

Whereas the 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church passed three “evolution-friendly” petitions, recognizing that science and theology are compatible rather than contradictory;

Whereas many traditions have learned that repressing science is often counterproductive to good religion (where new findings about the universe can lead to new revelations of the mysteries of the Divine);

Whereas United Methodism has historically sidestepped honest dialogue about the interface between religion and science (especially evolution), leaving some United Methodists unclear about the church’s stance on scientific issues;

Whereas many young people have left the church because they believe the church is out of touch with reality; and

Whereas Creationists have introduced resolutions to remove the word evolution from the *Book of Discipline*, to retract the United Methodist endorsement of The Clergy Letter Project and Evolution Weekend, and to delete the Church's clear opposition to creationism in science classrooms; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC)

1. reaffirms the evolution-friendly language added to the 2008 *Book of Discipline*: "We find that science’s descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology," (Social Principles, “The Natural World,” 2008 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 160. I. F. 2012 *Book of Discipline*);
2. publicly joins the General Church in endorsing The Clergy Letter Project¹ (www.theclergyletterproject.org);
3. urges local churches to observe Evolution Weekend;² and
4. actively opposes “the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of our public schools.”³

Names of Petitioners:

Rev. David M Felten, The Fountains, a UMC

Phil Iverson, The Fountains, a UMC

Rev. Dr. Bob Mitchell, First UMC of Mesa

Rev. Dr. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Dayspring UMC

Rev. Dan Hurlbert, First UMC of Tempe

¹ Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 *Book of Resolutions*.

² Resolution 11, “God’s Creation and the Church” in the 2008 *Book of Resolutions*.

³ “Evolution and Intelligent Design,” in the 2008 *Book of Resolutions*