

IV. DAILY PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A. MAY 6, 2023 CALLED SESSION OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. MINUTES OF THE CLERGY AND BUSINESS SESSIONS

VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 9:00 A.M.

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES VIRTUALLY: In compliance with Paragraph 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016), Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023, in a private, electronic live-stream recording from the Western North Carolina Conference Center at 13924 Professional Center Drive, Huntersville, N.C. Rev. Aldana Allen (Providence (Salisbury), UW) read scripture, and after a brief meditation from Bishop Carter, Rev. Lynda Ferguson (First (Asheboro), UW) offered an intercessory prayer.

ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: The Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, explained that only clergy in full connection either active or retired and lay members and local pastors of the Board of Ordained Ministry are eligible to vote on the questions at hand, which will be presented in an electronic ballot, available through individual voting links sent to each eligible person, which will open at the conclusion of the session and will close at 5:00 p.m.

BUSINESS QUESTION 38b (those voluntarily discontinued as provisional members): Rev. Ferguson presented the two names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 42a, b (those whose conference membership is terminated by withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office or to unite with another denomination): Rev. Ferguson presented the 29 names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session of the clergy adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

VIRTUAL BUSINESS SESSION CONVENES – 10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER: According to Paragraph 603.5, *The Book of Discipline* (2016), Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., resident and presiding bishop of the Charlotte Area, called to order a special called session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The session was convened through a virtual platform according to **Rule 32** of The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, and a live-stream session was broadcast from the conference's YouTube channel. Bishop Carter directed that this special session would consider local churches who have voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church according to provisions of *The Book of Discipline* and Western North Carolina Annual Conference policies, and to affirm connectionally that vote; and further to authorize after this session the district superintendents, conference board of trustees, and local church leaders to complete the process.

OPENING PRAYER LITURGY: Rev. Dr. Bill White, Jr., conference director of equity and justice ministries, and Rev. Dan Pezet, district superintendent of the Metro District, offered an opening prayer liturgy, written by Rev. Gloria Hughes and Rev. Dr. Melanie Dobson.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, presented the following motions:

VOTING BAR: Rev. Ingram moved that the voting bar will be the clergy and lay members of the annual conference as identified in *The Book of Discipline* (2016), who are present and voting virtually or on a paper ballot.

AGENDA: The sole purpose of this call session is to vote on the Western North Carolina Annual Conference Board of Trustees recommendations for churches choosing to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church through the authorized process outlined in Paragraph 2553, and each of these motions will be voted on once the ballot is opened at the conclusion of the session.

***Each of the opening motions was approved.*

REMARKS OF THE CONFERENCE LAY LEADER: John Crane, conference lay leader, First (Gastonia, CV), acknowledged and celebrated the faithful work of the laity and churches choosing to disaffiliate have done in their communities and beyond to further the work of the kingdom of God. He recognized that members in the churches disaffiliating were experiencing grief and loss. To the laity in the annual conference remaining United Methodist, he hoped that they shared his excitement for what the future holds for The United Methodist Church. The mission remains unchanged to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The doctrinal standards and commitment to historic confessions of the Christian faith remain unchanged. We will continue to serve God and God's world through works of piety and works of mercy. We will continue to love God with all of our hearts, minds, and strength and to love the neighbor as ourselves. We will continue to work for a just and equitable world, to share God's love for those who are hurting.

CABINET RESPONSES: Rev. Dr. Sam Moore, district superintendent, Yadkin Valley District, recognized that 192 churches were choosing to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. We wish for those churches God's blessing, but lament the departure of colleagues, friends, co-workers, and fellow disciples. We recognize the strife and woundedness caused by separation. As children in the family of God, and brothers and sisters in Christ we grieve over one another. As pastors we have been on this journey together through the process for ordination, serving together and working together. Dr. Moore concluded using a line from the Book of Worship liturgy for a farewell to a pastor: "Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure."

Rev. Lory Beth Huffman, district superintendent, Appalachian District, described the geographical and demographic impact of the

192 churches departing. The churches departing are located in 40 out of 45 counties that comprise the annual conference. Some areas will experience a greater loss of a United Methodist presence: 45 disaffiliating churches are located in suburban and urban areas, 133 disaffiliating churches are located in rural areas, 13 are small town, county seat churches. One hundred fourteen of the disaffiliating churches have an average worship attendance of less than fifty. Eighty-seven of the departing churches are served by ordained elders, seventy-six by local pastors and associate members, 13 by pastors of other denominations, six by lay pastors. One hundred eighteen are part-time churches and seventy-four are full-time, station churches. Rev. Huffman gave thanks for the witness and ministry of each of the 192 congregations and honored their service and faithfulness.

Rev. Laura Auten, district superintendent, Uwharrie District, using the resources for homecoming from the United Methodist Book of Worship, gave thanks for the churches being released for the faith and vision, for the gifts and abilities of those who established these congregations. She expressed gratitude for those who have given freely of their time and money. She gave thanks for those who surrounded others with a community of love and forgiveness. She thanked those who have preached and taught in these places and have confessed that Jesus is Lord. For those who have fed the hungry and clothed those in need, and provided aid to their neighbors, she gave thanks. Finally, as these pastors and congregations are released into a variety of new identities and partnerships beyond The United Methodist Church, she lamented the loss of connection and prayed God's blessing and peace for their future.

Rev. Bev. Copley, district superintendent, Northern Piedmont District, read the scripture from Acts 2:42-47.

BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS: Bishop Ken Carter reflected on this moment in the life of the denomination and the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Bishop Carter spoke to those churches and clergy departing this fellowship. For those churches departing and have completed the work appropriate toward that direction, he offered the grace, peace, and mercy of the Lord. We are not enemies. By the action of the annual conference, you will be free to be an independent church, part of the Global Methodist Church, a Southern Methodist Church, or a part of some other denomination. That is your work to do. Our gift to those departing is to assure you of our prayers and our commitment not to judge or disparage you. With the gift comes a request, an appeal, that with the severing of relationship you are not to speak in UMC churches or with our members about joining you in your journey. There has been a season of this and today marks the end of that season. Go in peace, serve the Lord, reach the unchurched with the Good News. Do not comment or pass judgement on The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church is your past and not your future. We pledge the same to you. By action of the vote being taken today, we will walk a separate path, trusting that the Lord will use us in different ways all for the glory of God.

To The United Methodist Church, we are in the midst of a pivot. We are in a season now of Easter. We have transitioned from a season of fasting, Lent, to a fifty-day season of feasting, Easter. These fifty days mark the resurrection of Christ and the anticipation of the mission given on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh. He invited the church to focus on Acts 2:42-47. He invited the church to commit to the teachings of Jesus and about Jesus, to recommit to the fellowship of the connection, to share meals with each other and celebrate the Eucharist with joy, to intercede with and for each other. He encouraged that we look for signs and wonders that God is performing through us. This is the Kingdom of God of which Jesus speaks, this is the harvest of the fruits of the Spirit. He prayed for a new season of gladness and generosity. He invited a recommitment to the connection. This is the way we share all things in common with each other, the strong and the weak, the rural and the urban, persons of color and "Anglos," female and male, young and old. In the connection we share our lives, all that we are and have, all a gift from God. We seek to grow in maturity, influence, and the number of persons. Every person is created in God's image, every person is someone, who matters to God. The second text is the prayer following the receiving of Holy Communion which affirms the mystery of God's church and the mission of the church. In the strength of the Holy Spirit, we give ourselves for others. We can be and continue to be a church for others. God using us as the instruments for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on others with no exception. With this is strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. He encouraged members to be present for what is happening today in this meeting. It is important. For those disaffiliating, "Go in peace." For the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, we recommit to the "apostles' teaching, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in that strength, we give ourselves for others.

PRAYER: Rev. Dr. Jae Lee, district superintendent, Smoky Mountain District, offered prayer for the churches remaining as United Methodist to discern God's will and be obedient to God's direction.

INITIAL BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS: Rev. Ingram explained that Election Buddy will be used to manage the online voting. The ballot will include the two organizational motions and identifies the 192 churches which have fulfilled the requirements to date, according to Paragraph 2553, and are asking for approval from the annual conference to disaffiliate. A vote must be given for each church, individually. Because of the length of the ballot, it may take some time for the ballot to download. The ballot will open immediately following the adjournment of the special annual conference session and remain open until 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time today. The District Superintendents will name the disaffiliating churches in the eight districts found on the ballot. The names of each church along with their petition and disaffiliation agreement are available on the website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/special-session-may-6>.

DISAFFILIATION OF CHURCHES: Each of the eight district superintendents read the names of the following churches from their respective districts:

Appalachian District: Rev. Lory Beth Huffman read the names of the 29 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Blue Ridge District: Rev. Dr. Mark Ralls read the names of the 10 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Catawba Valley District: Rev. David Christy read the names of the 38 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Metro District: Rev. Dan Pezet read the names of the 17 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Northern Piedmont District: Rev. Bev. Copley read the names of the 13 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Smoky Mountain District: Rev. Dr. Jae Lee read the names of the 7 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Uwharrie District: Rev. Laura Auten read the names of the 37 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Yadkin Valley District: Rev. Dr. Sam Moore read the names of the 41 churches requesting disaffiliation.

Following the reading of the 192 churches requesting disaffiliation, Bishop Carter invited a pause and silent prayer for each church named, which carries with it a history of mission and faithfulness of giving life, of offering salvation, and of creating community.

BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS: Rev. Ingram gave additional instructions for accessing, downloading, reviewing, and submitting the ballot. Each eligible voter with a valid email address and/or phone number on file with the annual conference will receive an email and an SMS text message from Election Buddy with a voting link. The emails and text messages will come from Election Buddy. Each voting link is unique to each voter. Do not share the voting link. Each link can vote only one time and after the vote is recorded the link will expire. The ballot will be presented in a survey style format. Each question will require a response of yes, no, or abstain. After completion, the continue button will allow for review of the selections made on the ballot. After review click the submit button to cast your vote. A successful vote will be confirmed by a confirmation page, plus an email will be sent with a confirmation and a confirmation code. Write down the code. Voting will open shortly after the conclusion of the special conference session and remain open until 5:00 p.m. today. Because of the length of the ballot, it may take some time for the ballot to download and process. A ballot help desk is available at help@wnccumc.org. Members who requested a paper ballot must complete the ballot and mail the ballot postmarked Monday, May 8, 2023, by midnight. The results should be posted on the conference website in a week.

***Each disaffiliation petition was approved; petitions and ballot results are listed by district after the Adjournment.*

CABINET RESPONSE: Rev. David Christy, district superintendent, Catawba Valley, on behalf of the Cabinet, declared that we believe the annual conference is in a season of hope and a season of resurrection. He further proclaimed that we celebrate what we know, namely, our God is a God of resurrection, and that we are experiencing resurrection and awaiting with all disciples a fresh release of the Holy Spirit upon us. He noted that 761 churches out of 953 churches remain United Methodist. Nearly 210,000 remain members of local United Methodist churches in the annual conference. The United Methodist Church in Western North Carolina is strong and will be strengthened as it follows God's direction and walks obediently on the path of God's future.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES: Rev. Amy Coles, assistant to the bishop, celebrated the work of fresh expressions and the development of emerging communities in areas where there has been congregational division and the loss of church homes. As of today, 115 churches have been trained to become lighthouse congregations and fifty-five have made the commitment. These churches have been trained and equipped to welcome and minister to those whose churches are divided or disaffiliated. Lighthouse churches provide care and opportunity for mission and service for those who have felt displaced from their church.

FUTURE WORK AND CHALLENGE: Rev. Dr. Mark Ralls, district superintendent, Blue Ridge District, exhorted that the work to be United Methodist continues and is far from complete. We must keep pushing and remain open to being pushed to bring God's Kingdom here on earth. Our wonderful, messy, imperfect, and beautiful United Methodist Church is committed to fulfilling God's purpose for God's church not a human purpose for a human church. We do not believe that we need to look alike, think alike, or love alike. This season in the life of our connectional church is an opportunity to align more closely with God's deep desire that we embody the beloved community of Jesus Christ. This is a great time to be United Methodist. He invited United Methodists to tell their story in their community of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

CLOSING REMARKS AND APPRECIATION: Bishop Carter expressed his thanks to Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, to the members of the Cabinet and District Superintendents, who spoke in this session and represented actions taken by local churches. He thanked the members of the annual conference for their love of God and their neighbor. He gave thanks to God for The United Methodist Church as it continues in the great fifty days to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life that Jesus Christ gives us. In June a new conference year begins and while current work continues, the conference will also continue to pivot toward strengthening local churches, reaching out to all persons, and including all persons, and living the values of grace, connection, and holiness. He said it is an honor to serve as bishop and thanked everyone participating in this called session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a benediction by Bishop Carter, the called session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

2. PETITIONS TO DISAFFILIATE

PDFs of the legal documents for disaffiliation for each church are posted at www.wnccumc.org/special-session-may-6.

Note, the disaffiliations become effective as of the date of property transfer, not the date of approval at the Annual Conference session. Thus, churches that did not complete the disaffiliation process by July 1, 2023, will appear in the 2024 Journal BAC.

Appalachian District (29)

Disaffiliation of Arbor Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Purlear, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Arbor Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Purlear, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Arbor Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Arbor Grove United Methodist Church believes according to paragraph 304.3 of *The Book of Discipline* the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, the Arbor Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with Petitions 20, 21 and 22 of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference (2019); and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Arbor Grove United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 passed with required the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Council Chair of Arbor Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Arbor Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.07%), 66 No (3.93%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethelview United Methodist Church, Boone, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethelview United Methodist Church, Boone, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bethelview United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Bethelview United Methodist Church believes that the 2019 Annual Conference was a pivotal moment for our church when, via the UMC next petition (#22), our conference declared the official position of the denomination, that was reaffirmed and reinforced “ in The Traditional Plan” approved by the 2019 General Conference, to be evil, unjust, oppressive, and incompatible with the gospel and vowed to resist its implantation. This, in addition to the persistent charge that a traditional view does harm, leaves us with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the continuing UMC in the WNCC; and

Whereas, the Bethelview United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing and increasing subversion, defiance, and disregard of our *Discipline* in much of the UMC regarding our official standards for sexual ethics, and marriage including as it relates to the practice of homosexuality; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bethelview United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Bethelview UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bethelview UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church of Statesville, Inc., Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bethlehem United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Bethlehem United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for bishops and clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Bethlehem United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and the condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bethlehem United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by more than the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Bethlehem UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bethlehem UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.94%), 68 No (4.06%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, Taylorsville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, Taylorsville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church believes the defiance and disregard for *The Book of Discipline* and the lack of accountability regarding these matters has left the denomination in an untrustworthy and selective system of governance that is untenable. Unfortunately, The Traditional Plan passed by the 2019 General Conference was not sufficient to address the lack of accountability of bishops, annual conferences, and entire jurisdictions that refuse to abide by it. Because of this uncertainty and lack of accountability from all areas of the governance, the members and leadership of Carson's Chapel United Methodist church have chosen to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church and become an independent church; and

Whereas, the Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church does not believe that it is acceptable for self-avowing, practicing LGBTQ persons to hold leadership roles such as District Superintendents, Bishops, Pastors, Sunday school teachers, or Choir directors of the church. For this reason, the members and leadership of Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church have chosen to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church and become an independent church; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Carson's Chapel United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Carson's Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Carson's Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED; 1,614 Yes (96.19%), 64 No (3.81%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Clarksbury United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Clarksbury United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Clarksbury United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the actions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference in regards to the passing of the "Traditional Plan" at the General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the Clarksbury United Methodist Church believes their disagreement with the course of the UMC regarding sexual immorality is a presenting symptom of a deeper theological divide over the nature and authority of Scripture as well as other moral and theological issues; and

Whereas, the Clarksbury United Methodist Church does not agree with the will of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference passing the UMC Next Petition (#22) vowing to resist the implementation of the "Traditional Plan" of General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Clarksbury United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Church Council of Clarksbury UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, unless Bishop Carter calls a special Annual Conference prior to next year's regularly Scheduled Annual Conference, and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Clarksbury UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Cool Spring United Methodist Church, Cleveland, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Cool Spring United Methodist Church, Cleveland, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of Cool Spring United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Cool Spring United Methodist Church believes that traditional marriage should be between a man and a woman. We Therefore, agree with the Traditional plan adopted by the UMC in the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, Cool Spring United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the 2019 Western NC Annual Conference to reject the Traditional Plan. We also do not agree with the appointment of openly gay pastors or homosexual weddings in the UMC. We do acknowledge that we are all sinners and should love and welcome everyone per the teaching of Jesus; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cool Spring United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Cool Spring UMC have the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Cool Spring UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Creston United Methodist Church, Creston, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees Creston United Methodist Church, Creston, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Creston United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 Special Session of the UMC Conference specifically regarding the passage of several petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Creston UMC disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of Petition 20, which seeks to insert a new ¶ in *The Book of Discipline* that would grant Jurisdictional Conferences power to conform the detailed rules, rites, and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage to the statute laws of the country or countries within its jurisdiction, thus enabling clergy to perform same-sex marriages; and

Whereas, Creston UMC believes Petition 20 is in direct conflict with *The Book of Discipline* as such practices as performing same-sex wedding ceremonies are declared by UMC to be incompatible with Christian teachings and are chargeable offenses with mandatory penalties for clergy convicted of performing such marriages, and as *The Book of Discipline* affirms the sanctity of marriage to be heterosexual marriage between one man and one woman; and

Whereas, Creston UMC disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of Petition 21, which seeks to remove a section of ¶161G from *The Book of Discipline* that states, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching”; and

Whereas, Creston UMC believes the above referenced section of ¶161G from *The Book of Discipline* to be true and that it should remain in *The Book of Discipline* as written; and

Whereas, Creston UMC disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of Petition 22 which is cited as a statement of opposition to the Traditional Plan as passed by the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, and through its approval the WNCC formally affirmed the statement and four commitments of UMC Next and urged local UM congregations of the Western North Carolina Conference to ensure that LGBTQIA+ persons are included in the leadership of the local churches; and

Whereas, Creston UMC believes the endorsement of Petition 22 is a direct affront to the Traditional Plan and *The Book of Discipline* as approved and supported by the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, specifically in areas relating to: same-sex wedding ceremonies and celebrations of homosexual unions; leadership positions and prohibitions from consecrating, commissioning, or ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexuals; chargeable offenses and penalties related to such unauthorized conduct or incompatible practices; and ensuring no United Methodist funds are given to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise used to promote the acceptance of homosexuality; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Creston United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Creston UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Creston UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Friendship United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Friendship United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Friendship United Methodist Church believes as stated in *The Book of Discipline* that clergy is to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world and that the practice of homosexuality (LGBTQ) is incompatible with Christian teaching; and

Whereas, the Friendship United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing and increasing subversion, defiance, and disregard of our *Discipline* in much of the UMC regarding our official standards for sexual ethics and marriage, including as it

relates to the practice of homosexuality (LGBTQ). The 2019 Annual Conference was a pivotal moment for our church when via the UMC Next Petition (#22) our conference declared the official position of the denomination, was reaffirmed and reinforced in “The Traditional Plan” approved by the 2019 General Conference, to be evil, unjust, and oppressive, and incompatible with the gospel and vowed to resist its implementation. This in addition to the persistent charge that the traditional view “does harm” leaves us with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the Continuing-UMC in the WNCC; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Friendship United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Friendship UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Friendship UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Gamewell United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Gamewell United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Gamewell United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the actions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Gamewell United Methodist Church believes the current *Book of Discipline* which states, “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” and

