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4 **55**

5
6 **CONSTITUTION: GENDER IDENTITY**

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8 Whereas, The current language regarding the position of The Wesleyan Church on
9 gender issues has not been recently updated; and

10 Whereas, The issues surrounding gender identity, gender transitioning and other
11 related concerns have become significant topics in the public square;

12 *Resolved*, That our current position on gender identity be strengthened and clarified by
13 adding the following to the current statement in *Discipline* paragraph 265:5 of *The Discipline*
14 *of The Wesleyan Church*:

15
16 *Though “gender” is a modern term not found in Scripture, the Bible provides*
17 *clear guidance concerning the goodness of the sexual distinction between*
18 *women and men, and how to live rightly as women and men in relation with God*
19 *and one another. The binary understanding of gender identity reflects the*
20 *sexual binary that is grounded in God’s design for human flourishing both in this*
21 *present age and in the age to come with Christ’s second coming. While women*
22 *and men are equal in value and both necessary to fulfill the human vocation,*
23 *they are not identical. We are fully equal, but not interchangeable.*

24 *The Wesleyan Church believes that all who struggle with gender dysphoria or*
25 *similar conditions need love and support. But this kind of pastoral care does not*
26 *include encouragement to transition from one sex to another, regardless of a*
27 *person’s sense of gender.*

28
29 So that *Discipline* paragraph 265:5 reads;

30 **265:5.** Follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding gender identity
31 and sexual conduct. Though “gender” is a modern term not found in Scripture,
32 the Bible provides clear guidance concerning the goodness of the sexual
33 distinction between women and men, and how to live rightly as women and men
34 in relation with God and one another. The binary understanding of gender
35 identity ~~constituting~~ reflects the sexual binary that is grounded in God’s design
36 for human flourishing both in this present age and in the age to come with
37 Christ’s second coming. While women and men are equal in value and both
38 necessary to fulfill the human vocation, they are not identical. We are fully equal,
39 but not interchangeable.

40 The Wesleyan Church believes that all who struggle with gender dysphoria or
41 similar conditions need love and support. But this kind of pastoral care does not
42 include encouragement to transition from one sex to another, regardless of a
43 person’s sense of gender.

44
45 GENERAL BOARD
46 Janelle Vernon, General Secretary

47
48 15th General Conference

49 Adopted Not Adopted