

Resolution Concerning Church World Service Network

Whereas, the United Methodist Church in its Social Principles (162H) states, “We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all,”; and

Whereas, in Exodus 22:21 (NRSV) God tells Moses, “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt,”; and

Whereas, the Sanctuary Movement, managed by the Church World Service (CWS), is a network of churches dedicated to, “providing spaces of sanctuary for individuals facing deportation or targeted by hate,”(CWS Global 2019) and building a network of congregations offering sanctuary, faith organizing in local communities, digital storytelling to document the experiences of impacted people groups and organizing events and protests; and

Whereas, providing Sanctuary to an immigrant involves either a temporary or long term commitment to house that individual on the premises of a church, with support from the congregation in providing food and basic living supplies for that individual; and

Whereas, a woman in Chapel Hill, North Carolina was fined over \$300,000 in early July of 2019 for seeking Sanctuary in a church to avoid deportation, a historically respected legal precedent (Charlotte Observer); and

Whereas, several sections of the United Methodist Church have already come out in public support of Sanctuary networks, including Bishop Hagiya of the California-Pacific Conference who stated, “We are actively working, within the Cal-Pac Conference, to grow, train, and equip our network of Sanctuary Churches, our ‘No Estan Solos’ Refugee Welcome Centers, our Cal-Pac Neighborhood Immigration Clinics, our Immigrant Welcoming Congregations Network, and our Border Ministries Team. We are also committed to strengthening our cooperative work with our interfaith and community partners as we all join together in a broad based Sanctuary Movement.” (California-Pacific Conference 2019); and

Whereas, the North Carolina Conference Youth recognize that the decision about participation in this network should ultimately fall on the shoulders of the local pastor, given each church’s unique situation, building, and members.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, advocate for the participation in this network of churches wherever possible by North Carolina Churches across the state, and for the adoption of all procedure membership in this network entails;

Therefore, be it further resolved that we as a body encourage local youth groups and individuals to fundraise and support these efforts and the families that they protect, aiding churches in providing the basic supplies a family might need, starting with churches that are currently supporting such individuals; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that we as a body call on the United Methodist Church to condemn the attempts of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), to drive individuals out of sanctuary, and recognize the myriad of reasons that it might be important for someone who entered the country illegally, or has not had a permit renewed, might need to stay, such as family illness, children in the United States, or danger in their home country; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that this resolution be submitted for consideration to the 2020 North Carolina Annual Conference and call on the Conference to send this resolution to each district superintendent, pastor-in-charge, and laity member of the North Carolina Conference; and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that this resolution be sent to every legislative office of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Congressional offices of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, the offices of Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, The North Carolina Governor's office, the President of the United States, and the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Resolution Concerning Habitat Destruction for New Church Building Creation

Whereas, when new churches, or new existing church buildings, are built to correspond to North Carolina's growing population, they require land to operate; and

Whereas, in order to create a safe, structurally sound building, acts such as tree removal and habitat destruction may occur (habitat destruction as defined as causing a previously existing ecosystem to no longer be effective); and

Whereas, trees and other vegetation take in Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouse gases and produce Oxygen in return, therefore assisting humans in our common desire to live and breathe; and

Whereas, according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016)* Paragraph 160 Section D, "United Methodists have a responsibility to be good stewards of the Earth and reduce Earth's greenhouse gas emissions,"; and

Whereas, clearing trees and habitats for church creation, albeit necessary, is not in accordance with the ideals of the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, new churches creating community gardens (which could be used to feed local food-insecure citizens), planting native trees that both beautify the church's land and don't raise safety concerns, or simply beginning a partnership with a local nature park all would allow for the unfortunate reality of building a new church to be reconciled by creating a fresh atmosphere of stewardship and sustainability.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, encourage any new building endeavor by North Carolina United Methodist Churches that require habitat destruction or the clearing of trees to replace the ecological value that was removed by creating community gardens, planting native trees, working with their local parks and recreation committees, etc.; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that this resolution be submitted for consideration by the 2020 North Carolina Annual Conference and call on the Conference to send this resolution to every District Superintendent and pastor-in-charge; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Executive Director of New Faith Communities Greg Moore, and Communications Director Derek Leek.

