



RESOLUTION CONCERNING CLOSURE OF DMV OFFICES IN ALABAMA

WHEREAS, ancient societies believed that Pharaohs, nobles and kings were more divine than commoners, but our shared faith traditions tell us that all people—regardless of power or status—are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). If we act in such a way that privileges one group over another, whether intentionally or unintentionally, we commit idolatry; we remake God in our own image, and we deny the image of God in our neighbors (Luke 10:29).

WHEREAS, closing DMV offices in counties that are predominantly poor and predominantly African-American is a form of oppression and idolatry, regardless of whether it is done for financial reasons or not, as it provides easier access to acquiring the government required identification to drive and to vote to some over others.

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church “asserts the right of members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to nondiscrimination in voting and in access to public accommodations,” and, “The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on Governor Bentley and Secretary of State Merrill to restore and maintain the full operational hours of DMV offices that have been closed or slated for closure so that every citizen in Alabama has an equal opportunity to satisfy their voting requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Alabama Conference calls upon the legislature to find ways to adequately fund state government and its crucial services without cutting essential services for all of Alabama’s citizens to have equal access to the political process, and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Alabama conference asks all United Methodists to pray for our elected leaders that they might be given wisdom and guidance to lead with justice and compassion. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Bentley, Secretary of State Merrill, and all members of the state of Alabama legislature.

Submitted by Justice and Advocacy Team of the North Alabama Conference

The Committee votes yes and encourages the Annual Conference to support this resolution.