In North Alabama, a resolution is a request for action specifically on behalf of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church. It either amends the Annual Conference Standing Rules or is a formal expression of opinion from the North Alabama Annual Conference on a specific subject.

A resolution is not legislation.

A resolution does not change the *Book of Discipline*.

The following resolution was not addressing the North Alabama Conference Standing Rules. It is a formal expression of opinion of the 2023 North Alabama Annual Conference members present and voting in the Friday afternoon plenary session.

This resolution contains no mandates for action by individuals or North Alabama congregations.

**This resolution was adopted on Friday, June 24, 2023, by a vote of 236 to 151.**
A Resolution Supporting the Revision of the Book of Discipline and the Honoring of Differing Convictions
Submitted to the 2023 North Alabama Annual Conference

WHEREAS, we believe that Christ calls us to unity with one another (John 17) and to different roles within the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-16, Romans 12), and

WHEREAS, we have come through an incredibly difficult season of division and separation, that has fractured relationships and failed to honor God, and

WHEREAS, our doctrinal core as United Methodists has not changed and will not change, and

WHEREAS, remaining together despite our differences allows all United Methodists to offer their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, as followers of Jesus, to further Christ’s mission, and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church in North Alabama is comprised of people who categorize themselves differently on a variety of important theological issues, and we are committed to a future where all of those persons know they belong in the North Alabama Conference, and

WHEREAS, our connection to one another ought to foster our ability to reach persons in our local context, not hinder it, and

WHEREAS, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God calls and includes all baptized persons into the life of the Church, and

WHEREAS, when we are united in Christ our differences become assets in reaching the world for Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-23), and

WHEREAS, the current language in the current Book of Discipline on human sexuality has fostered painful division, and

WHEREAS, we believe that our shared confession of Christ is enough to bind us together in mission and ministry, and that our work is to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-21);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. The voting members of the North Alabama Annual Conference support the removal of all language pertaining to homosexuality from the Book of Discipline by the next General Conference,

2. We affirm a continuing commitment to honor the conscience and convictions of our individual churches and clergy, along the theological spectrum, in the appointment process, and

3. We will “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3), for the glory of God.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Annual Conference secretary shall send copies of this resolution to: all General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and alternates, the Commission on General Conference; and the Council of Bishops.

Submitted By: Rev. HN Gibson, Rev. Brian Erickson

Committee votes unanimously that the Resolution is properly before the Annual Conference.

The role of the Committee is not to approve or disapprove the content of a particular petition or resolution but to ensure that they have followed the appropriate process (as outlined in our standing rules) and that they are in agreement with the Book of Discipline, including our Social Principles, and our standing rules.