Resolution Concerning House Bill 28 in the North Carolina General Assembly

Whereas, nine states have passed laws that ban abortion after six to eight weeks, eighteen weeks, and no abortions at all; and

Whereas, six of the nine states (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri, and Ohio) offer no exceptions for rape or incest; and

Whereas, proposed North Carolina House Bill 28 (NC H28) would ban abortions after 13 weeks and only allow abortions in the case of a medical emergency, with no exception for incest or rape; and

Whereas, ¶161K of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016)* states “we recognize tragic conflicts with life that may justify abortion, in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers,”; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* protects a woman's right to choose an abortion and is protected by the privacy rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (Planned Parenthood Action); and

Whereas, in the Supreme Court case *Casey v Planned Parenthood*, a Pennsylvania law that required a woman to notify her husband was ruled as a “substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability,” (Oyez Organization); and

Whereas, during any stage of pregnancy, bans on safe procedures in a clinic will force women to have back-alley abortions and buy abortion pills from those who are not medical professionals which will put the woman’s life at risk; and

Whereas, within the 7.5 million children that have been reported to be abused in the United States, 74.9 percent of the victims are neglected, 18.3 percent are physically abused, 8.6 percent are sexually abused, and 7.1 percent are psychologically maltreated (American Society for the Positive Care of Children); and

Whereas, placing a ban on abortions will increase the abuse and neglect rate because parents will give birth to children they do not wish to have; and

Whereas, within the over 443,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, 1 in 5 will become homeless after age 18, only half will be employed by the age of 24, less than 3 percent will earn a college degree, 71 percent of young women will become pregnant by the age

of 21, and 1-in-4 will experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (FosterClub and Children's Rights Organization); and

Whereas, bans on abortion will increase these numbers, overcrowd group homes and foster care families, as well as increase the abuse within the foster care system which is in crucial need of repair.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge the General Assembly to vote against H28 and any bill presented to the General Assembly that places restrictions on abortion in our state; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that we as a body urge the House Committee on Health, the Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Committee on Homelessness, Foster Care, and Dependency to advocate against the passage of H28; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that we as a body encourage the North Carolina General Assembly to use their power to advocate for reproductive freedom in other states for reasons stated above; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the sponsors of this bill Rep. Keith Kidwell, Rep. Michael Speciale, Rep. Michele Presnell, the House Standing Committees on Health, the Committee on Health and Human Services, the Committee on Homelessness, Foster Care, and Dependency, the Senate Standing Committees on Health Care, and the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Resolution Concerning International Communication Between Conferences

Whereas the United Methodist Church's 2016 *Social Principles* state that, "We commit ourselves as a Church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another. We pledge ourselves to seek the meaning of the gospel in all issues that divide people and threaten the growth of world community"; and

Whereas in Matthew 28:19 (NIV), in the Great Commission Jesus instructs his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations", and Paul later states in Galatians 3:28 that in Jesus there is "no Gentile or Jew", indicating not that we should disregard national identity but that it should not limit those whom we interact with; and

Whereas relationships between the United Methodist Church in the United States and the Global United Methodist Church have been strained by the decisions made at General Conference and a lack of global communication; and

Whereas interpersonal love and understanding are far easier if they begin with a personal connection with an individual;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church begin to engage more proactively with the global church by reaching out to an international branch of the United Methodist Church in an attempt to partner youth up to get to know one another better; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we as a body further urge communication between individual youth is facilitated first by email, using online translation services such as Google Translate to aid in writing if necessary, with movements to Skype and Facetime as relationships grow; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the connection to the international conference would be facilitated by Conference Youth Council (CYC) and Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) leaders; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that though this connection would be facilitated by conference youth leadership initially, the conference would aspire for this program to grow beyond conference youth events to give individual youth groups who cannot attend the opportunity to engage in a similar activity; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to the office of the current and future Bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, the CYC of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, the North Carolina Conference Youth Leadership team and the Finance and Administration Agency of the North Carolina United Methodist Church.

