

Sending Delegates from Each Local Church to ACS

Whereas, the Annual Conference Session (ACS) for the North Carolina Conference Youth is an event that has taken place for the past 66 years; and

Whereas, ACS has been the venue to open doors, to open hearts, and to open minds; and

Whereas, ACS is a time for high school youth to make important decisions through legislative affairs and grow closer to God through interest groups, worship, and personal growth groups; and

Whereas, during the week of ACS, youth elect the slate of officers who will represent the youth on various conference committees, including, but not limited to, the Committee on the Episcopacy; Missions, Church, and Society; and the Conference Connectional Table; and

Whereas, other leaders are elected through district caucuses to serve on the Conference Youth Committee, Conference Council on Youth Ministry, the Youth Service Fund Task Force, the Resolutions Committee, and the Communications Committee; and

Whereas, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, reminded us of our call to Social Holiness, and ACS provides a place where voices are heard, debates take place on challenging and contentious topics, and youth grapple with current social topics; and

Whereas, John Wesley encouraged all churches to be in full participation with children and youth for their spiritual formation and development as disciples of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, youth often have few places which provide intentional time and space for difficult conversations to take place in a constructive manner; and

Whereas, ACS provides a safe place where everyone has a place at the table, and all those in attendance have a vote; and

Whereas, many alumni of conference youth events become lay and clergy leaders in the UMC and beyond; and

Whereas, those leaders receive training, experience, and nurturing through conference youth events and relationships are fostered; and

Whereas, at the 2017 ACS, less than 7% of churches of the North Carolina Annual Conference had youth representation and of that statistic, more than 10% of the delegation represented one two-point charge (Browns Chapel); and

Whereas, at the 2017 ACS, districts were disproportionately represented which restricts youth from these districts in their ability to participate in Conference Youth Ministry, be elected to youth leadership positions, and have the concerns of these districts represented before the body;

Now, therefore be it resolved, the North Carolina Annual Conference echoes the 66th Annual Conference Session for the North Carolina Conference Youth and strongly encourages each charge conference to select at least one delegate to the Annual Conference Session for Youth and have this name included in charge conference reports, as well as each church budget committee consider setting aside funding in their annual budgets to provide a scholarship for their students in need who will attend ACS as delegates; and

Be it further resolved, copies of this resolution be sent to each District Superintendent and pastor-in-charge in the North Carolina Conference by September 1, 2018 to share with each church's Committee on Lay Leadership and youth ministry.

Passed by the 66th Annual Conference Session for the North Carolina Conference Youth
July 2017

Passed as Amended by the North Carolina Annual Conference
June 16, 2018

Protecting Our Children

Whereas, we are called to be our brother's keeper and care for our children, and recent incidents of gun violence, such as what happened at Mary Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, call us to take action to protect our children; and

Whereas, in *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* (2016), Resolution 3428 clearly states our position as a church in favor of sound and responsible gun regulation; and

Whereas, Congress has failed to enact any meaningful gun control reform in the wake of recent shooting incidents;

Now, therefore be it resolved, the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to enact the following measures to protect our children and the general public from further gun violence:

- Universal background checks on all gun purchases
- A three-day waiting period for all gun purchases
- Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers
- Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled
- A ban on bump stocks
- Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
- Prohibiting individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time period
- Prohibiting individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun
- Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun
- Providing more money for school counselors, social workers, and psychologists
- Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness; and

Be it further resolved, this resolution be sent to the offices of the entire membership of the North Carolina General Assembly for the 2019-2020 Biennium, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of North Carolina Senate, and the Governor of North Carolina.

Speaker Tim Moore
N.C. House of Representatives
16 W Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

President Pro Tempore Phil Berger
N.C. Senate
16 W Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Methodist Federation for Social Action, North Carolina Annual Conference chapter
Henry Jarrett, President

Passed as Amended by the North Carolina Annual Conference
June 16, 2018

Evaluation of Churches in the North Carolina Conference

Whereas, the idea of examining or evaluating oneself is a Wesleyan concept and practice as seen in the twenty-two questions that Wesley’s Holy Club asked themselves in their daily devotions [1]; and

Whereas, the writers of the epistles evaluated and addressed the health of the churches they wrote to, as seen in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 12:12-31; and

Whereas, those who are called early church fathers often evaluated the health of churches already addressed in the New Testament and primarily used the writings of the apostles in doing so, as Clement did in his epistle to the Corinthians from Rome [2]; and

Whereas, a contemporary of Mr. Wesley, John Albert Bengel, said, “as a rule, the way in which Scripture is being treated is in exact correspondence with the condition of the Church” [3];

