

**A RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF NINE BLACK INDIVIDUALS
AT EMANUEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
ON JUNE 17, 2015**

PREAMBLE

At the opening of this 2015 New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, we are horrified and shaken by the report of the massacre of nine black people by a white man at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Such an extreme act of terrorism and white racism demands a response by this community.

WHEREAS, this evil act against God and humanity is not isolated in one person, place, or time, but is part of the history and reality in which we live and participate; and,

WHEREAS, we are called, not only to condemn this act as a heinous crime, but to respond to the higher call of our baptism “to resist evil in whatever form it presents itself,” *further,*

WHEREAS, United Methodists affirm our common Wesleyan heritage with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and our shared calling to acts of mercy and justice with all Christians,

THEREFORE, and in view of the egregious and heinous acts that have been committed, we, the Resident Bishop and the Lay and Clergy members of the 22nd session of the New England Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting in Manchester, New Hampshire, on this 18th day of June, 2015, urgently call for the following commitments and actions:

- 1. That the pastor in charge, lay member, and lay leader of every local church within the bounds of the New England Annual Conference develop its own statement of condemnation or letter specifically affirming the New England Conference’s Resolution; *further,***
- 2. That each local church’s statement of condemnation or letter affirming the New England Annual Conference’s Resolution be sent to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (110 Calhoun Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401) and to the Presiding Bishop, the Right Reverend Richard Norris, Presiding Prelate of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 7th District (110 Pisgah Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29203); *further,***
- 3. That pastors, in covenant with one another, share with other United Methodist clergy colleagues, as well as ecumenical and inter-religious**

colleagues, their grave concern and their response to this despicable act, and invite their colleagues to participate with them in the continued need for the condemnation of such acts within the bounds of the New England Annual Conference and the wider society; *further,*

- 4. That the pastor in charge of every local church within the bounds of the New England Conference send a copy to their district superintendent of all correspondence with Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Bishop Richard Norris.**