

Supporting UMC NEXT

Rationale: An opportunity for the Great Plains Annual Conference to affirm the work of UMC Next.

Whereas More than 600 United Methodist leaders from every Annual Conference in the United States met May 20-22, 2019 at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection for an event entitled, UMC Next, that explored responses to the Traditional Plan adopted by the 2019 General Conference.

Whereas There was a clear consensus from the centrists and progressives in attendance about four commitments essential to the future of the church.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Great Plains Annual Conference formally adopts the statement and four commitments of UMC Next:

“We believe these commitments are essential to a hope-filled future for the global Methodist movement as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world:”

1. We long to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, experience and reason as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.
2. We commit to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.

3. We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.
4. We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That the Great Plains Annual Conference encourages every local church to have an open dialogue about the actions of the 2019 General Conference, the Traditional Plan, and these four commitments of the Annual Conference.

Implemented By: 2019 Great Plains Annual Conference

Date: May 27, 2019

Signature: _____

Submitted By: **The Great Plains Annual Conference representatives to UMC Next:**

Lora Andrews, clergy

John Lee, laity

Bob Cox, laity

Amy Lippoldt, clergy

Erynn Kuehl, laity

David Livingston, clergy

Junius Dotson, clergy

Debra McKnight, clergy

Steve Eginoire, laity

Nanette Roberts, clergy

Dan Entwistle, laity

Brian Sutton, laity

Adam Hamilton, clergy

Julie Wilke, laity

Mark Holland, clergy