

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE LOVE'S DEFINITION OF LOVE  
TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Whereas**, The United Methodist Church recognizes the authority of all Scripture as presented in the Old and New Testaments; and

**Whereas**, 1 John 4:8 declares that *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love*; and

**Whereas**, God, who is Love, has both defined and displayed in the fully human/fully divine Person of Jesus Christ, God the Word, what Love is and what Love is not; and

**Whereas**, the God of Love has declared in at least 8 Scriptures that heavy drinking is not loving or lovely, a truth that has historically led United Methodists to encourage abstinence and moderation concerning alcohol consumption; and

**Whereas**, the God of Love has declared in at least 21 Scriptures that gluttony is neither loving nor lovely, and that the United Methodist Church recognizes this truth in terms of lay and clergy health, calling all to a healthy lifestyle and responsible eating and food production habits; and

**Whereas**, the God of Love has declared in at least 50 Scriptures that sexual immorality of all types—with specific attention to homosexuality, adultery, fornication, pornography, and bestiality—are not loving or lovely, and further has declared that marital love can only be expressed between one man/one woman; and

**Whereas**, United Methodists believe that ALL Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) and therefore just 1 Scripture would be enough to define and boundary Love, much less 8 or 21 or 50;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Tennessee Annual Conference recognizes that the God who IS Love is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8) and therefore defines forever and best what love is and what love is not; and

**Further be it resolved**, that the God of Love came in love and *as* Love in the Person of Jesus Christ—not to condemn the loveless in their lovelessness—but rather to set the loveless (all humanity, apart from Jesus!) free to be healed from lovelessness—be it alcoholism, gluttony, lying, stealing, hate, racism, sexism, or sexual brokenness—by Love Himself.

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