

- 1 • Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry: The Sense of the Oregon-
- 2 Idaho Annual Conference (2011, revised 2014, 2017)
- 3 • About Book of Discipline Paragraph 2702.1B Entitled Chargeable Offenses and the
- 4 Statute of Limitations--Living Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry:
- 5 The Sense of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (2011, revised 2014, 2017)
- 6 • Children of Same-Gender Relationships (2007, 2010, 2013, updated 2016)
- 7 • Confronting Heterosexism (2010, 2013, updated 2016)
- 8 • Open Membership (2007, 2010, 2013, 2017)
- 9 • Standing on the Side of Love (2014, 2018)
- 10 • A Statement of Conviction (2011, revised 2014)
- 11 • Support for the Council of Bishops' A Way Forward (2016)
- 12 • Support for Inclusive Lay Staff Employment Policy (2018)
- 13 • We are a Church for All God's Children (2017)

14
 15 In 2017, the Oregon-Idaho Conference explicitly reaffirmed its position on Open Membership
 16 which expects and encourages its congregations and clergy to abide by the principle:
 17 Membership in any local church in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference shall not be denied on
 18 the basis of race, color, age, national origin, economic condition, gender, marital status, sexual
 19 orientation, gender identity, mental or physical ability, or any other status.

20
 21 Also in 2017, The Oregon-Idaho Conference adopted a resolution, One Body in Christ: Affirming
 22 LGBTQ+ Clergy. The resolution recognizes that LGBTQ+ clergy persons demonstrate the gifts,
 23 graces, and fruits of ministry required of all clergy and commits the members of the Oregon-
 24 Idaho Annual Conference to affirm LGBTQ+ clergy persons in their calls to ministry, support
 25 them in their service to the church, and work with them to transform all forms of institutional
 26 discrimination.

27
 28 This resolution is consistent with the Western Jurisdiction resolution passed in 2016, The
 29 Intersectionality of Justice. WJD Journal 2016, p.130 states, "At this time of challenge in our
 30 culture, we commit ourselves to bold work for justice in intersecting issues including: Resisting
 31 interpretations of our covenant that exclude LGBTQ+ persons from anywhere in our church life
 32 by seeking change to the specific provisions
 33 of our church Discipline that do harm to LGBTQ+ persons and conflict with the work of the Holy
 34 Spirit in calling people to ministry and into the covenant of marriage. In the meantime, we seek
 35 to avoid judicial processes for complaints based on the sexual or gender identity of our clergy or
 36 those with whom we are in ministry."

37
 38 The recent adoption of the Traditional Plan at the Special 2019 General Conference seeks to
 39 expand the restrictions in the Book of Discipline and hinder our ministry with LGBTQ+ people in
 40 our conference in ways that conflict with other passages of the Discipline that require
 41 inclusiveness. One such passage is Article of Religion XXI, which states "The ministers of Christ
 42 are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from
 43 marriage; therefore, it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own
 44 discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness."

45
 46 Therefore, the Oregon-Idaho Conference reaffirms the aforementioned Oregon-Idaho Standing
 47 Resolutions which have been approved and reapproved by the clergy and lay members of prior
 48 annual conferences and we also commit to contextualizing our ministry, as is appropriate, to the
 49 needs and desires of our communities and congregations while showing respect to everyone.
 50

1 * LGBTQ+ is an acronym which includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
2 Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Two-Spirit and the many other forms of identity
3 relating to gender and sexuality. Two-Spirit acknowledges some Native American persons. The
4 “+” covers new identities and persons as well as those with letters not included in the acronym.
5 For simplicity, we use the acronym “LGBTQ+” in this document instead of longer, more explicitly
6 inclusive versions.
7

8 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

9 **What will this action accomplish?**

10 This action will make it clear that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference plans to continue to
11 practice full inclusion in all areas of our church including our church leadership.
12

13 **Why is it important?**

14 It is important to show that we are joined with other conferences in rejecting the “Traditional
15 Plan” as the official position of the United Methodist Church and we support inclusion for all of
16 God’s creation.
17

18 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

19 Each church in the conference will need to discern what this means in their context with an
20 understanding that all people are people of worth and deserve our care and respect. This
21 discernment is critical in light of attempts to split The United Methodist Church and for
22 alternative denominations that do not support inclusion as a core value.
23

24 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

25 The bishop and the conference cabinet will need to determine how to best support this position
26 within the conference and the districts will support their churches in the same effort. There may
27 be some costs with holding events or meetings, but it cannot be determined at this time.