

165th Session of the  
California-Nevada Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
Sacramento, California, June 19-22, 2013



**ITEM 22**  
**Freedom of Expression on California Academic Campuses**  
*Adopted on Consent Calendar June 22, 2013*

**Be it resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference seek to re-affirm and ensure that basic human rights and freedom of expression are essential to all of God's people wherever they happen to be in this State (whether on or off campus or anywhere else);

**Be it further resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference, in response to HR 35, urge United Methodists residing in the State of California to request each of their state legislators (Assembly and Senate) to support and adopt a concurrent resolution ensuring and strengthening the freedom of expression on all California academic campuses.

It is suggested that such a concurrent resolution include the following elements:

1. That, as required by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Section 2 of Article I of the California Constitution, California's universities and colleges must uphold and defend the free expression of all political views, especially those considered controversial by others who may vehemently disagree with them.
2. That educational and all other efforts to defeat racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of hatred must not involve unconstitutional limitations on free expression.
3. And noting that criticism of Israeli government policies does not inherently constitute anti-Semitic speech, just as criticism of a Vatican policy is not inherently anti-Catholic, criticism of Iranian policies is not inherently anti-Muslim, and criticism of U.S. government policies is not inherently anti-American.

**And be it further resolved** that the California-Nevada Annual Conference Secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to each California State Assembly Member and Senator representing any portion of this Annual Conference area, the Assembly Speaker and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, as well as the President pro Tem of the Senate and Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

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