

**RESOLUTION:  
WE WILL NOT BE SILENT  
A DECLARATION FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**WHEREAS** the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church retained language in the Book of Discipline which continues to discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons; and

**WHEREAS** we believe that LGBT persons should be joyfully embraced as members of the body of Christ, as United Methodists in full standing, and as gifted children of God entitled equally to all of the ministries, ceremonies, and sacraments of the United Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS** the Rocky Mountain Conference has affirmed the *We Will Not Be Silent* statement adopted by the United Methodist Western Jurisdictional Conference in 2000 and has affirmed amplifications of that statement in subsequent actions,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rocky Mountain Conference reaffirm its historic commitment to the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all persons including LGBT persons, and declares its opposition to continued restrictions of church law on the participation of LGBT people in The United Methodist Church; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Mountain Conference looks forward to the leadership of our Annual Conference and the Western Jurisdiction Conference in formulating an action plan for a new day in our denomination, based on the 2000 and 2004 statements, *We Will Not Be Silent*, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church invites the United Methodist communities within our region to work joyously and boldly together to build a fully inclusive church. We commit to be in ministry with all people, regardless of their economic status, race, age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, or immigration status. To this end, we, as a Conference, reaffirm our commitment to evangelism which includes sharing the embracing love of Jesus with all those who live within our boundaries.

**RATIONALE**

No other marginalized group has been singled out in the Book of Discipline for discrimination or special exclusionary treatment. We believe this is in conflict with our traditional and historic emphasis on God's grace being available to all. The discriminatory language is itself in conflict with the inclusive language in other parts of the Book of Discipline, including the Constitution of our denomination.

Footnote: The full texts of the Western Jurisdiction's 2000 and 2004 *We Will Not Be Silent* statements are contained on pages 86-87 of the *Journal of the Seventeenth Session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, 2004*, which may be found at:

[http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/fileadmin/Documents/SECTION\\_3\\_WJC\\_UMC\\_JOURNAL\\_2004\\_BODY\\_INDEX.pdf](http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/fileadmin/Documents/SECTION_3_WJC_UMC_JOURNAL_2004_BODY_INDEX.pdf)

2011 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE  
(Petitions pages 269-271.)

**PROPOSED PETITIONS/RESOLUTIONS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE  
TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**GC20:** Add a New Subparagraph after paragraph 162J of The Book of Discipline entitled, "Equal Rights Regardless of Gender Identity."

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** New Subparagraph after paragraph 162J

**ACTION:**

The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to add a new subparagraph called, "Equal Rights Regardless of Gender Identity," after paragraph 162J of The Book of Discipline as follows:

We recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals, regardless of gender identity. We affirm the responsibility of the Church and society to be in ministry with people of all gender identities. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are transgender and to advocate for justice for all. We affirm the right of transgender persons to receive medical care, access to education, access to employment, and adequate insurance. We affirm the right of transgender persons to live free from violence and abuse and urge governments to enact policies that protect transgender persons against all forms of violence and discrimination in any sector of society.

**GC21: Amend ¶ No. 161B in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** ¶ 161B

**ACTION:**

B) Marriage - We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two individuals. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of two individuals.

**GC22: Amend ¶161E in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from The Book of Discipline.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** ¶161E

**ACTION:**

The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ¶161 E of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

~~Women and Men~~ Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation – We affirm with Scripture ~~the common humanity of male and female, both having equal worth in the eyes of God~~ our common humanity regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. We are of equal worth in the eyes of God. We reject the erroneous notion that one gender is superior to another, that one gender must strive against another, and that members of one gender may receive love, power, and esteem only at the expense of another. We call upon ~~women and men alike~~ all people to share

power and control, to learn to give freely and to receive freely, to be complete and to respect the wholeness of others. We seek for every individual opportunities and freedom: to love and be loved, to seek and receive justice, and to practice ethical selfdetermination.

