

1 **RESOLUTION # 14**

2 **RESOLUTION TO 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

3 **Presented by FIRE** (Faithfully Inviting and Reconciling Everyone), Epworth United
4 Methodist Church (Rehoboth Beach, DE)

5
6 **Resolution to Love Our Neighbors as Christ Loved Us**

7
8 Whereas, Jesus instructed his disciples in Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make
9 disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
10 the Holy Spirit."

11
12 Whereas, Mark 12:29-31 tells us, "The most important [commandment], answered
13 Jesus, "is this. 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your
14 God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your
15 strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no
16 commandment greater than these,"

17
18 Whereas Paul, in Galatians 3:28, broke societal barriers when he wrote, "There is
19 neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ
20 Jesus,"

21
22 Whereas, Jesus is quoted in the Gospels as condemning homosexuality when he said,
23 " _____,"

24
25 Whereas, John Wesley's first General Rule is "Do no harm,"

26
27 Whereas, our baptismal vows require us to "resist evil, injustice and oppression in
28 whatever forms they present themselves," and we baptize all persons regardless of
29 sexual orientation or gender identity,

30
31 Whereas, pastoral care, the sacraments and rituals of the United Methodist Church are
32 means of grace by which the lives of those living in faith are blessed by God,

33
34 Whereas, we acknowledge that all persons are made in the image of God, and are
35 worthy of God's love and salvation,

36
37 **We therefore ask that our community of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual**
38 **Conference** minister to, pray and worship with, live as people of faith alongside, accept
39 as equal partners in God's Spirit and encourage LGBTQA persons to live authentically
40 to their true selves.

41
42 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: David Garrett**