

**RESOLUTION RECEIVING AND COMMENDING A DRAFT
“BOOK OF DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINE” FOR A NEW METHODIST CHURCH**

WHEREAS, the 2019 special General Conference of The United Methodist Church highlighted the depth of irreconcilable differences present in the UM Church;

WHEREAS, since the adjournment of the special General Conference some bishops, clergy, annual conferences, and local churches have demonstrated their unwillingness to abide by the will of the General Conference and portions of the UM Church’s *Book of Discipline*;

WHEREAS, an amicable separation of the UM Church and the creation of successor churches, or the withdrawal of churches, laity and clergy from the UM Church appears likely in the immediate aftermath of the 2020 General Conference;

WHEREAS, some who separate will desire to remain connected to one another in a new church that upholds the doctrine and ethical teachings of an historic, Wesleyan expression of the Christian faith while reclaiming the qualities of our earlier movement;

WHEREAS, the Wesleyan Covenant Association (the “WCA”) was formed in part to provide for such a connection if necessary;

WHEREAS, the 2018 Global Legislative Assembly authorized the formation of a Next Steps Working Group to envision a revitalized Methodist movement within or, if necessary, outside the UM Church, including a structure;

WHEREAS, the 2018 Global Legislative Assembly authorized the WCA Council to convene a conference of a new Methodist movement following the 2019 special General Conference should it be necessary;

WHEREAS, the Next Steps Working Group delivered a draft “Book of Doctrines and Discipline” to the WCA Council for a new Methodist church committed to embodying the historic Christian faith in the Wesleyan tradition, and the WCA Council has reviewed, modified, and recommended portions of that draft to this Global Legislative Assembly as a working document to inform a convening conference for such a new Methodist church if necessary;

WHEREAS, the draft “Book of Doctrines and Discipline” is a working document which addresses the essential elements of a new church and is not in final form and will be subject to further amendment and editing; and

WHEREAS, releasing the draft “Book of Doctrines and Discipline” for review and comment will enhance the development and sharing of ideas in advance of a convening conference of a new church;

NOW, THEREFORE, the WCA's Global Legislative Assembly receives with appreciation the draft "Book of Doctrines and Discipline" for a new traditional Methodist church, and commends the document as a resource for further study and development as we anticipate the possible convening conference for such a church.