

**RESOLUTION ON CONTEXTUALIZATION
TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Whereas, the term *Contextualization* has become a popular term in our Church cultural, used to explain the concept that varied cultural contexts call for the Gospel to be presented in various ways; and

Whereas, the Scriptural justification for contextualization is seemingly found in 1 Corinthians 9:22b, which reads, “I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some” (NRSV); and

Whereas, this justification for contextualization seems reasonable until placed in the light of 1 Corinthians 9:21b, which states “I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law,” which makes clear that the cultural context does not and cannot override Biblical truth and morality; and

Whereas, the law and love of Christ does not therefore bend to the context, but rather, the context bends to the loving law of Christ Jesus;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Tennessee Annual Conference values the *Christ* over the Context; celebrating God’s love which transforms cultural contexts by aligning them with Christ’s love, and not the other way around; and

Be it further resolved, that the Tennessee Annual Conference champions “Christ-textualization” as the way to change a culture and the world, not *contextualization*—when used as a justification to change the Gospel.

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