

1 **STANDING RESOLUTION #6**

2 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE: Standing up for Inclusion**

5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Oregon-Idaho Committee on Church and**
6 **Society, Oregon-Idaho RUMS, Oregon-Idaho Methodist Federation for Social Action**

7 **SPOKESPERSON: Claudia Roberts**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5328 NE 40th Ave, Portland, OR 97211**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: clarobb@juno.com**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-407-6005**

11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 22-0-0**

12
13 **This petition is: A New Standing Resolution**

14 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

15 We, the people of the Oregon-Idaho Conference, believe that grace is a gift from God,
16 inviting all of humanity into relationship with the Divine.

17 In the Wesleyan tradition, we believe that the sacrament of Holy Communion is a
18 means of grace. We practice open communion in acknowledgement that the sacrament
19 is the LORD's Table. This sacrament belongs to the LORD...not to a single pastor, a
20 ministry setting, or even The United Methodist Church.

21 Likewise, we believe that the sacraments of baptism, as well as the covenants of
22 marriage and ordination, belong to God alone. It is not our place to extend or deny the
23 call to partake of these sacraments and covenants. The call is from God. Our task in
24 ministry is to assist people as they discern, prepare, and live into their call.

25 With God's help, we will continue to pursue our ministry of helping all of the people of
26 Oregon and Idaho to discern the call that God has placed on their lives and to equip
27 them to live into that call.

28 As a prerequisite to providing an open communion table, the Oregon-Idaho Annual
29 Conference encourages its churches to be of Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open
30 Doors. We acknowledge that ours is a diverse conference that demands that we work
31 through our differences. However, we are rewarded by the fact that our conference
32 thrives when we honor and celebrate our diversity. The Oregon-Idaho Annual
33 Conference is a vital conference that is proud to be welcoming to LGBTQ+* people and
34 encourages its churches to be in ministry with the LGBTQ+ community.

1 We have a proud history of adopting resolutions that affirm our belief that God's church
2 includes everyone.

3 The 2018 Conference Journal includes resolutions dating back to 2007 that specify that
4 we intend to be in ministry with everyone:

5 • About Book of Discipline Paragraph 304.3 Entitled Qualifications of Ordination--Living
6 Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry: The Sense of the Oregon-
7 Idaho Annual Conference (2011, revised 2014, 2017)

8 • About Book of Discipline Paragraph 2702.1B Entitled Chargeable Offenses and the
9 Statute of Limitations--Living Within the Discipline While Moving Forward with Ministry:
10 The Sense of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference (2011, revised 2014, 2017)

11 • Children of Same-Gender Relationships (2007, 2010, 2013, updated 2016)

12 • Confronting Heterosexism (2010, 2013, updated 2016)

13 • Open Membership (2007, 2010, 2013, 2017)

14 • Standing on the Side of Love (2014, 2018)

15 • A Statement of Conviction (2011, revised 2014)

16 • Support for the Council of Bishops' A Way Forward (2016)

17 • Support for Inclusive Lay Staff Employment Policy (2018)

18 • We are a Church for All God's Children (2017)

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

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

31 This resolution is consistent with the Western Jurisdiction resolution passed in 2016,
32 The Intersectionality of Justice. WJD Journal 2016, p.130 states, "At this time of
33 challenge in our culture, we commit ourselves to bold work for justice in intersecting
34 issues including: Resisting interpretations of our covenant that exclude LGBTQ+

1 persons from anywhere in our church life by seeking change to the specific provisions of
2 our church Discipline that do harm to LGBTQ+ persons and conflict with the work of the
3 Holy Spirit in calling people to ministry and into the covenant of marriage. In the
4 meantime, we seek to avoid judicial processes for complaints based on the sexual or
5 gender identity of our clergy or those with whom we are in ministry.”

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

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

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

24

25

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

26 What will this action accomplish?

27 This action will make it clear that the Oregon-Idaho plans to continue to practice full
28 inclusion in all areas of our church including our church leadership.

29 Why is it important?

30 It is important to show that we are joined with other conferences in rejecting the
31 Traditional Plan as the official position of the United Methodist Church.

32 How will it be carried out? By whom?

33 Each church in the conference will need to discern what this means in their context with
34 an understanding that all people are people of worth and deserve our care and respect.

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

2 The Bishop and the conference cabinet will need to determine how to best support this
3 position within the conference and the districts will support their churches in the same
4 effort. There may be some costs with holding events or meetings but it can not be
5 determined at this time.