



Resolution on Public Apology for Harm Done through GC2019

WHEREAS we are called again and again through the scriptures to love one another and to love our neighbors as ourselves (John 15:12, Romans 13:8, 1 John 3:18, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27),

WHEREAS the first General Rule of the UMC is to “Do no harm,” specifically by avoiding: “fighting, quarreling... returning evil for evil... uncharitable conversation... doing to others as we would not they should do unto us... doing what we know is not for the glory of God” (Paragraph 104),

WHEREAS the Social Principles uphold “the inestimable worth of each individual” and recognize every human being as sacred because each is “created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance” (Paragraph 161),

WHEREAS the Social Principles define the family as the “basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity,” yet through General Conference the UMC has withheld that human right, religious expression, and sacred experience from our LGBTQ+ clergy by denying them the right to marry and from our LGBTQ+ members by denying them the opportunity to marry in their home church with their pastor (Paragraph 161.A),

WHEREAS the UMC motto of Open Hearts; Open Minds; Open Doors encouraged marginalized groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, to join the church by promoting acceptance and access to religious activities,

WHEREAS the commitments to social holiness and social justice are engrained in the history and identity of the UMC,

WHEREAS General Conference 2019 did do significant harm to all participants, listeners, and especially the LGBTQ+ community and their families, through derogatory language, manipulative tactics, and accusations throughout the debate, and finally a vote on a plan that does not treat all individuals as having the same sacred worth,

WHEREAS we are a people called to self-reflection, confession, and repentance for wrongdoing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the North Alabama Conference of the UMC humbly offer our sincere apologies, first to our LGBTQ+ members and neighbors, for the harm we caused through the process, language, debate, and vote of the General Conference 2019, and second to our whole connection, especially to all members and neighbors who were harmed by the process, language, debate, and vote of the General Conference 2019, and finally to the whole world, to whom we have not shown the grace-filled, Spirit-led fellowship and invitation that the church is called to extend.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will make this apology public by posting this resolution on our UMCNA website and sending it to the United Methodist News Service.

Submitted by: Diana Bell, Sarah Smoot, Mike Galloway, Stephanie Arnold, Emily Penfield, Melissa Self Patrick, Kyle Bryan, Dan Bell, Cathy Barofsky, Cynthia Buchheit, Amy DeWitte, Brian Erickson, Caitlin Harper, Christy Noren-Hentz, Todd Noren-Hentz, Malinda Jowers Weaver, Jaime Pangman

Committee vote: 6 Yes (Concurrence) 0 No (Non-concurrence) 1 Abstain

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.