

REC 16-11 A CALL FOR NON-CONFORMITY WITH THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

SUBMITTED BY: Mark Stephenson, Mandy Sloan McDow, Kathy Cooper Ledesma, Cedrick Bridgeforth, Frank Wulf, Sandy Olewine, Mele Maka, Janet McKeithen, Adiel DePano, Bob Rhodes, Blair Trygstad, Sarah Heath, Johan Dodge, Kerry Cooper, Emily Redenbach, Madison McLaughlin, Judy McCall, Sharon Stewart, Meg Estrada, Ginny Brideau

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT: No additional funds needed

SOURCE OF STAFF TIME: None

WHEREAS, according to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, "all persons are of sacred worth" and "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching" (161.F); and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Church doctrine calls for inclusiveness in which "all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supporting of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the Church, the community, and the world" (140); and

WHEREAS, a candidate's sexual orientation and gender identity should not be considered as criteria for fitness or effectiveness in ministry; and

WHEREAS, the Book of Discipline encourages "a respectful dialogue with those with whom we disagree, to explore the sources of our differences, to honor the sacred worth of all persons," and acknowledges that "we do not see the 'Discipline' as sacrosanct or infallible" (Episcopal Greetings, p. v); and

WHEREAS, ordained clergy seeking to navigate the inconsistencies within United Methodist Church doctrine face extraordinary penalties by ministering fully to the LGBTQIA children of God, and charges have been made and trials held against ordained clergy for conducting marriage ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Bishops have publicly and privately opposed recommendations for such charges, and spoken out against trials and penalties for ministers officiating at these marriages; and

WHEREAS, by scripture, God's covenant extends to all persons, as made living by the Christ whose command was to love God and neighbor, teaching radical inclusion, and through our Church mandate to gather all persons of faith into the community of the body of Christ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the California-Pacific Annual Conference urges the Bishop and Cabinet to state publicly they will not deny appointments based on sexual orientation or gender identity; urges the Board of Ordained Ministry to declare its intention not to consider sexual orientation and gender identity in making decisions in regard to commissioning and ordination; urges trial boards not to convict for chargeable offenses pertaining to being "a self-avowed, practicing homosexual," as well as for those clergy who officiate at weddings for couples regardless of the gender of the partners, and that these matters would be addressed through "Just Resolution."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the California-Pacific Annual Conference and its members are urged to not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to The Book of Discipline's prohibitions against LGBTQIA persons.