Whereas, the Gamewell United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Conference, particularly with the following petitions:

- Petition 21, which resolved that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference petition the General Conference in 2020 to remove the language in *The Book of Discipline* referring to the practice of homosexuality as “incompatible with Christian teaching.” The Petition passed with 692 votes for and 481 votes against.
- Petition 22, was a statement of opposition to the Traditional Plan as passed by the Special General Conference of 2019. The substitute petition was accepted and passed with 564 votes for and 328 votes against.
 - We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.
 - We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restriction and penalties in *The Book of Discipline* regarding LGBTQ persons; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Gamewell United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by more than a two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that the Chair of the Church Council of Gamewell UMC have the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Gamewell UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Grace Chapel United Methodist Church, Granite Falls, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Grace Chapel United Methodist Church, Granite Falls, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Grace Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Grace Chapel United Methodist Church believes in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God’s truth and grace to all people. We believe in the God-given value of all God’s people and creation. We believe that marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman, and that ordination is reserved for those who are actively pursuing biblical Holiness to include celibacy and singleness faithfulness in marriage and heterosexual lifestyle; and

Whereas, the Grace Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing disregard within the UMC and lack of enforcement of *The Book of Discipline* regarding our standards of sexual ethics in marriage, ordination, and practice of homosexuality. We also, feel that this disregard of *The Book of Discipline* concerning sexual morality is a symptom of a larger and deeper theological divide over the nature and authority of Scripture which has resulted in no viable path forward for Grace Chapel in the UMC along with what we see as an emerging divided environment within The United Methodist Church and Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Grace Chapel United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Grace Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Grace Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Harmony United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Harmony United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Harmony United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Harmony United Methodist Church believes the Holy Bible is the divine and infallible Word of God, we also believe in the traditional plan that the homosexual lifestyle is incompatible with Christian living as stated in *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Harmony United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing disruption and disregard of the doctrine as stated in the Bible and *The Book of Discipline*, we disagree with the four commitments signed by the leaders in the UMC which includes the statement, “We reject the Traditional Plan approved at the General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.” We disagree with the petition to remove from *The Book of Discipline*, “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian living” as was passed at the WNCC Annual conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Harmony United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that designees of the Harmony United Methodist Church Council be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc., needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Harmony UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.65%), 73 No (4.35%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Harper’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Patterson, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Harper’s Chapel UMC, Patterson, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Harper’s Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Harper’s Chapel UMC believes that the “traditional plan” as approved has not been sufficiently upheld and does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Harper’s Chapel UMC believes that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching; and

Whereas, Harper’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions 20, 21, and 22 at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of The UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan,” and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan;” and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Harper’s Chapel United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Harper’s Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Harper’s Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Little Laurel United Methodist Church, Creston, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Little Laurel United Methodist Church, Creston, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Little Laurel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Little Laurel United Methodist Church believes that the sanctity of marriage be between one man and one woman and that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching; and

Whereas, the Little Laurel United Methodist Church does not agree with Petition 20, Petition 21 and Petition 22 passed by the Western North Carolina Conference in 2019. We feel that these petitions go against our Christian teachings and is not in accordance with the Holy Bible; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Little Laurel United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Little Laurel UMC have the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Little Laurel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,614 Yes (96.19%), 64 No (3.81%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Marvin United Methodist Church, Stony Point, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Marvin United Methodist Church, Stony Point, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Marvin United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Marvin United Methodist Church believes the Holy Bible is the divine and infallible Word of God, we also believe in the traditional plan that the homosexual lifestyle is incompatible with Christian living as stated in *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Marvin United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing disruption and disregard of the doctrine as stated in the Bible and *The Book of Discipline*, we disagree with the four commitments signed by the leaders in the UMC which includes the statement, “We reject the Traditional Plan approved at the General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation,” We disagree with the petition to remove from *The Book of Discipline*, “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian living” as was passed at the WNCC Annual conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Marvin United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that designees of the Marvin United Methodist Church Council be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference (unless a mid-year special called Annual Conference takes place in which Marvin would like to be included) and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Marvin UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Midway United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Midway United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Midway United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and,

Whereas, the 2016 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* states that:

- Paragraph 304.3. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, and self-avowed, practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, nor appointed to serve as pastors in The United Methodist Church, and,
- Paragraph 341.6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our pastors and shall not be conducted in our churches, and,

Whereas, these paragraphs are still in full force today and,

Whereas, every pastor and every church member vows to obey and keep all parts of The 2016 *Book of Discipline* and, Whereas, a petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference in June of 2019 endorsed The Commitments of UMC Next and Supporting Full Inclusion of All People states that: The Western North Carolina Annual Conference aspires to and commits to:

- Full participation of all gender identities and all sexual orientations and
- Rejects the Traditional Plan approved at The General Conference in 2019 (which maintains the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as it now reads and
- Says that The Western North Carolina Annual Conference will work to change The 2016 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs 304.3 and 341.6 regarding LGBTQ persons; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Midway United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Midway UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Midway UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.01%), 67 No (3.99%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Monticello United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Monticello United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Monticello United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Monticello United Methodist Church disagrees with the course of the WNCC regarding sexual morality, it is a significant theological divide over scripture’s authority. At the 2019 WNCC Annual Conference, petition number 22, also known as the “UMC next petition” was voted for by a majority of the conference attendees. It directly contradicts *The Book of Discipline* and Therefore, the official rules of our denomination. The petition actually goes further against the traditional plan by stating that the majority of the WNCC Annual Conference, that voted to approve this petition, will actually “resist its implementation”, regardless of *The Book of Disciplines* rules that were voted on and approved by our denomination (the Traditional Plan), it furthermore describes the “Traditional Plan” to be evil, oppressive, incompatible with the gospel and unjust. Again, that petition directly contradicts what was voted and approved upon by the General Conference in 2019; and

Whereas, the Monticello United Methodist Church does not agree with WNCC with respect to our church’s traditional views, as a church we see two clearly distinct irreconcilable directions. The signed “UMC Next” petition also demonstrates that the ‘progressives’ also see that the two paths forward are beyond “indifferent matters of opinion”. This, and the failure to hold accountable the disobedience of *The Book of Discipline*, has placed our denomination in a selective system of authority that is unsustainable. In short, the “Traditional Plan” passed by the General Conference was not sufficient to address the lack of accountability of jurisdictions, annual conferences, and bishops that simply refuse to comply with it; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Monticello United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that the Administrative Council of Monticello UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Monticello UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.41%), 77 No (4.59%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, Harmony, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and,

Whereas, the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church believes as stated in the 2016 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* that:

- a. Paragraph 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve as pastors in The United Methodist Church; and

- b. Paragraph 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our pastors and shall not be conducted in our churches; and

Whereas, these paragraphs are still in full force today and every pastor and every church member vows to obey and keep all parts of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with a petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference in June of 2019 which endorsed The Commitments of UMC Next and Supporting Full Inclusion of all People which states that: The Western North Carolina Annual Conference aspires to and commits to:

1. Full participation of all gender identities and all sexual orientations and
2. Rejects the Traditional Plan approved at the General Conference in 2019, which maintains the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as it now reads and,
3. Says that the western North Carolina Annual Conference will work to change The 2016 *Book of Discipline* Paragraphs 304.3 and 341.6 regarding LGBTQ persons; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Mount Bethel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Bethel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, Hickory, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, Hickory, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference regards to the passing of the "Traditional Plan" at the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church believes the discord regarding sexual morality is a precursor to a further divide in the UMC over the nature and authority of Scripture which in turn results in other moral and theological issues in addition the conflict within the UMC over the continuing disregard of our *Discipline* regarding our standards of sexual ethics, marriage, and practice of homosexuality; and

Whereas, the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree the Next Petition (#22) approved at 2019 Annual Conference of the WNCC stating the "Traditional Plan" was evil, unjust, oppressive, prejudiced, and incompatible with the gospel and viewed as "does harm," and declared to resist its implementation. The Next Petition indicates that the differences in the traditional view and the progressive view to be greater than what could be regarded as "indifferent matters" of opinion. Moreover, we believe the two views to be conflicting and will continuously lead to competing visions and incompatibly within the conference now and in the future. The statements in the Next Petition are contradictory to our beliefs in what the gospel teaches concerning homosexuality, therefore, we feel that traditional churches within the WNCC will not be respected; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Bethel United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Mount Bethel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference (unless a mid-year special called Annual Conference takes place in which Mount Bethel would like to be included) and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Bethel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Spruce Pine, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Spruce Pine, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Mount Zion United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Mount Zion United Methodist Church believes that the continuing and increasing subversion, defiance and disregard of our *Discipline* in much of the UMC regarding our official standards for sexual ethics and marriage, including as it related the practice of homosexuality; and

Whereas, the Mount Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the course of the UMC in much of the United States, including the WNCC, regarding sexual morality presenting symptoms of a deeper theological divide for the nature and authority of Scripture, and as a result other moral and theological issues; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Zion United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Mount Zion UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Zion UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church, Crumpler, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church, Crumpler, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Nathan's Creek UMC desires to disaffiliate under paragraph 2553 for reasons of conscience regarding petitions related to the practice of homosexuality and the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 Annual Western North Carolina United Methodist Conference on June 22, 2019 (regarding Petitions 21 and 22); and

Whereas, specific disagreements to the actions of the Western North Carolina 2019 Annual Conference regarding Petition 22 are: "John Wesley's first rule for early Methodists was to do no harm" ignores his second rule to do good and his explanation that one of two common failures to do good was to know a neighbor was sinning and to do nothing/say nothing and that those who do not confront a neighbor living in sin has their blood on his hands for remaining silent. The UMC by this first rationalization does not only remain silent regarding the sin of homosexuality but condones it; and

Whereas, the first of four points quoted in Petition 22 states, "...Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture" ignores:

- o Genesis 19:5-6, where God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins, which has led to the historical source of the term sodomy.
- o Leviticus 20:13, "If a man lies with a man, such as a man lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable."
- o Leviticus 18:22, "Do not lie with a man as with a woman, that is detestable."
- o John 8:11 demonstrates Christ's response to one caught in sexual sin, which is, "Go and sin no more."
- o Romans 1:24, "Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another."
- o I Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
- o I Timothy 3:2, "Now the overseers must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,"

And many other passages consistent with these.

