

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE UMC

*Submitted by John Reynolds, member of First United Methodist Church San Rafael,
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Our various United Methodist Annual Conferences, Jurisdictions and Central Conferences have delivered, acted forth the faith, done the work of the UMC as it seemed fit for them in their various parts of the U.S. national and world geography where they were located.

Yet at UMC General Conference sessions, various ones of us have insisted that their ways of and living the faith and being the church must be taken up by the whole church.

These insistences, from whatever corners of the church, have been causes for dissension, conflict, mistrust, dysfunction in the church, and have lately given rise to proposals for church separation.

To avoid such separation and to provide for church unity that includes all its diversity, we need a Way Forward not only on human sexuality but a Way Forward on church structure that allows us to function as a truly diverse, but connectional and world-wide, church.

The suggestion put forward by the Northeast Jurisdiction for the church is for a Regionally Autonomous Still Connectional church structure. Such a church would have 4 Connectional Conferences of churches in Africa, Europe, Philippines and the United States, with their own Books of Discipline, with their own every-4-year Gathering Times where they would work on the concerns, issues, and priorities important to them in their parts of the world and then would have these 4 Connectional Conferences coming together as a Global Church Conference the same 4th year to share the work they've been doing in their own parts of the world and address with one another truly global issues.

Therefore, be it resolved that the California Nevada Annual Conference supports consideration by the *Way Forward Commission* of the suggested Regionally Autonomous Still Connectional church structure, with reference to the **Concept for a Connectional Church Resolution** (Petition 60981 starting on page 467 of the *2016 General Conference Advanced Daily Christian Advocate*) put forward by the Northeast Jurisdiction at the 2016 General Conference session and including consideration for **Resolution on U.S. as a Central Conference** (Petition on page 412 of *2016 General Conference ADCA*) and **Resolution for a Standing Committee on U.S. Matters** (Petition 60220 on page 442 of *2016 General Conference ADCA*) as steps in the direction of such a church

1 structure.

2 **And, be it further resolved** that the California Nevada Conference Secretary send such notice of our
3 support to Annual Conferences in the United Methodist Church, to the Commission of the General
4 Conference, and to the General Conference Connectional Table for their consideration in writing
5 their own Statements of Support for a Regionally Autonomous Still Connectional Church.

6 **And, be it further resolved** that our Conference Secretary send notice of our resolution to the
7 General Church Council of Bishops as a suggestion that the proposal for the Regionally
8 Autonomous Still Connectional Church be included in what the Special Commission on *A Way*
9 *Forward* takes up.