Resolution Concerning Church Usage of Non-Disposable or Compostable Dishes

Whereas, ¶160I *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016)* states that we should, “place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world”, and states that, “We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect,”; and

Whereas, the many United Methodist Churches in the North Carolina Conference use disposable tableware during church events such as potlucks, community meals, fellowship hour, picnics and other church gatherings; and

Whereas, “plastic accumulating in landfills and the ocean [is] harmful to marine life and costly to deal with.” (Consumer News and Business Channel [CNBC], 2018); and

Whereas, the production of plastic cutlery produces large amounts of carbon dioxide, a harmful gas which aids in trapping heat within the atmosphere, enhancing the greenhouse effect (Conserve Energy Future, 2019); and

Whereas, disposable tableware cannot be recycled, even if it is paper because it had been contaminated with food waste (Sciencing, 2019); and

Whereas, washing dishes as a community can build relationships within the congregation.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, support the use of reusable or compostable dishes and silverware instead of the use of disposable dishes at local churches; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that we encourage United Methodist Churches to make the washing of reusable dishes a community activity, handled either by the community as a whole or by rotating groups of the community on a roster; and

Therefore be it further resolved, this resolution be considered for submission to the 2020 North Carolina Annual Conference and call on the Conference to send this resolution to every pastor-in-charge; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that this resolution be sent to the office of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Conference Council on Youth Ministry Chair Suzanne Cobb, the Youth Operations Team of the North Carolina Conference, and the Conference Youth Committee of the North Carolina Conference.

Resolution Concerning School Dress Codes in North Carolina

Whereas, in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline (2016)* ¶162F, it is stated, “We affirm the right of women to live free from violence and abuse and urge governments to enact policies that protect women against all forms of violence and discrimination in any sector of society”; and

Whereas, in Matthew 18:8-9, the Bible says “And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire,”; and

Whereas, many schools in North Carolina, such as Wayne County, have strict dress codes that state students are not permitted to wear dresses or shorts that are three inches above the knees or jeans with rips above the knees, as well as sleeveless and strapless tops; and

Whereas, many school dress codes use gendered language, such “girls must not wear spaghetti straps or show cleavage” due to the possibility of distracting students; and

Whereas, girlhood expert Shauna Pomerantz of Brock University says that “dress coding students for being distracting is a form of victim-blaming,” (National Education Association); and

Whereas, some schools send students home because of their clothing choice causes them to miss class and be called out in front of their peers, which in turn, has an impact on one’s education and mental health; and

Whereas, the enforcement of dress codes is typically sexist and prejudiced toward females, particularly towards women of color and women with varying body sizes, and contributes to the objectification of women.

Therefore be it resolved, that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge that North Carolina Public School Systems revise dress codes to be less restrictive and less sexist; and

Be it further resolved, that we urge school systems to reduce punishments for breaking dress codes; and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to the Wayne County Board of Education, the various chairs of school boards across NC, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson, and Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Educators Rachelle Johnson.

Resolution Concerning School Uniform Cost

Whereas, some schools claim that school uniforms are less expensive for parents, however, school uniforms generally mean an additional cost for parents who now have to purchase different types of clothing for their children to wear in and out of school (Classroom Synonym); and

Whereas, according to a statistic concerning uniform cost, some parents pay significantly more for school uniforms than they do for regular clothes, with a few outfits costing around an average of \$600; and

Whereas, “In spite of general affluence in the industrialized nations, the majority of persons in the world live in poverty.” (§163E in *The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2016-2020*); and,

Whereas, some uniforms have certain requirements that some parents may not be able to find at thrift or discount stores; and

Whereas, uniforms often emphasize socioeconomic divisions between students who can afford uniforms and those who can't; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge public and private schools to not enforce school uniforms so families will not have an additional financial burden to worry about; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the American Federation of Teachers Randi Weingarten, President of New Visions for Public Schools Robert Hughes, Mayor's Special Commission on Poverty Geoffrey Canada, Conrad Wolfram, Sal Khan, Secretary of the National Union of Teachers Kevin Courtney, all Board of Education members, and Bill and Melinda Gates.

