

1 **18-Resolution to Affiliate with the Western Jurisdiction**

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

4 **Submitted By:** Rev. Debbie Scott and Rev. Angela Flanagan, Co-Chairs Advocacy Committee
5 for the BWARDM Steering Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 [i] 2014 Baltimore-Washington Conference Journal, p. 591

34 [ii] 2018 Baltimore-Washington Conference Journal, p. 512

- 35 [iii] <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/as-we-make-our-way-back-home/>
- 36 [iv] Western Jurisdiction Statement on the floor of the Special General Conference, Donna
- 37 Pritchard
- 38 [v] <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/as-we-make-our-way-back-home/>
- 39 *The Connectional Table voted non-concurrence on this resolution.*