

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PETITION TO THE 2008 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE**

TITLE: Resolution on Human Sexuality in The Rocky Mountain Conference

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 **Be it resolved** that The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference affirms the statement known as The Majority Report,
2 adopted by the Human Sexuality Sub-Committee and the larger Church & Society II Legislative Committee of the
3 General Conference of the United Methodist Church on April 27, 2008.

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5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2008.

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7 **TERMINATION DATE:** None

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9 **ORIGINATOR OF THE RESOLUTION:** The Rocky Mountain Conference 2008 Delegation

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11 Janet Forbes, clergy, St. Luke's UMC, Highlands Ranch, CO

12 Josh Davies, lay, Trinity UMC, Denver, CO

13 Youngsook Kang, clergy, Metro DS, Greenwood Village, CO

14 Judy Hill, lay, Kirk UMC, Joes, CO

15 Chuck Schuster, clergy, First UMC, Ft. Collins, CO

16 Kunle Taiwo, lay, Park Hill UMC, Denver, CO

17 Carolyn Waters, clergy, Christ UMC, Denver, CO

18 Phil Cardin, lay, Christ UMC, Salt Lake City, UT

19 Eric Smith, clergy, Peaks & Plains DS, Greeley, CO

20 Wendy Moffatt, lay, First UMC, Glenwood Springs, CO

21 Olon Lindemood, clergy, Mile High/Pikes Peak DS, Monument, CO

22 Diana Huerta, lay, Trinity UMC, Denver, CO

23 Steve Burnett, clergy, First UMC, Casper, WY

24 Emily Dawson-Peterson, lay, First UMC, Ft. Collins, CO

25 Melanie Rosa, clergy, Lakewood UMC, Lakewood, CO

26 Ruth Wills, lay, Parker UMC, Parker, CO

27 Sione Tukutau, clergy, Stratton UMC/Kirk UMC, Stratton, CO

28 Gheeta Smith, lay, Hilltop UMC, Sandy, UT

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30 **PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION TO CONFERENCE:**

31 Name: Josh Davies

32 Address: 1401 Wewatta Street, #214, Denver, CO 80202

33 Phone Number: 303-596-2425

34 E-Mail: DaviesJT@gmail.com

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36 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:** None

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38 **RATIONALE:**

39 The 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church convened under the theme "A Future With Hope"
40 and, beginning with the opening worship service, expressed a new and genuine spirit to move beyond some of the
41 language of the past and affirm new language that is more faithful to witnesses from both past and current holy
42 conferencing, as well as our Scriptural call to live the gospel in the Spirit of Christ.

43

44 The members of the General Conference Legislative Committee known as Church & Society II were prayerfully
45 selected to represent a broad scope of faithful United Methodists, both clergy and laity and from all parts of the
46 theological spectrum, in their task of considering petitions submitted by United Methodists spanning our global
47 connection.

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49 The General Conference's Church & Society II Sub-committee entitled Human Sexuality engaged in lengthy,
50 thorough, and genuine holy conferencing around the subject of Human Sexuality found in ¶ 161 G of the Book of
51 Discipline. Their prayerful work became the Majority Report of the Church and Society II Legislative Committee.

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53 This statement was and is a product of honest and genuine holy conferencing and represents a reflection of both
54 grace and truth of which United Methodists throughout our connection can be proud. The spirit of this statement is
55 clearly the heart of our future and a reflection, we believe, of the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

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57 It is our prayer that The Rocky Mountain Annual Conference will affirm this statement and allow us to move
58 forward, fully embracing "A Future of Hope". We, the 2008 Rocky Mountain Conference Delegation, feel it
59 expresses a respectful middle ground in an attitude of seeking understanding and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

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61 We commit ourselves to let this statement guide our own relationships with one another in this Conference and with
62 our surrounding culture.

63
64 *A Statement on Human Sexuality (The Majority Report) as adopted by Church & Society II Legislative Committee,*
65 *General Conference, April 27, 2008)*

66
67 *We recognize that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We believe persons may be fully human only when that*
68 *gift is acknowledged and affirmed by themselves, the church, and society. We call all persons to the disciplined,*
69 *responsible fulfillment of themselves, others, and society in the stewardship of this gift. We also recognize our*
70 *limited understanding of this complex gift and encourage the medical, theological, and social science disciplines to*
71 *combine in a determined effort to understand human sexuality more completely. United Methodists, along with other*
72 *Christians, have struggled to find principles for applying traditional teachings to contemporary understandings of*
73 *human sexuality.*

74
75 *We recognize that sexuality is part of the larger human mystery, to be received and acknowledged in grateful*
76 *responsibility. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us. We deplore*
77 *all forms of the commercialization and exploitation of sexual relations, with their consequent cheapening and*
78 *degradation of human personality. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation*
79 *or use of children by adults and encourage efforts to hold perpetrators legally and financially responsible. We call*
80 *for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for children thus abused. We believe that the Church family*
81 *should support all families in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and*
82 *adults. We challenge all members of our community of faith to commitment, integrity and fidelity in their sexual*
83 *relationships.*

84
85 *We know that all are God's children and of sacred worth; yet we have been, and remain, divided regarding*
86 *homosexual expressions of human sexuality. Faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply*
87 *disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness. We continue to reason and pray together with faith and*
88 *hope that the Holy Spirit will soon bring reconciliation to our community of faith. The fire in our disagreements*
89 *points to a deeper human mystery than we knew. We believe that the Spirit has brought our collective conscience to*
90 *acknowledge this mystery more honestly, and to make our claims with greater humility before God and our*
91 *neighbors. We therefore ask the Church, United Methodist and others, and the world, to refrain from judgment*
92 *regarding homosexual persons and practices as the Spirit leads us to new insight. Let us seek to welcome, know,*
93 *forgive, and love one another as Christ has accepted us, that God may be glorified through everything in our lives.*