

## RESOLUTIONS

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### **Clergy for Inclusion**

WHEREAS the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has acknowledged that the church is “not of one mind” on the full inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people in the life of the church (*Council of Bishops’ Statement, October 23, 2013*); and

WHEREAS last year the Tennessee Conference resolved to “commit to respectful dialogue about issues on which we disagree” and “support our bishop and Conference leaders to facilitate such a dialogue;” and,

WHEREAS the Murfreesboro District (Tennessee Conference), Paducah District (Memphis Conference), and Paris District (Memphis Conference), have taken the first steps in facilitating such dialogue among clergy; and

WHEREAS such dialogue must be done intentionally and requires time for processing and relationship-building,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that along with the Tennessee Conference, the Memphis Conference calls upon all lay and clergy persons to commit to participate respectfully in opportunities for dialogue as they are offered; and

RESOLVED that our bishop and district superintendents offer opportunities for dialogue, learning from the example of the districts that have already begun this work; and

RESOLVED that each district will participate in such dialogue in the next twelve months.

Respectfully submitted,  
Memphis Conference Clergy for Inclusion

### **Reading Program for Public Schools**

At the Spiritual Life Retreat for the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences the following resolution was proposed:

Be it resolved that every church, missional agency, and campus ministry in the Memphis Conference shall be encouraged to be engaged in a reading program at a public elementary school, preferably working with kindergarten through third grade, but not limited to these grades. This program may be as simple as one church member going to one school to work with one child who is having difficulty learning to read or as elaborate as the school and the church, missional agency, and campus ministry want or are able to make it. The program will cost nothing in dollars and cents unless the church, missional agency, or campus ministry chooses to provide books. It will take time and involvement with children and teachers. There are many advantages, but one that was lifted up is that by the third grade it is predictable which children will be imprisoned at some time in their lives due to the inability to read. A report on the program will be included at Charge Conference or in agency or campus ministry reports. We especially encourage linking in with Partner Today and Project Transformation.

Presented by Rev. Gail Gaddie, convener for Group 24.

### **Memphis Annual Conference Journal**

I move to have the published hardcopy in the hands of the district offices within 120 days of the end of the Memphis Annual Conference and that all materials be accessible online as soon as available. The website states that not all material is accessible online at the present time. That printed copies be limited to those needed by the conference and for archival purposes. Additional printed copies are to be made available to individuals at cost, plus postage and handling.

Should the journal not be published as stated above a deduction of 10% for each 30 day delay will be assessed. However, should the journal be published prior to the above date a "bonus" of 10% will be awarded.

Anne Richards

### **Standing Rules Policies and Procedures**

"Be it resolved that the Memphis Annual Conference authorizes a comprehensive review of the all MAC standing rules, policies, procedures, and standards pertaining to all entities of the conference to be conducted jointly by the Committee on Standing Rules and the MAC Extended Cabinet for the purpose of simplifying, updating, organizing, and aligning the same to the stated mission, core values, and focus areas of the conference. (See mission, core values, and focus areas adopted 2014) This review will entail bringing forward and revising rules, policies, procedures, and standards adopted by previous sessions of the annual conference. The Committee on Standing Rules will report the findings and recommendations of this review to the 2016 session of the MAC."

Dr. David Russell