

North Georgia Annual Conference

The North Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church met in Athens, Georgia, June 1-3, 2023, to conduct the business of the church with Bishop Robin Dease presiding.

One order of business was the Disaffiliation of Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church, August and Mann Mize United Methodist Church, Augusta per Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. The two churches for ratification were voted on individually and both were ratified by majority vote in the Friday morning session.

In the afternoon session there was a motion from the floor to “Reconsider the Vote on Disaffiliation” based on a Robert’s Rule of Order question but motion did not pass.

Regarding Paragraph 2553, the Trustees lifted the pause, now all churches desiring to vote on disaffiliation may vote.

Also regarding Paragraph 2553, there were two Resolutions presented for vote.

Resolution 701 – Encouraging Leadership with Integrity

In this resolution all lay members and clergy of churches that intend to disaffiliate are asked to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.

The resolution was approved.

Resolution 702 – Affirmation of the Queer Delegates’ Call to Center Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+¹ People in the UMC

In this resolution they were asking the Conference to approve the following.

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates’ call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the North Georgia Annual Conference within and beyond our local churches, districts, departments, centers, and committees;
2. Implores our Annual Conference to either not pursue, hold in abeyance, or resolve in a timely fashion through a process of just resolution any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or the officiating of wedding of LGBTQIA+ persons;
3. Aspires to become a United Methodist Church in which LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout our life mission, and ministry together.

(Note: The queer delegates chose to describe themselves using the umbrella term “Queer” but refer to the broader community of Persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.)

The resolution was approved.