Resolution Concerning the Crisis Plan and Counseling Team of North Carolina Conference Youth Events

Whereas, one in five teens and young adults live with a mental health condition such as depression or a form of anxiety (National Alliance on Mental Health); and

Whereas, stimuli that can cause a person to feel overwhelming stress, anxiety or panic is known as a trigger (Good Therapy Organization); and

Whereas, the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church Youth Events are deeper in theology and tend to discuss difficult and personal topics; and

Whereas, these discussions could possibly trigger an attendee and cause them to go into a potentially unsafe state of mind; and

Whereas, Paragraph 162 X of *The Book of Discipline (2016)* states "The United Methodist Church pledges to foster policies that promote compassion, advocate for access to care and eradicate stigma within the Church and in communities,"; and

Whereas, the adults of the North Carolina Conference Youth Events have created a "crisis plan" and counseling team and ACS 2019 was the first official announcement of the plan and team to youth attending a conference event.

Therefore, be it resolved that we the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge the Conference Council on Youth Ministries Chair (CCYM) or the overall deans of all conference events to announce such existence of the "crisis plan" and counseling teams during the initial announcements of the active conference youth event; and

Therefore be it further resolved, we further request that reminders of the "crisis plan" and counseling team be vocalized throughout the time of each conference youth event; and

Therefore be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the CCYM Chair Suzanne Cobb, the Deans of all North Carolina Conference Youth Events, every staff member of a North Carolina Conference Youth Event, and relay to future deans, CCYM chairs, and staff leaders in the years to come.

Resolution Concerning the Elimination of Tuition and Reformation of Student Loans for US Public Colleges and Universities

Whereas, on April 4, 2017, Senate Bill S. 806 was introduced in attempts to increase the accessibility of public colleges by eliminating tuition costs and reforming student loan processes; and

Whereas, this bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to establish grant programs that would have the federal government cover 67 percent of the cost, and the states' governments cover the remaining 33 percent- resulting in about \$750 billion in the following 10 years; and

Whereas, this money would be provided by taxing a small percent of financial transactions involving stocks, bonds, and derivatives; and

Whereas, this bill also provides that student loan interest rates be reduced from 4.32 percent to 2.32 percent, and current borrowers be refinanced according to the lower rates; and

Whereas, this bill would central the issue of the affordability of college in Washington, and decrease ways to effectively fight the cost of higher education in the long run; and

Whereas, in Sweden, where college tuition is free, the average student in 2013 still graduated with 124,000 kronor (or 19,000 US dollars) in debt (The Atlantic); and

Whereas, the elimination of tuition costs would result in many students gaining admission to schools they may not be equipped for, for free, therefore lowering the quality of college education and the competitiveness in college applicants; and

Whereas, Proverbs 13:22 (NIV) says, "A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous," instructing us to consider the repercussions of assuming such an appealing bill.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, call for Congress and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to vote against this bill in search of other methods to decrease the costs of higher education in the long run, while still maintaining its value and credibility; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Sponsor and Cosponsors of this bill, to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and North Carolina's Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr.

Resolution Concerning Treatment of Immigrant Minors

Whereas, the United Methodist Church states in Paragraph 162 H of the *2016 Social Principles* that, “We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all” and that “We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families,”; and

Whereas, in Leviticus 24:22 (NIV), we are instructed by God “You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.”; and

Whereas, recently, in our country, atrocities have been committed against our brothers and sisters at the border, including the separation of parents from their children, the holding of children and others in inhumane, cramped conditions, mass trials for those with limited English ability and persistent dehumanization of those held (The Atlantic, 2019); and

Whereas, our current administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are restricting humanitarian aid to the detention centers, meaning that the most direct path to change is via a change in policy (Time, 2019); and

Whereas, the Flores Agreement is a colloquial term for a supreme court case in 1997, *Reno v. Flores*, in which strict guidelines for the treatment of detained immigrant children were laid out, including the limit on child detainment at a restrictive facility to a period of 20 days, with requirement of legal action during that period (Just Security, 2018); and

