn Chapel UMC*

*Tommie Jenkins, Local Member*  
*Shipman UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Shipman UMC*

*William Patterson, Local Member*  
*Winborn Chapel UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC*

## **8. *Petition to Merge Western Jurisdiction into South Central Jurisdiction***

THE UNDERSIGNED, The Administrative Board of Shipman UMC, and The Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC, and James Hall, Clergy, all of Seashore District, of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, DO HEREBY PETITION, MEMORIALIZE, AND MOVE the 2019 Mississippi Annual Conference to resolve, petition, memorialize, and move THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, IN ALL ITS REGULAR, SPECIAL, AND CALLED SESSIONS ENSUING HEREAFTER, SPECIFICALLY GC2020, but not limited thereto, AS FOLLOWS, to-wit:

- A. That ¶ 37. Article I. of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church be amended by insertion and deletion of the following words, symbols, and characters:  
 Immediately following the word “Texas”, insert a comma — “ , ” and then delete the following: “. Western—”



B. These changes are shown as follows:

Section VII. Boundaries

¶ 37. Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:

Northeastern—Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Southeastern—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

North Central—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South Central—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

Western—, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.

C. Section VII. ¶ 37. Article I. would then read as follows:

Section VII. Boundaries

¶ 37. Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:

Northeastern—Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Southeastern—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

North Central—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South Central—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.

D. All other references in the *UM Book of Discipline* to “Western Jurisdiction” shall be and hereby are deleted and all boards, councils, agencies, bishops, and other groups, officials, matters, or items, presently pertaining or allocated to or coming therefrom shall be allocated to and be part of the South Central Jurisdiction.

THUS MEMORIALIZED AND PETITIONED, THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2018.

*James Hall, Clergy, Pastor  
Shipman UMC & Winborn Chapel UMC*

*Tommie Jenkins, Local Member  
Shipman UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Shipman UMC*

*William Patterson, Local Member  
Winborn Chapel UMC & Chair of Administrative Board of Winborn Chapel UMC*

## 9. A Conscientious Dissent from the Traditional Plan

WHEREAS, using appropriate, quality biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships.

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination of women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in its life and ministry.

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons for special punitive action while ignoring the “clear biblical teaching” on other matters such as pensions (Matthew 6:19-20).



WHEREAS, the first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns “doing no harm.”

WHEREAS, United Methodists promise “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”

WHEREAS, by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great, and perhaps irreparable harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings.

WHEREAS, Today’s findings of medical science have shown that misunderstandings and fears of sexual orientation that led to the condemning language and restrictive rules on non-heterosexuals in the *Discipline* are without merit and should be removed. For example, most current science agrees that non-heterosexual orientation is neither a disease nor is it a perversion of heterosexuality. Rather, it is now known to be “a form of sexual orientation established in the womb; it cannot be chosen or transmitted. It cannot be changed, and therefore has its own destiny.” (2018 *Report on the Science of Human Sexuality*, Parts IV. & V.) For more on these and other findings, see *The 2018 Report of the Task Force on the Science of Human Sexuality*. An Official Document commissioned (2017) and produced (2018) by the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mississippi Annual Conference (MAC) condemns the decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ. “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” but we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that longing for a time when all shall “sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid,” we ask that the Mississippi Conference make every faithful effort to insure that no funds or monies (either directly through payments or indirectly through the time of employees of the conference) shall be expended for the purpose of background investigations, complaints, just resolutions, or clergy trials pertaining to LGBTQ+ ordination and marriage.

