

Resolution for Representation of Young People in the North Alabama Annual Conference

WHEREAS Jesus took the gift of a youth and fed the multitudes (John 6:1-14), and God graciously uses the gifts and graces of children and youth to nurture the community;

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 The Church depends upon the prophecies of our daughters and the visions of our youth, as well as the dreams of our elders (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17)

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

WHEREAS The mission and connectional commitment of The United Methodist Church require that local churches and annual conferences equip young people from an early age to take increasingly responsible leadership roles beyond the local church as well as in their own congregations;

WHEREAS The future long-term engagement of youth and young adults in the work of The United Methodist Church is severely jeopardized if they are not significantly represented in the leadership and decision-making of the institutional church;

WHEREAS No institution, including The United Methodist Church, can survive or thrive if it fails to provide meaningful voice and participation of young people in the total life of the institution, including enabling young people to become invested in the leadership as well as the general membership of the institution at all levels; and

WHEREAS Young people (ages 35 and younger) are significantly underrepresented in the membership of the North Alabama Annual Conference:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon each of its member churches, and particularly those entitled to more than one lay member of the Annual Conference, to seek out young people (ages 35 and younger) from among their members and ensure that they have the opportunity to serve as members and alternate members of the Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the UMC calls upon each of its member churches to ensure that both lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference engage with youth and young adults in their respective churches in meaningful discussion of the role of the Annual Conference and the issues expected to be considered at each upcoming Annual Conference, including petitions and resolutions submitted to the Annual Conference, and to take into account the concerns of youth and young adults through speaking and voting in the Annual Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference calls upon each of its member churches to ensure that youth and young adults are encouraged and mentored to fill positions of leadership and to participate fully in the total life of the church, both in the local Church and throughout the Connection.

Submitted by: Sarah Smoot, Anne Wheeler, Toby Chastain, Emily Chastain, Ellen Harris

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.