

AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM A CHURCH

One Church responded by adopting the following document as the first step in preparing legislative petitions to be submitted to their Annual and General Conferences rejecting evolution and The Clergy Letter Project.

On Evolution and Intelligent Design

Whereas The Clergy Letter project states that "We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as one theory among others is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children."

Whereas the 2008 General Conference adopted the Clergy Letter Project in Resolution 80990 Stating "The United Methodist Church endorses the Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science and urges United Methodist clergy participation."

Whereas General Conference Resolution 80839 resolves that the General Conference "go on record as opposing the introduction of any faith based theories such as creationism or intelligent design into the science curriculum of our public schools."

Whereas these rulings are not in accordance with a biblical worldview and dismiss the presence and action of God in the creative process.

Therefore be it resolved that the Trinity United Methodist Church by the action of its Church Council and its charge conference rejects these rulings and affirms both creationism and intelligent design as Biblical and truthful. The church rejects the notion that evolution is a proven theory and affirms the Bible in declaring that God is both initiator and the power in the creation process. Furthermore, we call the United Methodist Church to refrain from teaching and endorsing a worldview that is in fundamental disagreement with Scripture.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie PA.

[Unanimously approved by Trinity UMC Council October 28, 2008]

Although this is an example of a document created specifically for a UMC congregation, the wording is well put. Their case is accurately presented, their resolve is clearly understood and they have gone on record stating their disagreement with their General Conference. Perhaps it can be used as a basic format for other UMC congregations or as a sample to put forth something similar.

Position Statement on "The Clergy Letter Project"

Whereas: The Clergy Letter Project states that "We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as one theory among others is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children."

Therefore be it resolved: That we as a Christian congregation, our Council, Committees and Administrative Board rejects the endorsement of the Clergy Letter Project and affirms creationism as Biblical truth. This church rejects the notion that evolution is a proven theory and affirms the Bible in declaring that God is the Creator of all (Genesis 1:1) and that all things have come into being through Christ, the Word, who has been with the Father from the beginning the Creator and Foundation of our salvation. (John 1:1-5)

Furthermore, we call upon our fellow Christian congregations to refrain from teaching and endorsing a worldview that is contrary to Scripture and the teachings of Historic Biblical Christianity.

This Position Statement on "The Clergy Letter Project" was approved by a majority vote on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

Church: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/ZIP _____

If your congregation adopts one of our sample resolutions or writes their own rejecting evolution and affirming creation, please mail a copy to CFS for our records. Send to: CFS P.O. Box 7214 Erie, PA 16510-7214