

## RESOLUTION FOR CLERGY SESSION MAY 2018

### ACTION:

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference declares our full support for these two amendments of the 2016 General Conference, and supports the full equality and protection and leadership of women and girls, and persons of all ages genders, abilities, marital status, race, color, national origin, status and economic conditions,

The Clergy Session of our Annual Conference calls upon our Northern Illinois Annual Conference to affirm these two General Conference amendments, and work side by side with other conferences of our denomination to ensure passage of these two amendments by the 2020 General Conference.

Be it finally resolved that this resolution, as passed by the NIC, be forwarded on to the Council of Bishops, the delegates of the Special Session of the General Conference, and to the delegates of the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

### RATIONALE:

We have received word this month that our global UM conferences did not pass the 1st two constitutional amendments of the five sent out by our 2016 General Conference: the first, pertaining to elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the second, to offer constitutional protection to ALL, adding categories of "gender, ability, age, and marital status" to existing categories of race, color, national origin, status and economic condition.

Our Board of Ordained Ministry deeply grieves the failure of these first two amendments to be passed by 2/3 majority vote of our global conferences, noting that they failed to pass by very small percentages, and that the responsibility for the percentage failure is born almost equally by U.S. conferences as well as our overseas conferences.

Our denomination has long benefitted from the leadership of all persons in the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, and to forego the contributions of some is anathema to the leadership of Jesus Christ, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the heart of God. We should not rest, until we have fulfilled the calling Jesus Christ entrusted to each of us, to welcome ALL persons into the ministry and blessing of the kingdom of God.

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