

44 *regardless of the sexes or genders of the partners, and requires the District Superintendents to*
45 *inform all clergy under their supervision of this right.*

46
47 *“The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will realign its funding to reflect these commitments,*
48 *using no reserve funds to pay for judicial procedures related to the Discipline’s prohibitions*
49 *against LGBTQIA2S+* persons, and instead asking the Connectional Table to lead and fund*
50 *efforts in cultural competency, anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-ageism, anti-homophobia, and anti-*
51 *oppression training at the conference and district levels, as well as for advocacy and*
52 *implementation efforts related to the same.”*

53
54 Further, we recognize that a multitude of voices within the United Methodist Church have
55 expressed their hurt, anger, discontent, and outrage over the passage of the Traditional Plan.
56 Some have referred to the very fact the Traditional Plan has been in key parts ruled
57 unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. We find, core issues well-articulated by members of the
58 Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC):

59
60 *“WHEREAS, using appropriate, quality biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to*
61 *discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships.*

62
63 *“WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical*
64 *interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination of*
65 *women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons*
66 *in its life and ministry.*

67
68 *“WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has singled out LGBTQ+ persons for special punitive*
69 *action while ignoring the “clear biblical teaching” on other matters such as pensions (Matthew*
70 *6:19-20).*

71
72 *“WHEREAS, much of the Traditional Plan had already been ruled unconstitutional before it was*
73 *voted upon.*

74
75 *“WHEREAS, the first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns*
76 *“doing no harm.”*

77
78 *“WHEREAS, United Methodists promise “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever*
79 *forms they present themselves.”*

80
81 *“WHEREAS, by passing the Traditional Plan, the denomination has done great, and perhaps*
82 *irreparable harm to our LGBTQ+ siblings.*

83
84 *“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC) condemns the*
85 *decision of the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan and apologizes for the*
86 *harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ.*

87 *“We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” but we*
88 *also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.*

89
90 *“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no GPAC funds or monies (either directly through payments or*
91 *indirectly through the time of employees of the conference) shall be expended for the purpose of*
92 *background investigations, complaints, just resolutions, or clergy trials pertaining LGBTQ+*
93 *ordination and marriage.”*

94
95 **THEREFORE, we recognize that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is not alone in its**
96 **prayerful resistance of discrimination. We reach out to others who are working to**
97 **restore the basis on which the Methodist movement was founded: a community of Grace**
98 **seeking perfection in love.**

99
100 Lastly, the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, while affirming the above through this Statement
101 endorsed as a Standing Resolution, will also seek implementation of the following:

- 102
- 103 • We will not conform or comply with provisions of the Book of Discipline which
 - 104 discriminate against LGBTQIA persons in matters of ordination or marriage.
 - 105 • We resolve to work with this Annual Conference and the leadership thereof that no OIAC
 - 106 funds or monies (either directly through payments or indirectly through the time of
 - 107 employees of the conference) shall be expended for the purpose of background
 - 108 investigations, complaints, just resolutions, or clergy trials pertaining to LGBTQ+
 - 109 ordination or marriage of same-gender couples.
 - 110 • We call on all within our Annual Conference to see an end to discriminatory practices
 - 111 against any and all LGBTQIA persons whether endorsed by government, religious
 - 112 institutions or our deeply beloved but deeply flawed denomination, the United Methodist
 - 113 Church.

114
115 There are no children of God who are unloved by God. None for whom the full ministry of the
116 church of Jesus Christ is not openly available. In Wesleyan theology, threefold Grace is the
117 birthright of all who live and breathe and seek to dwell in the Holy Spirit.

118
119 There is no waiting period for the Realm of God.

120
121 It is now. It is love.

122
123
124 * LGBTQIA2S+* is an acronym which names identities including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
125 Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, 2 Spirit and the many other forms of
126 identity related to gender and sexuality. The “2S” indicates ‘two-spirit people,’ and may
127 acknowledge some Native American persons. The " + " covers new, not-yet-stated statuses and
128 persons. Thus, we use the acronym: LGBTQIA2S+

129
130

131 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

132

133 **What will this action accomplish?** This statement records the connectional aspect of the
134 resistance to the discriminatory path taken by the 2019 General Conference. It is important for
135 all people, including our LGBTQIA members and our local communities, to understand that we
136 do not intend to be the church embodied in the legislation that was passed by that body.

137

138 **Why is it important?** It is not enough to say that we are in solidarity, unless we acknowledge
139 that we are part of the greater movement to find Grace at the heart of our identity.

140

141 **How will it be carried out? By whom?** It is ours to explore at this time. What happens next
142 should start with a coming together of our uniqueness and our similarities. Given that this is a
143 SR, there is no action required of anyone – but we hope the persuasive power of love will cause
144 our leaders to make decisions in line with our values.

145

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

147 It may cost something in our connection. It may cost funds. We may save funds due to the fact
148 we will not engage in humiliating spectacles such as trials for persons who should not be tried.
149 At the time of submission, the office of the Conference Treasurer had not yet estimated either
150 costs or savings.

151

152 **Please email in Word format to Rev. Ruth Marsh (revruthmarsh@gmail.com) and/or**
153 **Rev. Adam Briddell (adambriddell@gmail.com) no later than March 19, 2019**
154 **for review and publishing.**

155

Late items in Word format will be received up to March 29, 2019 without review.