

1 **19-A Resolution on the Constitutionality of Discipline Paragraph 304.3**

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. Jackson Day

5 **Whereas:** Paragraph 304.3 of the 2016 Discipline states ““The practice of homosexuality is
6 incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to
7 be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist
8 Church;” and

9 **Whereas:** This provision clearly bases the required action on its incorporated statement of
10 claimed Christian teaching; and

11 **Whereas:** no such doctrine or teaching is stated in Paragraph 104 of the United Methodist
12 Constitution (Section 3 – Our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules) which includes the
13 Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United
14 Brethren Church, and the General Rules of the Methodist Church, and other constitutionally
15 protected doctrines of the United Methodist church; and

16 **Whereas:** the Constitution, Paragraph 59, Article 1, provides a process by which new doctrines
17 which override the Restrictive Clauses can be adopted in the UMC, requiring a two-third vote of
18 the General Conference at which the new doctrine is proposed and a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of all the
19 members of all the Annual Conferences present and voting; and

20 **Whereas:** this doctrinal statement in Paragraph 304.3 was not approved as a standard or rule of
21 doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine as an amendment
22 to the UMC constitution when it was first adopted in 1972 or in any subsequent year, nor were
23 the members of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference or any Annual Conference
24 afforded their constitutionally-protected right to vote on such an establishment of a new doctrine;
25 therefore

26 **Be it resolved:** the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference affirms that Paragraph 304.3 and
27 all other paragraphs of the 2016 and previous Disciplines based upon this or reflecting this
28 paragraph, including Paragraphs 161G, 341.6, 613.19, 806.9, and 2702.1b, are and have been,
29 null and void from the beginning; and

30 **Be it further resolved:** that all prior actions of the Baltimore-Washington Conference conducted
31 in observance of this paragraph, may be reviewed and revised in the context of this affirmation;
32 and

33 **Be it further resolved:** that the Baltimore-Washington Conference, in recognition of the
34 unconstitutionality which we perceive this paragraph has, shall not treat this paragraph as a
35 legitimate clause of the Discipline, or acknowledge its existence in our proceedings and actions.

36 **Background – Quotations from Discipline:**

37 161G Social Principle: “The United Methodist church does not condone the practice of
38 homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

39 304.3 Ordination. “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.
40 Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as
41 ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church.

42 341.6, Unauthorized Conduct. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be
43 conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

44 613.19 Council on Finance and Administration (and 806.9, General Council on Finance and
45 Administration). “No annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall
46 give United Methodist Funds to any gay caucus or group or otherwise use such funds to promote
47 the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC “not to reject
48 or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. The council shall have the right to stop such
49 expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Council’s ministry in response to the HIV
50 epidemic, not shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church’s
51 official position is fairly and equally represented.”

52 2702.1b Charges. “practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with
53 Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual, or
54 conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding
55 ceremonies.”

56 *The Connectional Table voted non-concurrence on this resolution.*