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**STANDING RESOLUTION #7**  
**2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

4 **TITLE: Standing With United Methodists Seeking Love and Justice For All**  
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Legislative Assembly writing team (Karen**  
6 **Hernandez, Warren Light, Carter Lybeck, Karen Nelson)**  
7 **SPOKESPERSON: Carter Lybeck & Karen Hernandez**  
8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 775 E Center St Apt 4, Logan, UT 84321**  
9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: carterlybeck@gmail.com**  
10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 208-716-2729**  
11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed 22-0-0**

13 **This petition is**

14 **1. A New Standing Resolution;**

15 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**  
16

17 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference affirms our commitment to a fully inclusive, grace-filled,  
18 compassionate church. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the  
19 image of God, and we also assert and affirm that no human being is incompatible with Christian  
20 teaching.

21  
22 We condemn the decision of the 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to  
23 pass the Traditional Plan and apologize for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their  
24 families, their friends, and the body of Christ.

25  
26 However, we are beyond a time when simple apologies for the acts of others in our  
27 denomination are sufficient. Therefore, we affirm the following, in solidarity with sisters, brothers  
28 and siblings worldwide:

29  
30 We recognize that harm has been done and is continuing to be done to LGBTQ+ Methodists.  
31 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference aspires to be a fully inclusive church, including but not  
32 limited to the following:

- 33  
34
- 35 ● Providing equal and fair services for couples seeking Christian marriage;
  - 36 ● Teaching about the fully inclusive nature of God's love;
  - 37 ● Seeking to recognize and celebrate those whom God calls to ordained ministry;
  - 38 ● Supporting and affirming clergy who preside at Christian marriages; and
  - 39 ● Remaining faithful stewards and supporters of organizations that practice and encourage  
40 inclusivity of all God's children.

1 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference insists that any benefits available to clergy and  
2 employees and their families are available to all clergy and employees and their families,  
3 regardless of the sexes or genders of the partners. We require the District Superintendents to  
4 inform all clergy under their supervision of this right.

5  
6 Further, we recognize that a multitude of voices within the United Methodist Church have  
7 expressed their hurt, anger, discontent, and outrage over the passage of the Traditional Plan.  
8 This stance is based on these truths:

- 9  
10 • Using appropriate, quality biblical scholarship, there is no biblical mandate to  
11 discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons and relationships.<sup>†</sup>
- 12 • The United Methodist Church is capable of great nuance in the matter of biblical  
13 interpretation as displayed in its treatment of issues such as divorce and the ordination  
14 of women, but reverts to simplistic literalism when it comes to the full inclusion of  
15 LGBTQ+ persons in its life and ministry.<sup>†</sup>
- 16 • The first general rule that John Wesley gave the people called Methodists concerns  
17 “doing no harm.”<sup>†</sup>
- 18 • United Methodists promise at every baptismal covenant “to resist evil, injustice, and  
19 oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”

20  
21 **We recognize that the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference is not alone in its prayerful**  
22 **resistance of discrimination. We join with the Pacific Northwest, Great Plains, New**  
23 **England, Tennessee, California-Nevada and Wisconsin Annual Conferences, as well as**  
24 **the Germany Central Conference, and reach out to others who are working to restore the**  
25 **basis on which the Methodist movement was founded: a community of grace seeking**  
26 **perfection in love.**

27  
28 There are no children of God who are unloved by God, nor any for whom the full ministry of the  
29 church of Jesus Christ is not openly available. In Wesleyan theology, threefold grace is the  
30 birthright of all who live and breathe and seek to dwell in the Holy Spirit.

31  
32 There is no waiting period for the Realm of God.

33  
34 It is now. It is love.

35  
36 \* LGBTQ+ is an acronym which includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,  
37 Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, Two-Spirit and the many other forms of identity  
38 relating to gender and sexuality. Two-Spirit acknowledges some Native American persons. The  
39 “+” covers new identities and persons as well as those with letters not included in the acronym.  
40 For simplicity, we use the acronym “LGBTQ+” in this document instead of longer, more explicitly  
41 inclusive versions.

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43 <sup>†</sup> Thanks to the Great Plains Annual Conference for their articulation of the core issues at play.

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**What will this action accomplish?** We stand with other UM kindred in resistance to the discriminatory path taken by the 2019 General Conference. It is important for all people, including our LGBTQ+ members and our local communities, to understand that we do not intend to be the church embodied in the legislation that was passed by that body.

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

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

**How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** The only cost is that of printing the conference journal.