God does not change His mind. Culture changes, and we are warned to not be of the world, but to honor and obey God not Kings, politicians, nor cultural pressures. We are to love the sinner but not the sin! We should not turn away seekers who want to learn more about God, but we cannot allow those, in leadership positions or membership, who openly and publicly admit to committing sexual sins, until repentance and abandoning their sin occurs.

The next point: We commit to ... build a church which affirms the full participation of ... gender identities, sexual orientations" ignores that God created only two genders. The actual result of multiple gender identities and transgender manipulations have resulted in increased depression and high suicide rates and promotes the cultural idea that LGBTQ+ is normal, rather than an abnormality, that needs to be studied to find cures and preventions for sexual dysphoria; and

Whereas, the Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church believes: To condone sexual practices that God finds detestable is to hide God's truth and to risk God's wrath on them and our nation for the sin we allow, condone, and do not work to repudiate. Lot escaped only with his wife and daughters because he lived amidst evil rather than rejecting the benefits of that society; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church, at special-called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by more than a two thirds majority threshold; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and other designated leaders of Nathan's Creek United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts,

instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Nathan's Creek UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pisgah United Methodist Church, Linville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pisgah United Methodist Church, Linville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Pisgah United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Pisgah United Methodist Church believes we made the decision because of continuing and increasing subversion, defiance, and disregard of our *Discipline* in much of the UMC regarding our official standards for sexual ethics and marriage, including as it relates to the practice of homosexuality; and

Whereas, the Pisgah United Methodist Church does not agree with "The Traditional Plan" approved by the 2019 General Conference, to be evil, unjust, oppressive, and incompatible with the gospel and vowed to resist its implementation. This is in addition to the persistent charge that the traditional view "does harm" leaves us with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the Continuing-UMC in the WNCC; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pisgah United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Pisgah UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pisgah UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, Boone, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, Boone, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference;

Whereas, the congregation of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church has expressed disagreement as a matter of conscience with the results of the passage of several petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference;

Whereas, we disagree with the resolution of petition 21 to remove the sentence found in paragraph 16IG of *The Book of Discipline* that says "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching";

Whereas, we believe this to be true and should remain in *The Book of Discipline*;

Whereas, we disagree with the intention of petition 22 to reject the Traditional Plan approved at the General Conference 2019;

Whereas, we disagree with the intention of petition 22 to eliminate the restriction and penalties in *The Book of Discipline* regarding LGBTQ persons;

Whereas, we believe that all Scripture is given to us by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16);

Whereas, we find In Scripture God's Law against homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22);

Whereas, we find in Scripture that homosexuality is against nature (Romans 1:26,27);

Whereas, we believe that regarding homosexuality as not sinful is in violation of God's Word and should not be encouraged as has been done by the actions of the WNCC Annual Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by the required two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Pleasant Valley UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pleasant Valley UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Providence United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Providence UMC, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Providence United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church which approved Petition 21 which requested the General Conference remove language from *The Book of Discipline* regarding the incompatibility of homosexuality with Christian teachings; and

Whereas, we believe the actions of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church in the passing of petition 22 in rejecting the Traditional Plan which was passed at General Conference in 2019 is a presenting symptom of a deeper theological divide over the nature and authority of Scripture, and as a result, other moral and theological issues; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions or inactions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the Church; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Providence United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by more than a two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Providence UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Providence UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Rocky Springs United Methodist Church, Hiddenite, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees for Rocky Springs United Methodist Church, Hiddenite, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Rocky Springs United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Rocky Springs United Methodist Church believes in the Traditional Plan that was brought forth, voted on, approved, and adapted to *The Book of Discipline* at the 2019 general conference; and

Whereas, the Rocky Springs United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions taken by the 2019 Annual Conference of the WNCC in which it approved petition 22, which stated that the WNCC would be in opposition to the Traditional Plan and “resist its implementation”, describing the plan as evil, oppressive and unjust; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Springs United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Rocky Springs UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Rocky Springs UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Rose Chapel United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Rose Chapel United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Rose Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with leadership of The United Methodist Church and the Western North Carolina Conference to alter the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to human sexuality that were resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, Rose Chapel United Methodist Church believes in the traditional understanding of the Holy Scriptures. We agree with the provisions in *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals that was adopted by the 2019 General Conference. We agree with the passage of the Traditional Plan and agree with the contents of the Traditional Plan in its entirety; and

Whereas, Rose Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the Western North Carolina Annual Conference’s vote in favor of Petition 22 to reject the Traditional Plan and the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to human sexuality that were resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Rose Chapel United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Rose Chapel UMC has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement we request the matter be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Rose Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, Statesville, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of Sandy Ridge UMC has expressed disagreement with the results of the actions of the 2019 session of the WNCC regarding the passing of the “Traditional Plan” at the General Conference 2019, and

Whereas, the Sandy Ridge UMC believes their disagreement with the course of the UMC regarding sexual immorality is a presenting symptom of a deeper theological divide over the nature and authority of Scripture as well as other moral and theological issues, and

Whereas, the Sandy Ridge UMC does not agree with the will of the WNC Annual Conference passing the UMC Next Petition #22 vowing to resist the implementation of the “Traditional Plan” of General Conference 2019, and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, at special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 with more than a two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Sandy Ridge UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Sandy Ridge UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Stony Point United Methodist Church, Stony Point, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Stony Point United Methodist Church, Stony Point, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Stony Point United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Stony Point United Methodist Church believes we, as a Traditional church, can no longer be a part of The United Methodist Church as we believe in the truth of the Bible, it’s description of sin, and how we should deal with sin; and

Whereas, the Stony Point United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of Petition 22 by the 2019 WNC Annual Conference which rejects the current Traditional Plan, vows to resist it and, by default, all who support it, and to change *The Book of Discipline* to accept what the Bible describes as “the ways of the world”; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Stony Point United Methodist Church, at special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Stony Point UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference (unless a mid-year special called Annual Conference takes place in which Stony Point would like to be included) and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Stony Point UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Temple Hill United Methodist Church, Ronda, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Temple Hill United Methodist Church, Ronda, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Temple Hill United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference;

Whereas, the Temple Hill United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Temple Hill United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Temple Hill United Methodist Church, at a special called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 by the required two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Temple Hill UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Temple Hill UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Trinity United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District

Submitted by: Trustees of Trinity United Methodist Church, Lenoir, N.C., Appalachian District

Whereas, the congregation of the Trinity United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Trinity United Methodist Church believes the “Traditional Plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination of marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

Whereas, the Trinity United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of Petitions 21 and 22 at the 2019 Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Paragraph 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Trinity United Methodist Church, at this special called church conference is voting to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 if it passes the two thirds majority threshold and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Trinity UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Trinity UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 45 Abstain

Blue Ridge District (10)

Disaffiliation of Avondale United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Avondale United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of the Avondale United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; or actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Avondale United Methodist Church believes in the authority of the Holy Bible and the Methodist *Discipline* as currently written; and,

Whereas, the Avondale United Methodist Church has a specific disagreement with the assumptions behind the petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference which states that to disallow ordination or marriage of practicing homosexuals is unjust;

Whereas, the 2019 special session of the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Avondale United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Avondale UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Avondale UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Cliffside United Methodist Church, Mooresboro, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Cliffside United Methodist Church, Mooresboro, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of Cliffside United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Cliffside United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Cliffside United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cliffside United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Cliffside UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Cliffside UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church, Mills River, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church, Mills River, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of the Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church believes that the Bible teaches that Christian marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman and not the union of persons of the same sex. Marriage of people of the same sex should be secular unions instead of condoning them as Christian marriages. and

Whereas, the Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the petition of the 2019 Western NC Conference to the General Conference to remove language in *The Discipline* stating that homosexual marriage is incompatible with Christian teaching. We agree with the 2019 General Conference vote to reaffirm the traditional position that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching and that this restriction should be more strictly enforced. and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cummings Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Cummings Memorial UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Cummings Memorial UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Emma United Methodist Church, Asheville, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Emma United Methodist Church, Asheville, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of the Emma United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Emma United Methodist Church believes in the authority of the Holy Bible and the Methodist *Discipline* as currently written; and

Whereas, the Emma United Methodist Church has a specific disagreement with the assumptions behind the petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference which states that to disallow ordination or marriage of practicing homosexuals is unjust; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Emma United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Emma UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Emma UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church, Burnsville, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church, Burnsville, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, vowing to resist the implementation of the “traditional Plan” of General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church at a special called Church Conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* under paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, The Trustees and the Chair of the Church Council of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church have authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees to execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. necessary; and be it further

Resolved, that the formal disaffiliation agreement between Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church and the Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference be placed on the agenda of the 2023 annual meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference requesting that the conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,595 Yes (95.28%), 79 No (4.72%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Providence United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Providence United Methodist Church, Forest City, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of Providence United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Providence United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Providence United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Providence United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Providence UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Providence UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.01%), 67 No (3.99%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Providence United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Providence United Methodist Church, Marion, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of Providence United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Providence United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Providence United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Providence United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Providence UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Providence UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.01%), 67 No (3.99%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Snow Hill United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Snow Hill United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of Snow Hill United Methodist Church has expressed disagreements with the results of the 2019 General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Snow Hill United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Snow Hill United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, vowing to resist the implementation of the “Traditional Plan” of General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and it’s language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Snow Hill United Methodist Church at a special called Church Conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* under paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, The Trustees and the Chair of the Church Council of Snow Hill United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees to execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. necessary; and be it further

Resolved, that the formal disaffiliation agreement between Snow Hill United Methodist Church and the Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference be placed on the agenda of the 2023 annual meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference requesting that the conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Snow Hill United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Marshall, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Marshall, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the annual conference related to the change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals; and,

Whereas, the annual conference has adopted Petition 22, a petition of the UM Next movement, which we believe, is incompatible with our understanding of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and,

Whereas, Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church has held and will continue to hold a conservative definition of marriage based on our understanding of scripture, doctrine, and theology. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than 2/3 vote of full and professing members present at a Special Church Conference, has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of 2023 Annual Conference meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of the Teague’s Chapel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.13%), 65 No (3.87%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Trinity United Methodist Church, Nebo, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Submitted by: Trustees of Trinity United Methodist Church, Nebo, N.C., Blue Ridge District

Whereas, the congregation of the Trinity United Methodist Church (Nebo) has expressed, disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Trinity (Nebo) United Methodist Church believes in the authority of the Holy Bible and the Methodist *Discipline* as currently written. and

Whereas, the Trinity (Nebo) United Methodist Church has a specific disagreement with the assumptions behind the petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference which states that to disallow ordination or marriage of practicing homosexuals is unjust.

