

**Resolution: Leading with Integrity**  
**Offered to NCJ2022 consistent with offerings in all 5 US Jurisdictions**

Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and

Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ's church at heart, and

Whereas, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and

Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and

Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church, and

Whereas, from a legal perspective, a potential conflict of interest arises within an organization when an individual, paid or volunteer, or a relative of that individual (a) stands to gain a financial benefit by personally influencing the action taken by the organization or a transaction entered into by the organization; or (b) has another interest that impairs, or could be seen to impair, the independence or objectivity of the key individual in discharging their duties within the organization.

Therefore, be it resolved that, as we continue this period of transition, the North Central Jurisdiction calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity and goodwill to all.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that, in an effort to ensure that decisions about The United Methodist Church are made by those who are wholeheartedly committed to its future, the North Central Jurisdiction believes that only lay and clergy members who intend to remain in The United Methodist Church are appropriately eligible to serve in governance roles such as: districts, annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, general conference; and their related committees, boards, agencies; delegations and episcopal candidates. We encourage Conference Boards of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

Be it further resolved that the North Central Jurisdiction respectfully asks all who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from governance roles annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and general conference.

**Amendment:** Holly Grant amended the resolution to state after the first “Therefore” it would read:

“Be it further resolved that the NCJ recognizes that its actions and leadership effect the witness of Christ’s Church, the holy catholic church. In an effort to ensure that decisions of the NCJ are made with a holy witness to our broken world and to the holy catholic church, the NCJ will aspire to lead with integrity and grace.

“Be it further resolved that the NCJ recognizes that integrity and grace is shown in allowing for free and open discussion its churches and throughout its conferences around the matter of disaffiliation and future steps. We encourage conferences to permit open discussions of disaffiliation by its clergy and laity and we encourage such permission to be incorporated in any policy developed by a conference Board of Trustees.”

**The amendment** was not approved by a vote of 28 – 117.

**Resolution** was approved as written by a vote of 114 – 32.