SUBMITTED May 8, 2019

(C) Clergy; (L) Lay:

Mary Helen Abel (L), Sarah Jo Adams-Wilson (C), Chris Adams (L), Carey Allen (L), Jon Altman (C), Kurt C. Appel (C), Charles Araujo (L), Evelyn Araujo (L), Loye Sekihata Ashton (C), Victoria Sizemore Baldwin (C), Kay Barksdale (L), Sally Bevell (C), Vicki Biebers (L), Sylvia Blackwell (C), Warren Black (C), Kristie Conn Bobinger (L), Shelli Bobinger (L), Dana Brammer (L), Jean Brammer (L), Carol Burnett (C), Sarah Campbell (L), Davis Carothers (C), Diane L. Chapman (L), Jerry Chapman (C), Victor Chatham (C), Nancy Clarkson (L), Brad Corban (C), Anna Del Castillo (L), Dorothy Dickson-Rishel (C), Claire Dobbs (C), Dawn Douglas Flowers (C), John Garner (L), Rob Gill (C), Anna Gipson (L), Janet Gordon (L), Steve Greenough (L), Kimberly Griffin (L), John Henegan (L), Elizabeth Henry (C), Heather Hensarling (C), Austin Hoyle (C), Krystal Jackson (L) Wells, Pam Johnson (L), Sally Jones (L), Audrey Jordan (L), Janet Kennedy (L), Vicki Loflin Johnson (C), Inell Kellum (L), Elvin Kellum (L), Barbara Ann Carlow Lacoste (L), Lauren Ladner (L), Jamie LeJeune, (L-Deaconess), T.W. Lewis (C), Jennifer Lewton-Yates (L), Donna Matthews (L), Cleo McQueen (C), Phillip Messner (C), John Moore (C), David Morgan (L), Jennifer Klerk Morgan (L), Luther Munford (L), Virginia Munford (L), Billie M. Nance (L) Goodman UMC, Sally Nash (L), Kevin Newman (L), Jessica North (L), LaRue Owen (C), Cynthia B. Parker (L), Hugh J. Parker (L), Allison Stacey Parvin (C), George Patton, Jr. (L), Barbara Payne (L), Bess Perrier (C), Raymond Perrier (L), Rachel Benefield Pfaf (C), Mallory Pickering (L), Linda Pilgrim (L), Shelli Poe (L), Barbara Powell (L), Barry H. Powell (L), Lance Presley (C), Nan Prince (L), Joellen Reid (L), Annie E. Reiher (L), C.R. “Bob” Ridgway IV (L), Martha L. Roach (L), J. Richard Robbins (C), Ashley Hewitt Rogers (L), Jeanne Rozman (L), Chuck Sampson (L), Corinne Sampson (L), Emily Sanford (C), Betsy Schonberger (L), Marti O’Neal Sorey (L), Will Sorey (L), Mason Shrader (L), Cary Stockett (C), Mary Stubblefield (L), Paige Swaim-Presley (C), Elaine Talbott (L), Sumati Shaw Thomas (L), Ashley Thompson (L), Jan Watson (L), Cindy Cash White (L), Angie Williams (L), Roger Williams (L), Camille Wright (L), Becky Williams (L), Becky Youngblood (C)

## **B. Property**

### ***Bellwether United Methodist Church*** **GCFA # 315813    District # 2020**

WHEREAS, a quorum of the members of the Bellwether United Methodist Church, on April 11, 2018, in a duly called Church Conference pursuant to *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to remove their membership in The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, such removal of membership caused the Bellwether United Methodist Church to no longer be able to function as a congregation in compliance with 2016 *Discipline* paragraph 201 based on the paragraph 213 assessment, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent on August 8, 2018, reported the action of Bellwether United Methodist Church and recommended discontinuance of the church, the action was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2016 *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, the real property was determined by the East Jackson Buildings and Location committee not to be a location to continue the operation of the United Methodist Church, and upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property is hereby released to the Mississippi Conference Trustees to dispose of ,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellwether United Methodist Church is officially closed effective August 8, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any other remaining members' church memberships be moved to the church of their choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

### ***Blessed Trinity United Methodist Church*** **GCFA # 977583    District # 11121**

WHEREAS, the Blessed Trinity United Methodist Church, West Jackson District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the Blessed Trinity United Methodist Church, on February 10, 2019 and April 13, 2019 in a duly called Church Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective June 30, 2019, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the Blessed Trinity United Methodist Church, was approved ad interim by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the Blessed Trinity United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to a church of their choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Boggs Chapel United Methodist Church**  
**GCFA # 334474 District # 6511**