Whereas, federal courts have ruled that both the Obama and Trump administration have been in violation of the Flores Agreement, as both groups have participated in the detainment of children for over 20 days in high-security facilities without legal council (Just Security, 2018); and

Whereas, the Trump Administration attempted to avoid conviction under the Flores Agreement through the process of family separation by holding parents indefinitely while holding children at a separate facility and has continued in violation of the Agreement’s clauses despite this as ruled by a federal court in July 2017 (NPR, 2019); and

Whereas, the Republican Party has attempted several times to overturn the Flores Agreement through legislation as recently as the beginning of 2019 but has of yet been unsuccessful, and the current president has brought to the table the possibility of ending the Agreement by executive order (NPR, 2018); and

Whereas, a sanctuary or safe city is defined as a city within which immigrants are treated with constitutional rights and cannot be held longer than an infraction warrant in order to allow ICE agents to come and pick them up (America’s Voice, 2017).

Therefore, be it resolved that we the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church support the establishment and continuation

of designated sanctuary or safe cities for those who cross the border to seek asylum, in correspondence with the Constitution of the United States of America and with the Social doctrine of the United Methodist Church; and

Be it further resolved, that we as a body condemn the blatant violation of the Flores Agreement by the government of the United States of America, and urge that the government be held legally responsible for violation of the Agreement; and

Be it further resolved, that the Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church support immediate action to stop the separation of families at the border and condemn the actions of ICE in the harsh treatment of those who try to cross our border for a better life; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be considered for submission to the 2020 Annual Conference of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church as a support and addendum to the resolution brought by Jason Villegas in 2019 as well as call on the Conference to send this resolution to every District Superintendent and pastor-in-charge; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be sent to every legislative office of the North Carolina General Assembly in Raleigh, the Congressional Offices of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, the offices of Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, the North Carolina Governor's office, the President of the United States, and the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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Resolution Encouraging Carpooling

Whereas, the United Methodist Church calls on it's members in *The Book of Discipline's Social Principles (2016)* to, "recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation,"; and

Whereas, we are informed in Psalm 24:1 (NIV) that "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it,"; and

Whereas, we are assigned in Genesis 1:26 to "have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth," in essence being stewards of God's creation and its conservation; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Church states in the *Social Principles* "we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage the development of the fullest potential in individuals,"; and

Whereas, it is made clear in Matthew 18:20 (NIV) that, "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them,"; and

Whereas, the process of carpooling not only reduces the number of cars on the road but builds community and relationships between those in a given car; and

Whereas, while some people already carpool to youth conference events, many of those who come to conference events arrive in cars that aren't full because they don't know the people in their area well or haven't considered carpooling; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Conference Youth are committed to the building of community among the young people who participate in conference events; and

Whereas, if rides were available to conference events, there is a possibility that more youth could participate in conference events and that youth who attended one conference event could return to more of them.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, express our support for the process of carpooling, particularly during driving that occurs to and from conference events; and

Be it further resolved, that we as a body will engage in the creation of an online network of conference event attendees to encourage carpooling to conference events; and

Be it further resolved, that the provision of buses to areas with high numbers of conference attendees be considered in the years to come; and

Be it further resolved, that the coordination of this network would be suggested to the District Youth Coordinators (DYC's) from each region, with aid from youth who understand the network, and that these leaders could gather a list of those interested in carpooling, and coordinate communication between those individuals, or publicize the remaining list depending on the volume of rides needed; and

Be it further resolved, that when an adult is in the vehicle, that there be two-deep leadership (a minimum of two registered adult leaders, or one registered adult leader and a participating parent or another adult) required to be in the vehicle. One of these adults must be of 21 years of age or older; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be sent to the office of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, the Deans of all conference events, the Conference Council on Youth Ministry Chair Suzanne Cobb, the Youth Leadership Coordination Team of the North Carolina Conference Youth and to the Conference Youth Committee of the North Carolina Conference Youth.

