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**2018 Journal**

**Texas Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church**

**F**



SECTION F

**RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS  
FROM 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**The United Methodist Church  
Corrected Ballot**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I**

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, *DCA* p. 2106). The text of this amendment as distributed to the annual conferences in 2016 was found to be in error. The corrected text is now presented to the annual conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women's and girls' equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

**Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendment I  
The United Methodist Church  
Voted General Conference May 2016**

- I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.

**RESOLUTION FOR HEART & MIND LISTENING SESSIONS  
TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Whereas* The United Methodist Church has experienced increasing polarization over theological and ethical issues, leading to the church being distracted from the mission of the church outlined in Our Theological Task (¶ 10-15); and,

*Whereas* persons of sincere faith and Christian commitment within the church are led by interpretation of scripture and convictions of conscience to significantly divergent beliefs and actions regarding the church's ministry to and with LGBTQ persons and their families; and,

*Whereas* in response to this divergence and in pursuit of a fruitful shared future, the 2016 General Conference requested the Council of Bishops to appoint a Commission on a Way Forward to develop proposals to provide a way forward that would refocus the church on discipleship and mission; and,

*Whereas* the Commission on a Way Forward has modeled sacramental, trust-building conversation marked by empathy, compassion and critical thinking within the complexity of disagreement on theology and ecclesiology,

*Whereas* the Commission and the Council have both urged the church to act out of a "heart of peace" rather than a "heart of war," giving grace and exercising Christ-like humility in the way that we engage with one another;

*There be it resolved,* that the Core Leadership Team organize listening sessions in four (4) areas encouraging and inviting representation from the delegation numbering at least six (6) 2019 General Conference delegates and the people of the Texas Annual Conference might speak openly and honestly about our shared future, specifically addressing the Council of Bishop's report on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

*There be it also resolved,* that the Core Leadership Team shall standardize the format and scheduling of these sessions during the Fall of 2018 (August 1 – October 31, 2018), and ensure that the discussion is recorded by an elected secretary.

*Therefore be it finally resolved,* that the Texas Annual Conference delegation be encouraged and invited to meet prior to the special called General Conference of 2019 to review and discuss the minutes from the four (4) sessions.

Signed by:

Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe, Melissa Maher, Hannah Terry