We understand our gender diversity to be a gift from God, intended to add to the rich variety of human experience and perspective; and we guard against attitudes and traditions that would use this good gift to leave members of one ~~sex~~ gender identity or sexual orientation more vulnerable in relationships than members of another.

**GC23: Amend ¶161F in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** ¶161F

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to amend ~~¶161F~~ of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

F) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, ~~heterosexual~~ marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

**GC24: Delete ¶304.3 in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** 304.3

**ACTION:**

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to delete ¶304.3 of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

~~3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

**GC25: Amend Footnote to Para. No. 311.2d in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** 311.2d

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

Therefore, the changes here do not relax the traditional view concerning the use of tobacco and beverage alcohol by ordained ministers in The United Methodist Church. Rather they call for higher standards of self-discipline and habit formation in all personal and social relationships. They call for dimensions of moral commitment that go far beyond any specific practices which might be listed. (See Judicial Council Decision 318).

~~The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the Discipline regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.~~

For more than 200 years candidates for ordination have been asked Wesley's Questions

**GC26: Delete ¶ No. 341.6 in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** ¶ 341.6

**ACTION:**

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to Delete ¶ No. 341.6 of *The Book of Discipline* as follows:

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

**GC27: Amend ¶613.2 in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH Number:** 613.20

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to Delete ¶613.20 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

~~20. To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶ 161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church's official position is fairly and equally represented.~~

**GC28: Amend ¶ No. 2702.1 in order to remove all discriminatory language about homosexuality from *The Book of Discipline*.**

**Discipline ¶ No.** 2702.1

**ACTION:**

The Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will petition the 2012 General Conference to Amend ¶ No. 2702.1 of The Book of Discipline as follows:

1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; ~~(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~ (c) crime; (d) failure to perform the work of the ministry; (e) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (f) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (g) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (h) child abuse; (i) sexual abuse; (j) sexual misconduct or (k) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; (l) the support of or the compliance with bullying by our clergy, or (m) ~~(t)~~ racial or gender discrimination.

## 2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

AC14a

TITLE:

Confronting Bias against the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community

ACTION

At every church and charge conference in the Rocky Mountain Conference there shall be discussion and commitment to confront bias against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community through the affirmation of the following statement:

We reaffirm that all people are children of God and of sacred worth and because of the mystery of human sexuality, people differ in how they express it.

RATIONALE:

Many of our churches are seeking new ways to expand their ministries as they face changes in the communities they serve. At the same time, some churches in our three states that discriminate against gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people repel many youth and young adults, limiting the evangelistic ministry of churches in transitional communities.

Paragraph 212.2 in the Book of Discipline states, In communities of transition, the local church shall be regarded as a principal base of mission from which structures of society shall be confronted, evangelization shall occur, and a principal witness to the changing community shall be realized.

We have affirmed that all are children of God and of sacred worth, and the mystery of human sexuality even as we differ on homosexual expressions of it (2008 AC40). To the youth and young adults of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, we say: "Come join us!" We need your clarity and energy as we realize the goal of every local church becoming a base for the mission of confronting unjust heterosexist structures and embracing people long told they are not welcome at church. Together, we witness God's inclusive love for all people.

## 2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

AC15

TITLE: Affirmation of Inclusiveness in Local Church Leadership

### ACTION:

Each year, the nomination committee of every local church in the Rocky Mountain Conference will affirm their commitment to inclusiveness by reading the specified paragraph below in the rationale before considering people for leadership positions.

### RATIONALE:

The Rocky Mountain Conference has called for inclusion in our ministries (most recently in two petitions to the 2008 General Conference, GC53 and 54, which called for ending discrimination in membership of our churches). The constitution of our United Methodist Church has inclusiveness built in. Successive General Conferences have specified that "Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community and the world; therefore, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination," and adding that "the mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supportive of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community and the world." [Paragraph 139, 2008 Discipline]

There are some in our worldwide church who have argued that non-heterosexual persons should be excluded. Some have promoted legislation that gay men and lesbians should be imprisoned or killed for loving each other. We insist now before God, the church and the world, that this is against the spirit of The United Methodist Church and the spirit of Christ's welcoming Grace.

