

## A Resolution Concerning Domestic Violence

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects women and men from every racial, economic, religious, and geographic background in our state and nation with 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men suffering from violence from an intimate partner at some point in their life; and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that, "We recognize that family violence and abuse in all its forms - verbal, psychological, physical, sexual is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the Church to provide a safe environment, counsel and support for the victim. While we deplore the actions of the abuser, we affirm that person to be in need of God's redeeming love;" and

WHEREAS, at a time where our nation and our church is divided along many issues, we believe all people regardless of political affiliation and theological perspective can affirm that domestic violence is against God's purposes for individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, remaining silent about issues where people are being harmed is to implicitly validate the abuse;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon every church within our conference to work with the YWCA of Greater Birmingham or another entity that works directly with domestic abuse victims to train its clergy and staff once every three years on how to spot signs of domestic abuse and effectively offer helpful resources to victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every church in our conference will preach about domestic violence and its impact in our communities at least once per year.

*Submitted by:*

*Rev. John Hill*

*Rev. Stephanie Arnold*

*Rev. R.G. Wilson-Lyons*

---

**Committee vote: 8 Concurrence 0 Non-concurrence**

**The Committee voted Concurrence and encourages the Annual Conference to support this resolution.**