**R-1 KRACH RESOLUTION “CHILDREN MATTER MOST”**

**Resolution:**
The Children Matter Most team has written a resolution for our conference to consider and will be submitting it for a vote of affirmation in 2021.

It is an expression of our understanding of our call to immediate and sustained action on behalf of the children in our communities.

**Children Matter Most**

WHEREAS resolution 2027, Putting Children and Their Families First, names that “Children are acknowledged to be full human beings in their own right, but beings to whom adults and society in general have special obligations.”

WHEREAS in recognition of John Wesley’s teaching that we do all the good we can, we, the United Methodist Church of Indiana must do more for all children and their families, including those who are neglected and nurturing the children of our communities who are suffering. We resolve to honor our baptismal commitment and pray for our guidance of young people in God’s grace at all times. We will not turn away from the pain, trauma and neglect they are experiencing. We reaffirm our call as a community to surround the children of Indiana with love, forgiveness and prayer.

WHEREAS our churches have collectively and individually supported camps, vacation Bible schools, day care centers, children’s homes, and many children’s missions. Although we acknowledge our past missional successes in the lives of children, we also acknowledge our failures and accept we must repent.

THEREFORE, we will fiercely pursue good for all children and their families in Indiana. We will learn and listen that we might live according to the example of Christ. We will help the young people in our communities overcome adversity and help them grow in their trust of God. We will take up our call to surround them with love, forgiveness, and prayer.

THEREFORE, we affirm our commitment to nurture the children and their families in our communities through the grace of God. We proclaim that children matter to God and are highly valued in God’s Kingdom. God desires that every child may experience justice, protection, and love.

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the people of the United Methodist Church of Indiana, will work and walk according to God’s purposes for the lives of the children and their families in our communities. We will intervene where children encounter harm, seek healing that brings community, and offer love that leads to fullness of life. We will advocate for the children of Indiana that they may be given every opportunity to thrive and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Rationale:** The Children Matter Most Team believe that having the members of Annual Conference affirm this resolution reminds us all of the continued valuable work we must do in our churches and communities to care for children. We recognize that we take vows at the baptisms of children and yet, often forget our role in the nurturing of the children in our churches and communities. We want to bring attention to the great needs of children in the state of Indiana and our vital role in caring for them.
**Financial Implications:** No

**Groups to forward/affirm:** Children Matter Most Team, Emily Krach - [emily.krach@inumc.org](mailto:emily.krach@inumc.org)

Emily Krach
[emily.krach@imuc.org](mailto:emily.krach@imuc.org)
734-883-4581