

1 700.08

2 Name: In Support of Marriage Equality & Pastors Who Minister to Them

3 Authors: NIC Reconciling Methodist Network, MFSA

4 Section: One (Church & Society)

5 CCFA Comment:

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8 ACTION:

- 9 1. We call upon our Northern Illinois Conference congregations and their pastors to open their
10 "hearts minds and doors" to all couples regardless of gender, who are seeking to sanctify their
11 unions in holy matrimony.
- 12 2. We commend and support those pastors who have been brought to trial for solemnizing
13 marriage vows for properly prepared couples.
- 14 3. We strongly urge our Board of Ordained Ministry, Appointment Cabinet and Resident Bishop to
15 do all within their power to make the Northern Illinois Conference a place of welcome and
16 refuge to those convicted by Church trial courts for presiding over Christian weddings or
17 faithfully responding to the call to ordained ministry.
- 18 4. We call upon the next General Conference of the United Methodist Church to remove all
19 language that prohibits the ordination and marriage of persons based upon sexual ordination.
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21 RATIONALE:

22 In 1986 the Northern Illinois Annual Conference voted to become a Reconciling Annual Conference. Over
23 the years our hearts, minds and doors have opened as we have recognized the presence and varied gifts of
24 LGBT persons. Alongside this growth in our conference, the citizens of Illinois were also evolving in
25 understanding and support. On November 20, 2013 our Governor signed into law marriage equality for
26 same sex couples, making us the 16th state to do so. Since then Federal law rulings have encouraged city
27 clerks in Cook County and eventually throughout the state to issue marriage licenses to same sex
28 couples. Despite changes in civil law, discrimination against GLBT members and the Reconciling
29 movement in the UMC has not ceased. Therefore, as those who oppose, seek to change, and intend to live
30 in disobedience to the United Methodist disciplinary language that "homosexuality is incompatible with
31 Christian teaching" and as those who refuse the church's use of such language to restrict persons from
32 ordination, same sex marriage and other privileges of church membership, we ask this annual conference
33 to adopt the resolutions cited above.
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