

PETITION REQUESTING ACTION OF 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

YAC No. 103

MSC No. 10

IMPORTANT NOTE: Carefully read the separate document containing important instructions for critical details. The submittal deadline is March 10. If possible, submit electronically.

1. **TITLE :** Support for State and Federal Non-Discrimination Laws
Protecting the Civil Rights of LGBTQ Persons

2. **ACTION BLOCK :**

1. The Yellowstone Annual Conference (Mountain Sky Annual Conference) express its support for state and federal civil rights laws protecting LGBTQ persons from any form of discrimination on matters of employment, housing, credit, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service; and

2. The Yellowstone Annual Conference (Mountain Sky Annual Conference) instructs the Conference Secretary to send this resolution to governors, and state and federal legislators within its boundaries (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming).

3. **WHY IS THIS ACTION NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE?**

Everyone should have a fair chance to earn a living and provide a home for their families without fear of harassment or discrimination;

Despite significant steps forward, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Americans lack basic legal protections in states across the country;

The patchwork nature of current laws leaves millions of people subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their family, and their very way of life;

The United States' civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion, but no federal law provides consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity;

Paragraph 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: "All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence" (Book of Discipline, 2016);

Paragraph 161G of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church also states: "We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends." (Book of Discipline, 2016);

Paragraph 162J of The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church states: "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights

and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation... Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.” (Book of Discipline, 2016);

That same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties;

The UMC has clear support for the civil rights of LGBTQ persons. There is currently no federal anti-discrimination law protecting LGBTQ persons, and many states do not have such laws as well.

4. ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE COST OF YOUR PROPOSED ACTION:

Time required for Conference Secretary to gather pertinent data and transmit resolution.

5. IF POSSIBLE, SUGGEST SOME PERSON OR GROUP TO PERFORM THIS ACTION:

The secretary of the conference is requested to transmit the approved resolution to the persons listed in the resolution.

6. WHEN WILL THE PROPOSED ACTION BE COMPLETED: (Short-term? Long-term? Ongoing?)

The approved resolution will be transmitted no later than September 1, 2018.

7. IF ADOPTED, HOW CAN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION BE EVALUATED?

Effectiveness results in the passage of state and federal laws that uphold and protect the civil rights of LGBTQ persons.

8. NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP SUBMITTING THIS PETITION:

Rev. Ira Robison and Rev. Israel Alvaran for Reconciling Ministries Network (rmnetwork.org)

9. IF GROUP, ALSO STATE NAME OF THE GROUP’S CONTACT PERSON (see Instructions):

See above.

10. ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS OF SUBMITTER (OR CONTACT PERSON):

Rev. Ira Robison

2771 Ancabide Ln

Missoula, MT 59803

irankay.robison@gmail.com

Rev. Israel Alvaran

150 Highland Ave

San Francisco, CA 94110

izzy@rmnetwork.org

510-717-4894