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Name: Task Force to Explore a New Methodist Expression

Authors: Rev. Chris Winkler, Rev. Brian Smith, Church Council of North Shore UMC in Glencoe, Church Leadership Council of Barrington UMC in Barrington, New Hope UMC in Chicago, First UMC of Elmhurst in Elmhurst, Church Council of North Shore UMC in Glencoe, Euclid Avenue UMC of Oak Park, Northern Illinois Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Chicago Northwestern District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Church Council of Trinity UMC of Wilmette, Northern Illinois Reconciling Ministries Task Force, Northern Illinois Conference Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action, First United Methodist Church of Lombard, Northern Illinois Conference Board of Church and Society, Church of the Three Crosses UMC of Chicago, First UMC of Savanna, Northbrook UMC, First UMC of Elizabeth, Elgin District Committee on Ordained Ministry CCFA Comment: The 2019 NIC budget includes travel reimbursement funding up to \$8,000.

ACTION:

(1) The Northern Illinois Conference hereby joins our voice and witness, along with an increasing number of other United Methodist Annual Conferences and congregations in expressing our disappointment that the “Traditional Plan” that many find hurtful and punitive was adopted by the 2019 Special Session of General Conference;

(2) We are grieved by the prohibitions that remain in the “Traditional Plan” against marriage and ordination for our LGBTQ siblings, and we implore our Bishop and Cabinet to refrain from enforcing such prohibitions and pursuing related complaints, investigations, and trials;

(3) We reaffirm our 1986 decision to be a reconciling conference and our commitment to be a church for all people, including traditionally-minded persons; and

(4) We authorize the Bishop to form a task force to explore a way forward for the Northern Illinois Conference including the possibility of new Methodist expression. The task force is directed to receive input from churches within our Conference and to work with other jurisdictions, conferences, and churches who are also exploring new options and opportunities. The task force shall include at least 3 LGBTQ laity or clergy, 3 persons from the 2020 General Conference delegation from Northern Illinois, and others as determined necessary by the Bishop. The task force shall report on its initial conversations at the special session of the Northern Illinois Conference in November 2019.