The Resolution on Conflicting Mandates
adopted by the 2014 California-Nevada Annual Conference

Be it resolved that when it is necessary to choose between conflicting mandates in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* in regards to ministry with people of differing sexual orientation and gender identity, The California-Nevada Annual Conference affirms that the mandates of inclusion, such as

- "inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination" (¶140), and
- "In carrying out its primary task, it (the local church) shall be organized so that adequate provision is made for these basic responsibilities... 6) seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life." (¶243), and
- "All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection (The Constitution, Division One, Paragraph 4 Article IV. *Inclusiveness of the Church*:"
- "All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status or sexual orientation are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured" (¶161f), and
- "We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends". (¶161f)

take precedence over the discriminatory mandates of exclusion, such as

- "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." ¶161.f, and
- "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches. (¶341.6).
- "To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC 'not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.' The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures..." ¶613.19

Further be it resolved, We affirm that *The Book of Discipline* contradictions make it impossible to bring valid charges against any of our clergy for violating either the inclusionary or the exclusionary mandates.