

**A Resolution Calling Us to Prayer for All Persons
In our State Impacted by the Death Penalty**

WHEREAS, the impact of violent crimes and the death penalty affects many persons in the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, we grieve with the families and victims of murder and other violent crimes in our state; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Church has a strong stance opposing the death penalty (§164 2012 *Book of Discipline* and Resolution 5035 in The 2012 Book of Resolutions);

And

WHEREAS, we long to be agents of healing in our broken, violent culture;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this session of the North Georgia Annual Conference pause in its work, at a time designated by Bishop Watson, to pray for the following:

- 1) The victims of violent crimes and their families whose assailants have been executed in Georgia since 2015:
 - Deputy Kyle Dinkheller
 - Douglas Gissendaner
 - Joseph Handspike
 - Angela Sizemore
 - John Watson
 - Roger Tackett
 - Conway Utterback
- 2) The perpetrators of these crimes and their families. These persons have also experienced loss. We pray for an end to personal and social conditions that contribute to persons committing such acts:
 - Andrew Howard Brannen
 - Warren Lee Hill, Jr.
 - Kelly Renee Gissendaner
 - Marcus Ray
 - Brian Keith Terrell
 - Brandon Astor Jones
 - Travis Clinton Hittson
- 3) Healing for our communities that are affected by the crimes as well as the resultant executions.
- 4) All persons in the criminal justice system – juries, prosecutors, judges, wardens, guards, etc. – who are involved in capital punishment cases.

I, Donn Ann Weber, do certify that I am the Secretary of the North Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and that the above Resolution was presented to and passed by a majority of members voting at the Annual Conference of said North Georgia Annual Conference this 9th day of June 2016, meeting in Athens, Georgia.



Donn Ann Weber, Secretary
North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church