

# **Ratification of Paragraph 4, Article IV**

## **Vote YES On Ballot #2**

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

# Ratification of Paragraph 4, Article IV

The General Conference voted to add “gender” and “ability” to the membership portion of the UMC Constitution. This means that no one can be excluded or denied membership because they identify as a female or a person with disabilities.

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.*

(Galatians 3:28 NRSV)



# Ratification of Paragraph 4, Article IV

- This amendment prohibits any form of exclusion from church membership or participation. It specifically adds “gender” and “ability” to the Constitution’s list of protected categories. Where everyone has a place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.
- It is aligned with ¶16.1 –which defines the conditions, of Church membership.
- Ratification of Paragraph 4, Article IV reinforces the UMC’s commitment to gender and ability equality throughout the worldwide church.

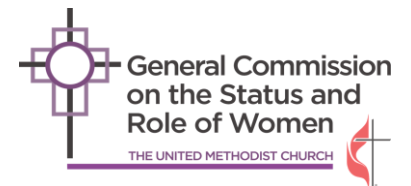
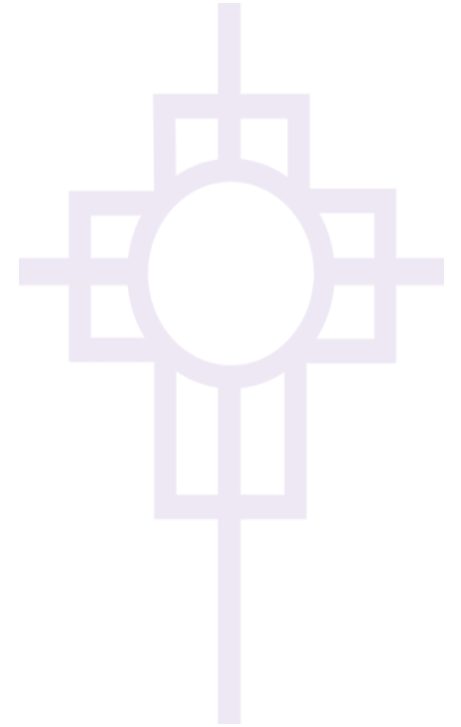
# We Have a Renewed Hope

- Passing this amendment, ensures that “ability” and “gender” are protected in the Church’s Constitution. So that women, your daughters, your sisters and mothers can have membership in the UMC.
- To make this amendment permanent, we need a two-thirds majority vote.
- Ratification is based upon the popular vote. The percentage of yes votes is based upon the combined number of individual voting members in every annual conference.

# A YES vote for Ballot #2=

The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status, or economic condition shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local Church in the connection.

(The amended version of Paragraph 4, Article IV)



# Take Action

GCSRW encourages everyone to spread awareness by sharing resources with their churches, districts and conferences. Supporting this amendment affirms membership rights across a diverse population.

**Your VOTE counts**

# General Conference said “yes!”

## Now it's your turn!

**gender**



**ability**



*In the coming months, Annual Conferences across the world will vote on adding the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article IV of The UMC Constitution.*

### Vote “yes!” on Ballot #2

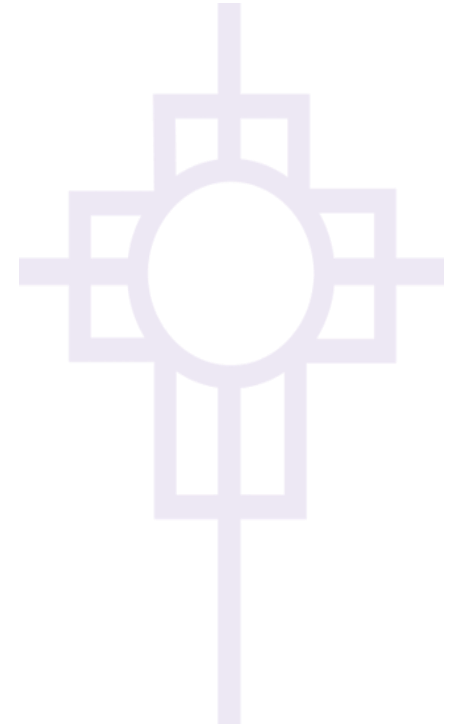




# GCSRW RESOURCES

[www.gcsrw.org](http://www.gcsrw.org)

[www.resourceumc.org/paragraph4article4.org](http://www.resourceumc.org/paragraph4article4.org)



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