

## **Petition 2015-05**

PETITION TO THE INDIANA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To: Members of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church

Re: Resolution to be considered for forwarding to the General Conference

Topic: **Church Resolutions to be placed in the *Book of Discipline***

Whereas, the resolutions of all of the predecessor bodies of the United Methodist Church were always included in the *Book of Discipline* until 1968 at the time of the EUB-Methodist merger; and

Whereas, a separate *Book of Resolutions* was authorized in 1968 because the number of resolutions was increasing to the point they could no longer easily be printed in the *Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the number of resolutions consequently so multiplied so that the 2012 *Book of Resolutions* is now 1087 pages in length, containing hundreds of resolutions resulting in: 1) overlap of subject material; 2) resolutions hastily adopted because there was not adequate discussion and debate time at the General Conference; and 3) such an overwhelming number of resolutions that it is difficult to sort out which ones are more important and which ones are less important; and

Whereas, there is a need for the Church to prioritize and simplify its resolutions so that they might be taken more seriously in the Church; be it therefore resolved that

- 1) Beginning in 2020 there will be no Book of Resolutions;
- 2) The Church limit itself to twelve or fewer resolutions, each with no more than 500 words, and that these be printed in the *Book of Discipline*
- 3) The Connectional Table shall have the responsibility of coordinating and implementing this action.

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