WHEREAS, the Boggs Chapel United Methodist Church, New Albany District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the Boggs Chapel United Methodist Church, on May 19, 2019, in a duly called Charge Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2019, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the Boggs Chapel United Methodist Church, was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the Boggs Chapel United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to a church of the member's choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Glendora United Methodist Church**  
**GCFA # 331323 District # 3481**

WHEREAS, the Glendora United Methodist Church, Greenwood District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the Glendora United Methodist Church, on April 15, 2019, in a duly called Charge Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2019, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the Glendora United Methodist Church, was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the Glendora United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to a church of the member's choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop  
Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet  
Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Gunnison United Methodist Church  
GCFA # 329546    District # 3461**

WHEREAS, the Gunnison United Methodist Church, Greenwood District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the Gunnison United Methodist Church, on August 22, 2018, in a duly called Charge Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective August 31, 2018, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the Gunnison United Methodist Church, was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the Gunnison United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to Rosedale United Methodist Church.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop  
Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet  
Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church  
Hattiesburg District  
GCFA # 316670    Conference # 4052**

WHEREAS, the Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church of the Hattiesburg District had a long and proud history of serving God, its community and members, and

WHEREAS, Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church is no longer serving the purpose for which it was organized and it had chosen not to be a regular place of United Methodist worship, and

WHEREAS, the Bishop and Cabinet voted "ad interim" at the cabinet meeting on September 26, 2018 pursuant to the 2016 *Discipline* paragraph 2549.(2) (b) to close the Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church effective September 26, 2018,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the remaining members of Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church transfer their membership to a church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Holder's Chapel United Methodist Church has ceased to exist and the annual conference Trustees are instructed to release the property and all assets to the successor of Maxie UMC.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop  
Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet  
Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Maxie United Methodist Church**  
**Hattiesburg District**  
**GCFA # 320193                      Conference # 4381**

WHEREAS, the Maxie United Methodist Church of the Hattiesburg District had a long and proud history of serving God, its community and members, and

WHEREAS, Maxie United Methodist Church is no longer serving the purpose for which it was organized and it had chosen not to be a regular place of United Methodist worship, and

WHEREAS, the Bishop and Cabinet voted “ad interim” at the cabinet meeting on September 26, 2018 pursuant to the 2016 *Discipline* paragraph 2549.(2) (b) to close the Maxie United Methodist Church effective September 26, 2018,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the remaining members of Maxie United Methodist Church transfer their membership to a church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Maxie United Methodist Church has ceased to exist and the annual conference Trustees are instructed to release the property and all assets to the successor of Maxie UMC.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Sandy Hook United Methodist Church**  
**GCFA # 315926                      District # 1590**

WHEREAS, the Sandy Hook United Methodist Church, Brookhaven District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the Sandy Hook United Methodist Church, on August 2, 2018, in a duly called Church Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective August 2, 2018, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the Sandy Hook United Methodist Church, was approved ad interim by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the Sandy Hook United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to the Trustees of The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to a church of their choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**St. Matthews United Methodist Church**  
**GCFA # 329158    District # 10061**

WHEREAS, the St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Tupelo District of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has faithfully served God, its members, and its community for many years, and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the remaining members of the St. Matthews United Methodist Church, on April 28, 2019 in a duly called Church Conference pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to discontinue functioning as a congregation of The United Methodist Church effective June 30, 2019, and

WHEREAS, such discontinuation of the St. Matthews United Methodist Church, was approved ad interim by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the real property owned by the St. Matthews United Methodist Church, is held in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church and, upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property may be disposed of by The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the church property and buildings be transferred to The Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Incorporated, a Mississippi non-profit corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining members' church memberships be moved to a church of their choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**The Pointe United Methodist Church**  
**GCFA # 315972    District # 2035**

