

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EPISTLE OF JUDE
TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Whereas, The United Methodist Church recognizes the Epistle of Jude as one of the 66 Canonical books of the Bible; and

Whereas, Jude, who identifies himself as brother to James (and therefore likely the half-brother of Jesus) writes, *Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ* (Jude 3-4, NRSV); and

Whereas, the “licentiousness” Jude writes about is identified as sexual immorality and the pursuit of unnatural lust in the same fashion as Sodom and Gomorrah (vs 7); and

Whereas, those who teach and promote this licentiousness, who “pervert the grace of our God,” are described as “blemishes on our love feasts,” (vs.12) “grumblers and malcontents (who) indulge their own lusts, (who are) bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage (vs 16); and

Whereas, the Apostles themselves prophesied that, “In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging in their own ungodly lusts. It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing division” (vs.18-19); and

Whereas, the Epistle of Jude was written TO the true Church to warn ABOUT false teaching and teachers whose sexual teaching and behaviors were bringing division and destruction upon Christ’s Body; and

Whereas, The People called Methodist (until recently) understood this letter to be written TO them rather than ABOUT them;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Tennessee Annual Conference recognizes the Epistle of Jude to be Scriptural truth and as such a call to *contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints*; a warning to recognize false teachers who promote sexual licentiousness (license to sin), and cause division, and a warning about false teaching that leads to the promotion of sexual immorality, grumbling, and bombastic speech; and

Be it further resolved, that the Tennessee Annual Conference will *have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic (stole) defiled by their bodies* (vs 22-23, NRSV).

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