

1 **LEGISLATIVE**
2 **ITEM #17** **SUPPORTING YOUNG AND INNOVATIVE**
3 **LEADERSHIP IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
4

5 **FROM:** Ms. Jessica Vittorio, Lay Member, First United Methodist Church Dallas
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7 **WHEREAS**, historically young adults have not been proportionally represented in church leadership,
8 decision-making, or governance and this has prevented young adult voices from engaging in important
9 conversations regarding LGBTQ+ inclusion, racial equality and justice, diversity within the church,
10 incorporation of technology in the church, and other key institutional topics; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, many of the young adults in leadership hold places specifically reserved or earmarked for a
13 young adult representative and not a general appointment position or election position; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, the United Methodist Social Principles states: "...we urge development of policies that
16 encourage inclusion of young people in decision-making processes and that eliminate discrimination and
17 exploitation." (*The Book of Discipline* [2016] ¶162.D); and
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19 **WHEREAS**, we, the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church recognize that young adults
20 are an imperative demographic of the church who provide unique and valuable perspectives to the ministry
21 and work of the church; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the category of "young adult" includes a wide array of age groups, life stages, and experiences
24 that cannot be fully represented by limited young adult leadership and participation; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, we believe that by involving young people in the leadership, decision-making, and
27 governance of the church today we will create a more sustainable and inclusive church going into the future;
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29 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** we, the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist
30 Church, support and promote the intentional incorporation of young people, defined as those members of
31 the church under the age of 35 years old, in the leadership of the church; and
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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the voices, perspectives, opinions, and ideas of young people should be
34 intentionally incorporated into our governance, work, and ministry at the global level, conference level, and
35 the local congregational level; and
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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to Bishop
38 Michael McKee, every District Superintendent, and every pastor-in-charge in the North Texas Conference
39 by October 1, 2020 to share with each church's Committee on Lay Leadership and youth ministry.
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