

Proposed Amendment (7-15-16)

Subject: The Intersectionality of Justice
Presenter: Molly Vetter, California Pacific Annual Conference
Organization: Western Methodist Justice Movement
Petitioners: Molly Vetter and 8 others

Names of Other Petitioners: Norma Kehrberg, JoAnn Yoon Fukumoto, Megan Armstrong, Frank Wulf, Sandy Olewine, Tonya Harris, Richard Bentley, Austin Adkinson
Estimated Fiscal Impact: None

Whereas a jurisdiction is “to promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary and benevolent interests of the Church” (The Constitution, Para. 27.1);

Whereas the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church faces diverse ministry challenges as one of the largest geographic expanses of any jurisdiction or central conference over many cultural contexts;

Whereas the United Methodist churches in the Western Jurisdiction need to respond to their wide breadth of ministry challenges in ways that reach out and help the diversity of people living in the Western Jurisdiction to hear and respond to the gospel in ways that are authentic;

~~Therefore be it resolved that the 2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference calls on its churches and annual conferences to provide leadership in the many places where the call for justice intersects especially in the following areas:~~

Therefore be it resolved that the 2016 Western Jurisdictional Conference calls on its churches and annual conferences to provide leadership on the diverse, intersecting issues of our time. We remember that injustice anywhere threatens justice everywhere, and we claim a common commitment to affirm the dignity of all people and the integrity of God's creation. At this time of challenge in our culture, we commit ourselves to bold work for justice in intersecting issues including:

-strongly affirming the rights of women, including reproductive health, choice, and justice issues that intersect with many areas of justice, working for racial justice and resisting exploitative systems that teach racial, ethnic and/or tribal superiority and inferiority,

-we proclaim that Black Lives Matter, and seek to hold our police and justice system accountable for racial disparities at all levels, as we commit to overcome racism in the church and the oppressive systems we are a part of,

-not profiting from the oppression of others by divesting from companies earning profits through business in the occupied territories,

-eliminating our financial stake in the perpetuation of climate change by divesting from companies whose core business activity involves the production of coal, petroleum or natural gas.

~~-divesting from companies who will not engage on sustainability and climate change and whose profits come from fossil fuels as a way of moving our world towards using sustainable, renewable resources and combating climate change,~~

-ending the use of mascot names which demean Native Peoples by not meeting in cities which have sports teams with such names,

-advocating economic policies that reflect love of neighbor by ensuring a living wage and such basic needs as food, clothing, shelter, quality education, healthcare and a clean environment, supporting effective gun control to help create safer communities,

-resisting interpretations of our covenant that exclude LGBTQIA+ persons from anywhere in our church life by seeking change to the specific provisions of our church Discipline that do harm to LGBTQIA+ persons and conflict with the work of the Holy Spirit in calling people to ministry and into the covenant of marriage. In the meantime, we seek to avoid judicial processes for complaints based on the sexual or gender identity of our clergy or those with whom we are in ministry,

~~-not complying with the Book of Discipline whenever it denies full inclusion of a person based on their sexual orientation or gender identity in the life, ministry and leadership of The United Methodist Church.~~

And be it further resolved that we call on the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team and Western Jurisdictional Mission Council to work with the leadership of the annual conferences of the Western Jurisdiction in these areas to move from resolutions and words to actions that make a tangible and lasting difference.