

## **RESOLUTION**

**#1**

### **RESOLUTION ON FURTHERING THE CONNECTION**

**FROM:** Rev. Dr. Edgar Bazan and Kim Brannon, North Texas Conference Lay Leader.

**WHEREAS,** The United Methodist Church has a long history of seeking to balance its diverse beliefs and perspectives within the bounds of its covenant faith through a worldwide connectional system to foster unity and carry out its mission in the world (§§104, 120, 132; BOR 8002), and

**WHEREAS,** The United Methodist Church recognizes the need to further its connection across the globe to remain a reconciling presence in the midst of difficult and divisive issues (§§4, 162, 165), and

**WHEREAS,** The United Methodist Church seeks to uphold its orthodox doctrine (Doctrinal Standards) and practices (General Rules and Our Theological Task) while acknowledging the needs and realities of society and remaining a relevant agent of God's inclusive love (§§4, 104, 105, 140, 162, 165),

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that

1. The United Methodist Church affirms its commitment to connectionalism to promote understanding, acceptance, and respect among its diverse members (§132).
2. The United Methodist Church rejects any form of discrimination and affirms its dedication to creating inclusive communities where everyone is valued and treated with respect and dignity, recognizing the sacred worth of all people (§4).
3. The United Methodist Church celebrates that this does not mean a lack of convictions or an abandonment of principles but rather a commitment to finding common ground to build bridges of empathy, compassion, and peace (BOR 6139).
4. The United Methodist Church commits to seeking the mind of Christ on all matters, focusing on our shared humanity rather than our differences to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and being guided by the teachings of Jesus and the principles of the Wesleyan tradition in all its endeavors (§165).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The United Methodist Church will continue to engage in respectful dialogue to understand differing perspectives of ministry in an effort to maintain unity and work towards resolving differences in a manner that is consistent with its mission and core values while upholding its orthodox doctrine and practices (§§105, 132; BOR 8002).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this body affirms the commitment of The United Methodist Church to remain diverse and contextual across the globe, embracing all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any other form of differentiation, as full and equal participants in the life and work of the Church (§4).

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this body affirms its commitment to seeking unity and compassion in the midst of diversity and disagreement and to working together to share the love of Christ with the world, calling upon all United Methodist congregations and organizations to work together to create a Church that truly reflects the persevering, saving, and sanctifying love of God, knowing that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead us in the way that is faithful to our calling and best for the future of the Church (§§6, 130, 131; BOR 8002).