

**RESOLUTION #2016 – 18 (\*Committed to the Bishop)  
Resolution on Religious Freedom**

**Presented by 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**, paragraph 162J of the *2012 Book of Discipline* commits The United Methodist Church to supporting “basic human rights and civil liberties ... for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation,” and

**WHEREAS**, that same paragraph includes “equal protection before the law” amongst such basic rights and liberties, and

**WHEREAS**, several state legislatures are considering or have passed legislation which would limit their LGBT citizens' freedom from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodation based on any individual's, company's or organization's supposed right to “religious freedom,” and

**WHEREAS**, such legislation is a covert attempt to allow bigotry and discrimination under the guide of “religious freedom;”

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference formally denounces such legislation in any state or jurisdiction because of the spurious use of the term “religious freedom” and because of the obviously discriminatory nature of such legislation.

Person responsible for presenting Resolution: Rev. Dr. David M Krueger

*\*The motion to commit this resolution to the Bishop was amended and approved as a result of the following actions, which appear in the 2016 Conference Journal, page 447:*

Resolution 2016-18: Rev. David Krueger presented the resolution. After Rev. Krueger had spoken to the resolution, a motion was made to postpone it indefinitely. The motion to postpone was not approved. After more discussion, Rev. Joe DiPaolo made a motion to “commit the resolution to the bishop's office with the request that our bishop convene a process parallel to that recently entrusted to the Council of Bishops for the General Church, to discern a path by which we in the EPA can maintain our unity.” After more discussion, an amendment was made to the motion by Rev. Robin Hynicka that this process occur by establishing “a commission that is inclusive of the full diversity of the Eastern PA Conference,” and that the bishop report back by November of 2017. The amendment to the motion was approved. Then the motion to commit the resolution to the bishop's office was approved.