We therefore urge members and clergy of the Rocky Mountain Conference to safeguard the constitutional requirement of inclusiveness, avoiding "every semblance of discrimination" as we represent the church and administer its business.

Specified paragraph to be read before nomination committee:

"Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community and the world; therefore, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination," and adding that "the mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supportive of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community and the world." [Paragraph 139, 2008 Discipline]

2008 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Petitions page 349-50

AC 40 RESOLUTION on Human Sexuality in The Rocky Mountain Conference

ACTION

Be it resolved that The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference affirms the statement known as The Majority Report, adopted by the Human Sexuality Sub-Committee and the larger Church & Society II Legislative Committee of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church on April 27, 2008.

A Statement on Human Sexuality (The Majority Report)  
as adopted by Church & Society II Legislative Committee  
General Conference, April 27, 2008)

We recognize that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We believe persons may be fully human only when that gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society. We call all persons to the disciplined, responsible fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We also recognize our limited understanding of this complex gift and encourage the medical, theological, and social science disciplines to combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely. United Methodists, along with other Christians, have struggled to find principles for applying traditional teachings to contemporary understandings of human sexuality.

We recognize that sexuality is part of the larger human mystery, to be received and acknowledged in grateful responsibility. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us. We deplore all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sexual relations, with their consequent cheapening and degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. We call for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for children thus abused.

We believe that the Church family should support all families in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We challenge all members of our community of faith to commitment, integrity and fidelity in their sexual relationships.

We know that all are God's children and of sacred worth; yet we have been, and remain, divided regarding homosexual expressions of human sexuality. Faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness. We continue to reason and pray together with faith and hope that the Holy Spirit will soon bring reconciliation to our community of faith. The fire in our disagreements points to a deeper human mystery than we knew. We believe that the Spirit has brought our collective conscience to acknowledge this mystery more honestly, and to make our claims with greater humility before God and our neighbors. We therefore ask the Church, United Methodist and others, and the world, to refrain from judgment regarding homosexual persons and practices as the Spirit leads us to new insight. Let us seek to welcome, know, forgive, and love one another as Christ has accepted us, that God may be glorified through everything in our lives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008.

TERMINATION DATE: Permanent

GC 53 PETITION TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IN RECEIVING MEMBERS INTO UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS

Amend Paragraph 214.4 of The Book of Discipline

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Secretary of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will petition the 2008 General Conference to amend paragraph 214 of the Discipline to insert the following sentence after the words "in any local church in the connection" (Par. 4): NO PERSON SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR REASONS RELATED TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, ECONOMIC CONDITION, GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER EXPRESSION.

RATIONALE:

Whereas, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has historically welcomed into membership "all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition" per Article IV of the Constitution; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Discipline ¶102 of our Doctrinal History states the following: "Beyond the essentials of vital religion, United Methodists respect the diversity of opinions held by conscientious persons of faith. Wesley followed the time-tested approach: 'In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.' ... The crucial matter in religion is steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit"; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Social Principles in the Discipline paragraph 161(g) states, "Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons"; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has implemented the advertising strategy "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" which includes a "Diversity Expression" that "by communicating the myriad beliefs and cultural diversity of the church, this expression invites anyone to attend, wherever they are on the journey toward finding a spiritual home" (United Methodist Communication's Website: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/diversity.aspx>); and

Whereas, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you"; Romans 14:13-14 says "Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."; Luke 8:1-3 describes the numerous female followers of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"; Galatians 3:28 says "There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus"; and John 13:35 says "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;" and



GC 54 PETITION TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IN RECEIVING MEMBERS INTO UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATIONS

Amend Paragraph 4 Article IV of The Book of Discipline

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

Amend Article IV, as follows: "The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, economic condition, GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER EXPRESSION, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking the vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, economic condition, GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER EXPRESSION."