Resolution Encouraging Churches to Support Small Businesses

Whereas, small businesses “generate three-fifths of net new jobs, driving a big share of U.S. employment growth” (Forbes); and

Whereas, 44.3% of all workers in North Carolina are employed by small businesses (United States Small Business Administration); and

Whereas, there are “183,333 minority-owned small businesses in North Carolina” (United States Small Business Administration); and

Whereas, the church is often the heartbeat of the community and has the opportunity to sponsor and support local businesses and citizens of the community; and

Whereas, 80% of North Carolina is considered rural, and rural communities often lose money and jobs due to corporations (NC Rural Center); and

Whereas, local churches could prioritize using small businesses to bring economic benefits into their community.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge local churches in the North Carolina Conference to take their business such as catering orders, utilities, supplies, cleaning services to small, local businesses over large franchises or corporations; and

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be considered for submission to the 2020 North Carolina Annual Conference and call on the Conference to send this to every District Superintendent and pastor-in-charge; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and the Chair of the United States Small Business Bureau.

Resolution Regarding Water Quality in Eastern North Carolina

Whereas, the Cape Fear River Basin provides water to citizens in Eastern North Carolina, specifically the Wilmington area, and has recently had their water tainted with per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including GenX. These chemicals, which have been found to have been leaked from the Chemours Plant located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, render the water supply as dangerous and unsuitable for human consumption; and

Whereas, North Carolina State University researchers conducted a study in 2018 which revealed that various PFAS were found in the vast majority (99, 98, and 98 percent for the three most prominent PFAS) of the 345 New Hanover County residents which participated. This result was found specifically in New Hanover County residents, not the rest of the state, proving Chemours liable for the pollution. GenX was not found in resident's blood in the study (not meaning they aren't exposed to it, but just that it has not persisted in resident's blood), yet the PFAS found in the study may prove more detrimental than GenX; and

Whereas, studies conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) have displayed that GenX produces hazardous problems for the blood, liver, kidney, and immune system of animals exposed to the PFAS; and

Whereas, currently there is a settlement for Chemours to pay the state of North Carolina 12 million dollars in damages, as well as 1 million dollars in investigation costs. Chemours must provide monthly updates in reducing the amount of PFAS in the water supply, and provide water for citizens affected; and

Whereas, despite the seemingly positive nature of the agreement, this settlement does not do enough to protect the Cape Fear River Basin and their residents from contamination. The agreement will not be able to reduce the PFAS quickly enough to limit the ensuing negative health effects from exposure. Chemours is continuing to produce the PFAS and these substances will persist in the water supply, proving for a need of urgent action to reduce a horrific health catastrophe as residents in the area continue to be exposed to the chemicals.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, recommend action from the North Carolina legislature to produce legislation that prohibits the production of PFAS by Chemours within the next year and the immediate restoration of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries to levels deemed safe by the US EPA; and

Therefore, be it further resolved, copies of this resolution be sent to all members of the North Carolina General Assembly, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Harbor District Superintendent Edith Gleaves, Gateway District Superintendent Kenneth Locklear, Communications Director Derek Leek, and Senator Roy Cooper.

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Resolution Requiring a Medical Golf Cart at Every NCCUMC Kaleidoscope, Breakaway, and ACS

Whereas, currently there are no provisions for medical staff at North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church (NCCUMC) youth events in terms of transportation besides a personal vehicle or walking; and

Whereas, Safe Sanctuary policy states “Two approved adults must be present at all times. This applies [...] when transporting children and youth.”, which affirms that the transportation of a youth in the personal vehicle of an adult on medical staff with only one adult in the car is against Safe Sanctuary policy; and

Whereas, youth easily hurt themselves so a golf cart for medical staff to use to easily and quickly access a hurt individual is imperative; and

Whereas, some youth have unpredictable medical conditions that can relapse or flare up during events and will, therefore, make their week significantly more difficult and less enjoyable if they aren’t provided assistance; and

Whereas, there are intellectual and developmental disabilities that can hinder or prevent the ability to walk and having this provision will make NCCUMC youth events truly open to all; and

