

**PETITION TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE TRADITIONAL PLAN
SUBMITTED TO THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Whereas, the majority of United States delegates to General Conference 2019, according to informal polling, rejected the Traditional Plan passed at General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, our 13 United Methodist Theological schools, in a joint statement, urged the delegates of General Conference 2019 to vote against the Traditional Plan; and

Whereas, the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church called for the full inclusion of all persons in the life and ministry of The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, a statement signed by 15,529 young people in under 13 hours was submitted supporting the One Church Plan over and against the Traditional Plan; and

Whereas, schism and exclusion from the Church are neither the will of God nor compatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:10-14; 25:31-46; 26:26-30; Luke 15:1-32; John 15:1-17; 1 Corinthians 10:1-31; 12:12-27; *Book of Discipline* Paragraphs 121-125 and 2501); and

Whereas, United Methodists hold that the core of Christian faith is revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. Scripture is primary, revealing the Word of God 'so far as it is necessary for our salvation.' (*Book of Discipline* Paragraph 105), and that, "The authority of Scripture derives from the movement of God's Spirit in times past and in our reading of it today." (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/our-christian-roots-the-bible>); and

Whereas, Methodists have historically understood that differing standards of accountability must be applied contextually on our way to full Christian maturity (Wesley, John. "A More Excellent Way"); and

Whereas, our General Rules enjoin us to do no harm, to do good, and attend upon all the ordinances of God (*Book of Discipline* Paragraph 104); and

Whereas, the debate on about homosexuality is a modern one, and has no place within our historic doctrine; either in our Articles of Religion or in the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren (*Book of Discipline* Paragraph 104); and

Whereas, we are in a period of historic decline in the membership of The United Methodist Church in the United States; and

Whereas, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (*Book of Discipline* Paragraph 120); and

Whereas, the Traditional Plan, in parts ruled constitutional and unconstitutional by the Judicial Council, promotes harm, promotes schism, is not compatible with the historic witness of The United Methodist Church, will likely contribute to greater decline of the population of The United Methodist Church in the United States, and will hinder our ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ;

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church rejects the Traditional Plan as passed at the 2019 General Conference, and we, the South Carolina Annual Conference, petition for the full repeal of the Traditional Plan as passed at the 2019 General Conference; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the South Carolina Annual Conference, petition the 2020 General Conference to recommit itself to the work of reconciliation and peacemaking so that The United Methodist Church, as one body, can move forward; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the South Carolina Annual Conference, petition the 2020 General Conference to return us to the language of the 2016 Book of Discipline or create a way forward where The United Methodist Church may be under the leadership of the Spirit and the example of Jesus Christ.

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