

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CORRECTION
REQUIRING ACTION OR CONSIDERATION BY THE
2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION:**

**2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CORRECTED BALLOT**

Action Item #20 : CORRECTED Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

Submitted by: 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE, The United Methodist Church

On May 16, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 746 Yes, 56 No (Calendar Item 121, DCA p. 2106). The text of this amendment as distributed to the annual conferences in 2016 was found to be in error. The corrected text is now presented to the annual conferences for vote.

In the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:

As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women's and girls' equality and well-being.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, this would become the new ¶6, and the current ¶¶ 6-61 would be renumbered as ¶¶ 7-62.

Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendment I

The United Methodist Church

Voted General Conference May 2016

- I. (New ¶ 6) The Constitution contains a paragraph on racial justice but not one on gender justice. The language of this petition is parallel to the language of Article 5 on racial justice already in our Constitution. It is an affirmation that, as part of our core foundational beliefs, this church will forever stand against any actions, organizations or individuals that discriminate or dehumanize women and girls anywhere on this planet.

Editor's Note: Constitutional Amendments approved by the General Conference must be ratified by the Annual Conferences across the denomination. The aggregate total of all votes cast in all of the Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church world-wide will determine whether the amendment is approved. The Council of Bishops will tabulate that total after all Annual Conferences have voted and will then announce whether or not the amendment has been ratified.