

1 **R-4 HIDALGO RESOLUTION**
2 **“AFFIRMATION OF THE QUEER DELEGATES’ CALL TO CENTER**
3 **JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR LGBTQIA+ 1 PEOPLE IN THE UMC”**
4

5 **Resolution:**

6 Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special
7 Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be
8 General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer
9 delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

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11 Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the
12 Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and
13 for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and

14
15 Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or
16 moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,² by the authors of the
17 Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and

18
19 Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm,
20 and stay in love with God, and

21
22 Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support,
23 empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church,
24 and

25
26 Whereas, 46 queer General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates from across all five
27 jurisdictions wrote the original resolution which was historically adopted at all five jurisdictional
28 conferences in November 2022.

29
30 Therefore be it resolved that the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:

- 31 1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the
32 LGBTQIA+ community throughout the Indiana Annual Conference, within and beyond our
33 local churches, districts, departments, centers, and committees;
- 34 2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference,
35 as referenced above, until changes can be made in The United Methodist Book of
36 Discipline;
- 37 3. Implores our Annual Conference to either not pursue, hold in abeyance, or resolve in a
38 timely fashion through a process of just resolution any complaints against clergy regarding
39 their sexual orientation or the officiating of weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;
- 40 4. Aspires to become a United Methodist Church in which LGBTQIA+ people will be
41 protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout our life, mission, and ministry together.

42 Notes:

43 1. The queer delegates chose to describe themselves using the umbrella term ""queer,"" but refer
44 to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

45
46 2. Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint
47 proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop's supervisory response, suspension
48 proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and

1 all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of
2 Discipline violation asserted in the complaint is that the respondent is a 'self-avowed practicing
3 homosexual' (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-
4 gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted,
5 officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender
6 union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or
7 appointed a 'self-avowed practicing homosexual'; that the respondent has provided 'funds to any
8 gay caucus or group' or used funds 'to promote the acceptance of homosexuality'; or that the
9 respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of The United
10 Methodist Church currently states is 'incompatible with Christian teaching' as it pertains to LGBTQ
11 relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human
12 sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶ 2702.1b, but also to
13 any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any
14 other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) 'immorality' under if 2702. 1a;
15 'disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church' under ¶ 2702. 1d; and
16 'dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United
17 Methodist Church' under ¶ 2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following
18 paragraphs: ¶ 161, ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2, ¶ 341.6, ¶ 613.19, ¶

19
20 **Rationale:**

21 There are two key principles that the UMC church upholds, 1) Do good, do no harm and stay in
22 love with God and 2) the tradition of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral - we experience and come to
23 know God through four sources: scripture, tradition, reason and experience.

24
25 The UMC church has been very selective in the past on who is worthy to be a member - to be a
26 follower of Jesus and part of our community. We celebrate open table at communion but have
27 chosen fear and separation. If God is a God of love, if God is our creator, if God is merciful, then we
28 must undo the harm of 2019 and any attempt to say who is worthy. We have done harm to many of
29 our dearest family and members. We have not allowed God to be experienced because of faulty
30 interpretation of scripture and not valued the full quadrilateral experience of God.

31
32 As a denomination, we need to be REAL and RELEVANT to our world NOW. Our mission is to
33 make disciples of Christ. If the next generations see that we are exclusive, they will tum away. Let
34 us as a church, call out the gifts in each other regardless of who they/we love. Now is the time to
35 confidently state that that Indiana Annual Conference supports and amplifies the value and gifts of
36 our queer (LGBTQIA+) lay and clergy.

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38 On a personal level, my husband and I recently got married and had a wonderful celebration of
39 friendship and supportive family. It was really sad that we postponed our ceremony for 3 years
40 because of the current Book of Discipline punitive language. It also caused our 4 adult children
41 and their families to wonder why we stay UMC. I am hopeful as I think about Martin Luther King,
42 Jr.'s quote - "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

43
44 It is time.

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46 **Financial Implications:** No

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48 **Groups to forward/affirm:**

49 I am not aware of any groups for which this resolution should be forwarded.

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51 Respectfully and hopefully submitted by:

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