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Trinity (Nebo) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Trinity (Nebo) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Providence UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.07%), 66 No (3.93%), 43 Abstain

Catawba Valley District (38)

Disaffiliation of Asbury United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Asbury United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Asbury United Methodist Church believes in the traditional understanding of God and Jesus Christ and the sanctity of Holy Scripture and the current *Book of Discipline* and has chosen this disaffiliation process for reasons of conscience regarding the deep conflict with The United Methodist Church around the issues of human sexuality and the associated scriptures in the Bible; and

Whereas, Asbury United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of Petition #22 endorsed by the UMC Next which calls for full leadership inclusion regarding LGBTQ persons in The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Asbury United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Asbury UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Asbury UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bess Chapel United Methodist Church, Cherryville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bess Chapel United Methodist Church, Cherryville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bess Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Bess Chapel United Methodist Church believes that for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its Annual Conference related to these issues; and

Whereas, the Bess Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the 2019 General Conference because they did not include an adequate way to hold Bishops accountable when they do not uphold *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bess Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Bess Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc., needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bess Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Dry Ponds, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Dry Ponds, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bethel (Dry Ponds) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Bethel (Dry Ponds) United Methodist Church believes the adoption of the “traditional plan” as it is worded does not have an avenue to hold the Bishops accountable when they fail to follow *The Book of Discipline* as it pertains to the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the Bethel (Dry Ponds) United Methodist Church does not agree with the lack of enforcement and apparent lack of discipline for those who do not follow this protocol; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bethel (Dry Ponds) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and The Administrative Council of Bethel (Dry Ponds) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bethel (Dry Ponds) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,614 Yes (96.19%), 64 No (3.81%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Bethel Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out.

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Bethel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bethel UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Beulah United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Beulah United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Beulah United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, the Beulah United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Beulah United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Beulah United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Beulah United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Beulah UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 special meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Beulah UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church, Inc., Gastonia, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church, Inc., Gastonia, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church believes the passage of two petitions at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference illustrates defiance and disregard for the approved “traditional plan” and the UMC *Book of Discipline* as guiding documents and reflects an incompatible direction for our church as United Methodists; and

Whereas, the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of Petition 22 Substitution that states, “We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation”, a statement we believe is diametrically opposite of the path our church foresees for its future; and

Whereas, the Bradley Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the removal of statements from *The Book of Discipline*, such as, “The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” (Noting this 2019 WNC Annual Conference adopted petition did not go to General Conference 2020 due to Conference cancellation); and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, a duly called church conference, Bradley Memorial UMC voted by more than the required 2/3 majority to disaffiliate under ¶2553 of *The Discipline*; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Bradley Memorial UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bradley Memorial UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church, Catawba, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Center UMC, Catawba, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, after a season of prayerful and careful consideration, thoughtful discussion and deliberation, the Administrative Council and Trustees of Center United Methodist Church have chosen to move forward in the process to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church provided in paragraph 2553 in the 2016 United Methodist *Book of Discipline*.

Whereas, for many years members and lay delegates to the WNC Annual Conference have recognized The United Methodist Church has failed to uphold and has rebelled against its own doctrine and *Discipline*. We believe there is no longer a unified consensual affirmation regarding orthodox Christian doctrine in the Wesleyan tradition affirmed in the Bible and stated in the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules written in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*. The disunity within the United Methodist denomination is a distraction to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Whereas, based on actions taken during the June 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference, we feel it is clear that our conference does not intend to uphold, and in fact has rejected, the Traditional Plan approved at the February 2019 General Conference.

Whereas, the leadership of Center United Methodist Church agrees the congregation cannot continue to affiliate with The United Methodist Church whereby many Bishops and leaders do not embrace orthodox Christian doctrine, the Divinely inspired authority of Scripture and thereby do not affirm the statements in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* regarding the practice of homosexuality and the ordination of LGBTQIA+ persons; therefore, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western NC Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Center U.M.C.- Catawba congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.94%), 68 No (4.06%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Central United Methodist Church, Kings Mountain, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Central UMC, Kings Mountain, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Central United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Central United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Central United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Central UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Central UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Christ United Methodist Church, Hickory, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Christ United Methodist Church, Hickory, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Christ (Hickory) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Christ (Hickory) United Methodist Church believes our relationship with The United Methodist Church is no longer tenable because of three primary reasons: our differences in scriptural authority, selective adherence to *The Book of Discipline* and issues related to human sexuality; and

Whereas, the Christ (Hickory) United Methodist Church does not agree with petition 22 (the UMC Next petition that was passed at the 2019 annual conference of the WNCC. Petition 22 (the UMC Nest) was a statement of opposition to the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 Special Called General Conference. This petition rejected the official position of the denomination and declared that the Traditional Plan was “evil, unjust, oppressive, and incompatible with the Gospel”. This position and the lack of uniform compliance with *The Book of Discipline* and our Doctrinal Standards demonstrates unequivocally that churches and individuals that uphold the Traditional Plan will not be welcomed and respected in the ongoing UMC. We are on two paths that sadly have us moving in different directions; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Christ (Hickory) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Christ (Hickory) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Christ (Hickory) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,584 Yes (94.40%), 94 No (5.60%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of

the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline's* standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Crowell Memorial UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Crowell Memorial United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of David's Chapel United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of David's Chapel United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the David's Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, David's Chapel United Methodist Church believes this conflict is a distraction to the mission of The United Methodist Church and is prohibiting growth within our local churches; and

Whereas, the David's Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the 2019 Annual Conference petitions which passed, that would seek to change *The Book of Discipline* to allow the ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the David's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of David's Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the David's Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church, Morganton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of The United Methodist Church Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church believes in the Biblical definition that God ordained a relationship to be between a man and a woman. The lack of cohesion to *The Book of Discipline* adversely impacts all who profess unification under the Cross and Flame. It has become incapable for us to continue in a denomination that fails to enforce this fundamental principle of our Christian teaching and faith; and

Whereas, Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church does not believe the General Conference adheres to and enforces doctrinal principles in *The Book of Discipline*. Since 2019 resolutions prohibit ordination of Bishops, Deacon, or Elders who are self-avowed homosexuals and continue to serve in and be elected to the offices in various conferences since 2016; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Denton's Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Fairfield United Methodist Church, Denver, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Fairfield United Methodist Church, Denver, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) has adhered to and supported the “Traditional Plan” as passed by the 2019 Special Called General Conference; and

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference has blatantly declared that it will reject the “Traditional Plan” and “will resist its implementation” as adopted in Petition 22 Substitution at the 2019 Annual Conference; and

Whereas, the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) congregation finds these practices regarding human sexuality to be in direct opposition to Scripture; and

Whereas, the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) feels that our mission and vision and that of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference are no longer compatible; and

Whereas, the Fairfield United Methodist Church believes that by alleviating the distraction and tension of this ongoing struggle, we will be better able to serve God within our community; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver), with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Fairfield United Methodist Church (Denver) congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc., Conover, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of First UMC, Conover, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by more than a two-thirds majority the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc., with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees/Council of First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of First United Methodist Church of Conover, Inc. from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,593 Yes (94.99%), 84 No (5.01%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of First United Methodist Church (Also known as Lawndale United Methodist Church), Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of First United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Lawndale United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the Western NC UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” because Petitions 21 and 22, constitute actions our congregation stands in disagreement with; and

Whereas, Lawndale United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the Traditional Plan adopted by the 2019 UMC General Conference because we believe the language is in appropriate and does not define a plan of accountability to clergy; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Lawndale United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Lawndale UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Lawndale UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of First United Methodist Church, Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of First United Methodist Church, Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of First United Methodist Church Maiden has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the First United Methodist Church Maiden believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the First United Methodist Church Maiden does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the First United Methodist Church Maiden, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of First United Methodist Church Maiden be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the First United Methodist Church Maiden congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,598 Yes (95.29%), 79 No (4.71%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of First United Methodist Church, Mount Holly, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of First United Methodist Church, Mount Holly, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, a majority of Mount Holly First United Methodist Church expressed agreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church regarding the adoption of the “Traditional Plan” as presented; and

Whereas, a majority of Mount Holly First United Methodist Church was disappointed to learn that leaders from various parts of the denomination in the United States have stated that they will not abide by or enforce the provisions of the “Traditional Plan” of the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, Mount Holly First United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of specific petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference that called for a rejection of the Traditional Plan”; and

Whereas, Mount Holly First United Methodist Church has concluded that these responses to the 2019 General Conference are an indication of a shift in the denomination on a whole host of issues; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Mount Holly First United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Mount Holly First United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to complete this task.be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Mount Holly First United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,588 Yes (94.81%), 87 No (5.19%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Friendship United Methodist Church, Fallston, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church, Fallston, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Friendship United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Friendship United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Friendship United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Friendship United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out.

