

Resolution in Favor of Changing the *Book of Discipline* to Permit Use of Church Property for Same-Sex Weddings

WHEREAS the members of the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church of Austin, having diligently and prayerfully studied the Scriptures, have come to three convictions:

- (1) that what constitutes sin and immorality in a sexual relationship between two persons is not the *gender* of the persons involved, but the casual, promiscuous, and/or exploitative *manner* in which the relationship is conducted;
- (2) that a strong case for same-sex marriage can be made on biblical, theological, moral, biological, and psycho-social developmental grounds; and
- (3) that the desire of two persons, whether of the same sex or of the opposite sex, not to be condemned to live in loneliness (Genesis 2:18), but to live together in a committed, monogamous, mutually faithful, lifelong covenant is compatible with God's will for human beings;

WHEREAS a significant number of same-sex couples who are faithful, committed members of First United Methodist Church of Austin have sought to be married in the church's facilities;

Be it therefore RESOLVED

that the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church of Austin declares its desire to allow the weddings of same-sex couples who desire to live together in a committed, monogamous, mutually faithful, lifelong covenant with each other to be performed in its sanctuary and chapel;

Be it further RESOLVED

that the Administrative Board of said church desires to communicate this resolution to the delegates of the Rio Texas Conference to the forthcoming General Conference, praying that they will vote to change the current prohibitions in the *Book of Discipline* so as to permit same-sex weddings in those United Methodist local churches which desire to have such weddings to be performed in their facilities; and

Be it further RESOLVED

that, pending the actions of the forthcoming General Conference, the Administrative Board of First United Methodist Church of Austin *will strengthen its commitment and consider further actions to effect change.*