

## **Resolution Regarding the Recognition of Former and Current United Methodists as Siblings in Christ**

**WHEREAS**, Micah 6:8\* says, “He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

**WHEREAS**, Jesus says in John 13:34 and 35\*, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another;”

**WHEREAS**, those of us who were in the Methodist Youth Fellowship remember the motto “Christ Above All”;

**WHEREAS**, parents or other sponsors who present children for baptism in the United Methodist Church are asked, “Will you nurture these children in Christ’s holy church . . . ?”

**WHEREAS**, youth and adults who are baptized in the United Methodist Church are asked, “. . . will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church . . . ?”

**WHEREAS**, those who are confirmed in the United Methodist Church are also asked, “. . . will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church . . . ?” and

**WHEREAS**, certificates of transfer printed by The United Methodist Publishing House for the transfer of baptized members or professing members to other churches, regardless of denomination, state that the transferred members are “hereby commended to your community of Christian believers,”

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the lay and clergy members of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage those who are remaining United Methodist and those who have left to join other church communities or to be independent churches to treat one another as siblings in Christ who are worthy of our love and respect.

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*\*New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.*