TITLE: CALL TO CIVILITY (2010, renewed 2013)
SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Methodist Federation for Social Action;
CO-SPONSOR: OR/ID Holy Land Task Force, Peace With Justice
SPOKESPERSON: Dee Poujade
SPOKESPERSON’S ADDRESS: 2545 SW Terwilliger Blvd., Apt. 510, Portland OR 97201
SPOKESPERSON’S E-MAIL: traveling.mimi@gmail.com
SPOKESPERSON’S TELEPHONE: 503-299-4510
This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no or minor revisions).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS: 24 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN

Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:
“Civility is more than a rule for polite conduct. It is a way of life formed around values that unite
rather than divide.” These words of Will Rogers are no less true today than when he said then during
the Great Depression. In today’s highly polarized cultural, political and economic
environment, incivility has become systemic, spreading corrosively like a cancer in our communities, our nations
and the body politic.

As persons of faith, it is our individual, as well as our collective responsibility, to call for and to
embody the civility reflective of the gospel values that unite us.

Therefore, we call upon all United Methodists, clergy and laity, to act as agents of peace, tolerance
and mutual respect of all persons.

Further, every United Methodist is called upon to challenge with civility those persons and media
who promote hate, fear, misinformation and lies. Civility is the currency of civilization, of
community. Civility is not an issue of ideology or political affiliation; it is an issue at the core of our
gospel faith.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?
While this is a principle that we, as United Methodists, should already embrace and follow, the
sponsors believe that, especially in the face of current events, both in and outside of the church, we
all need a reminder that there is no “other;” we are all God’s children.

Why is it important?
To serve as a reminder of one of the basic tenants of our faith – “Love your neighbor.”

How will it be carried out? By whom?
Perhaps it could be printed in Conference and District newsletters as a “reminder” that this is a
principle that we, as United Methodists (and human beings!) need to follow.
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2  How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?
3  No additional cost except for the cost of compiling and publishing the journal.