

**RESOLUTION
TRANSPARENCY OF USAGE OF FUNDS
USED FOR CLERGY TRIALS
June 9, 2019**

WHEREAS for decades the Central Texas Annual Conference (CTC) has been focused on innovative mission and ministry and,

WHEREAS our congregations have been persistently encouraged by Bishop Michael Lowry and the CTC cabinet to focus on our mission field and context of ministry and,

WHEREAS our desire as an Annual Conference is to be leaders in creative and innovative mission and ministry and,

WHEREAS based on historical data we are aware that the expense of clergy investigations and trials devour valuable resources, perhaps as much as \$40,000 to \$100,000¹ each for conducting said trial (pending duration, area, venue, attorney fees, presiding bishop fees, and not including the loss of clergy work hours in the local church for serving in trials), and,

WHEREAS currently those expenses will be passed on to the churches of the Annual Conference by levying future apportionments or the consumption of mission and ministry dollars by using reserve funds,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the CTC *desires* to spend no apportionment funds, mission or ministry budget dollars, nor reserved funds for such trials.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that, so far as confidentiality permits, the CTC will be transparent in the use of financial resources for trials and will place a line item in the CTC budget that estimates the cost of anticipated clergy misconduct investigations resulting in trials for the upcoming year; and that delineates the actual cost of clergy trials for the preceding year.

Respectfully Submitted,

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¹ Number is approximate, based on information obtained from GCFA, 060319. VOB