

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

WHEREAS, as United Methodist we are guided by the Scriptures and our *Social Principles* as we are called to service in the World, and are called to seek justice, fairness, and equal treatment for all,

AND WHEREAS, the current tax structure, as provided in the State Constitution, is unjust in its application, particularly in its disproportionate assessments to the poorest of our citizens, and thereby violates the Scriptural admonition to adhere to the moral principles of Judeo-Christian ethics,

AND WHEREAS, as United Methodists, we have followed a tradition of championing the causes of justice and fairness that lead to a better life for our fellow citizens,

AND WHEREAS, the Alabama Constitution is unjust and unfair in that it denies the rights of home rule governance and instead concentrates State powers in the hands of a few, and such concentration of power denies control of local problems to the local governments where the solutions to such issues are better understood and resolved,

AND WHEREAS, as United Methodists we are led by our experience as members within the Christian faith to recognize that change in the allocation of power is not willingly relinquished by those possessing such power and control and that the continuation of concentration of authority and lack of home rule is controlled by our State Constitution,

AND WHEREAS, the education of our children, a responsibility of the utmost importance to our State and local governments, suffers from a chronic lack of funding, inappropriate sources of funding, and problematic methods of administrative oversight that are brought about in large part by the restrictions embedded in the State Constitution,

AND WHEREAS, we recognize that the current constitution with its over 700 amendments is ineffective, cumbersome to administer, inequitable in its application, difficult to understand and resonates with uncalled for and unnecessary biases against the less powerful and accepted in our midst, United Methodist Church North Alabama Conference, 2003

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church, through its ministers, lay leaders and members, join as one to actively support, work, and pray for revisions to the Alabama Constitution, by means of a State Constitutional Convention or by legislative action, that would implement tax reform with a system that would provide a more equitable division of the tax burden so that an unfair proportion of the responsibility no longer falls on those citizens who are least able to support it, that will provide a better education for our children by means of adequate and stable tax revenues, that will respect the needs, aspirations and rights of all citizens to enjoy a better life, and that would return local governance to the local communities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governor, members of the Legislature and other elected officials of the State of Alabama be called upon to adopt a means for developing and implementing the changes so desperately needed to bring our State into the 21st Century.

Submitted by Prophetic Ministries Team
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