

RESOLUTION: DISAPPROVAL OF THE TRADITIONAL PLAN

WHEREAS, “Our Theological Task” (see ¶105, p.80-91) invites and encourages us to continuously engage in faithful and serious reflection on our biblical and theological inheritance and celebrates “The wonder of God’s grace at work with us and among us.” and has led the people called United Methodists, to demonstrate nuanced and robust understandings about matters as diverse as, divorce and the ordination of women, and in that spirit rejecting literalism that harms or excludes, LGBTQ+ persons;

WHEREAS, despite no biblical mandate to discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons, The United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons for punitive action, while seemingly ignoring biblical teachings on matters such as efforts to secure pensions (Matthew 6:19-20);

WHEREAS, our first General Rule (¶104, p.78) concerns “doing no harm”;

WHEREAS, United Methodists with diverse theological appreciations all earnestly vow “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves” (United Methodist Hymnal, p. 34);

WHEREAS, ¶613.19 prohibits annual conference funds from being used to “violate the expressed commitment of the UMC ‘not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends’”; and

WHEREAS, by adopting elements of the Traditional Plan, we have done great harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we urge the Iowa Annual Conference (IAC) to express disapproval of the Traditional Plan and apologize for the harm inflicted on LGBTQ+ persons, their

families, and the body of Christ. We urge the IAC to “affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” (§161.G) and assert that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, in light of our current IAC budget crisis, the IAC should prioritize the full funding of conference missions, new ministry starts, and clergy support before funds or monies shall be expended for background investigations, complaints, just resolutions, or clergy trials pertaining to LGBTQ+ ordination and marriage.

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