

1 P #71 ON EVOLUTION AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN

2 (Section 7)

3 **WHEREAS**, the 2008 General Conference amended ¶160 E) Science and
4 Technology through Petition 80050 to read: “We find that science’s
5 descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not
6 in conflict with theology.” AND “We reexamine our ethical convictions as
7 our understanding of the natural world increases.”

8 **WHEREAS**, the 2008 General Conference adopted the Clergy Letter
9 Project in Resolution 80990 Stating "The United Methodist Church
10 endorses the Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs between
11 religion and science and urges United Methodist clergy participation."

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

18 **WHEREAS**, General Conference Resolution 80839 resolves that the
19 General Conference "go on record as opposing the introduction of any
20 faith based theories such as creationism or intelligent design into the
21 science curriculum of our public schools."

22 **WHEREAS**, these rulings are not in accordance with a Biblical
23 worldview, dismissing the personhood, presence and action of God the
24 Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the creative process, implicitly
25 rejecting the authenticity and authority of Holy Scripture, declaring the
26 Bible fundamentally in error, proclaiming God and Christ liars, making
27 salvation in Christ meaningless and robbing the Church of its foundation
28 for evangelism and discipleship.

29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Western PA Conference of
30 The United Methodist Church:

31 1) Affirms both creationism and intelligent design as Biblical and
32 truthful.

33 2) Rejects the notion that evolution is a proven theory and affirms the
34 Bible in declaring that God is both initiator and the power in the creation
35 process. (Gen1:1, 2:7, Job 12:7-10, John 1:1-5, Rom 1:25)

36 3) Rejects the idea that the Church adopts situational ethics based on
37 worldly and evolutionary principles. We affirm the Bible in declaring,
38 “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty
39 deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary
40 principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8)

41 4) We affirm the notion that the Bible is the final authority in
42 determining what is true or right and affirms the Bible in declaring,
43 “...*And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your*
44 *tradition. "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 'this*
45 *people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. 'But*

1 *in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”*
2 *(Matthew 15:6a-9)*

3 5) Calls The United Methodist Church to refrain from teaching and
4 endorsing a worldview that is in fundamental disagreement with Scripture
5 affirming the Bible in declaring, *'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord,*
6 *Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My*
7 *Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day,*
8 *'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out*
9 *demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'* *And then I will*
10 *declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice*
11 *lawlessness.'*(Matthew 7:21-23)

12 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that WPAUMC calls
13 upon the Conference Secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Annual
14 Conference to bring these three resolutions before the Secretary of the
15 General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 2012, petitioning
16 the General Conference to:

17 1) Amend Resolution #1027 God's Creation and the Church (80990-C1-
18 R11) by removing the words, “endorses The Clergy Letter Project and its
19 reconciliatory programs between religion and science, and urges United
20 Methodist clergy participation;” To read:

21 ***1027. God's Creation and the Church***

22 *As disciples of Christ, we are called to be good stewards of God's*
23 *creation. Accordingly, we call upon The United Methodist Church to*
24 *adopt fresh ways to respond to the perils that now threaten the integrity of*
25 *God's creation and the future of God's children.*

26 *Specifically, The United Methodist Church:*

27 • *designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to Earth*
28 *Day, as a Festival of God's creation, celebrating God's gracious work in*
29 *creating the earth and all living things, incorporating it into the church's*
30 *liturgical calendar, and developing appropriate ways for congregations to*
31 *celebrate it;*

32 ~~• *endorses The Clergy Letter Project and its reconciliatory programs*~~
33 ~~*between religion and science, and urges United Methodist clergy*~~
34 ~~*participation;*~~

35 • *endorses the work of the National Religious Partnership for the*
36 *Environment, and the World Council of Churches Climate Change*
37 *Program and urges conferences and congregations to support their*
38 *activities and programs;*

39 • *supports the annual observance of the United Nations' World*
40 *Environment Day and encourages conferences and churches to participate*
41 *in programs such as Environmental Sabbath;*

42 • *recommends that annual conferences establish annual awards to honor*
43 *prophetic defenders of God's creation from within their own*
44 *constituencies;*

- 1 • affirms the importance of nurturing, community-building approaches
2 such as the Global Action Plan's Household Eco-Team Program designed
3 to foster resource efficient lifestyle practices;
4 • encourages a simplified and environmentally sound lifestyle throughout
5 the church and requests that Church agencies, conferences, and
6 congregations be stewards of God's creation by reducing levels of
7 consumption and participating in programs that reuse and recycle goods;
8 and
9 • encourages United Methodist institutions to perform energy audits,
10 improve energy efficiency, and pursue use of alternative clean energy
11 sources such as wind and solar power where available.

12 ADOPTED 1996

13 AMENDED AND READOPTED 2004

14 AMENDED AND READOPTED 2008

15 RESOLUTION #11, 2004 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

16 RESOLUTION #11, 2000 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

17 See Social Principles, ¶ 160B, E.

18
19
20 2) AND Over turn and Reject #5052 Evolution and Intelligent Design
21 (80839-C1-R9999):

22 ***5052. Evolution and Intelligent Design***

23 ~~WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has for many years supported~~
24 ~~the separation of church and State (¶ 164C, Book of Discipline, 2004, p.~~
25 ~~119);~~

26 ~~Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference of The United~~
27 ~~Methodist Church go on record as opposing the introduction of any faith-~~
28 ~~based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science~~
29 ~~curriculum of our public schools.~~

30 ADOPTED 2008

31 See Social Principles, ¶ 164E.

32
33 3) AND Amend *The Book of Discipline* **Science and Technology 160.E**
34 by removing the 2008 amendments adopted from Petition 80050 Science
35 and Technology (80050-C1-¶160.E) and returning to the 2004 language.

36 **160.F) Science and Technology**—We recognize science as a legitimate
37 interpretation of God's natural world. We affirm the validity of the claims
38 of science in describing the natural world ~~and in determining what is~~
39 ~~scientific. We although we preclude science from making authoritative~~
40 ~~claims about theological issues and theology from making authoritative~~
41 ~~claims about scientific issues. We find that science's descriptions of~~
42 ~~eosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with~~
43 ~~theology. We recognize medical, technical, and scientific technologies~~
44 technology as a legitimate uses use of God's natural world when such use
45 enhances human life and enables all of God's children to develop their
46 God-given creative potential without violating our ethical convictions

1 ~~about the relationship of humanity to the natural world. We reexamine our~~
2 ~~ethical convictions as our understanding of the natural world increases.~~
3 ~~We find that as science expands human understanding of the natural~~
4 ~~world, our understanding of the mysteries of God's creation and word are~~
5 ~~enhanced.~~

6 *In acknowledging the important roles of science and technology,*
7 *however, we also believe that theological understandings of human*
8 *experience are crucial to a full understanding of the place of humanity in*
9 *the universe. Science and theology are complementary rather than*
10 *mutually incompatible. We therefore encourage dialogue between the*
11 *scientific and theological communities and seek the kind of participation*
12 *that will enable humanity to sustain life on earth and, by God's grace,*
13 *increase the quality of our common lives together.*

14 Cathy Preston, Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie PA
15 [Approved by TUM Church Council October 28, 2008]
16 Somerset: First UMC, Somerset PA
17 [Approved by SFUM Church Council April 27, 2009]