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Relationship to the Scriptural Imperatives and Rationale:

WHEREAS an estimated 67% of US delegates voted against the Traditional Plan adopted by the 2019 Special Session of General Conference,

WHEREAS the ability to implement all three of our Gospel Imperatives (Grow in Love of God and Neighbor, Reach New People, and Heal a Broken World) with the LGBTQIA+ community and their Allies is not only inhibited but compromised by the punitive nature of the Traditional Plan,

WHEREAS the Minnesota Annual Conference has a history of affirming our commitment to a fully inclusive, grace-filled, compassionate church,

Action:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church formally recognizes that the Traditional Plan passed by the 2019 General Conference does great harm to the witness of The United Methodist Church.

The Traditional Plan, as presented, tightens restrictions on the ordination of LGBTQIA+ clergy while maintaining prohibitions and strengthening punitive actions on clergy who perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. We grieve this decision and the pain this discrimination causes our siblings throughout the world. Too often, our silence has done harm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Annual Conference will not perpetuate this harm in any form.

We recognize the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry's primary responsibility for the enlistment and recruitment of ministerial leadership for our churches and other ministry settings (§635.2.a), and support their commitment to examining all applicants as to their fitness for ordination, licensing, and candidacy on the basis of nine characteristics alone, with special emphasis on the first four: Personal Passionate Faith; Evangelistic Heart; Emotional and Social Intelligence; Apostolic Leadership; Wesleyan Way of Discipleship; Leading Adaptively; Healthy, Holy Habits; Loves God's World; and Lifelong Learner. (*Letter dated March 6, 2019*)

Furthermore, members of the Minnesota Annual Conference commit to avoiding trials related to any aspect of ministry with and for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, with the understanding that the Rule of Christ is Jesus' primary teaching on the matter of resolving grievances (*Matthew 18*), while a Just Resolution process is noted as the primary purpose of reviewing a complaint in the *2016 Book of Discipline*, suggesting the hope that "God's work of justice, reconciliation and healing may be realized in the body of Christ." (§362)

Silence is often harmful and serves to perpetuate discrimination. We will no longer remain silent. We say to our LGBTQIA+ siblings: you are beloved children of God, and you are beloved by us. We celebrate the many gifts and graces you bring to the church. We humbly seek forgiveness.

We commit ourselves to creating the inclusive church God intends us to be. We seek to undo the harm caused by exclusion and discrimination through systemic forms of oppression against all marginalized people both inside the church and in our greater society. We recommit to working for the full inclusion of all people.

Implementation: The Minnesota Annual Conference adopts this resolution.

Outcome: The Minnesota Annual Conference is clear across the Connection that we consider the Traditional Plan to be detrimental to our witness, and the Minnesota Annual Conference will not perpetuate the discrimination and harm caused by it.

Resources Required: No financial impact.