

# Resolution 19-06: "Disavowal of Traditional Plan"

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**SUBJECT:** Disavowal of the Traditional Plan

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mark Stephenson, Norma Kehrberg, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Cedrick Bridgeforth, Patricia Farris, Sandy Olewine, Molly Vetter, Tom Choi, Mele Maka, Ken Ellis, Richard Bentley, Liz Roark, Dione Taylor, Mary Hawkins, Monalisa Tuitahi, Rosie Rios, Mele Faiva Blagojevich, Frank Wulf, Piula Ala'ilima, Tonya Harris, Nestor Gerente, and the Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:** Unknown

**SOURCE OF STAFF TIME:** Conference Leadership, The Cabinet, Conference Staff

**WHEREAS**, the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team on March 14, 2019, unanimously affirmed, "*As United Methodists, we must resist injustice and insist that the Church repent of the exclusionary principles in the Traditional Plan.*"

**WHEREAS**, the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team stated, "*Grounded in our Wesleyan heritage, we will foster a new movement to gather the energy of inclusive United Methodists throughout our global connection.*"

**WHEREAS**, the general rules were developed by John Wesley in the 1700s, and are still part of the official doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church, of which the first rule concerns "*doing no harm.*"

**WHEREAS**, by the special called 2019 General Conference passing the "Traditional Plan," the rending actions of The United Methodist denomination have done grave and severe harm to our LGBTQI+ siblings.

**WHEREAS**, the clergy in all United Methodist conferences face the threat of complaints and/or loss of credentials because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or ministry with and for our LGBTQI+ siblings.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Ordained Ministry of the California-Pacific Annual Conference base their examination of candidates for commissioning or ordination so "*that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities can live up to our high standards for fitness, readiness, and effectiveness in ministry,*" and will "*support all efforts which bring justice to issues of human sexuality,*" thereby giving "*all candidates equal consideration.*"

**WHEREAS**, the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church submitted a petition calling for the California-Pacific Annual Conference to develop a plan for disaffiliation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the California-Pacific Annual Conference opposes the decision of the special called 2019 General Conference to pass the "Traditional Plan" and humbly apologizes and laments for the immense harm caused LGBTQI+ persons, their families, their friends, and the body of Christ. "*We affirm all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God.*"

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in consideration of passage of the "Traditional Plan" the members of the California-Pacific Annual Conference renew their request that the leadership of the California-Pacific Annual Conference and the California-Pacific Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry make every effort to assist and support LGBTQI clergy and clergy candidates of The United Methodist Church, especially those of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. In addition, the members recognize there is new urgency and strongly urge that every effort is made to protect LGBTQI clergy from any charges related to their sexual orientation or gender identity or ministries to LGBTQI persons including offering them membership in the California-Pacific Annual Conference whenever possible.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in the tension of our theological diversity, the California-Pacific Annual Conference will engage in dynamic, life giving, and transformational ministry with and for all persons.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, while on the journey of learning and growing, we will listen for God's voice to courageously create a bold, new fully inclusive form of Methodism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond – for the current denominational structure of The United Methodist Church is no longer sustainable or workable in our understanding of Christ's command to love God and love our neighbor (Mark 12:30-31).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the California-Pacific Annual Conference will empower the elected delegations of the 2016 and 2020 General / Jurisdictional Conferences to proactively coordinate and lead our Annual Conference's envisioning of a new, inclusive form of Methodism. The team will draft concrete proposals that among other values support all persons having the opportunity to enter into marriage and to fully serve as laity and clergy regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, marital status or differing abilities. In addition, this team will assess the consequences of those proposals – organizationally, economically, and spiritually, which includes how the California-Pacific Annual Conference may disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, coordinating its efforts in concert with other Annual Conferences, coalitions and working groups throughout the church. Regular progress reports will be presented and provided to the Annual Conference and beyond.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the California-Pacific Annual Conference direct the staff of the California-Pacific Annual Conference to translate this resolution into those languages used within worship in the California-Pacific Annual Conference and into the official languages of the General Conference; electronically send copies and translations to all annual conferences of the United Methodist Church; and post links to this resolution and its translations on the California-Pacific Annual Conference's website.