

Resolution on Racial Consciousness

The Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

Whereas people of African descent have been a part of Methodism since its inception in America, and

Whereas the issue of slavery caused a split in the Methodist Episcopal Church during the 1844 General Conference thereby creating the Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church South, and

Whereas the United Methodist Church came into existence in the Uniting Conference of 1968 through the merger with the United Evangelical Brethren and the dissolving of the segregated structure known as the Central Jurisdiction to form one body of Methodism, and

Whereas at this conference, Mae Gray, Mollie Steward, the Rev. Joseph Lowry, and a host of others raised concern over the dilemma of leadership participation resulting from the numerical disadvantage of African Americans ability to select leaders, and

Whereas the work of racism and reconciliation requires intentionality and has historically involved clergy leadership from all ethnic minority groups and particularly African-American women and women of color, and

Whereas in the 52 years since the Uniting Conference, the Central Texas Conference has not had an African-American Clergywoman nor any clergywoman of color serve in a major leadership position within its governing body, nor have other ethnic minorities groups had places of leadership where their voices are heard,

Therefore, be it resolved that members of the cabinet, orders of elders and deacon, district and conference lay leaders of the Central Texas Conference will seek to engage a conscious awareness of the absence of African-American clergywomen, clergywomen of color, and members of ethnic minority groups whose voices are unheard in leadership, and

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Be it further resolved that such consciousness shall lead to action and partnership with the General Commission on Religion and Race, leading to an annual conference leadership that more reflects the breadth and depth of God's mission to the world and the hope of those who participated in the 1968 merger. Let this work begin here and now.

Respectfully submitted,
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