

Resolution Regarding the Teaching of United Methodist Doctrine

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WHEREAS, the Articles of Religion were given by John Wesley to the Americans who organized the world's first Methodist denomination, in North America, in 1784:

WHEREAS, The Confession of Faith, adopted by the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1962, outlines a compatible doctrinal position, using terms which are more understandable to modern readers:

WHEREAS, ¶ 17 of The Book of Discipline states that "The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion or establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to or present existing and established standards of doctrine:"

WHEREAS, ¶ 18 of The Book of Discipline states that "The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Confession of Faith:"

WHEREAS, those who are ordained and received as full clergy members in the United Methodist Church are required to answer certain questions which have been asked since the days of John Wesley; and

WHEREAS, these questions include the following: "After full examination, do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?" and "Will you preach and maintain them?";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church thanks and affirms those ordained ministers who have been faithful to their promises to preach and maintain our doctrines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that we also urge licensed local pastors, certified lay ministers, certified lay speakers, certified lay servants, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, and parents of children and youth to engage in systematic study of the holy scriptures, to become familiar with our Confession of Faith and our Articles of Religion, and to present the essential truth of the Christian faith in terms which are consistent with our doctrinal standards and with the Holy Scriptures themselves.