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Suggested Title: Faith and Order: Encouraging Theological and Doctrinal Discourse

Book of Resolutions: New Resolution

Financial Implications: None

General Agency: General Council on Ministries

Add new resolution in section "United Methodist Guidelines" of the *Book of Resolutions*

**WHEREAS, the sharing of theological differences should be a common reality within our church; and**

**WHEREAS, biblical and theological dialogue needs to be part of the fabric of our life together in all aspect of the church's life; and**

**WHEREAS, the church needs ways to strengthen our ability for dialogue and doctrinal discernment; and**

**WHEREAS, the issues of faith and order could be developed, struggled with and result in new perspectives being shared; and**

**WHEREAS, using discernment in various levels of the church would truly be a celebration if resources were shared as a gift with one another; and**

**WHEREAS, all bodies of the church should be encouraged to engage in biblical and theological dialogue.**

***Therefore, be it resolved* , that we affirm the disciplinary role of the bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns in fostering biblical and theological dialogue at all levels of the church and do not support the establishment of a separate Commission on Faith and Order.**

***Be it further resolved*, that we affirm the church in its desire to recover and update our distinctive doctrinal heritage, catholic, and reformed and thereby support enabling doctrinal re-invigoration for the sake of authentic renewal, faithful evangelism, and ecumenical dialogue and social witness.**

***Be it further resolved*, that we encourage the church at all levels to offer models and training for leaders (i.e. local church pastors, district superintendents, directors of connectional ministries, laity, etc.) on how to facilitate biblical and theological dialogue. In addition, we urge every general agency to incorporate within its training of church leaders, models of biblical and theological discourse using diverse training modules that reflect upon the diversity of The United Methodist Church.**

***Be it further resolved*, that the 2004 General Conference and all entities of the church be urged to model biblical and theological dialogue for The United Methodist Church.**

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*Rationale: After study by the GCOM Faith and Order Committee, it was determined that there is no need for a Commission on Faith and Order in the UMC. However, the UMC should be engaged in biblical and theological dialogue in all aspects of the church's life.*