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## R-5 INUMC CABINET RESOLUTION “OUR COLLECTIVE MISSION AND WITNESS”

**Resolution:**

Whereas, according to The 2016 Book of Discipline, the Cabinet is “...expected to speak to the conference and for the conference to the spiritual and temporal issues that exist within the region encompassed by the conference.” (§424.2 2016 Book of Discipline) And their task is “...to see that all matters, temporal and spiritual, are administered in a manner that acknowledges the ways and the insights of the world critically and with understanding, while remaining cognizant of and faithful to the mandate of the Church.” (§401 2016 Book of Discipline)

Whereas, we, the Cabinet of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church, embrace our disciplinary expectations and administrative tasks with intentional prayer, humility, and see ourselves as hope-filled servant leaders to United Methodists across our connection, specifically those within Indiana.

Whereas, in this liminal season of reimagining and rediscovering what it means to be United Methodist, we continue to faithfully engage in missional appointments, continue to equip congregations for disciple-making, and missionally support and pray our way forward, as we believe the mission of the Church is too important to ignore actions that undermine our collective witness and work for Jesus Christ.

Whereas, we have experienced and seen harm done in our churches and communities across The Connection which does not foster unity within the Body of Christ, nor does it represent our United Methodist heritage.

Whereas, such actions have included, but are not limited to, the unsolicited dissemination of information, blatant mistruths and fear-mongering, appeals for donations for non-United Methodist Churches, and unnecessary pressure for congregations and congregants to arbitrarily leave The United Methodist Church.

Whereas, a Bishop, clergy member of an annual conference, local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, diaconal minister or professing member of a local church are prohibited from “dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standard of doctrines of The United Methodist Church” and “...behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor [or person serving within an appointment].” (§2702.1 (e) (f); §2702.3 (d) (j) 2016 Book of Discipline)

Whereas, such actions also include the non-covenantal practices of those maintaining retired clergy status in The United Methodist Church, while attempting to, or secretly pastoring, non-United Methodist Churches without an approved appointment by the Bishop.

Therefore, we resolve and respectfully expect all clergy members, active and retired, as well as professing members of all local churches in the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, to recommit to our covenant as clergy and/or our professing membership vows, remembering our ecclesial responsibilities, and The Great Commission.

We expect all clergy members, active and retired, as well as professing members of all local churches in the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to live out our general rules of “Doing No Harm, Doing Good, and Attending to the Ordinances of God” by ceasing to continue spreading mistruths and misinformation in an attempt to defame the rich history and legacy of The United Methodist Church.

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Furthermore, we call into account all clergy members, active and retired, within and related to the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, whose convictions no longer align with The United Methodist Church, yet they continue to receive the benefits of The Connection while not living out the covenant, to either withdraw their membership from the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church or withdraw from the Ordained Ministerial Office (§360.1 or 360.2 2016 Book of Discipline). This duality is hindering the ongoing work of ministry within our Indiana Annual Conference.

The mission of Jesus Christ and the Church is to serve all people, and we the members of the Cabinet of the Indiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, will faithfully serve all the people, no matter our differences or theological understanding, and ensure there is a place for all persons choosing to remain United Methodist and committed to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This is our public vow and ongoing commitment to the people of the Indiana Annual Conference.

**Rationale:**

The Cabinet of the Indiana Annual Conference has been faithful in serving our clergy, congregations, and communities during these ever-evolving times. As we move beyond disaffiliation, and strive for a greater focus on discipleship, the Cabinet believes there should be a shared understanding regarding our collective mission and witness as United Methodists.

**Financial Implications:** No

**Groups to forward/affirm:**

- Rev. Tony Alstott, Chairperson of the Indiana Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
- Rev. Larry Whitehead, Assistant to the Bishop
- Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson, Dean of the Cabinet
- Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy, Secretary of the Cabinet

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