

## **RESOLUTION**

**#7**

## **RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY**

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

**WHEREAS**, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, for clergy, based on their vows, and for all United Methodists supporting the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness is the foundational commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ's church at heart; and

**WHEREAS**, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of leading with integrity was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as we continue this period of transition the North Texas Annual Conference calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the North Texas Annual Conference asks all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we encourage the North Texas Conference Board of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.