

RES 26-05 | INCLUSIVITY, EQUAL PROTECTION, AND SACRED WORTH

SUBJECT: Supporting Gender Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and the Sacred Worth of Transgender and Non-binary people

SUBMITTED BY: Jason Takagi, Richard Bentley, Israel Alvaran, Steve Poteete-Marshall, Janet Gollery McKeithen, Katharine H.H. Wingate, Mele Maka, Molly Vetter, Rod Sprott, Jeanne Roe Smith, Christy Clark, Frank Wulf, Sandie Richards, Rachel Gipson, Allison Mark, Judy Chung

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT: NONE

SOURCE OF STAFF TIME: NONE

Whereas, Scripture affirms that God said “Let us make humankind in our image,” (Genesis 1:26) and that “in the image of God he created them” (Genesis 1:27) which claims the inherent dignity of every person, and

Whereas, Jesus proclaims in John 10:10 “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly,” which reveals God’s desire for every person to flourish without fear, exclusion or harm, and

Whereas, the United Methodist Social Principles state “all people are of sacred worth and certain basic human rights are due to everyone, we are committed to supporting the equal rights, liberties and protections of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.” (Social Principles, The Political Community, Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities)

Whereas, the Social Principles further affirm “We see clear issues of equality and justice in protecting the rightful claims of those with shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, and other lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities and liabilities, and equal protection before the law.” (Social Principles, The Political Community, Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities)

Whereas, the Social Principles also recognizes that “gender minorities are disproportionately impacted by social stigmas, discrimination, coercion and violence, we call on churches, governments, businesses, and civic organizations to do all in their power to combat such unjust treatment and to promote equal rights and protections for all.” (Social Principles, The Political Community, Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities)

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has approved an amendment to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of the Constitution to add the categories gender and ability so that the constitution now reads, “All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.” (United Methodist Constitution, Paragraph 4, Article 4)

Whereas the United Methodist Baptismal Vows call on us to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” (Book of Worship, The Baptismal Covenant 1)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Annual Conference, urges its churches, program areas, ministries, and camps adopt non-discrimination policies that include gender identity and gender expression, and

1 THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the California-Pacific Annual Conference
2 supports civil rights protections for transgender people in employment, housing, education,
3 healthcare and public accommodations, and
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5 THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the California-Pacific Annual Conference
6 encourages the California-Pacific Conference and all local churches to ensure the healthcare
7 insurance they provide to clergy and lay staff covers gender-affirming healthcare, including hormone
8 therapy, surgical care, counseling, and voice therapy, and
9

10 THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the California-Pacific Annual Conference,
11 encourages all United Methodist annual conferences to affirm that gender identity is not a barrier to
12 candidacy, ordination, or appointment for clergy or to employment for lay people within their
13 ministries and churches.