

South Central Jurisdiction Conference 2022
Resolution 22-03

**QUEER DELEGATES' CALL TO CENTER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
FOR LGBTQIA+¹ PEOPLE IN THE UMC**

Resolution to the 2022 South Central Jurisdictional Conference

Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and

Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,² by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and

Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God, and

Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church,

Therefore be it resolved that the 2022 South Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community in our Jurisdiction, within and beyond our churches and agencies;
2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference, as referenced above, until changes can be made in The United Methodist Book of Discipline.
3. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;

4. Urges that as a Jurisdiction we either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against Bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;

5. Supports the election of episcopal leaders who commit to upholding this resolution and who will further justice for and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ people in the annual conferences where they serve;

6. Commits to a future of The United Methodist Church where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church in our Jurisdiction, including as laity, ordained clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards and agencies.

Submitted by the following queer delegates from the South Central Jurisdiction:

Jesi Lipp, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, South Central
Adam Philley, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, South Central
Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, South Central

Support by the following queer delegates from other Jurisdictions:

Walker Brault, Reserve Delegate, North Central
Bill Brownson, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Britt Cox, Reserve Delegate, North Central
Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Gregory Gross, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Alberto Hidalgo, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, North Central
Fred Lewis, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Bobbi Ruddock, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, North Central
Hannah Bonner, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern Ann Craig,
Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Claire Holston, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Jorge Lockward, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Effie McAvoy, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
J.J. Warren, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Leo Yates, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Jessica Barber Scott, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Matt Dailey, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Mark Elder, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Rushing Kimball, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern

Antony Larry, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Caleb Parker, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Helen Ryde, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Derrick Scott III, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Rye Standifer, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Austin Adkinson, Reserve Delegate, Western
John Angermayr, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Elizabeth Brick, General Conference Delegate, Western
Cedrick Bridgeforth, General Conference Delegate, Western
Megan Burg, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Becca Cramer-Mowder, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Rev Mary Klaehn, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Randall Miller, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Jan Nelson, General Conference Delegate, Western
Kylie Nelson, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Kristin Stoneking, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Jason Takagi, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Phillip Valdes, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Kathleen Weber, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western
Wendy Woodworth, General Conference Delegate, Western
Frank Wulf, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Western

1. As delegates, we choose to describe ourselves using the umbrella term “queer,” but refer to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

2. “Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop’s supervisory response, suspension proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of Discipline violation asserted in the complaint is that the respondent is a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’ (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted, officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or appointed a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’; that the respondent has provided ‘funds to any gay caucus or group’ or used funds ‘to promote the acceptance of homosexuality’; or that the respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church currently states is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching’ as it pertains to LGBTQ relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶ 2702.1b, but also to any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) ‘immorality’ under ¶ 2702.1a; ‘disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1d; and ‘dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following paragraphs: ¶ 161, ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2, ¶ 341.6, ¶ 613.19, ¶ 806.9, and ¶ 2702.1b. This moratorium does not apply to charges under any of these provisions in which the underlying alleged actions address a different subject matter, including but not limited to sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the close of the first General Conference of The United Methodist Church after other denominations separate. Any complaints pertaining to this paragraph filed during this period shall be held in abeyance, and no time limits shall commence until the above-referenced General Conference has concluded.” -From the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation