

RESOLUTION 3

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-H, 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-G, Social Principles], and

Whereas there are those in our worldwide church who have argued that all non-heterosexual and non-gender-conforming people should be excluded from membership in the church, and

Whereas recently, some Christian and world government leaders have promoted legislation that would require Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people to be imprisoned or killed solely for their sexual and gender identity, and

Whereas the growing number of people around the world condoning and participating in violent attacks and murder of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender 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 every form of discrimination in life of the church, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Ryan Rowe, Member of Avent Ferry United Methodist

