

Resolution for Representation of Young People in North Alabama's General Conference Delegation

WHEREAS God calls and equips young people for ministry, as evidenced in Caleb and Joshua's leadership of Israel into the promised land and the Apostle Paul's encouragement of Timothy as a leader of the church,

WHEREAS Young people are vital to the historic, current, and future life of the United Methodist Church,

WHEREAS Young people of the United Methodist Church around the world are being equipped for leadership through ministries such as Division of Ministry with Young People (DMYP), Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC), United Methodist Seminaries, Wesley Foundations, and local church youth and young adult ministries,

WHEREAS Young people ages 12-35 from around the world have banded together across divides of language, nationality, race, gender, political, and social affiliations to make compelling statements of leadership and love of the United Methodist Church to the General Conference,

WHEREAS Young people were grievously underrepresented as delegates in the 2016 and 2019 General Conferences of the United Methodist Church (Only 7% of delegates were ages 35 and younger), and

WHEREAS No church or institution can survive or thrive without young people and new voices investing in its leadership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon its members to elect young people as at least one quarter (for example in 2020, 3 of 11 total delegates and alternates) of our General Conference 2020 delegation and all General Conference delegations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference urges all United Methodist Annual and Central Conferences around the world to take this same measure, for the assurance of young people's voice and full participation in the total life of the church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference calls upon its members to encourage and mentor young people to fill roles of leadership in the Annual Conference and to self-nominate to run and serve as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Submitted by: (Clergy) Sarah Smoot, Toby Chastain, Roger Thompson, Ron Schultz, Wade Langer, Kelsey Grissom, Robert Mercer, Steven Barber; (Laity) Ellen Harris, Emily Nelms Chastain, Diana Bell, Daniel Bell, Cynthia Bucheit, Ashley Wills Gizas, Joan Freed, Douglass Broward Segrest III, Lloyd Wyatt Arp, Katie Dobbins, Rachel McKelvy, Cathy Barofsky, Tyler Smoot, Marian Royston

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.