

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

WHEREAS, The Confederate Battle Flag on the State House grounds to many South Carolinians, is a symbol, not of bravery and courage, but rather of an era of slavery and oppression; and

WHEREAS, Our loyalty today is not to the Confederacy of Southern States, but to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Patriotic South Carolinians have fought with valor and distinction in a number of wars beginning with the Revolution out of which our nation was born; and

WHEREAS, It appears unseemly to honor the heroism of warriors in one conflict above that of those, no less committed, who fought in other wars; and

WHEREAS, Flying the Confederate Battle Flag in a place of special honor on the State House grounds is believed by many in the business community of our state to discourage business enterprises from elsewhere to locate in South Carolina, thus limiting the economic growth and the provision of jobs for South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, The presence of the Confederate flag on the State House grounds has proved to be a divisive issue among South Carolinians, erecting unnecessary barriers of understanding and unity among our citizens, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church beseech our Legislature without further delay to remove this flag from the State House grounds, thus ending a period of turmoil and disagreement over a symbol whose meaning is inevitably different among honorable citizens who do not share the same historic perspective of the Civil War era.

*Rev. John W. Culp
Virginia Wingard Memorial UMC
Columbia, South Carolina*

*Rev. Hayes Gainey
Edisto Fork UMC
Orangeburg, South Carolina*

*Rev. Leonard Huggins, Jr.
New Covenant UMC
Bowman, South Carolina*