

1 **R-6 JACOBSON RESOLUTION**
2 **“SUPPORTING THE REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES”**

3
4 **Resolution:**

5 Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC is a testament to a more complete image of
6 God, which includes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and
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8 Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC allows all United Methodists to offer their
9 prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as followers of Jesus to further Christ’s mission, and
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11 Whereas, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God calls and includes all persons into the life and
12 leadership of the Church, transcending the limitations of human categorization, and
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14 Whereas, the current language in the Book of Discipline places limits on Christ’s teaching and
15 example of God’s universal love, and
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17 Whereas, the current language in the Book of Discipline falls short of embodying the spirit of John
18 Wesley’s simple rules to do no harm, do all the good we can, and love God, and
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20 Whereas, legislative changes to the Book of Discipline would reduce barriers and allow movement
21 toward wider diversity and inclusion in our United Methodist Church.
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23 Therefore, be it resolved that the Indiana Annual Conference supports the removal of all
24 discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation, and urges delegates to
25 adopt the following petitions; petitions already submitted and that will be before the voting body of
26 the next General Conference:
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28 Petition No: 20730-CB-¶161-G;
29 Entitled: Revised Social Principles-161 and 162
30 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 208

31 Summary: Removes the statement that affirms marriage as only between “one man and one
32 woman.” Removes the statement that only affirms “heterosexual” marriage. Removes, “The UMC
33 does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with
34 Christian teaching.”
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36 Petition No: 20177-FO-¶304.3
37 Entitled: A Simple Plan #3
38 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 624

39 Summary: Removes ¶304.3 which states, “self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be
40 certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist
41 Church.” Also removes the corresponding footnote stating that “self-avowed practicing
42 homosexual is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district
43 superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy
44 session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic
45 partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.”
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47 Petition No: 20469-OM-¶341.6
48 Entitled: A Simple Plan #5
49 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1041

1 Summary: Removes ¶341.6, which states (under unauthorized conduct), “ceremonies that celebrate
2 homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our
3 churches.”

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5 **Petition No: 20181-FA-¶613-G**
6 Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 6 of 8
7 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 504

8 Summary: Removes ¶613.19, which prohibits annual conferences from giving “United Methodist
9 funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of
10 homosexuality . . . “

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12 **Petition No: 20190-FA-¶806-G**
13 Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 7 of 8
14 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 508

15 Summary: Removes ¶806.9, which tasks GCFA with “ensuring that no board, agency, committee,
16 commission, or council gives United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group . . . “

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18 **Petition No: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G**
19 Entitled: Next Generation UMC #11—Amend Episcopal Responsibilities
20 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 977

21 Summary: Removes statements prohibiting bishops from commissioning, ordaining, or
22 consecrating persons determined to be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

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24 **Petition No: 20190-FA-¶806-G**
25 Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 7 of 8
26 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 508

27 Summary: Removes ¶806.9, which tasks GCFA with “ensuring that no board, agency, committee,
28 commission, or council gives United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group . . . “

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30 **Petition No: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G**
31 Entitled: Next Generation UMC #11—Amend Episcopal Responsibilities
32 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 977

33 Summary: Removes statements prohibiting bishops from commissioning, ordaining, or
34 consecrating persons determined to be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

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36 **Petition No: 20387-JA-¶2711.3-G**
37 Entitled: Next Generation UMC #22—Penalties
38 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 933

39 Summary: Removes predetermined, mandatory minimum penalties for clergy who officiate same
40 sex weddings.

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42 **Petition Number: 20365-JA-¶2702.1-G**
43 Entitled: Next Generation UMC #21 - Chargeable Offenses
44 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 924

45 Summary: Removes chargeable offenses that target “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” and
46 clergy who conduct same-sex weddings.

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48 **Petition No: 20420-OM-¶310.2d-G**
49 Entitled: A Simple Plan #4
50 ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1022

51 Summary: Removes statements from Footnote 3 that repeat phrases being removed from other
52 paragraphs in the BOD.

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Rationale:

At Indiana Annual Conference 2022, we made a resolution that we called "aspirational" to end discriminatory practices around ordination and marriage. Stripping discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline in The United Methodist Church is a necessary first step to ending discrimination within our denomination. We can only aspire to being inclusive of all people until the Book of Discipline changes. With these changes, all United Methodists would be included in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

At Indiana Annual Conference 2022 it was resolved, "we shall support every church and clergyperson in our Conference who is seeking to faithfully serve God and their communities to the best of their abilities and in accordance with their deeply held, God-given convictions. We shall strive to honor and trust contextual expressions of ministry, including the decisions of clergy to choose which weddings they officiate and congregations to choose which weddings they host, so long as they are between two consenting, committed adults." Removing language in the Book of Discipline which discriminates against said clergy people and couples allows us to affirm this aspirational resolution.

At Indiana Annual Conference 2022 it was resolved to "embrace and encourage God's call to ministry in diverse persons" and "seek to not restrict God's calling solely on the basis of a candidate's sexual orientation or gender identity." This resolution calls us to take action to those words. Current language in the Book of Discipline discriminates against people, based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, who are called to ministry. By removing this language, we may better live into the 2022 Resolution.

The Indiana UMC has made progress by passing an aspirational resolution. LGBTQ+ Christians need a safe and accepting community now. People who have been rejected and unloved need a church now. This resolution would make it possible for more people to be a part of Christ's community. It would show people that the United Methodist Church believes in showing God's love to all people. It would show we believe in doing good and doing no harm to all people. It is up to us to show these values by passing this resolution, which will encourage our General Conference to make changes.

Financial Implications: No

Groups to forward/affirm:

Be it further resolved that the Indiana Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to: all General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and alternates, the Commission on General Conference; and the Council of Bishops.

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