

**PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality
DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 161B
GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶161B as follows:

B) Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. ~~We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~

Rationale: Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

Submitted by the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Methodists in New Directions

**PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE
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SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality
DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 161F
GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶161F as follows:

F) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, ~~heterosexual~~ marriage.

Rationale: Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God’s children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

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**PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE
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SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality
DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 162J
GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No
GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶162J as follows:

J) Equal Rights regardless of Sexual Orientation—Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims attendant to contractual relationships including that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

Rationale: Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God's children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

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SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 311.2

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend Footnote 3 of ¶311.2 (d) as follows (Found in the twelfth paragraph of the footnote, on p. 215 of the 2008 BOD):

Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.” Also, “we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single.”

Rationale: This proposal corresponds to a proposal that would delete the same language in ¶161B.

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**PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE
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SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 341.6

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶341.6 as follows:

¶341. Unauthorized Conduct--

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

Rationale: Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God's children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

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**PETITION TO THE 2012 GENERAL CONFERENCE
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SUGGESTED TITLE: Marriage Equality

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: 2702.1

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: No

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶2702.1 as follows:

A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶2702.4)* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality ~~including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;** (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~

Rationale: Language that denies what God has made holy—a covenant of marriage between two loving individuals—is manifestly unchristian discrimination, creates barriers in love and ministry, promotes unholiness, and undercuts evangelism and disciple-making to all God's children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

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