

Endorsement of Evolution and Science 2015

Whereas the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed three “evolution-friendly” petitions, recognizing that science and theology are compatible rather than contradictory, and

Whereas, many traditions have learned that repressing science is often counterproductive to good religion (where new findings about the universe can lead to new revelations of the mysteries of the Divine), and

Whereas, United Methodism has historically sidestepped honest dialogue about the interface between religion and science (especially evolution), leaving some United Methodists unclear about the church’s stance on scientific issues, and

Whereas, many young people have left the church because they believe the church is out of touch with reality and

Whereas, Creationists have introduced resolutions to remove the word evolution from the Book of Discipline, to retract the United Methodist endorsement of The Clergy Letter Project and Evolution Weekend, and to delete the Church’s clear opposition to creationism in science classrooms,

Therefore be it resolved that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church reaffirm the evolutionary friendly language added to the 2008 Book of Discipline: “We find that science’s descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology,” (Social Principles, “The Natural World,” *2008 Book of Discipline*) and

Be it further resolved that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church publicly joins the General Church in

- 1) endorsing The Clergy Letter Project ⁱ (www.theclergyletterproject.org/)
- 2) urging local churches to observe Evolution Weekend ⁱⁱ and
- 3) actively “opposing the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of our public schools.” ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 Book of Resolutions.

ⁱⁱ Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 Book of Resolutions.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Evolution and Intelligent Design,” in the 2008 Book of Resolutions