

**RESOLUTION FOR BIBLICAL ORTHODOXY  
THE TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Whereas**, individuals and groups have arisen repeatedly within Christendom challenging the veracity of the Scriptures, the humanity and/or divinity of Jesus, the Personhood of the Holy Spirit, or the reality of the Trinity; and

**Whereas**, while the presenting issues over the centuries have varied, the core Christological issue has not: Is Jesus Christ truly the fully-God, fully-human living Word of God as presented in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament... or not? And,

**Whereas**, the presenting issue in the late third century championed by Arian and his many followers denied the full divinity of Christ; and

**Whereas**, the current presenting issue revolving around human sexuality essentially does the same thing, denying the assertion in John 1 that Jesus is the pre-existent, co-eternal, living Word of God by denying the veracity of what Jesus spoke both orally (the “red” letters) and through inspiration (the “black” letters) of Scripture; and

**Whereas**, the core issue then as now is the same—the denial that Jesus is God the Word and that the Word has authority within the Church—which undercuts the reality of a Triune God and contradicts the central teaching of the Nicene Creed; and

**Whereas**, the Bishops of the early church repeatedly showed the courage to confront heresies and incorrect or misguided teachings in defense of the authority of the Word as contained in the Scriptures despite pressure from “really nice folks” within and without the Church who were pressuring for change that aligned with the prevailing attitudes in the culture; and

**Whereas**, the Bishops in the early Church realized that there was no “holy center” or middle ground between Arianism and Homousian belief; and

**Whereas**, Bishops and leaders of the modern church should likewise realize the incongruity between *sexoualikios protimisi opos kai theos* (sexual preference as god) and *Homousian* (One God in three Persons) belief; and

**Whereas**, the United Methodist Church desperately needs leaders of equal courage in this day to confront both the presenting and the core issues threatening the very life of the Church;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls for our Bishops to exhibit the same courage as their early Church counterparts to defend the Authority of the Word, the Reality of the Trinity, and the supremacy of orthodox Christianity considering the onslaught of antithetical teaching and thought in our time.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Craig Green and Livingston First United Methodist Church