



For Immediate Release

March 13, 2006

**A Statement From the National Association of Schools,
Colleges, and Universities of The United Methodist Church in
Response to Judicial Council Decisions 1032, 1027**

We the members of NASCUMC express our deep concern for the pain and alienation on the part of those directly and indirectly affected by Judicial Council Decision 1032 on church membership, as well as the ongoing conflicted discussion of Decision 1027 regarding the clergy status of persons living in same-sex relationships. We affirm the church in its decades-long struggle to balance an unqualified commitment to sacred worth, sacred identity and sacred practice. The United Methodist Church has chosen consistently to walk the path of constructive tension among these commitments. We encourage the church to resolve this issue in a manner that upholds the sacred worth of all human beings.

As United Methodist-related college and university leaders, we embrace the church's affirmation: "Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors." We affirm the core humanistic and religious value that all persons are of sacred worth and equal standing. We welcome students to our campuses regardless of their race or ethnicity, their creed, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation. We encourage the free exchange of ideas and therefore recognize that diversity of background, values, and viewpoints is essential for rich conversation and sound learning. We promote a vision of life in which people are judged by the content of their character and not their skin color, their gender, their sexual orientation, or any of the other artificial barriers used to devalue some of God's children.

We call upon The United Methodist Church to continue expressing its own stated commitment to inclusiveness and its opposition to discrimination in any form that would devalue a person's sacred worth; and we, as presidents of United Methodist-related colleges and universities, commit ourselves to foster an educational environment in which honest differences can be explored in an open, objective, and safe environment.



EXECUTIVE OFFICES
1001 19TH AVE., SOUTH (37212-2130)
P. O. BOX 340007
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-0007
☎ (615) 340-7399
FAX (615) 340-7379