

A RESOLUTION STATING THE POLICY OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST MINISTERS AND LAYMEN ON RACIAL INTEGRATION WITHIN THE CHURCH.

WHEREAS, the Plan of Union embodied in 1939 by the uniting covenant which resulted in the formation of The Methodist Church was conditioned upon maintaining the separate identity of the Central Jurisdiction in order to preserve segregation in our churches; and

WHEREAS, certain influences within The Methodist Church confuse the terms 'discrimination' with 'segregation', illogically maintain that segregation is unchristian, and would betray the 1939 compact by seeking to eliminate the Central Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the threat to integrate our beloved church has seriously impaired its membership growth, has resulted in numerous outstanding Methodist christians leaving the church, and has placed a number of Methodist Churches on the verge of disassociation from The Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, integration of The Methodist Church will undoubtedly result in its dismemberment with the residue of churches left in the Mississippi and North Mississippi Annual Conferences being integrated shells, scorned in their neighborhoods and unable to support their ministers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST MINISTERS AND LAYMEN, that segregation is not discrimination, that integration is not commanded by God or taught by Jesus Christ, and that we believe in the policy of respecting and maintaining racial customs in churches, schools, conferences and jurisdictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we as an association and as individual Christians pledge and commit ourselves to work with our prayers, our time and our money toward these values, and to vigilantly oppose any attempt from whatever source to integrate our Churches.