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Friendship UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Friendship UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Friendship United Methodist Church, Newton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Friendship UMC, Newton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Friendship (Newton) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Friendship (Newton) United Methodist Church believes that there is a movement to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a proposed change in requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, as well as the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues; and

Whereas, the Friendship (Newton) United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the 2019 General Conference because they did not include an adequate way to hold Bishops accountable when they do not uphold *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Friendship (Newton) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Friendship (Newton) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Friendship (Newton) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Hebron United Methodist Church, Vale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Hebron United Methodist Church, Vale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Hebron United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Hebron United Methodist Church believes there is a lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline* as it pertains to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

Whereas, the Hebron United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of the UMC Next, which rejects the “traditional plan” and another petition, which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with the condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Hebron United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Hebron UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Hebron UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Hopewell United Methodist Church, Sherrills Ford, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Hopewell United Methodist Church, Sherrills Ford, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the actions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) UMC believes the current language in *The Book of Discipline* in regards to human sexuality and are against its removal; and

Whereas, Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) UMC does not agree with the adoption of Petition 22 Substitution on June 22, 2019, entitled, “Endorsing the Commitments of UMC Next and Supporting Full Inclusion of All People.” That petition states that “the Traditional Plan continues and amplifies harm already done by the church to LGBTQIA+ United Methodists and their families.” We agree that LGBTQIA+ persons should be welcomed and included in the membership of our local churches, but do not believe they should be in our leadership; and further,

Whereas, Hopewell UMC disagrees with the fourth commitment in that petition which suggests that the Traditional Plan is inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ; and lastly,

Whereas, Hopewell UMC disagrees with the adoption of Petition 21 on June 22, 2019, which advocated removal of the language in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* stating that “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Whereas, since the 2019 special session of General Conference provided a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) UMC, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that church council of Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Hopewell (Sherrills Ford) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, Inc., Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, Inc., Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; the following statements are to be the specific reasons; and

Whereas, the Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church believes in response to long-standing tensions within our denomination to change doctrine regarding biblical authority, we have prayerfully determined that...

- The United Methodist Church fails to uphold, and even rebels against, its own doctrine and *Discipline* without any accountability or consequences.
- The disunity within the United Methodist denomination is a distraction to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and it is not Bible-based.
- Based on actions taken during June 2019 by the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, we feel it is clear that our conference does not intend to uphold, and in fact has rejected, the Traditional Plan approved at the February 2019, General Conference; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Ivey Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it *Resolved*, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Ivey Memorial UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Ivey Memorial UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Kadesh United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Kadesh UMC, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Kadesh United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Kadesh United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Kadesh United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Kadesh United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Kadesh UMC entered into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and be it

Resolved, that we request said formal disaffiliation agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Kadesh UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Knob Creek United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Knob Creek United Methodist Church, Lawndale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Knob Creek United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Knob Creek United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Knob Creek United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Knob Creek United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Knob Creek United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Knob Creek UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Knob Creek UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Lebanon United Methodist Church, Denver, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Lebanon United Methodist Church, Denver, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Lebanon (Denver) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Lebanon (Denver) United Methodist Church believes the Traditional Plan adopted by 2019 is a misdirected expansion of language and its misappropriation of accountability to clergy. More specifically we believe, as a matter of conscience, that

an expanded definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” was unneeded as the current definition was sufficient. More importantly, the changes to *The Discipline* with regard to standards and practice of clergy and Boards of Ordained ministry, as well as established penalties, were inappropriate to provide a solution to the problem at hand of disobedience to *The Discipline*. These definitions and regulations are useless without proper legislation to hold the Council of Bishops accountable in oversight of *The Discipline* as it relates to issues related to ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

Whereas, the Lebanon (Denver) United Methodist Church does not agree with the direction The United Methodist Church is taking concerning human sexuality. At the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference meeting, two petitions were passed (Petitions 21 and 22) which constitute actions our congregation would stand in disagreement with. Our concern with the scope and provisions of the Traditional Plan notwithstanding, our congregation would consider itself one who holds to the traditional orthodox belief that the practice of homosexuality is opposed to what God holds as a standard for His people. Petitioning the General Conference to remove such language would be against those traditionally held beliefs. With regard to Petition 22, we disagree with the reasoning related with the justification of standing in opposition of the Traditional Plan. Ultimately, we do not believe the standard it sets with regard to human sexuality constitutes “at least injustice and oppression” of LGBTQ+ individuals. Thus, we would stand in disagreement with our Annual Conference’s action in the resolutions adopted with the passage of Petitions 21 and 22; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Lebanon (Denver) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Lebanon (Denver) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Lebanon (Denver) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of May’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of May’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Maiden, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the May’s Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the May’s Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the May’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the May’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of May’s Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the May’s Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of New Covenant United Methodist Church, Mount Holly, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of New Covenant United Methodist Church, Mount Holly, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the New Covenant United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; or actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the New Covenant United Methodist Church believes in the authority of the Holy Bible and the Methodist *Discipline* as currently written; and,

Whereas, the New Covenant United Methodist Church has a specific disagreement with the assumptions behind the petition passed at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference which states that to disallow ordination or marriage of practicing homosexuals is unjust; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Covenant United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it *Resolved*, that Board of Trustees of New Covenant UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it *Resolved*, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the New Covenant UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of New Home United Methodist Church, Casar, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of New Home United Methodist Church, Casar, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the New Home United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and *Whereas*, the New Home United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the New Home United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Home United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of New Home UMC has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the New Home congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.01%), 67 No (3.99%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Plateau United Methodist Church, Vale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Plateau United Methodist Church, Vale, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Plateau United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Plateau United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Plateau United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Plateau United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Plateau UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Plateau UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Polkville United Methodist Church, Polkville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Polkville United Methodist Church, Polkville, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Polkville United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Polkville United Methodist Church believes in God the Father and his son, Jesus. We believe in marriage of one man to one woman; and

Whereas, the Polkville United Methodist Church objects to several petitions adopted by the Western NC Annual Conference in 2019. Those petitions reject the Traditional Plan or express disagreement with the Traditional Plan. This includes passing a petition that will require our conference to submit a petition to the (now) 2024 General Conference asking the removal of the statement in *The Book of Discipline* that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian Teaching; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Polkville United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Administrative Council of Polkville UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Polkville UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church, Lincolnton, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church believes the 2019 Annual Conference was a pivotal moment for our church when via the UMC Next Petition (#22) our conference declared the official position of the denomination, which was affirmed and reinforced in “The Traditional Plan” approved by the 2019 General Conference, to be “evil, unjust, and oppressive” and incompatible with Scripture and vowed to resist its implementation. This in addition to the persistent charge that the traditional view “does harm” leaves us with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the Continuing-UMC in the WNCC; and moreover,

Whereas, the Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church believes, the UMC Next Petition indicates that those with more progressive views see our differences to be greater than what could be categorized as “indifferent matters” of opinion. We believe that we are on two different paths with contradictory and competing visions that are irreconcilable. The defiance and disregard for *The Book of Discipline* and the lack of accountability regarding these matters has left the denomination in an untrustworthy and selective system of governance that is untenable. The Traditional Plan passed by the 2019 General Conference was not sufficient to address the lack of accountability of bishops, annual conferences, and entire jurisdictions that refuse to abide by it. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Rhyne Heights UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Rhyne Heights UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Sharon United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Sharon United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Sharon (Shelby) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Sharon (Shelby) United Methodist Church believes in the “Traditional Plan” that was originally passed did not cause harm or injustice to anyone; and

Whereas, the Sharon (Shelby) United Methodist Church does not agree with the UMC Next Organization voting to amend the doctrine and remove the language from the *UM Book of Discipline* in regards to the original position on homosexuality, gender identity, sexual orientations and same sex marriage. We oppose this Petition #22 and the substitute petition that was presented; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sharon (Shelby) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Sharon (Shelby) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Sharon (Shelby) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Shiloh United Methodist Church of Catawba County, Inc., Claremont, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Claremont, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Shiloh (Claremont) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Shiloh (Claremont) United Methodist Church believes the current stance and actions of many United Methodist Church leaders are opposing God’s Word. Their very differing beliefs in sexual ethics, marriage, and ordination of practicing homosexuals, etc. are not compatible with accomplishing the Lord’s work. We believe the highest levels of church leadership show total disregard of *The Book of Discipline* and therefore the Traditional Plan; and

Whereas, the Shiloh (Claremont) United Methodist Church does not agree with the continuing disruption and disregard of the doctrine as stated in the Bible and *Book of Discipline*. We see scripture as the divine and infallible Word of God; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Shiloh (Claremont) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees or other designees) of Shiloh (Claremont) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Shiloh (Claremont) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Catawba, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Catawba, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the St. Paul’s (Catawba) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the St. Paul’s (Catawba) United Methodist Church believes the Traditional Plan adopted by 2019 is a misdirected expansion of language and its misappropriation of accountability to clergy. More specifically we believe, as a matter of conscience, that an expanded definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” was unneeded as the current definition was sufficient. More importantly, the changes to *The Discipline* with regard to standards and practice of clergy and Boards of Ordained ministry, as well as established penalties, were inappropriate to provide a solution to the problem at hand of disobedience to *The Discipline*. These definitions and regulations are useless without proper legislation to hold the Council of Bishops accountable in oversight of *The Discipline* as it relates to issues related to ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals; and

