

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS’
PROPOSAL *A WAY FORWARD***

*Submitted by Conference Committee on Reconciliation
11 CCOR members were asked to vote via email
6 yes; 0 no; 5 abstentions*

In May 2016 The United Methodist General Conference adopted the recommended plan authored by the Council of Bishops entitled *A Way Forward*, and deferred consideration of all legislation related to human sexuality before the 2016 General Conference;

A Way Forward provides that the Council of Bishops shall appoint a special Commission “to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality” and that the Council of Bishops will “maintain an on-going dialogue with this Commission” and that if they complete their work in time, report to a called General Conference before the regular 2020 General Conference;

The California-Nevada Annual Conference Committee on Reconciliation supports *A Way Forward*, and endorses the leadership of the Council of Bishops and the 2016 General Conference in its decision to address discrimination against lesbian and gay persons currently in the Book of Discipline;

The California-Nevada Annual Conference previously expressed its views on human sexuality in the following ways:

1. We are the only Annual Conference with an established Committee on Reconciliation;
2. Our Board of Ordained Ministry

We believe that Social Principle ¶161F, Book of Discipline Paragraphs ¶341.6 and ¶304.3, as well as other sections, conflict with the Constitution of the United Methodist church which provides that “all persons are of sacred worth,” and “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.”

Our United Methodist connection calls us to treat well-intentioned, well-reasoned differences of opinion with mutual respect rather than insisting upon a verdict or language that rejects one side or the other;

We acknowledge the critical importance of carrying out this historic process with the utmost of care, effectiveness, and timing. And, while we agree that establishing the details and naming the members of the Commission are paramount to overall success, we must also acknowledge the harm that grows with each passing day and the importance of preserving momentum and

45 collective trust that this new way forward will not ultimately result in failure as similar
 46 Commissions have in our past. We must not repeat past mistakes.

47

48 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California-Nevada Annual Conference, endorses *A*
 49 *Way Forward*, commits to being in continued prayer for the Council of Bishops and the
 50 Commission throughout the journey ahead, and encourages the Council of Bishops to do the
 51 following:

52

53 1. Name the members of the *A Way Forward* Commission as soon as possible but no later
 54 than August 1, 2016 and require that the first Commission meeting be convened within
 55 60 days of the Commission members being appointed;

56

OR

57

Name the members of the *A Way Forward* Commission on or before a date that allows
 58 for the first official meeting of the Commission to be convened before the end of this
 59 calendar year, 2016.

60

61 2. Among the members of the Commission, include self-identifying LGBTQI persons so
 62 that such voices will be represented in what will otherwise be a conversation about
 63 LGBTQI persons by heterosexual persons identifying with their gender assigned at birth.
 64 Such a conversation will lack integrity if LGBTQI voices are not included;

65

66 3. Authorize and encourage the Commission to seek out and invite established experts to
 67 provide information as needed.

68

69 4. Provide a forum for the Commission to receive input from individual churches and
 70 members, perhaps through and with the cooperation of the Annual Conferences.

71

72 5. Report to the Annual Conferences at least once each quarter on the progress of the work
 73 of the Commission;

74

75 6. Provide a final report at least two months in advance of any called General Conference
 76 that shall take up any necessary legislation to implement the recommendations of the
 77 Commission;

78

79 7. Provide continued leadership and a commitment to unity during this interim and
 80 vulnerable period, agreeing to a moratorium on the processing of any current or future
 81 complaints related to Discipline paragraphs having to do with human sexuality until the
 82 General Conference is reconvened.

83

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Secretary convey our resolutions in a letter
 85 to the President of the Council of Bishops.