

## **General Conference 2016: Resolution Regarding Use of Language, Book of Discipline, ¶161F**

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that an amendment be made in Book of Discipline ¶161F regarding the use of “incompatibility”.

1. A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CHANGE LANGUAGE IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE.

BOD 2012 ¶161.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, or gender identity 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 considers 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 anyone and commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

Submitted by the Church Council of United Methodist Church at Mt. Tabor and the Church Council of the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways  
Presented by Rev. Lyssette N. Pérez (973)405-8851; [Lyssetteperez@yahoo.com](mailto:Lyssetteperez@yahoo.com)

## **General Conference 2016: Resolution Regarding Marriage and Marriage Ceremonies Book of Discipline, ¶161B, 341.6, and 162.J**

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in Paragraphs 161B, 341.6, and 162.J, regarding marriage, civil unions, marriage ceremonies and the rights attenuating thereto.

1.A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO REMOVE FROM THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE THE RESTRICTIVE LANGUAGE REGARDING MARRIAGE

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference support marriage equality for all prepared couples and join together to move the United Methodist Church to acceptance with a recommended change to the Book of Discipline amending ¶161B as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶161B) Marriage---We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two persons ~~a man and a woman~~. 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 a union of two persons ~~one man and one woman~~.

1.B A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CHANGE THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE TO OFFER SERVICES OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE TO ALL PREPARED COUPLES

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶341 by deleting ¶341.6 as follows:

~~BOD 2012 ¶341.6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

1.C A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO UPDATE THE EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶162J as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶162J *Equal Rights regardless of Sexual Orientation* — Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of simple justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims typically attendant to contractual relationships that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

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## **General Conference 2016: Resolutions Regarding Standards and Conduct for Ordained Clergy**

### ***Book of Discipline, ¶304.3, ¶2702.1, ¶310.2 (d)***

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in BOD 2012 ¶304.3, ¶2702.1, removing the barrier for ordination and service within The United Methodist Church.

1.A A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO UPDATE THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REGARDING CHARGEABLE OFFENSES FOR CLERGY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶2702.1 of the Book of Discipline as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶2702.1 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) crimes;...

1.B A RESOLUTION CALLING THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO AMEND THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDINATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the Book of Discipline to amend ¶304.3 as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶304.3. 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.~~

Submitted by the Church Council of United Methodist Church at Mt. Tabor and the Church Council of the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways

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## **General Conference 2016: Resolution Regarding Use of Church Funds** ***Book of Discipline*, ¶613.19 and 806.9**

As per the resolutions below, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference proposes that amendments be made in Paragraphs 613.19 and 806.9 regarding the use of United Methodist funds.

### **RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GREATER NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO PETITION THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO FOSTER HOLY CONFERENCE IN UNITED METHODIST ORGANIZATIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶613 deleting portions of ¶613.19 as follows:

BOD 2012 ¶613.19. 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.~~

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the members of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church recommend a change in the *Book of Discipline* to amend ¶1806 by deleting portions of ¶1806.9 as follows:

~~BOD 2012 ¶1806.9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no 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 United Methodist Church "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.~~ It shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

Submitted by the Church Council of the United Methodist Church at Mt. Tabor and the

Church Council of the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways

Presented by Rev. Lyssette N. Pérez

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## **Resolution Calling for GNJ to Commit to Inclusive Church**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference commit to and work for 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 we acknowledge when following the Book of Discipline it requires us to do harm and injustice by discriminating against, diminishing, or demeaning our LGBT brothers and sisters, and that we are placed in an impossible situation as to be guided by our Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience or by the Book of Discipline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church work 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.

Submitted by Susan Zahorbenski, Lay Member

Reconciling Community of the GNJ Conference

## **Resolution Calling for GNJ to Commit to and Support Marriage Equality**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference make a public statement supporting and upholding Marriage Equality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the United Methodist Churches of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, will support clergy spiritually, emotionally, and prayerfully who are brought up on charges for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies.

Submitted by Susan Zahorbenski, Lay Member  
Reconciling Community of the GNJ Conference