

# **2010 Resolutions as approved by the North Carolina Annual Conference, June 11, 2010**

## **An Appeal to Stop Human Trafficking in North Carolina**

WHEREAS there is a growing recognition that human trafficking is one of the great human rights of injustice of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS more women, young girls, and little girls are forced into sexual slavery annually than slaves were transported to the New World at the peak of the transatlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS it is impossible to know exactly how many are being sold and forced into prostitution every year; and

WHEREAS the numbers cited in a comprehensive United Nations report from February 2009 on human trafficking are staggering; and

WHEREAS the world's numbers range from 20,000 to 50,000 each year; and

WHEREAS 79% of human trafficking is for sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS those sold into prostitution become mere cheaply sold livestock and many are treated worse than animals; and

WHEREAS many choose to be silent about their rapes and find it very difficult to speak against their sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS their numbers serve as a terrifying testimony to the lack of legal action against their abusers; and

WHEREAS implementation of humanitarian laws that already exist are rarely enforced;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our annual conference become a major and vital voice to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2010 Annual Conference calls upon our state and local law enforcement officials to enforce the laws that already exist to help abolish human trafficking in our state by fighting and upholding the legal action against all sexual abusers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Conference Secretary send a copy of this resolution to our State Attorney General; the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission; and to North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys.

Addresses:

The Governor's Crime Commission  
1201 Front Street, Suite 200  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Attorney General's Office  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys  
901 Corporate Center Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27607-5045

## **We Will Not Discriminate**

WHEREAS when our predecessors framed the United Methodist Church, they built the characteristic of inclusiveness and human rights into our church constitution, and

WHEREAS “inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community and the world; therefore, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination.” [Paragraph 139, 2008 *Discipline*], and

WHEREAS “the mark of an inclusive society is one in which all persons are open, welcoming, fully accepting, and supportive of all other persons, enabling them to participate fully in the life of the church, the community and the world.” [Paragraph 139, 2008 *Discipline*], and

WHEREAS “we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against gays and lesbians.” [Paragraph 162-J, *Social Principles*], and

WHEREAS “we insist that all persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured.” [Paragraph 161-F, *Social Principles*], and

WHEREAS there are those in our worldwide church who have argued that all non-heterosexuals should be excluded from membership in the church, and

WHEREAS recently, some Christian and world government leaders have promoted legislation that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people should be imprisoned or killed for their sexual identity, and

WHEREAS the growing number of people around the world condoning and participating in violent attacks and murder of non-heterosexual people often cite the Bible as a driving motivator and/or justification for their hate-filled actions.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we now must speak out, before God, the church and the world, to insist that this type discrimination and attack on the human and civil rights of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender brothers and sisters is immoral and contrary to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference covenants to honor our United Methodist tradition of inclusiveness, protect the human and civil rights of all people, and stand against these forms of discrimination in the life of the local church, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS: As United Methodists we are baptized and initiated into the body of Christ by water and the Spirit. Through the vows taken and renewed at every baptism, we accept the freedom and power God gives us to reject evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. In confession of Jesus Christ as our Savior we promise to serve him in union with people of all ages, nations, and races. (UMH 34)

WHEREAS: Scripture mandates that we welcome the stranger until we see the stranger as our neighbor. The Hebrew Bible tells us, "When strangers sojourn in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:34)

WHEREAS: The North Carolina Annual Conference 2006 approved the resolution Care for Immigrants advocating for the new immigrants.

WHEREAS: The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church on May 2009 made public a Statement on the U.S. Immigration Situation advocating for a Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

WHEREAS: The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2009-2012 addresses on paragraph H) Rights for Immigrants: We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and the struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. (*Social Principles 27*)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urges the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. Secretary of State to make adoption of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform an urgent priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls to affirm and remind the church through the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Communications and the General Board of Church and Society, the position of The United Methodist Church regarding the rights of refugees and immigrants, and the deep desire of undocumented persons to seek a better life in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon local churches to seek ways to welcome, assist, and empower the refugee, immigrant, visitors, and undocumented persons in their neighborhood including advocacy and support for undocumented persons in finding a legal path to citizenship, and to denounce the persecution of the sojourner in the United States and their nations of origin as contrary to the spirit of individual freedom and radical hospitality that our Lord and our national heritage proclaim.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to request that immediately upon adoption by the North Carolina Annual Conference 2010, the Secretary of the North Carolina Conference will send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Secretary of State, the North Carolina Governor, the North Carolina General Assembly and all the local United Methodist churches in its area.