Whereas, the St. Paul’s (Catawba) United Methodist Church does not agree with the direction The United Methodist Church is taking concerning human sexuality. At the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference meeting, two petitions were passed (Petitions 21 and 22) which constitute actions our congregation would stand in disagreement with. Our concern with the scope and provisions of the Traditional Plan notwithstanding, our congregation would consider itself one who holds to the traditional orthodox belief that the practice of homosexuality is opposed to what God holds as a standard for His people. Petitioning the General Conference to remove such language would be against those traditionally held beliefs. With regard to Petition 22, we disagree with the reasoning related with the justification of standing in opposition of the Traditional Plan. Ultimately, we do not believe the standard it sets with regard to human sexuality constitutes “at least injustice and oppression” of LGBTQ+ individuals. Thus, we would stand in disagreement with our Annual Conference’s action in the resolutions adopted with the passage of Petitions 21 and 22; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the St. Paul’s (Catawba) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of St. Paul’s (Catawba) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the St. Paul’s (Catawba) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain (St. Paul’s [Catawba])

Disaffiliation of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the St. Paul's (Shelby) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as present or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the St. Paul's (Shelby) United Methodist Church does not agree with the decision that in 2019 the Western North Carolina Annual Conference approved Petition 21 which was in support of removing the current language of *The Discipline* which states "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality". As a traditional church we do not agree with this action or the removal of this language from *The Discipline*. At the same Annual Conference Petition 22 was also approved that stated, in part, that "We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation" As supporters of the Traditional Plan, we cannot agree with the position taken by the WNC Annual Conference; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregation that disagree with the action of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the St. Paul's (Shelby) United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of St. Paul's (Shelby) UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the St. Paul's (Shelby) UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Fallston, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Fallston, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the St. Peter's United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, St. Peter's United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, St. Peter's United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, St. Peter's United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of St. Peter's United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and St. Peter's United Methodist Church have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 May special meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of St. Peter's United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church, Shelby, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with the condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Sulphur Springs UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Sulphur Springs UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church, Iron Station, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church, Iron Station, N.C., Catawba Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented or the actions or inactions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference; and

Whereas, the Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church believes the 2019 General Conference legislation didn't have enough accountability for clergy and bishops who violate the provisions of *The Discipline* related to human sexuality issues (such as conducting same sex weddings); and

Whereas, the Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the 2019 session of the Western NC Annual Conference adopted several petitions that repudiated the "traditional plan" and called for removal of the language added to *The Discipline* by the 2019 General Conference related to human sexuality; and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Tucker's Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees (or other designees) of Tucker's Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Tucker's Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 42 Abstain

Metro District (17)

Disaffiliation of Broad Street United Methodist Church of Mooresville, Inc., Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Broad Street United Methodist Church, Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of Broad Street United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Broad Street United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Broad Street United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Broad Street United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Broad Street UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Broad Street UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,593 Yes (94.99%), 84 No (5.01%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Cold Springs United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Cold Springs United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Cold Springs United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Cold Springs United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Cold Springs United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Cold Springs United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Cold Springs UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the Saturday, May 6th, 2023, Special Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Cold Springs UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,600 Yes (95.41%), 77 No (4.59%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Grace United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Grace United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Grace United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Grace United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Grace United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Grace United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Grace UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Grace UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Heath Memorial United Methodist Church, Waxhaw, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Heath Memorial United Methodist Church, Waxhaw, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Heath Memorial United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Heath Memorial United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Heath Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Heath Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Heath Memorial UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Heath Memorial UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mill Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Indian Trail, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mill Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Indian Trail, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Mill Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Mill Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Mill Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mill Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Mill Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mill Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mineral Springs United Methodist Church, Inc., Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mineral Springs United Methodist Church, Inc., Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of Mineral Springs United Methodist Church of Mineral Springs, Inc. has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, which approved Petition 21, which requested the General Conference remove language from *The Book of Discipline* regarding the incompatibility of homosexuality with Christian teachings, and Petition 22, which opposed the Traditional Plan despite that Plan being passed by the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church did provide a Disaffiliation Process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church or the actions or inactions of its annual conference and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the Church; and

Whereas, pursuant to Paragraph 2553, such a process is to be initiated by a 2/3 majority vote of a church conference, after which terms and conditions for the disaffiliation shall be established by the Conference Trustees, consistent with Paragraph 2553. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Church Conference, in duly called session on February 19th, 2023, at 3:00 pm voted, subject to approval by the Annual Conference, to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church for reasons of conscience; and be it

Resolved, that Mineral Springs United Methodist Church of Mineral Springs, Inc. requests its petition to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church and formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of Mineral Springs’ congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, effective at the close of the Annual Conference; and, be it

Resolved, that Mineral Springs United Methodist Church of Mineral Springs, Inc.’s Administrative Council, Board of Trustees, be authorized to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Trustees of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and, when necessary, execute all deeds, contracts, and instruments needed to formalize Disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), Abstain

Disaffiliation of Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”; and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with more than two-thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. Needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Moore’s Chapel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,597 Yes (95.29%), 79 No (4.71%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church NC, Inc., Mt. Pleasant, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church NC, Inc., Mt. Pleasant, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved at the 2019 General Conference does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy, allowing an openly lesbian bishop to continue to serve, and

Whereas, Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of certain petitions related to human sexuality at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”, and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per paragraph 2553; and be it further

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Mount Pleasant UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out, and be it further

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Pleasant UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,600 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Oak Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Oak Grove United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Oak Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Oak Grove UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Oak Grove United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, Oak Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved at the 2019 General Conference does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy, allowing an openly lesbian bishop to continue to serve, and

Whereas, Oak Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of certain petitions related to human sexuality at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference that presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”, and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Oak Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per paragraph 2553, and be it further

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Oak Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out, and be it further

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina

Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Oak Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Mineral Springs, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Mineral Springs, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, for reasons of conscience regarding potential change in requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to same-sex marriage. and

Whereas, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petition at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next and rejects the traditional plan. and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process in paragraph 2553 for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the June 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pleasant Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.82%), 70 No (4.18%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Roberta United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Roberta United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Roberta United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Roberta United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Roberta United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Roberta United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Roberta UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Roberta UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, Inc., Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, Inc., Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Rocky Mount United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Rocky Mount United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Rocky Mount United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mount United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Rocky Mount UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Rocky Mount UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,590 Yes (94.93%), 85 No (5.07%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Triplett United Methodist Church, Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Triplett United Methodist Church, Mooresville, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of the Triplett United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Triplett United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Triplett United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Triplett United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Triplett UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the UMC meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Triplett UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,587 Yes (94.86%), 86 No (5.14%), 48 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Union Grove United Methodist Church, Indian Trail, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Union Grove United Methodist Church, Indian Trail, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, Union Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Union Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Union Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Union Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Westford United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Westford United Methodist Church, Concord, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the congregation of Westford United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Westford United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Westford United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Westford United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Westford UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina

Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Westford UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,597 Yes (95.51%), 75 No (4.49%), 49 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Zion United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Submitted by: Trustees of Zion United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Metro District

Whereas, the Zion United Methodist Church upholds the language of the Traditional Plan as approved at General Conference 2019; and

Whereas, the Zion United Methodist Church disagrees with the actions of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in passing Petitions 21 and 22 which recommend removing language from *The Book of Discipline* that states homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and that the Annual Conference rejects "...the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation;" and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process that states that a local church shall have a limited right to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Zion UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, special meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of the Zion UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 44 Abstain

Northern Piedmont District (13)

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Climax, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Climax, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Bethel (Climax) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bethel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference on February 25, 2023, has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Bethel UMC has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bethel congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved by the 2019 General Conference does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference, one of which presented and approved the tenants of the UMC Next which rejects the Traditional Plan, and another petition which stated the Annual Conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the Tradition Plan, and

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process in Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* whereby congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church can disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church at a special church conference by more than the 2/3 required majority. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Administrative Council of Bethel United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the June 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of Bethel United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 41 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mizpah United Methodist Church, Reidsville, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mizpah UMC, Reidsville, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Mizpah United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference's actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented: and

Whereas, Mizpah Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mizpah United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mizpah United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mizpah United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mizpah have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Mizpah United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mizpah United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 41 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Reidsville, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Reidsville, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, the congregation of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church has become increasingly uncomfortable with the direction of The United Methodist Church regarding their departure from strict adherence to *The Book of Discipline* regarding matters that the Bible defines clearly specifically regarding human sexuality and marriage as well as the actions and inactions of the Western North Carolina Conference in response to this departure;

Whereas, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church does not agree with the Western North Carolina Conference and its leadership regarding the actions or inactions with the following events and are concerned about the future of the Conference;

Whereas, at least one pastor has performed a same-sex marriage in a WNC church, seemingly without any recourse after a number of complaints were filed, but who continues to serve as a pastor in the Conference. Against the current *Book of Discipline*, once filed and moved into resolution, the complaint process regarding the above same sex marriage provided no information to or participation by the complainant(s), even after the complaint process came to a close;

Whereas, there are a number of active clergy persons who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals who continue to serve without repercussion, which is contrary to the current *Book of Discipline*;

Whereas, the WNC Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees on Ministry continue to approve or recommend self-avowed practicing homosexuals for candidacy, licensing, commissioning, or ordination, which is contrary to the current *Book of Discipline*;

Whereas, neither Bishop Leeland or Carter have issued "out of order" rulings on candidates who are self-avowed homosexuals who would be ineligible to be acted upon for licensing, commissioning, or ordination, which is contrary to the current *Book of Discipline*;

Whereas, delegates to the WNC Annual Conference 2019 were exposed to the following actions, all with prejudice toward traditional groups and seemingly-complicit with progressive requests:

- Election of a progressive delegation for General and Jurisdictional Conference with Conference leadership helping to facilitate a group called "Sacred Witness" to run the election;
- Allowing for lay delegates from churches and districts to be "hand-picked" in order to vote in a progressive manner;
- Allowing the petition entitled "Statement of Opposition to the Traditional Plan," as approved at General Conference 2019, to be substituted by the "Endorsement of UMC Next and Supporting the Full Inclusion of All People", allowing a vote which was approved by less than 15% of the conference delegates.

