

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE SEXUAL HOLINESS, WHOLENESS, AND BROKENNESS TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the Global Council of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (“WCA”) formed a task force to address sexual holiness, wholeness, and brokenness for the WCA;

WHEREAS, the task force submitted its report to the WCA Global Council which unanimously received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA’s 2022 Global Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the task force thereafter conducted a number of forums where WCA members had the opportunity to discuss the report and its recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for study and implementation, endorses the following recommendations, and directs that the report and its recommendations be shared with the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church (“GMC”) for the purpose of implementing the recommendations and/or enabling the convening General Conference of the GMC to act upon the recommendations:

1. We recommend that the GMC adopt a clear definition of sexual holiness and sexual brokenness in accordance with Scripture which includes an acknowledgement of our primary identity in Christ, and our identity as created in the image of God as biologically male and female. We recommend this definition be codified in *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*.
2. We recommend that seminaries recommended by the GMC provide students working toward ordination with coursework and training in the theology of sexuality and the body, and in personal spiritual formation in regards to their own sexuality and gender.
3. We recommend that continuing education on sexuality and gender be required of every pastoral leader in the GMC.
4. Because sexual brokenness is a common temptation for every Christian, we recommend that sexual holiness, wholeness, and brokenness be considered a function of the Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry.
5. In light of recommendation #4 above, we recommend the proposed GMC Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry launch a task force to create resources for the wide variety of questions and ministry concerns which will arise regarding specific areas of sexual brokenness, relying upon those who have experience in ministry and/or personal growth in discipleship in sexual holiness in these areas. These resources are to equip local churches, pastors and laity, and could include, but would not be limited to:
 - a. Intentionally embedding a theology of the body and sexuality with clear teaching on sexual holiness and sexual brokenness in the new catechism for the GMC;
 - b. Resources for the integration of ministry for sexual brokenness and growth in sexual holiness into accountable discipleship groups, and for training leaders of accountable discipleship small groups;

- c. An online network where annual conferences and local churches can share best practices, testimonies of transformation, and ministry examples;
 - d. Preaching resources for intentional, invitational teaching of how the gospel applies to the impacts of sexual brokenness in ways which are appropriate to the cultural context of the local church;
 - e. The promotion of the understanding that marriage and singleness are equally valuable in the GMC, and the Kingdom of God;
 - f. The promotion of stewardship and management of our sexuality and gender consistent with the gospel as we grow in living as the Family of God;
 - g. A redemptive and grace-filled approach to ministry which avoids gossip and judgmentalism (Eph. 4:29), displaying the love of Jesus consistently in each space of church life regardless of one's experience of any form of sexual brokenness;
 - h. The promotion of the understanding that sanctification is a life-long process, empowering followers of Christ in supporting one another over the long term in all facets of discipleship, including our sexuality;
 - i. Resources for effective and Scriptural counseling for those with sexual brokenness which avoid the use of shame, force or negative reinforcement (Colossians 2:20-23);
 - j. Resources that address the specific needs of those impacted by abortion, sex trafficking, same-sex attraction, questions regarding their gender identity, and more.
 - k. The promotion of a committed marriage between one biological man and one biological woman as the optimal environment for nurturing and raising children.
 - l. Resources that teach equality between women and men in all areas of life and ministry in accordance with our Methodist theology.
6. We recommend the development of a course of GMC Certification for Counselors to provide training in alignment with our theology in the areas of sexuality and gender.
 7. We recommend all ministry and church discipline in regards to sexual brokenness be redemptive in nature in the GMC; and, that the proposed Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop and endorse guidelines and resources for the practice of church discipline in all areas of church life, including its application in regards to sexual brokenness. This should include a regular review of the practices of church discipline to improve the quality of this practice.
 8. We recommend that the proposed Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry conduct a review of the Safe Sanctuary program for its effectiveness, and evaluate similar programs being utilized by other denominations and organizations, for the prevention of abuse and the protection of the most vulnerable among us. The Commission should then create a list of approved programs from which annual conference boards of ministry can choose, based on the needs of their region.
 9. We recommend that the GMC through conference boards of ministry include the following practices in regards to addressing abuse at the systemic level:
 - a. Adopt a policy of mandatory background checks for all people who will be working with children and youth, and commit to providing assistance for any

church needing help to meet this standard. In countries where there is no authoritative system in place to check backgrounds, we recommend that the GMC pioneer in developing one;

- b. Develop, establish, and publicize protocols on how to respond to reports of abuse, including clarity on where in the hierarchy those reports can be made in the GMC;
- c. Retain access to teams of independent, multidisciplinary investigators trained and experienced with investigating cases of sexual abuse in church settings. These teams would assist with independent investigations as the GMC has need;
- d. Establish systemic support for those who have been abused within the church, which would include assistance in healing emotionally and spiritually;
- e. Establish systemic support for those who are in leadership which allows leaders to address their own mental health needs independent of pressures in regards to their ministry work, to be aimed at helping their spiritual and emotional maturity and the prevention of abuse;
- f. Adopt the practice of reviewing all pastors and episcopal leaders for their potential abuse of position and power;
- g. Develop and establish protocols regarding the restoration to a position of power for a person who has been found guilty of abusing their authority. Such restoration would include addressing the underlying concerns in the individual which led to the abuse outside of the trappings of the responsibilities of leadership. We also recommend this protocol prohibit the practice of shifting the individual to another position of leadership within the church as a means of covering up for their abusiveness.