**Social Principles of the United Methodist**

**2017-2020**

***2016 Book of Discipline* Paragraph 161.G – Human Sexuality**

We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for the strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitles to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christina community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condone lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and will all persons.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Information Session**

**Human Sexuality and the UMC**

**Update from**

**The Commission on a Way Forward**

**and the**

**Council of Bishops of the UMC**

**June, 2018**

1. See Judicial Council Decision 702 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)