

## **RESOLUTIONS REFERRED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022**

### **1. Resolution on the Present Country Situation**

We Sri Lankans, having lived through the agony of the suicide bomb attacks on Easter Sunday of 2019, targeting Christian churches and tourist hotels, which had a direct impact on the life of our nation, even leading towards unwarranted suspicion and fear of the other religious communities and having dire consequences on our national economy and very specially the tourist industry.

Continuing to live through the Covid 19 pandemic in the ensuing years, which further weakened our economy and day to day life of our people and now experiencing an acute economic and political crisis that has totally shattered daily life of many thousands of our people. There is no doubt that the present predicament is due to corruption and the mismanagement of the economy for political expediencies and serving the interest of a few privileged people.

Recognizing that those controlling the political apparatus over many years, including most of the elected representatives of our people have used their power and privileges for their own gain, and not being accountable to the people.

The Annual Methodist Conference of 2022, resolves to :-

Appeal to the government to immediately stop harassing and arresting those who were genuinely part of the public protests that took place in the country, which was in many senses a platform to express the genuine frustration and aspirations of the people.

Abolish the Executive Presidency system and have adequate checks and balances on the parliament as well and create a new political mechanism where all parliamentarians are accountable to the people regularly.

Conduct a general election as early as possible in order that the elected representatives who will determine the future of the country will have the legitimate confidence of the people.

It further calls on His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister and all main opposition parties to facilitate the establishment of an all-party mechanism to address the acute economic crisis we are burdened with, driving millions to misery and untold suffering.

Establish a totally independent constitutional council, judiciary commission, bribery & corruption commission and public administration. It is also vital to ensure that people who have proved to be honest and who are qualified and experienced to hold higher posts in the country.

Investigate the Easter Bomb attack and the Central Bank bond scam thoroughly and the culprits be brought before the law.

We also appeal to all beloved citizens of Sri Lanka, to be united as one family, transcending our ethnic and religious divide and be rooted on principles of love and non-violence and continue to strive towards creating a new political culture, which meet the aspirations of our future generations.

We as a religious community, while acknowledging our political apathy and failure to sustain the moral and ethical fabric of our nation, pledge to work with all people of Sri Lanka, regardless of any ethnic, religious or political divide, to praying and working towards the emergence of a

new political culture, where equality and equal opportunities for all will be ensured and all people will be able to live with honour and dignity.

**Proposed by :** Rev. W. P. Ebenezer Joseph

**Seconded by :** Rev. Kusum Kumarasiri

## **2. Resolution from ECEM**

The Annual Methodist Conference of 2022, takes note of the fact the year 2023, signifies the 200<sup>th</sup> commemorative year, of the plantation community, for having permanently settled in the Island. It acknowledges that the Plantation Community now commonly referred as the 'Malaiyaha Makkal' through their sacrificial labour of sweat and blood have developed the plantation regions, while living as a distinctive community within the Sri Lankan nation and have made significant contribution to the political and economic development of the island.

As we commemorate the 200 years of their existence in our nation the Conference calls upon all Churches to ;

- To sincerely examine the accountability of the Churches towards this Community in the past 200 years.
- The churches jointly resolve to work together for the future welfare and development of this community, in order that they may live with honour and dignity and ensure that they obtain their legitimate social & political rights and recognition.

In order to achieve the above, it calls on the like-minded churches to appoint a joint committee to draw up a systematic work plan to be implemented jointly.

**The Conference accepts the resolution of ECEM**