



PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: March 10, 2022

Save this form on your computer before filling in the blanks.

IMPORTANT TO READ - GUIDELINES

- Complete one form for each petition/resolution.
- Each petition/resolution must deal with only one issue or Disciplinary paragraph or concern.
- This form has four total pages with four sections. **All sections must be completed or it will be returned to you as incomplete and may cause a delay.**
- Feel free to add additional pages if necessary. Indicate below total number of pages you are submitting. *
- Deadline: All petitions/resolutions must be received in the Indiana Conference Center by the above-referenced date.
- Please submit your form to petitions.resolutions@inumc.org or U.S. Mail to:
INUMC Petitions and Resolutions, 301 Pennsylvania Pkwy, Ste 300, Carmel IN 46280
- **It is important that you receive a confirmation email informing you that your form has been received.** If you do not receive a confirmation email, please call (317) 564-3251.
- Upon submission, all petitions/resolutions become the property of the Indiana Annual Conference.

Date: March 10, 2022 Please check one:

- I am submitting a **RESOLUTION**: A **Resolution** is any request for the Indiana Annual Conference to make a change, take an action, or recognize a formal expression of opinion on an issue. Any Indiana United Methodist lay member, pastor, group or agency may submit for consideration a resolution to the Indiana Annual Conference. Such resolutions must be submitted to the Indiana Annual Conference Secretary and the Petitions & Resolutions Team no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the Annual Conference session.
- I am submitting a **PETITION**: A **Petition** is any request for the General Conference to take an action ¶507.4, alter the wording of The Book of Discipline ¶507.2 or affirm a formal expression on an issue. Any Indiana United Methodist lay member, pastor, or agency may submit a petition directly to the General Conference or may submit their General Conference petition to the Indiana Conference asking for Indiana Conference affirmation (of the petition) with the expectation that, if affirmed (by a 2/3 majority vote), the Indiana Annual Conference secretary would forward the petition to the General Conference. All petitions must be submitted no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the Annual Conference session.

SECTION 1: Information of person submitting this Petition/Resolution

NAME Mary Dicken PLEASE SELECT ONE: CLERGY LAITY
 Cell Phone (812) 589-9640 Landline () n/a email address mary.dicken@inumc.org
 Address: 5457 N Illinois Street City Indianapolis State IN Zip 46208

Indiana Conference UMC membership required:

Church at which you are a lay member or affiliated clergy Meridian Street UMC District Central
[\(Click here to see District Map\)](#)

Church Mailing address: 5500 North Meridian Street City Indianapolis Zip 46208

By signing below, I confirm that I am the person submitting the petition/resolution as described in this document for review by the Indiana Annual Conference Petitions and Resolutions Team for submission to the Indiana Annual Conference Session.

* Total number of pages being submitted for this petition/resolution: 4

Signature Mary R.W. Dicken Date March 10, 2022
 Please print name Mary R.W. Dicken

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: This is a Petition Resolution Number assigned: _____ Total # of pages _____

Name of person: Mary Dicken Date March 10, 2022

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

SECTION 2:

A Commitment to Grace in the Indiana Conference

Title of Petition or Resolution: _____

State the Petition or Resolution:

Whereas ¶122 of the Book of Discipline reminds us that we make disciples as we continue the mission of seeking, welcoming, and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ;

And whereas in the Indiana Conference this work includes people of all ages, races, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations;

Therefore be it resolved that we shall support every church and clergyperson in our conference who is seeking to faithfully serve God and their communities to the best of their abilities and in accordance with their deeply held, God-given convictions. We shall strive to honor and trust contextual expressions of ministry, including the decisions of clergy to choose which weddings they officiate and congregations to choose which weddings they host, so long as they are between two consenting, committed adults. We shall also embrace and encourage God's call to ministry in diverse persons and will seek to not restrict God's calling solely on the basis of a candidate's sexual orientation or gender identity. Further, we shall respect the decisions of any who feel they cannot remain a part of the Indiana Conference in light of these commitments.

Name of person: Mary Dicken

Date March 10, 2022

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

SECTION 3: State below the rationale or reason for this petition/resolution.

We are called to do no harm.

With the postponement of the General Conference until 2024, we cannot wait to respond faithfully to the Gospel call of inclusion. In recent years, LGBTQ+ persons have heard a repeated refrain of, “Just hold on a little while longer, until General Conference in 2020.” Then “... until General Conference in 2022.” Continuing this pattern with more calls to wait for delayed inclusion and justice perpetuates harm against marginalized persons in our United Methodist Church, as well as does harm to our shared ministry and witness. Our current state is not sustainable. We must move forward in faithful, inclusive ministry now.

We are called to do all the good we can.

Since the Global Methodist Church announced its intent to launch in May 2022, and Bishop Trimble stated, in response to this news, his intent to work graciously with those who feel compelled to leave The United Methodist Church, we must also take intentional steps to shape our ministry in the Indiana Conference to do good in the wake of these developments. Just as we are making room for people of good faith and conviction to join another denomination, we must also graciously make room in our conference for those who have been historically and contemporarily excluded from full participation in the life of the church, so that we may be the church Christ calls us to be now and in the future.

We are called to stay in love with God.

Our primary focus as a church should be our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The fractious history of our denomination on questions of LGBTQ+ inclusion over the past half-century has greatly impaired our ability to stay in love with God together. For the sake of our mission, we must move forward in ministry in a way that allows for all people to respond fully and faithfully to God’s call on their lives.

Name of person: Mary Dicken Date _____

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

SECTION 4:

Are there any financial implications for the Indiana Annual Conference?

No

Yes

If yes, please state below what they may be in detail.

SECTION 5:

Please provide all necessary contact information to groups for which this petition/resolution should be forwarded to once affirmed.

This resolution should be forwarded to all members and leaders of the Indiana Conference via the Conference Journal and other standard communications used to report actions of the Annual Conference body.