

## **R #9 – Witnessing and Voting for Civility, Compassion, and Democracy**

It was resolved by the Michigan Conference:

The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church urges all United Methodists and United States citizens to use personal courtesy (PC) in political conversations and to vote for civility, compassion, and democracy.

We urge Michigan United Methodists to speak out against politicians who use dehumanizing language, vulgarities, name calling, insults, and veiled threats of violence.

We urge pastors and lay leaders to use Sunday School lessons, communications, sermons, letters to the editor, op eds, and advertisements to remind Americans to be civil and compassionate in political conversations. Let us remind each other and the public that all the world's major religions have versions of the Golden Rule that counsel us to speak respectfully with others as we would have them to speak respectfully with us.

We urge pastors and lay leaders to use these two resources to advance democracy and good citizenship: General Conference Resolution 3422, "Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming the Context of Hate in the U.S." and "Strengthening our democracy," a statement from 13 presidential centers that promotes, "civil dialogue; respect for democratic institutions and rights; and safe, secure, and accessible elections." ([bushcenter.org](http://bushcenter.org), 9-7-23)

We urge Michigan United Methodists and friends to participate in Get Out The Vote (GOTV) with nonpartisan organizations such as the League of Women Voters and the NAACP.

We urge Michigan United Methodists and U.S. citizens to ask nonpartisan questions to evaluate candidates based on the 2020/2024 Revised Social Principles.