

This resolution is in response to the adoption of restrictive and punitive language by the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church and major portions which were affirmed and strengthened by the Judicial Council to become part of the Book of Discipline and active in January, 2020.

As the key body of The United Methodist Church is the Annual Conference

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Decisions on the priority of apportionment payments to the General Church and Annual Conference missional priorities are made by the Annual Conference

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Apportionment payments to the General Church go to efforts and agencies that directly contravene the missional commitments of First United Methodist Church in the area of inclusion of all of God's children, especially those among us who are LGBTQA+. And, the actions of the General Conference have made sanctions and punitive measures aimed at LGBTQA+ persons more severe and include pastors and churches who seek to be inclusive through full membership and the rites of the church

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The Church Council has a stewardship and fiduciary responsibility to the contributing constituents of First United Methodist Church and their commitment to its stated mission, affirmed in the appointment process by the Bishop and Cabinet in 2016

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First United Methodist Church has a long record of 100% payment of apportionments that confirms a broad support of the missional priorities of the Annual Conference and the thrust of ministry across the General Church

Be it resolved: That apportionments through January and February 25th, 2019, be paid in full.

Be it further resolved: That apportionment payments from February 26th, 2019, through June 30th, 2019, be withheld (this is not to include any pension, health insurance or insurance on our building) pending the decisions of the 2019 Wisconsin Annual Conference regarding any petitions that empower the local church and annual conference to pay apportionments that do not support the measures adopted by the 2019 Special Session and move the church in a direction of inclusion and justice.

Be it further resolved: That the Church Council or its appointed Task Force will re-visit this resolution in the next meeting following the Annual Conference with the inclusion of our Annual Conference delegates and the Conference Chancellor to propose next steps. These may include a congregational gathering to bring our constituents up-to-date.