

1 **17-Resolution to Use Conference Funds to Support LGBTQIA+ Faithful and**
2 **Their Allies**

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

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

7 **Whereas:** the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference has a tradition of adopting resolutions
8 in the past supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

9 **Whereas:** we are especially concerned about the rising suicide rate of LGBTQIA+ youth and
10 young adults; and

11 **Whereas:** the BWC Discipleship Council adopted a vision Statement in response to legislation
12 enacted during the 2019 General Conference that includes, "We dream and work for a
13 church that acts now, not later, in accordance with Scripture, with the Articles of Religion, with
14 the Confession of Faith, with the General Rules, and with the Constitution of The
15 United Methodist Church. We will adhere faithfully to the legislative enactments of the General
16 Conference, but only insofar as our consciences permit us to conclude that such legislation is
17 consistent with those higher authorities;" and

18 **Whereas:** the first of the General Rules is to do no harm; therefore

19 **Be it resolved:** that it be aspirational that section ¶ 613.19 of the Book of Discipline, which
20 prohibits the use of annual conference funds from going to "any gay caucus or group or
21 otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality," would be considered
22 nonbinding within the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

23 *The Connectional Table voted concurrence on this resolution.*