

1 **Resolution to Affiliate with the Western Jurisdiction**

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3 *As per Baltimore-Washington Conference Rule Para. 3006.2.c, this resolution was reviewed by*
4 *the Conference Secretary and was found inconsistent with the current Book of Discipline.*

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6 **Submitted By:** Rev. Debbie Scott and Rev. Angela Flanagan, Co-Chairs Advocacy
7 Committee for the BWARM Steering Committee

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9 **Whereas:** in 2014 the Baltimore-Washington Conference passed a resolution to
10 “commit itself to work for the full civil and ecclesiastical rights and privileges of all
11 persons, including LGBT persons;” [i] and

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13 **Whereas:** in 2018 the Baltimore-Washington Conference passed a resolution
14 encouraging “the adoption of a proposal by the Special Session of the General
15 Conference in Feb. 2019 that would allow for the full inclusion of persons of all gender
16 identities and sexual orientations when it comes to matters of, but not limited to,
17 marriage, performing marriages, and ordination;” [ii] and

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19 **Whereas:** the Special Session of the General Conference in Feb. 2019 passed the
20 Traditional Plan that reinforces exclusionary polity rather than working towards full
21 inclusion and whereas Judicial Council found significant portions of it constitutional and
22 enforceable; and

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24 **Whereas:** the Western Jurisdiction has already been functioning as an inclusive church
25 and has stated that they cannot and will not comply with the actions of the Special
26 Session of General Conference 2019; [iii] and

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28 **Whereas:** the Western Jurisdiction has declared its intention “to continue to be one
29 church, fully inclusive and open to all God’s children, across the theological and social
30 spectrum;” [iv] and

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32 **Whereas:** the Western Jurisdiction has named its desire to be a “home for all God’s
33 people” and have specifically stated it will provide “a Safe Harbor for clergy in our
34 conferences as well as across the connection who face the threat of complaints and/or
35 the loss of credentials because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or
36 ministry with and for our LGBTQIA+ siblings;”[v] and

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38 **Whereas:** the Western Jurisdiction is in fruitful conversation and partnerships with
39 others who are seeking a new future for the UMC, including but not limited to the UMC-
40 Next Gathering and the UMForward gathering; and

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42 **Whereas:** the Western Jurisdiction’s vision, practice, and future are more in line with
43 the statements already made by the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference;
44 therefore

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46 **Be it resolved:** that the Baltimore-Washington Conference shall disaffiliate with The
47 United Methodist Church and shall afterward affiliate with the Western Jurisdiction.

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49 [i] 2014 Baltimore-Washington Conference Journal, pg 591

50 [ii] 2018 Baltimore-Washington Conference Journal, pg 512

51 [iii] <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/as-we-make-our-way-back-home/>

52 [iv] Western Jurisdiction Statement on the floor of the Special General Conference,
53 Donna Pritchard

54 [v] <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/as-we-make-our-way-back-home/>