

RESOLUTION #2016 – 17 (Approved as Amended)

Resolution on Radical Welcome

Presented Arch St. UMC, Calvary UMC First UMC of Germantown, Historic St. George's UMC, First UMC of Media, Drexel Hill UMC, Swarthmore UMC, St. Luke UMC of Bryn Mawr, Penns Park UMC, Grandview UMC Lancaster, Chestnut Hill United Church, and Union UMC of Havertown

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless reports that up to 43% of all homeless teens identify as LGBT, and

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center estimates that between 30% and 40% of all LGBT youth have attempted suicide, and

WHEREAS, rejection by families of origin and/or by churches is reported by many of these youth as the principal reason for their homelessness or their suicide attempt, and

WHEREAS, most United Methodist churches – regardless of their stand on the *Book of Discipline* and LGBT persons – frequently state that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are welcome in their local church for worship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference encourages all churches to practice radical welcome to LGBT persons in specific and tangible ways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference invites the United Methodists of Eastern Pennsylvania and other interested churches to participate as a welcoming presence at Philadelphia OutFest 2016.

Person Responsible for presenting resolution: Rev. Herbert J. Snyder