WHEREAS, a quorum of the members of the The Pointe United Methodist Church, on May 17, 2018, in a duly called Church Conference pursuant to *The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, voted to remove their membership in The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, such removal of membership caused The Pointe United Methodist Church to no longer be able to function as a congregation in compliance with 2016 Discipline paragraph 201 based on the paragraph 213 assessment, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent on August 8, 2018, reported the action of The Pointe United Methodist Church and recommended discontinuance of the church, the action was approved by the Bishop and the Cabinet of The Mississippi Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, the real property was determined by the East Jackson Buildings and Location committee not to be a location to continue the operation of the United Methodist Church, and upon discontinuation of the local church, such real property is hereby released to the Mississippi Conference Trustees to dispose of ,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Pointe United Methodist Church is officially closed effective August 8, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any other remaining members' church memberships be moved to the church of their choice.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

**Warren Hill United Methodist Church**  
**Hattiesburg District**  
**GCFA # 976896      Conference # 4043**

WHEREAS, the Warren Hill United Methodist Church of the Hattiesburg District had a long and proud history of serving God, its community and members, and

WHEREAS, Warren Hill United Methodist Church is no longer serving the purpose for which it was organized and it had chosen not to be a regular place of United Methodist worship, and

WHEREAS, the Bishop and Cabinet voted "ad interim" at the cabinet meeting on August 8, 2018 pursuant to the 2016 *Discipline* paragraph 2549.(3) (b) to close the Warren Hill United Methodist Church effective August 8, 2018,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the remaining members of Warren Hill United Methodist Church transfer their membership to a church of their choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Warren Hill United Methodist Church has ceased to exist and the annual conference Trustees are instructed to transfer the property and all assets to the successor of Warren Hill UMC.

*Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Resident Bishop*  
*Reverend Dr. Embra K. Jackson, Dean of the Cabinet*  
*Reverend Dr. Stephen T. Cook, Secretary of the Cabinet*

## C. Changes in Charge Lines 2019

### Greenwood District

Barlow(3590), Epworth (3160), and Gallilee Treadwell (3170) will be new charge known as Barlow, Epworth, Gallilee Treadwell Charge

Grenada: Vincent (3290) will now be a stand-alone charge

Linn (3077) will now be a stand-alone charge

Shipman Chapel (3101) will now be a stand-alone charge

Boyle (3075) will now be on the charge with St. Luke (3100) and known as St Luke Boyle Charge

### Meridian District

Preston-Deemer Charge will be known as Macedonia / St. Mark Charge

### New Albany District

Dennis (6051) will now be a stand-alone charge

Golden Hill (6192) will now be a stand-alone charge

Mount Evergreen (6241) will now be a stand-alone charge

Friendship (6191) will now be a stand-alone charge

Faulkner (6190) will now be a stand-alone charge

### Senatobia District

Cockrum (8090) will now be a stand-alone charge

Baker's Chapel (8391) will now be a stand-alone charge

### Starkville District

Ethel (9170) and Tabernacle (9173) will now be Ethel:Tabernacle Charge

Macedonia (9411) will now be a stand-alone charge

Louisville: Hopewell (9260) will now be a stand-alone charge

Louisville: Wesley (9270) will now be a stand-alone charge

Maben (9200) will now be a stand-alone charge

Lagrange (9511) will now be a stand-alone charge

Mt Moriah (9512) will now be Mathiston: Mt Moriah



Tupelo District

Remove Union (10311) from Plantersville (10310). Plantersville continues under the charge name Plantersville Charge.

Remove Beulah Grove (10350) from the Pontotoc: McDonald/Beulah Grove Charge to form the Pontotoc: McDonald charge.

Remove Oak Hill (10451) from the Saltillo: Oak Hill/Hebron Charge to form the Saltillo: Hebron Charge.

Remove Pleasant Grove (10214) from Houston South Charge which includes Buena Vista (10210), Macedonia (10212) and McCondy (10213)

Remove Ebenezer (10041) and add Fairview (10320) to Algoma (10040), Palestine (10042) to form the Fairview/Algoma/Palestine Charge.

New Chapel is on New Chapel (Plantersville) charge and Big Hill charge name is Big Hill (Tupelo) to form a new charge "New Chapel/Big Hill Charge

West Jackson District

St Paul (11120) will now be a stand-alone charge