

Action Item wc116: Resolution Supporting Gender Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and the Sacred Worth of Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Diverse People.

Submitted by:

Rev. Doug Clement, Rev. Breanna Illéné, Rev. Ben Morris, Rev. Caleb McGregor, Rev. Ellen Rasmussen, Rev. Allie Scott, and Rev. Ben Weger.

Conference Action: **Adopted, 462 yes's to 5 no's**

Whereas, Scripture affirms that God said, *“Let us make humankind in our image”* (Genesis 1:26) and that *“in the image of God they were created”* (Genesis 1:27), which claims the inherent dignity of every person; and Jesus proclaims in John 10:10, *“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly,”* which reveals God’s desire for every person to flourish without fear, exclusion, or harm; *and*

Whereas, [our United Methodist] Social Principles recognize that *“gender minorities are disproportionately impacted by social stigmas, discrimination, coercion and violence, we call on churches, governments, businesses, and civic organizations to do all in their power to combat such unjust treatment and to promote equal rights and protections for all”* (Social Principles, The Political Community, Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities); *and*

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has approved an amendment to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of its Constitution to add the categories of “gender” and “ability” so that the Constitution now reads: *“All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection”* (United Methodist Constitution, Paragraph 4, Article 4); *and*

Whereas through baptism we are incorporated into Christ’s holy Church, made one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, and are called to recognize the sacred worth, dignity, and belovedness of every person as children of God; *and*

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Annual Conference support civil rights protections for transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse people in employment, housing, education, healthcare, and public accommodations, within our organizations and as a matter of public policy; *and*

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Annual Conference supports *The Book of Discipline* in affirming that gender identity is not a barrier to candidacy, ordination, or appointment for clergy, nor to employment for lay people within the Wisconsin Annual Conference and its churches; *and*

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wisconsin Annual Conference call upon its members, congregations, and ministries to actively oppose discrimination against transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse people and to advocate for their equal protection, dignity, and full participation in society, as an expression of Christian discipleship and faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

This resolution was brought to the floor of the plenary session at this year's annual conference by Pastor Doug on Sun., June 7th. There were many speeches for, none against, and passed overwhelmingly by the body.

The purpose of this resolution is, at least, two-fold:

*(1) To show our collective support for a group of individuals so marginalized that the current government *literally* defines them [transgender individuals], and their supporters [like you and me], as terrorists!*

(2) It specifically includes trans/non-binary/gender-diverse individuals in the definition of the generic term of "gender."



1. This is the house of God. This is the gate of heav-en.
 2. Live in the house of God. Live at the gate of heav-en.
 3. You are the house of God. You are the gate of heav-en.



This is a ho - ly place. You are al - ways wel-come.
 Live in a ho - ly place. You are al - ways wel-come.
 You are a ho - ly place. I am al - ways wel-come.



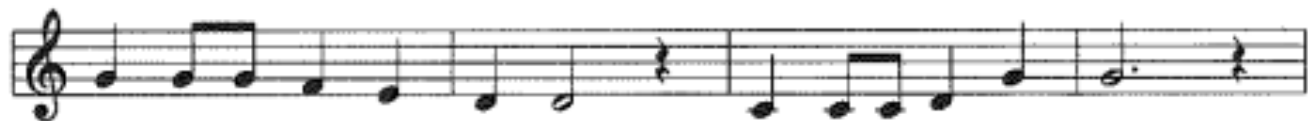
Trust and know I'm al - ways with you through all chan - ges
 You are al - ways pre - cious to me. You are al - ways
 Through your tears and through your cour - age, through all tri - als



and all sea - sons. When you wake and when you're sleep - ing.
 per - fect to me. Stop your wor - ry, your ex - cus - es.
 and all sto - ries. Cra - dled in my arms please hear me.



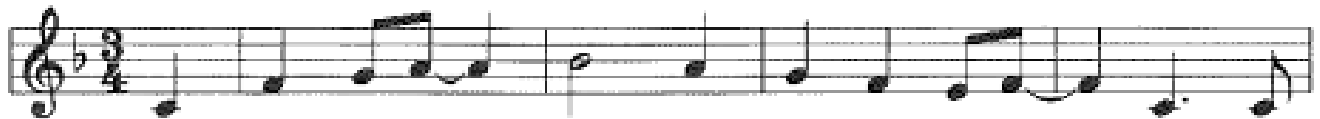
All is well. All is well. You are the house of God.
 All is well.



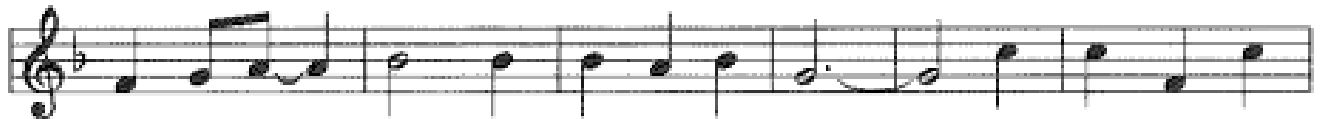
You are the gate of heav-en. You are a ho - ly place.



I am al - ways wel-come. This is the house of God.



1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, for
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, re -
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, a -
 5. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to

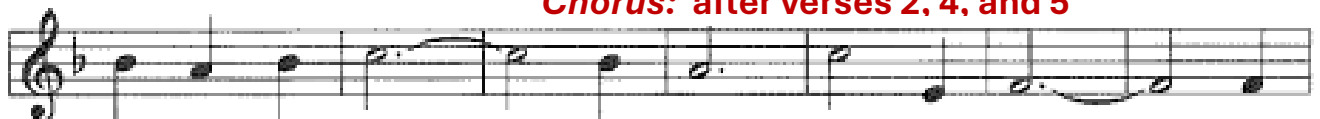


ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread, — a shel - ter, a
 vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, — with wis - dom and
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, — the hands of a
 bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, — in an - ger, in
 live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be, — to work, to speak



space, a safe place for grow - ing, for ev - ery - one born, a
 grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for wom - an and man, a
 child in hands that are wrin - kled, for young and for old, the
 hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for just and un - just, a
 out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - ery - one born, the

Chorus: after verses 2, 4, and 5



star o - ver - head. _____ }
 sys - tem that's fair. _____ }
 right to be - long. _____ } And God will de - light _____ when
 new way to live. _____ }
 right to be free. _____ }



we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes, God will de -



light _____ when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, _____



jus - tice and joy! _____