

1 **LEGISLATIVE**

2 **ITEM #14 RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE**
3 **OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN SUPPORT**
4 **OF BLACK LIVES MATTER**

5
6 **FROM:** Mr. Craig Holcomb, Lay Member, First United Methodist Church Dallas
7

8 **WHEREAS**, for too long the United States has kicked the can of racism in our country down the road;
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10 **WHEREAS**, in the past few months, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Jacob Blake have been viciously
11 attacked by police officers resulting in the deaths of Mr. Floyd and Ms. Taylor and Mr. Blake being
12 paralyzed from the waist down after being shot seven times in the back by an officer;
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14 **WHEREAS**, nine Black members of the Emanuel African American Episcopal Church were murdered by
15 a white supremacist;
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17 **WHEREAS**, the Black Lives Matter’s mission is “to build local power and to intervene when violence is
18 inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes...work vigilantly for freedom and justice for
19 Black people and, by extension, all people;”
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21 **WHEREAS**, The United Methodist Church believes that “God created human beings in God’s image;”
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23 **WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church states, “The
24 strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church
25 should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed
26 to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust;” and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of the Book of Discipline states, “Taking an active stance in society is
29 nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety.
30 Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known
31 as a denomination involved with people’s lives, with political and social struggles...;”
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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
34 supports Black Lives Matter and calls on all elected and appointed officials to immediately address the
35 systemic racism in our law enforcement; and
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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
38 fully supports the majority of police officers who are endeavoring to do their best to preserve the peace for
39 all of us.