



Disaffiliation Resolution

WHEREAS the churches of the North Alabama Conference are deeply divided with regard to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons within the life and ministry of the church,

AND WHEREAS the 2019 General Conference failed to reach a decision that heals this divide within our global connection and the North Alabama Conference,

AND WHEREAS the viability of some congregations within the North Alabama Conference, if they are to remain United Methodist, is in serious doubt, with loss of membership and giving, as a result of the stance of the United Methodist church regarding human sexuality,

AND WHEREAS the North Alabama Annual Conference is praying deeply for an equitable and peaceful solution to our current divide where our witness can be restored and not tarnished by hateful fighting and debate,

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Annual Conference, in session June 2-4, 2019, instruct the North Alabama Board of Trustees and the Chancellor to work with Wespath to develop a plan for disaffiliation for those churches who consider their continued ministries within the connection to be nonviable due to differences of faith with regard to full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons within the life and ministry of the church,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disaffiliated churches will retain their properties and assets after meeting reasonable financial requirements set forth by the North Alabama Board of Trustees and Wespath to the North Alabama Annual Conference, including full payment of proportional giving and an equitable portion of the North Alabama Conference's unfunded pension liability,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the disaffiliation plan to be developed shall be completed and effective by January 1, 2020, and the process for disaffiliation for local churches must be completed before the 2023 session of the North Alabama Annual Conference.

Submitted by: Dr. Robert Haraway, Lay Member of the Annual Conference, Forest Lake UMC

Steve Alexander, Lay Leader of Highlands UMC

John Martin, SPRC member of Birmingham First UMC

Disney Weaver, Trustee of Avondale UMC

Megan Farmer, laity St. Junia UMC

Teresa Chandler, laity St. Junia UMC

Tony Christon-Walker, laity St. Junia UMC

Dr. Kevin Thomas, Senior Pastor Forest Lake UMC

Rev. Stephanie York Arnold, Senior Pastor Birmingham First UMC

Rev. Mikah Hudson, Senior Pastor Highlands UMC

Dr. Dave Barnhart, Senior Pastor St. Junia UMC

Rev. Paula Jones, St. Junia UMC

Committee vote: 7 Yes (Concurrence) 0 No (Non-concurrence)

The role of the Committee is not to approve or disapprove the content of a particular petition or resolution but to ensure that they have followed the appropriate process (as outlined in our standing rules) and that they are in agreement with the Book of Discipline, including our Social Principles, and our standing rules.