

1 **R-2 LASSIAT RESOLUTION**
2 **“ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY”**

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4 **Resolution:**

5 Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal
6 leadership at every level, and

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8 Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are
9 counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with
10 the absolute best interest of Christ’s church at heart, and

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

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16 Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle
17 themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and

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

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23 Whereas, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of leading with
24 integrity was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences.

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26 Therefore, be it resolved that the Indiana Annual Conference expresses both respect and
27 gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey
28 away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

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30 Be it further resolved that, as we continue this period of transition the Indiana Annual Conference
31 calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness
32 and with integrity.

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34 Be it further resolved that the Indiana Annual Conference asks all lay and clergy members who
35 intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles
36 in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general
37 church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.

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39 Be it further resolved that we encourage the Indiana Conference Board of Trustees to develop
40 codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation
41 agreements.

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43 **Rationale:**

44 The United Methodist Church needs lay and clergy leaders who are wholly committed to doing all
45 in their power to strengthen its ministries. When a lay or clergy member of the UMC has decided to
46 leave the UMC, they cannot simultaneously be committed to supporting the future needs of the
47 UMC as they leave the denomination. This resolution calls for clergy and lay leaders to live out the
48 integrity of their beliefs by serving as leaders in the Church only when and if they are committed to
49 upholding the present and future ministries of the UMC.

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51 **Financial Implications:** No

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Groups to forward/affirm:

Conference Board of Trustees

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