



THE BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH

- **The context of the work by the church was set against the background of the appearance HIV AIDS at the beginning of the 1980's which spiked in 1985 dropped and then rose again to an all time high 2005.**

- **The Methodist Conference in Britain recognises both the divergent and sometimes opposing views of its members**

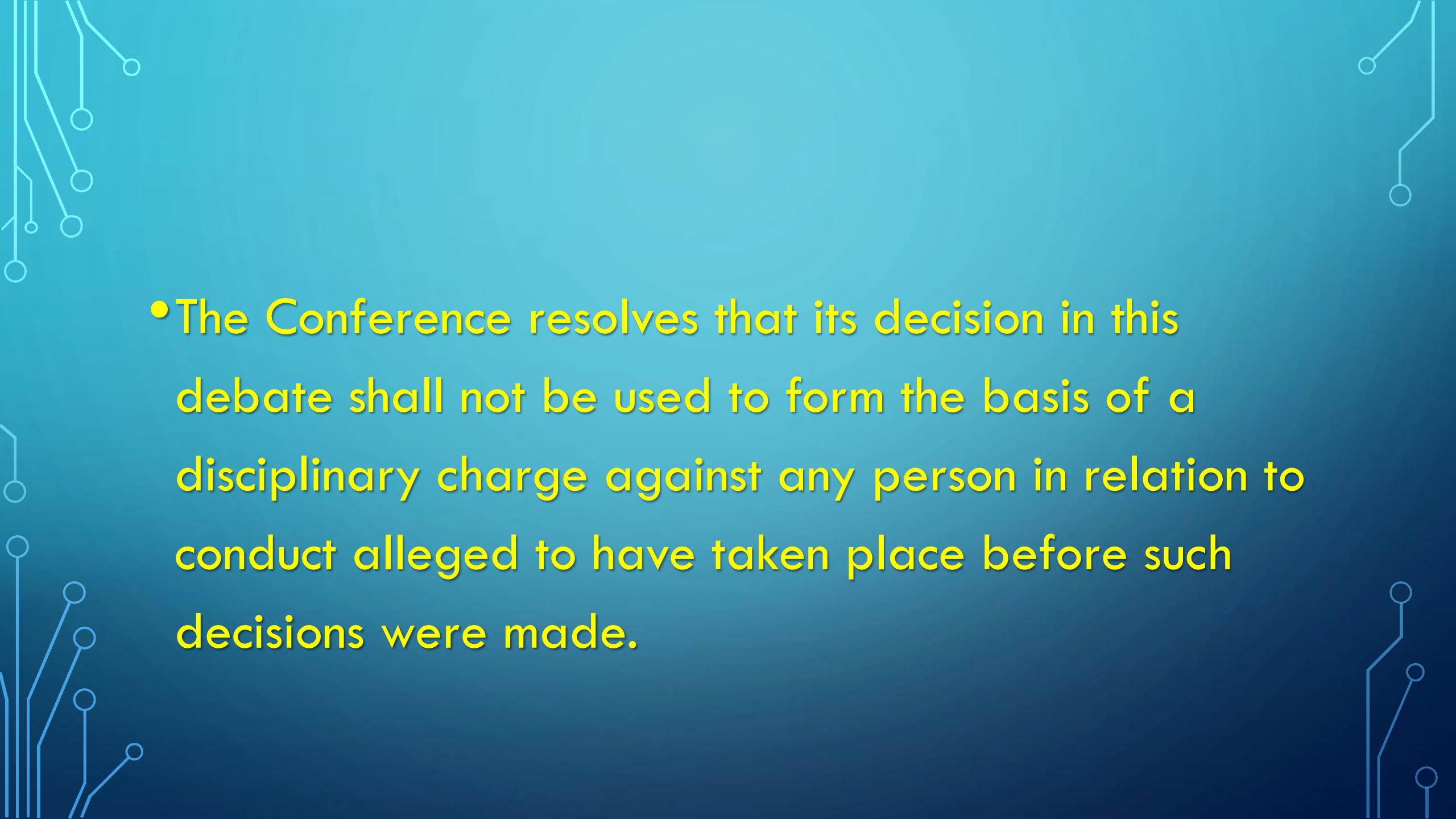
- **The Methodist Conference debate about sexuality is described as a ‘Pilgrimage of faith’ in other words it is not a one-off debate and decision but a continuing journey together, and as I will show, it has been and continues to be a long journey.**

- *The first requirement of love is to listen. Honest and sensitive listening is not just an important part of the gospel, it is necessary if we wish to begin to frame any ethic. A Christian ethic, to be true to the gospel, must engage with Scripture and tradition and must wrestle with the actual daily experience of people. It is in the bringing together of past and present that the Church discovers the shape of the gospel for today. It is not helpful to formulate an ideal, to which all should seek to conform, without reference to what is really being experienced by those for whom that ideal might be experienced as a denial of their own being or as oppressive.*

• **Methodist Church Commission 1990**

- The Conference, affirming the joy of human sexuality as God's gift and the place of every human being within the grace of God, recognises the responsibility that flows from this for us all. It therefore welcomes the serious, prayerful and sometimes costly consideration given to this issue by The Methodist Church.

- The Conference reaffirms the traditional teaching of the Church on human sexuality; namely chastity for all outside marriage and fidelity within it. The Conference directs that this affirmation is made clear to all candidates for ministry, office and membership, and having established this, affirm that the existing procedures of our church are adequate to deal with all such cases.

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- The background is a dark blue gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white and light blue circuit-like patterns consisting of lines and small circles, resembling a network or data flow diagram.
- The Conference resolves that its decision in this debate shall not be used to form the basis of a disciplinary charge against any person in relation to conduct alleged to have taken place before such decisions were made.

- Conference recognises, affirms and celebrates the participation and ministry of lesbians and gay men in the church. Conference calls on the Methodist people to begin a pilgrimage of faith to combat repression and discrimination, to work for justice and human rights and to give dignity and worth to people whatever their sexuality.