

## **RESOLUTION**

**#8**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**FROM:** The North Texas Annual Conference General and Jurisdictional Delegation

**WHEREAS**, the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be re-envisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Apostle Paul offered a beautiful example making clear the value of a church established in diverse places with shared beliefs, alongside local and regional differences in structure, worship, and style best suited to particular contexts; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the [Christmas Covenant](#), developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by [the Connectional Table](#) will establish the governance necessary to allow each region to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Texas Annual Conference aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church, and

**WHEREAS**, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of a U.S. Regional Conference was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to all delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including alternates, to the Commission on the General Conference, and to the Council of Bishops.