

PETITION # L-1

AFFIRMING WESTERN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF BISHOPS' RESPONSE TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND THE WESTERN JURISDICTION'S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE MINISTRY

Resolved: We, the People called United Methodists in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, continue to be on a journey to fully welcome all of God's beloved children to our life and ministry as part of the Body of Christ. We affirm, as stated in the Vision Statement of the Western Jurisdiction, that we are "A home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation."

Further resolved: We affirm the prophetic voice of the Western Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church in extending radical hospitality to all:

We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God's children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God's children. (2000 Western Jurisdictional Conference)

We open our doors to all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, we open our hearts to those who have been shunned, we open our minds to radical obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even when at odds with The Book of Discipline, in order to further the work of God's justice and the creation of the beloved community. As a Welcoming and Reconciling Jurisdiction we will take steps of inclusion in the sacred trust of marriage, ordination, and leadership roles for all. (2012 Western Jurisdictional Conference)

Further resolved: We fully support our Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops' statement in their May 4, 2017 pastoral letter in response to Judicial Council Decision 1341. We rejoice with them in celebrating "the good news that Bishop Karen Oliveto is continuing to lead the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church."

Further resolved: We recognize, with our bishops, that "For many years, the Western part of the United States has been a refuge for LGBTQ persons from across the US and around the world. Our region is a place where they can live fully into who God has created them to be, free from discrimination, violence, and closets."

Further resolved: With our bishops and fellow United Methodists in the Western Jurisdiction, we "witness daily the gifts and reflections of God's grace in LGBTQ persons who faithfully serve among us as lay leaders, pastors, district superintendents, and now, as a bishop." We affirm their belief that what we continue to witness "informs how we do ministry together" and "how Boards of Ordained Ministry approach their work." We, in turn, are witnesses that the ministry entrusted to us "has been enriched by the fullness of their presence and participation."

Further resolved: As a pilgrim people who rest only in the boundless grace of God in Jesus Christ, we will seek to walk together, even in the tension of our differences, and join our bishops in striving "to be a home for all God's beloved."

1 views of what full inclusion means. Even in the West we are not of one mind.
2 Nevertheless, we believe Christ calls us to live and serve together as one even in
3 our differences.

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5 Our Christian experience teaches us that God's love is wide enough for all of us.

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7 It is not always easy for us to hold relationship with those whose understandings
8 differ from us, but John Wesley encourages us to remember: "We don't have to
9 think alike to love alike."

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11 There is much work to be done before we the church are able to love as Jesus
12 has loved us.

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14 We in the Western Jurisdiction will continue to be a home for all God's beloved
15 as we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ.

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17 A special session of Jurisdictional Conference allows us to best uphold these values as we
18 prepare for the 2019 special session of General Conference.

PETITION # L-3
AFFIRMING LGBTQI CLERGY

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3 **Resolved:** Collectively as members of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, we re-
4 affirm our baptismal vows “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present
5 themselves,” especially when it exists in our own Book of Discipline and in rulings of Judicial
6 Council.

7 **Further Resolved:** The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference aspires to live as the Beloved
8 Community. We respond to God’s Great Commission to proclaim the good news to all people, and
9 we intend to live into the reality of the beautiful, bold, diverse, and inclusive Body of Christ.

10 **Further resolved:** The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference upholds our denomination’s
11 mandate to foster inclusiveness. “Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables
12 all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community, and the world [and] therefore,
13 inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination” (§ 140 Book of Discipline).

14 **Further resolved:** The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference remains in support and in
15 solidarity with all LGBTQI clergy persons; and with humility, integrity, and courage, we renew our
16 commitment to continue affirming LGBTQI clergy persons in their calls to ministry, support them in
17 their service to the church, and prayerfully work with them to transform all forms of institutional
18 discrimination.

19 **Rationale:** The Apostle Paul reminds us, along with the church of Corinth, that we are all one
20 in Christ, one body with many diverse and beautiful members: “Indeed, the body does not consist of
21 one member but of many. If the foot would say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the
22 body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, ‘Because I am
23 not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. As it is,
24 there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor
25 again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” (1 Corinthians 12:14-16, 20-21).” None of us is
26 dispensable and none of us is unworthy of full membership in the body of Christ or in the life and
27 ministries of the church.

28 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex clergy have made important
29 contributions to our conference, faithfully serving churches in appointments, and have worked
30 diligently and prayerfully “to create disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world,” bringing
31 unique gifts and grace to the people they serve. In the course of following their call to minister,
32 LGBTQI clergy have suffered psychic and spiritual harm because of discrimination by the very
33 denomination they serve. The families and allies of LGBTQI clergy have also suffered psychic and
34 spiritual harm. LGBTQI clergy have been made more vulnerable by institutional oppression through
35 General Conference decisions in the last 44 years and the recent rulings of the Judicial Council. The
36 decisions not only fracture the body of Christ and dehumanize LGBTQI persons, but do harm to the
37 entire Methodist connection.

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PETITION #L-4
GRAND COULEE UMC CLOSURE

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Resolved: in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the Seven Rivers District Board of Church Location and Building, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares the Grand Coulee United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2017, and further authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees to take possession of the property, real and personal and take all necessary steps to see to its best use, including the potential sale of the property. In keeping with ¶229 and by recommendation of the district superintendent, membership will be transferred to Grand Coulee Community Church, unless individuals elect transfer to another church.

PETITION #L-5
SPOKANE: CENTRAL UMC CLOSURE

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Resolved: in keeping with ¶2549.2 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, with consent of the Bishop, a majority of the Superintendents, and the Inland District Board of Church Location and Building, that the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference declares Spokane: Central United Methodist Church closed effective June 30, 2017, and further authorizes the Conference Board of Trustees to take possession of the property, real and personal and take all necessary steps to see to its best use, including the potential sale of the property. In keeping with ¶229 and by recommendation of the district superintendent, membership will be transferred to various churches unless individuals elect transfer to another church.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Report #1A

Petition #L-1, Affirming Western Jurisdiction Council of Bishops' Response to Judicial Council and the Western Jurisdiction's Commitment to Inclusive Ministry

Action: Concurrence

No. present: 17 No. affirmative: 17; No. negative: 0; No abstaining: 0

Report #1B

Petition #L-3, Affirming LGBTQI Clergy

Action: Concurrence

No. present: 18 No. affirmative: 17; No. negative: 0; No abstaining: 1

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Report #1

Petition #L-2 Petition College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference,

Action: Refer to CFA

No. present: 17 No. affirmative: 16; No. negative: 1; No abstaining: 1

Report #2

Petition #L-4 Closure of Grand Coulee UMC

Action: Concurrence

No. present: 17 No. affirmative: 16; No. negative: 0; No abstaining: 1

Report #3

Petition #L-5 Closure of Spokane: Central UMC

Action: Concurrence

No. present: 18 No. affirmative: 18; No. negative: 0; No abstaining: 0