

Constitutional Amendment Information

EXPLANATION: In June of 2017, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference voted on five constitutional amendments that had been approved by the 2016 General Conference and were then sent to all the annual conferences to be ratified. After the final tally of all votes was certified and announced by the Council of Bishops, it was discovered that the text of Amendment I, as sent to the annual conferences, was not accurate—meaning that conferences had been voting on text that was not approved by General Conference. The correct text is below, and each annual conference is asked to take a new vote on the corrected Amendment I. Please note that the actual ballot for voting will be distributed on the floor of annual conference. Voting on constitutional amendments is restricted to full members (clergy and lay) of the Oregon-Idaho conference. For questions about voting eligibility, contact the conference secretary, Laura Jaquith Bartlett (laura@umoi.org).

2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE The United Methodist Church Corrected Ballot

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). The text of this amendment as distributed to the annual conferences in 2016 was found to be in error. The corrected text is now presented to the annual conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women's and girls' equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendment I The United Methodist Church Voted General Conference May 2016

- I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.