

Tennessee Annual Conference 2019

Title: Inclusion Resolution

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has a tradition of great nuance in the matter of biblical interpretation (such as displayed in its treatment of slavery, divorce, and the ordination of women) but reverts to simplistic literalism when address full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ in its life and ministry;

(2) And whereas, the United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQIA+ persons and those who support full inclusion for special punitive actions;

(3) And whereas, even though seven petitions within the Traditional Plan were ruled unconstitutional before it was presented for a vote at the 2019 General Conference, and that lack of constitutionality was upheld by the Judicial Council in April of 2019;

(4) And whereas, the first general rule John Wesley gave the people called Methodists was, "Do no harm;"

(5) And whereas, United Methodists promise in their baptisms "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves;"

(6) And whereas, by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great harm, and perhaps irreparable harm, to our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters;

(7) And whereas, by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great harm to our witness to the world as to the unconditional and inclusive love of Christ;

(8) And whereas, the use of District and Conference funds for complaints and church trials related to LGBTQIA+ ordinations and marriages will divert funds needed to do the vital work of the mission and ministry of the church;

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2019 Tennessee Annual Conference that: the Tennessee Conference apologizes for the harm that actions at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference have caused LGBTQIA+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ. We affirm that "all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God," and urge all in ministry, whether lay or clergy, to affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

(2) And be it further resolved, that we urge all lay and clergy in the Tennessee Conference to make all reasonable efforts to address issues related to LGBTQIA+ ordination and marriage in a manner so as to treat church trials and judicial processes as a last resort.

Submitted by: The Tennessee Conference Board of Church and Society
Rev. Ken Edwards, Rev. LeNoir H. Culbertson, Mr. Jake Bennett, Mr. Eden Thompson, Rev. Tom Pierce, Rev. Jodi McCullah, Rev. Merrilee Wineinger, Rev. James Cole, Rev. Amy Steele, Ms. Laura Edwards.

**Tennessee Annual Conference 2019 Resolution on Inclusion
TNUMC Board of Church and Society and Signers**

Submitted by: The Tennessee Conference Board of Church and Society

Reverend Ken Edwards Retired	Reverend Merrilee Wineinger Edgehill
Reverend LeNoir Culbertson Retired	Reverend James Cole Antioch
Reverend Tom Pierce Westview	Reverend Dr. Amy E. Steele Cornerstone
Jake Bennett Franklin	Laura Edwards Laity
Deen Thompson Edgehill	Reverend Allison Gossett Brentwood
Reverend Jodi McCullah Morton Memorial, Monteagle, TN	

Submitted By:

John Pearce President of the TN Conf. Council on Finance and Administration	Reverend Judi Hoffman East End
Reverend Vin Walkup Retired	Reverend Amanda Diamond East End
Reverend Barry Culbertson Lock's Memorial, Kedron	Reverend Carlise Jones Franklin First
Reverend Jim Hughes Belle Meade	Reverend Peter van Eys Criewood, Glendale
Becky Waldrop	Reverend Michael Waldrop Retired
Reverend Adam Kelchner Christ Church	Reverend Debra Tyree Bellevue
Reverend Scott Marshall-Kimball Christ Church	Steven Kyle Adair
Reverend Stephanie Baxter Dunn Calvary	Reverend Stacy Gonzalez Columbia
Kathryn Edwards Belmont	Reverend Sandra Griggs St. John's
Reverend Gayle Watson Retired	Dr. David Lowes Watson Retired

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Cindy Caldwell Belmont	Reverend Brandon Baxter West End
Reverend Kaye Harvey Retired	Reverend Regina Girten Providence (Cumberland)
Reverend Sam McGlothlin Belle Meade	Donald K. Phelps Laity
Reverend Robert H. Lewis, Jr. Retired	Reverend Darren Mayberry Wright Belmont
Reverend Heather Harriss Belmont	Gerald Kirkse Laity
Susan Kirksey Laity	Reverend Matt Kelley Director
Reverend Jefferson Furtado Belmont	Stephen Deppen Laity
Reverend Paul Purdue Belmont	Reverend Carol Cavin Dillon West End
Reverend John Collett Retired	Kimberly Wixted Laity
Joel Fryer Laity	Reverend Stephanie Dodge Crievewood, Glendale
Reverend David Hollis Campus Minister	Reverend Kristin Clark-Banks Forest Hills
Reverend Linda Johnson Retired	Alan Whitley Laity
Reverend Keith Caldwell Key	Reverend Theresa Johnson Pelham
Reverend Jack Gilbert Retired	Reverend Nan Zoller Retired
Reverend V.H. "Sonnye" Dixon, Jr. Hobson	Reverend Chelsey Hedglin Crievewood, Glendal
Reverend Debbie Church Retired	Reverend Amanda Borchik Chaplain
Richard Keuler Laity	Reverend Jeff Streszoff Grace

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Reverend Sharon Austell Eagleville	Reverend Nelia J. Kimbrough Retired
Reverend Calvin Kimbrough Jr. Retired	Reverend Mary Kate Myers Wesley Chapel, Bethesda
Reverend Bo Myers Thompson Station	Reverend Sarah McWhirt-Toler Teacher
Reverend John Feldhacker Edgehill	Jennifer Bagwell Laity
Sharon Burgess Laity	Chris Burgess Laity
Emily Baird-Chrisohon Charlotte-Ragan	Claire Cook Laity
Nicky McKinney Laity	Jessica McKinney Laity
Howard L. Hale Laity	Jessica Dragonetti Laity
Aren Edwards Laity	Matt Dennis Laity
Evelyn Hale Laity	Karen Franklin Laity
Joe Lee Laity	Dr. Pat Jordan Laity
Carl Zehner Laity	Leigh Ann Wilson Laity
Naomi H. Griffith Laity	Milton "Gil" Gilliland Laity
Sheila Gilliland Laity	Lisa C. Robertson Laity
Reverend Allison Fasig Brentwood	Reverend B.J. Brack Calvary
Reverend Erin Racine West End	Angie Pigue
Mary Jean Erwin Laity	Reverend Jim Strickland

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Starr Strickland Laity	Kathryn L. Mitchem Laity
Gairdt Edwards Laity	Reverend Shelby Slowey Brentwood
Roy W. Phelps Laity	Reverend Nancy Parker West End
Andrew Newton Laity	Linda C. Carlen Laity
Nancy Pierce Laity	Beth Mannie Laity
Robert Sommers Laity	MaryDell Somers Laity
Samantha Robinson Laity	Rebecca Payne Laity
Robert Jager Laity	Reverend Rob Wheeler Cookeville First
Reverend Brian Marcoulier Bellevue	Susan Collins Laity
Kenneth W. Hunter Laity	Jessica A. Oswalt Laity
Reverend Jim Robinson Retired	Patty McIntyre Laity
Reverend David McIntyre Retired	Reverend Nick Baird-Chrisohon Charlotte-Ragan
Reverend Karen Barrineau Retired	Ann Woodmore Laity
Reverend David Rainey Retired	Reverend Ingrid McIntyre Open Table Nashville