

## RESOLUTION

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## AFFIRMATION AND CALL TO CENTER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

**FROM:** North Texas Annual Conference General and Jurisdictional Delegates

**WHEREAS**, in a groundswell response to the passage of exclusionary and discriminatory legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer<sup>1</sup> clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer<sup>1</sup> delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodist clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings; and

**WHEREAS**, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,<sup>2</sup> by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation; and

**WHEREAS**, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do no harm, to do good, and practice the means of grace, whose goal is the love of God and neighbor<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, 46 queer General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates from across all five jurisdictions wrote the original resolution which was historically adopted at all five jurisdictional conferences in November 2022; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies those delegates', who identify as queer, call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the North Texas Annual Conference, within and beyond our local churches, districts, departments, centers, and committees; and
2. Implores our Bishop to resolve in a timely fashion through the disciplinary process of just resolution any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or the officiating of weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons; and
3. Aspires to become a United Methodist Church in which LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout our life, mission, and ministry together.

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<sup>1</sup> The General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates who identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community chose to describe themselves using the umbrella term "queer," but refer to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

<sup>2</sup> "Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop's supervisory response, suspension proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of Discipline violation asserted in the complaint

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is that the respondent is a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’ (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted, officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or appointed a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’; that the respondent has provided ‘funds to any gay caucus or group’ or used funds ‘to promote the acceptance of homosexuality’; or that the respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church currently states is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching’ as it pertains to LGBTQ relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶ 2702.1b, but also to any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) ‘immorality’ under ¶ 2702.1a; ‘disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1d; and ‘dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following paragraphs: ¶ 161, ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2, ¶ 341.6, ¶ 613.19, ¶ 806.9, and ¶ 2702.1b. This moratorium does not apply to charges under any of these provisions in which the underlying alleged actions address a different subject matter, including but not limited to sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the close of the first General Conference of The United Methodist Church after other denominations separate. Any complaints pertaining to this paragraph filed during this period shall be held in abeyance, and no time limits shall commence until the above-referenced General Conference has concluded.” -From the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation

<sup>3</sup> See Sermon 16, “The Means of Grace,” by John Wesley and the General Rules of The United Methodist Church, which are “to do no harm, to do good, and to attend upon the ordinances of God,” which Wesley defines as means of grace.