Now, therefore be it resolved, the churches of the NC Conference are urged to evaluate their health using a text such as *Church Health for the Twenty-First Century: A Biblical Approach*:

by looking at the examples of good and poor spiritual formation as found in chapter 1;

by looking at the importance and place of the Bible for their healthy spiritual formation as found in chapter 2;

by looking at tangible examples of Jesus being head in their healthy spiritual formation as found in chapter 3;

by looking at biblical guidance concerning harmony within a church body as found in chapter 4;

by looking at what it means for a pastor to disciple staff and church leaders into a healthy team along with dealing with church bullies as found in chapter 4;

by looking at the biblical call to holiness of heart and life as well as to personal wholeness in Christ as found in chapter 5;

by looking at the biblical call to incarnate the love of God for others through both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment as found in chapter 6 [4]; and

Be it further resolved, District Superintendents are urged to seek such evaluations from churches before Annual Conference of 2019.

[1] “Everyday Disciples: John Wesley’s 22 Questions,” Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, accessed May 04, 2018, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/everyday-disciples-john-wesleys-22-questions>.

[2] St. Clement of Rome, “The First Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians,” Eternal Word Television Network, accessed May 04, 2018, <http://www.ewtn.com/library/patristc/anf1-1.htm>.

[3] Johann Albrecht Bengel, *Gnomon of the New Testament*, ed. A. R. Fausset, vol. 1, 1857-1858, (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, n.d.), 7.

[4] John Marshall Crowe, *Church Health for the Twenty-First Century: A Biblical Approach*, (Little Elm, TX: eLectio Publishing, 2017).

Rev. Dr. John M. Crowe
Elder in Full Connection
Medical Leave

Referred to the Cabinet by the North Carolina Annual Conference
June 16, 2018

Support and Encouragement of Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Appointments

Whereas, cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments are based on the principle of the *Imago Dei* (Image of God), that Christians denounce racism and oppression of all kinds according to racial and cultural background. The practice of cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments affirms the absolute value, authority, and dignity of individuals and expresses the belief that all are created in the image of God; and

Whereas, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the primary model and pioneer of Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural ministry. The Bible is full of accounts where persons such as Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Daniel, Esther, Peter, Paul, Cornelius, Lydia, Silas, and many others were called to go across racial and cultural boundaries to share and witness to the living God and ever-expanding Kingdom of God. However, in most of these accounts, one can see that cross-racial and cross-cultural ministry required faithful obedience to do what God asked, the courage to be counter-cultural, and willingness to be changed; and

Whereas, the United Methodist Church is a global, multi-racial, and multi-cultural church where the Gospel of transformative love extends across national, linguistic, and racial boundaries. Yet, hatred and bigotry are dividing our country and our communities. These hard realities are often affecting the lives and witness of the body of Christ. Even so, Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural ministries are on the front lines of building bridges and bringing God's people together across differences; and

Whereas, ¶425.4 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* states that: "Cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments are made as a creative response to increasing racial and ethnic diversity in the church and in its leadership. Cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments are appointments of clergypersons to congregations in which the majority of their constituencies are different from the clergyperson's own racial/ethnic and cultural background. Annual conferences shall prepare clergy and congregations for cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments. When such appointments are made, bishops, cabinets, and boards of ordained ministry shall provide specific training for the clergypersons so appointed and for their congregations"; and

Whereas, cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments demand a high level of expectations from pastors and laity alike as we provide spiritual growth and discipleship. Pastors and laity minister faithfully, even where there is subtle resistance to change, or even overt racism or xenophobia in our communities of faith. Without any intentional effort or preparation in encouraging the Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural appointment and congregation, the church will not be effective in reaching more people and diverse people thus diminishing the future of effective ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ;

Now, therefore be it resolved, the North Carolina Annual Conference strongly supports and encourages cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments; and

Be it further resolved, the North Carolina Annual Conference request the Bishop and the Cabinet to increase the number of congregations that are adequately prepared for and supported

in healthy cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments, while we recognize there are many factors contributing to the appointment making process; and

Be it further resolved, the NC Connectional Table and NC Multicultural Ministries develop an annual intercultural competency training, resources, and networking to create a mentoring/coaching and accountability process.

Asian Ministries Committee
of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Hispanic Latino Ministries Committee
of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Native American Ministries Committee
of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Strengthen the Black Church Committee
of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Multicultural Ministries Committee
of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Passed by the North Carolina Annual Conference
June 16, 2018