Whereas, *The 2016 Book of Discipline* states, “We affirm the responsibility of the Church and society to be in ministry with children, youth, and adults with mental, physical, developmental, and/or psychological and neurological conditions or disabilities whose particular needs in the areas of mobility [...] might make more challenging their participation or that of their families in the life of the Church and the community”; and

Whereas, we believe that it is our job to accommodate for everyone and providing this resource is important to be inclusive of everyone with disabilities present at NCCUMC youth events, no matter what form the disability presents itself.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, urge that at least one golf cart be provided for the medical staff at every NCCUMC Kaleidoscope, Breakaway, and Annual Conference Session for Youth; and

Therefore be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries chair, Suzanne Cobb, and the overall deans of these 2020 NCCUMC youth events, to relay to deans and chairs in years to come.

Resolution Urging Changing Tables in NCCUMC Bathrooms

Whereas, a single parent is a person who lives with a child or multiple children and who does not have a wife, husband or live-in partner; and

Whereas, according to a 2017 report from the U.S. Census Bureau, 16.1 percent of single-parent households today are headed by fathers; and

Whereas, The United States Census Bureau reported in 2016 that 23 percent of children live with only their mother, making it the second most common family arrangement in the United States; and

Whereas, according to the Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC), in the United States today, there are nearly 13.6 million single parents raising over 21 million children; and

Whereas, the 2016 version of The Book of Discipline states, “We affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single. This also includes single parents, and we recognize the extra responsibilities involved.”; and

Whereas, there is no regulation or standard for baby changing tables in restrooms; and

Whereas, not providing changing tables to any person, especially single persons, does not comply with the latest update to the Book of Discipline because of its prejudicial nature and inability to provide a basic necessity for parents and children.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church urge that changing tables be accessible to any gender in central, private locations such as bathrooms in every building on the property of a United Methodist Church in the North Carolina Conference, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that this resolution be submitted for consideration by the 2020 Annual Conference session of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, every District Superintendent and Pastor in-charge in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Resolution Urging Schools to Provide 25 Cent Vending Machines for Feminine Hygiene Products in Bathrooms

Whereas, periods are natural for women and every woman has one regardless of if she wants it or not and they can be very unpredictable; and

Whereas, most women get their first period between ages 10 and 15, but it can come as early as age 8 (England's National Health Service); and

Whereas, feminine hygiene products are imperative to women when on their periods; and

Whereas, according to Amazon.com, hygiene product vending machines can cost as low as \$232; and

Whereas, though every period varies from woman to woman, on average, if one tampon is used every 6 hours and 4 tampons are used every day, that is 20 tampons for every 5-day menstrual cycle totaling 9,120 tampons in a lifetime, and if one box costs \$7, and there are 36 tampons per box, the cost for a lifetime equals \$1,773.33 and the cost of a single tampon in that same \$7 box is 20 cents; and

Whereas, students spend 185 days in public school and according to the Mayo Clinic, the average period lasts 3 to 7 days, which means it is inevitable that a girl will be on her period while at school; and

Whereas, in an article published by National Public Radio, a Massachusetts elected legislative figure, Rebecca Stone, states, "In the United States, girls learn very early that this is their problem. You are expected to keep it from other people, to be discreet. And so we tuck the tampons, and if we're in trouble, we try to find friends, and we talk about it quietly, and we use euphemisms, and we do not impose this on others."; and

Whereas, the topic of periods is taboo in current society but actions such as this will break the stigma and make girls more comfortable when going through something that's completely out of their control; and

Whereas, schools charging 25 cents for one tampon or pad to make sure students are comfortable when on their period at school isn't unreasonable because of the average cost of one of these products in a standard box.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the 68th Annual Conference Session for Youth of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church call for all Public School bathrooms to provide 25 cent Feminine Hygiene products for students, and

Therefore be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to Governor Roy Cooper, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina's Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson, the North Carolina Association of Educators, The State Board of Education Chairman, Eric E. Davis, The North Carolina House Committee on Health, and The North Carolina Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.