

"From Idea to Impact:

Writing Effective Resolutions for Annual Conference"

November 17 7pm

Review Workshop Goals

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1. Understand the **purpose and function** of resolutions in the United Methodist Church.
- 2. Learn the **structure and formatting** required for submission.
- 3. Review writing, editing, and submitting a resolution. Have a working session on resolutions you are considering submitting for Annual Conference.
- 4. Know how to **engage stakeholders** and **navigate the review and voting process** effectively.



Have you submitted a resolution before or are you planning to submit a resolution this year?

Living Polity & Democratic System

"Living polity" means the United Methodist Church's governance is continually shaped and reshaped by the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Democratic System: Everyone is welcome to participate in the process.

Examples: Women's Ordination; LGBTQIA+ Inclusion; Regionalization

Why resolutions matter

Purpose: Resolutions are a way for the church to **think, speak, and act** in alignment with our faith. As you write, consider:

- Have I considered what we believe as United Methodists?
- Have I considered UM Polity (the Book of Discipline)?
- Is my resolution clear?
- Is my resolution actionable?

A resolution is both **a tool for communal discernment** and **a mechanism for action**, bridging faith, witness, and administration. It's the formal way the UMC says, "Here's what we believe, what we care about, and what we want to do about it."

Why resolutions matter: linking faith, policy, and mission. (Example: Parental Leave resolution)

It's more than just the resolution:

Telling the story of your resolution & why it matters.

Build support before the Annual Conference session. Stakeholders matter

Follow up after passage: implementation and accountability lead to impact.



Whereas" Clauses— The Reasons or Context

- Each "Whereas" clause states a fact, principle, or condition that justifies the resolution.
- They provide **background**, **context**, or **motivation** for the action being proposed.
- Think of them as the "**because**" statements the logic leading up to the decision.

Therefore" Clauses— The Action or Decision

• The "Therefore, be it resolved" section is where the body acts on those reasons.

 It specifies what will be done, by whom, and sometimes when.

 This part carries the official directive or declaration of the group adopting the resolution.

Together Whereas and Therefore make one complete argument.

The combination of whereas and therefore be it resolved, helps structure the resolution so that it reads as a complete argument.

Because (whereas) X, Y, and Z are true → therefore, we resolve to do A.

Anatomy of a Resolution

Title – clear and concise.

"Whereas" clauses – statements of fact or principle that justify the resolution.

"Be it resolved"
clauses – the specific
action(s) being
requested.

Sponsorship – who submits (individual, committee, church, etc.)

Rationale / Background – context and theological grounding.

References –
Scripture, Book of
Discipline, Book of
Resolutions, General
Conference actions.

A Call to Creativity & Play (Sample resolution)

- WHEREAS, Jesus modeled a life that includes feasting, fellowship, and communal joy (Jn 2:1-12), demonstrating that play, creativity, and shared enjoyment are sacred expressions of abundant life; and
- WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline ¶ 126 describes Christian ministry as "the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship."; and
- **WHEREAS**, cultivating environments where joy is practiced is a tangible expression of God's hope, hospitality, and wholeness in a world increasingly marked by anxiety and division.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the EPA/ GNJ Annual Conference recognizes play as an essential component of spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being; and invites every congregation to set aside the 5th Sunday as Creativity and Play Sunday.
- Submitted by: Rev. Sarah Borgstrom Lee

Style Guidelines for EPA

Word document (using .doc or .docx format) Letter size (8.5" x 11"); Portrait Orientation Single-line spacing, with no indentations of paragraphs Arial 12-point font CAPITALIZATION of certain words, WHEREAS and phrase, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

Style Guidelines GNJ

Word document (.doc or .docx format) Letter size (8.5" x 11"); Portrait Orientation Single-line spacing, with no indentations of paragraphs 12-point font Bold your Whereas's and your Therefore be it resolved's.

Tips for Stronger Resolutions

01

Be concise, factual, and action-oriented.

02

Be intentional about the language you choose.

03

Use the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline for Polity Citations

04

Proofread your resolution

05

Think together with others.

Submission Process



January 15th -Legislation submission deadline



January 16th - 30th - CORR and COSROW review



Feb 1st to conclude by Feb 15th - CFA, Chancellor, Rules Committee review



February 16th - 25th -Authors to make (or discuss) recommended changes



February 26th - Final legislation is due back

Applying What We've Learned

How can we support you in the next steps of writing or meeting with stakeholders?

Helpful resources

The Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions
Conference Secretary contact info:

• Shelley Smith, GNJ Conference Secretary: gnjconferencesecretary@epagnj.org

Joong Hyuck Kim, EPA Conference Secretary:
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