RATIONALE:

Whereas, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has historically welcomed into membership "all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition" per Article IV of the Constitution; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Discipline ¶102 of our Doctrinal History states the following: "Beyond the essentials of vital religion, United Methodists respect the diversity of opinions held by conscientious persons of faith. Wesley followed the time-tested approach: 'In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.' ... The crucial matter in religion is steadfast love for God and neighbor, empowered by the redeeming and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit"; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Social Principles in the Discipline paragraph 161(g) states, "Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn their lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons"; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Church has implemented the advertising strategy "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" which includes a "Diversity Expression" that "by communicating the myriad beliefs and cultural diversity of the church, this expression invites anyone to attend, wherever they are on the journey toward finding a spiritual home" (United Methodist Communication's Website: <http://www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/diversity.aspx>); and

Whereas, John Wesley preached that the church is the means of dispensing the grace of God to all who seek it; Romans 15:7 says "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you"; Romans 14:13-14 says "Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another."; Luke 8:1-3 describes the numerous female followers of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 12:13a says "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"; Galatians 3:28 says "There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus"; and John 13:35 says "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;" and

2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE JOURNAL

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AC 18 CLERGY AFFIRMATION OF PROFESSING MEMBERSHIP

The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference invites its pastors to affirm publicly that they voluntarily relinquish the new authority granted them by the judicial Council decision 1032 and that they agree to receive any person into professing membership who – after a reasonable period of instruction and training – affirms vows of membership and to accept any member in good standing as per paragraph #225 of the Discipline.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

TERMINATION DATE: June 30, 2007

2002 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Petitions page 260

AC35 AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF “We Shall Not Be Silent”

The Rocky Mountain Conference affirms the inclusive intent and spirit of the Western Jurisdiction's “We Will Not Be Silent,” declaration. We urge each local congregation to consider ways they can implement this vision “to be in ministry with all God's children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings” so that “we will continue to feast at table with all God's children.” Conversations must continue within our conference and in congregations about how we can work against discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and encouraging full participation of all peoples at all levels in the life of the church and society. We ask each congregation to consider posting the “We Will Not Be Silent” declaration so members and visitors might know our quest for inclusiveness. Further, we ask the Conference web-site to include regular updated information about what the conference and congregations are doing to creatively address this challenge.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002

Termination Date: Not Applicable

## 2001 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Petitions page 258-259

### AC-5 "WE WILL NOT BE SILENT" ADOPTION OF DECLARATION

We commend the Declaration from the Western Jurisdiction to all congregations of the Rocky Mountain Conference for prayerful reflection and thoughtful dialogue, led by the appointive clergy and lay leaders during 2001-2002. A copy will be mailed to each congregation. Following the discussion, a report confirming the dialogue must be submitted to the Committee on Peace with Justice.

Exhibit A

### DECLARATION FROM THE WESTERN JURISDICTION

We of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church have heard the call of the prophet Micah "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." We have heard Jesus' invitation for all to come to the banquet table of God's abundant grace.

Certain actions of General Conference 2000 have caused tremendous pain for individuals and communities and have resulted in an attempt to suppress our prophetic and pastoral ministries among all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

The votes may have been cast but our voices will not be silent. Our jurisdictional vision calls us to be "a home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation." Affirming the statement of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church, "We acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion among us, but this does not require that we wait on justice." We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God's children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God's children.

Drafting group: Sharon Rhodes-Wickett (Cal-Pac), Karen Oliveto (Cal-Nev), Tom Boller (Yellowstone), Daniel Foster (PNW), Milo Thornberry (AMC), Jeff Procter-Murphy (DSW), Erin Dunning (Cal-Nev), Ann Bateman (ORD), Gilbert Caldwell (RM), Bishop Melving G. Talbert, and Bishop Mary Ann Swenson.

Casper, Wyoming, July 12-15, 2000

Effective: July 1, 2001

Termination: July 1, 2002