



A Resolution Calling for Prison Reform in Alabama

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were there with them. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.—Hebrews 13:3

WHEREAS, the recent Department of Justice report on conditions at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women and other sources indicate that inhumane and dangerous conditions are pervasive throughout the 29 state facilities run by the Alabama Department of Corrections, specifically, extreme overcrowding, no air conditioning, inadequate bathroom facilities, limited educational and rehabilitative opportunities, sexual abuse, and lack of supervision creating conditions that are dangerous to inmates, employees, and all who enter the facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, in the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, urges the Alabama Department of Corrections to ensure humane conditions in all state prisons.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church calls upon the Alabama Legislature and Governor, to change mandatory sentencing laws that continually expand prison populations at greater expense than alternatives that have better outcomes for prisoners, victims and citizens, and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that United Methodists in the North Alabama Conference who are residents of Alabama be encouraged to contact their state legislators to demand that immediate steps be taken to significantly improve the conditions of Alabama state prisons and to reduce the prison population, and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Alabama and every member of the Alabama State Legislature.

Submitted by the Justice and Advocacy Team of the North Alabama Conference

A quorum majority of the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions voted concurrence with this Resolution.