Whereas, persecution of traditional believers, including our WNC ministers and members in leadership roles, is rampant in the Western North Carolina Conference, causing fear of retaliation in the hearts of many of our pastors and lay servants as they continue to work to grow the Lord's Kingdom;

Whereas, the General Conference provides for a disaffiliation process for congregations under provision of Paragraph 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Leadership team are given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out, and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Carmel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Trinity, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Administrative Committee of Mount Vernon UMC, Trinity, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference's actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented: and

Whereas, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mount Vernon have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Mount Vernon United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.59%), 74 No (4.41%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Stokesdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Stokesdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Mount Zion (Stokesdale) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Mount Zion United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Mount Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference on February 26, 2023 has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Mount Zion UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Zion congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, effective after the close of the Annual Conference, on June 30, 2023.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Palestine United Methodist Church, Stokesdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Palestine United Methodist Church, Stokesdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Palestine (Stokesdale) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Palestine United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Palestine United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Palestine United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference on February 26, 2023 has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Palestine UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Palestine congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 41 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church, Pleasant Garden, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pleasant Garden UMC, Pleasant Garden, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference on January 12, 2023 has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Pleasant Garden UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pleasant Garden congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, effective after the close of the Annual Conference, on June 30, 2023.

Vote: PASSED: 1,590 Yes (94.87%), 86 No (5.13%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Prospect United Methodist Church, Archdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Prospect United Methodist Church, Archdale, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, Prospect United Methodist Church does not agree with The United Methodist Church regarding positions taken on human sexuality, and our members believe that those positions are contrary to biblical values we hold self-evident.

Prospect’s reasons for seeking disaffiliation all pertain to matters of conscience regarding the issues incidental to a change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination of marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that on a two-thirds vote of members of Prospect UMC at special called church conference, we have filed for disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Prospect UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Prospect UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Rehobeth United Methodist Church, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Rehobeth UMC, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by vote of more than 2/3 majority, the congregation of the Rehobeth United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference's actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented: and

Whereas, Rehobeth Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Rehobeth United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Rehobeth United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Rehobeth United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Rehobeth have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Rehobeth United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Rehobeth United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,583 Yes (94.56%), 91 No (5.44%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, High Point, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, High Point, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sandy Ridge United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Sandy Ridge UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Sandy Ridge UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.36%), 78 No (4.64%), 41 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Liberty, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Liberty, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, the congregation of Shiloh United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the Traditional Plan as presented; and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church believes the "Traditional Plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability of Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "Traditional Plan", and another petition which stated the Annual Conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "Traditional Plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the Church; and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church, with more than two thirds vote of members present at a special, duly called Church Conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Shiloh United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Shiloh United Methodist Church have entered into a formal agreement per requirements of paragraph 2553; Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the Virtual Session of the Western North Carolina Conference on May 6, 2023, and ask the Annual Conference to affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Shiloh United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 42 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Submitted by: Trustees of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Greensboro, N.C., Northern Piedmont District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Tabernacle (Greensboro) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Tabernacle United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Tabernacle United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Tabernacle United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference on February 4, 2023 has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Church Council, Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Tabernacle UMC has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023 special meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Tabernacle congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,596 Yes (95.28%), 79 No (4.72%), 46 Abstain

Smoky Mountain District (7)

Disaffiliation of Francis Cove United Methodist Church, Waynesville, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Francis Cove United Methodist Church, Waynesville, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, the congregation of the Francis Cove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Francis Cove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Francis Cove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions (22 and 21) at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” as adopted by the 2019 General Conference, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s request to the General Conference to remove the sentence found in ¶ 161G of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* that states: “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Francis Cove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Francis Cove United Methodist Church have been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on be the agenda of the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference respect and affirm the desire of Francis Cove UMC to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the annual conference in rejecting the traditional plan as passed at the 2019 General Conference, which solidifies the current language of *The Book of Discipline*; and,

Whereas, Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the annual conference in the adoption of Petition 22, a petition of the UM Next movement, which we believe, is incompatible with our understanding of the doctrines and *The Discipline* of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church has held and will continue to hold a traditional definition of marriage based on our understanding of scripture, doctrine, and theology. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church, with a more than 2/3 vote of full and professing members present at a Special Church Conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of 2023 Annual Conference meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of the Hickory Knoll United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the actions of the annual conference related to the change in the requirements and provisions of *The Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals; and,

Whereas, the annual conference has adopted Petition 22, a petition of the UM Next movement, which we believe, is incompatible with our understanding of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and,

Whereas, Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church has held and will continue to hold a conservative definition of marriage based on our understanding of scripture, doctrine, and theology. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than 2/3 vote of full and professing members present at a Special Church Conference, has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of 2023 Annual Conference meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of the Maiden's Chapel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.07%), 66 No (3.93%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Patton United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Patton United Methodist Church, Franklin, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, the majority of the congregation of the Patton United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Patton United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Patton United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Patton United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Patton UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Patton UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.01%), 67 No (3.99%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Peachtree United Methodist Church, Maggie Valley, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Peachtree United Methodist Church, Maggie Valley, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, the Peachtree United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved in the 2019 Special General Conference and that the Petitions 21 and 22 of the Western North Carolina Conference do not keep with our traditionally held beliefs; and

Whereas, the Peachtree United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, to remove the language in *The Book of Discipline* referring to the practice of homosexuality as “incompatible with Christian teaching”; and we also disagree that the Traditional Plan is inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions or inactions of the Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Peachtree Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of professing members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Peachtree UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Peachtree UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Plains United Methodist Church, Inc., Canton, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Plains United Methodist Church, Inc., Canton, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, Plains United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Plains United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference provided a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions and inactions of the Annual Conference and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Plains United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Plains UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Plains UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.65%), 73 No (4.35%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Reid’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Murphy, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Submitted by: Trustees of Reid’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Murphy, N.C., Smoky Mountain District

Whereas, Reid’s Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Reid’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions or inactions of the Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Reid’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of professing members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Reid’s Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Reid’s Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.07%), 66 No (3.93%), 43 Abstain

Uwharrie District (37)**Disaffiliation of Alleghany United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District**

Submitted by: Trustees of Alleghany United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Alleghany Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Alleghany United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Alleghany United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Alleghany United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Alleghany United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out.

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Alleghany UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Alleghany UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Wadesboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Wadesboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Bethel United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Bethel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Gold Hill, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Gold Hill, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, after prayerful consideration does not agree with Churches and Districts electing to ignore *The Book of Discipline*. and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the congregation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* pursuant to paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deed, contracts, instruments etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda at the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the congregation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church, Troy, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Center United Methodist Church, Troy, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Center United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Center United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out.

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Center UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Center UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church, New London, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Chandler’s Grove, New London, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference’s actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, Chandler’s Grove Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Chandler’s Grove have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Chandler’s Grove United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.82%), 70 No (4.18%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Inc., Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, Inc., Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church does not agree with the Western North Carolina Conference and its leadership regarding the actions or inactions as it relates to certain legislation passed by the 2019 General Conference and with the following events and are concerned about the future of our Conference;

Whereas, the WNC Annual Conference allowed the petition entitled “Statement of Opposition to the Traditional Plan,” as approved at General Conference 2019, to be substituted by the ”Endorsement of UMC Next and Supporting the Full Inclusion of All People” and adopted that petition;

Whereas, the foregoing petition expressed opposition to various aspects of the Traditional Plan adopted by the 2019 General Conference;

Whereas, the General Conference provides for a disaffiliation process for congregations under provision of Paragraph 2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special-called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Leadership team are given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out, and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Cid United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Cid UMC, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by a more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Cid United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference’s actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, Cid United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Cid United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Cid United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Cid United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Cid UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, pursuant to duly adopted resolutions of the members and Board of Trustees and the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement, Cid United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Cid UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Clear Springs United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Clear Springs UMC, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by a more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Clear Springs United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference’s actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, Clear Springs United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Clear Springs United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Clear Springs United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Clear Springs United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Clear Springs UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, pursuant to duly adopted resolutions of the members and Board of Trustees and the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement, Clear Springs United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Clear Springs UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Farmer United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Farmer United Methodist Church, Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the Alleghany United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Alleghany United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Alleghany United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Alleghany UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Alleghany UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Friendship United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Friendship United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Friendship United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Friendship UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Friendship UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.83%), 70 No (4.17%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Green Memorial United Methodist Church, Norwood, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Green Memorial United Methodist Church, Norwood, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Green Memorial United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Green Memorial United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for the congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability of the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Green Memorial United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called Church Conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Green Memorial United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of the Green Memorial United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Greer's Chapel United Methodist Church, Linwood, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Greer's Chapel United Methodist Church, Linwood, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Greer's Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the results of the 2019 session of the UMC Conference for reasons of conscience regarding the deep conflict within the UMC around the issues of human sexuality and the associated scriptures in the Bible; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Greer's Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and, be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Greer's Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Greer's Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED; 1,607 Yes (95.94%), 68 No (4.06%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Hopewell United Methodist Church, Peachland, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Hopewell United Methodist Church, Peachland, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the Hopewell United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the General Conference and the actions of the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference. and

Whereas, the 2019 special session of General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Hopewell United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553, and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Hopewell United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda for the next annual conference of the Western North Carolina Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Hopewell United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Long Pine United Methodist Church, Peachland, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Long Pine United Methodist Church, Peachland, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Long Pine United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Long Pine United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Long Pine United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Long Pine United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Long Pine UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Long Pine UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Love's Grove United Methodist Church, Stanfield, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Love's Grove United Methodist Church, Stanfield, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Love's Grove United Methodist Church, Stanfield, N.C., disagrees with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference regarding the Traditional Plan approved by the 2019 General Conference, specifically in the WNC's adoption of Petition 22, which characterizes the Traditional Plan as "inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ" and vows to "resist its implementation;"

Whereas, Love's Grove UMC does, indeed embrace the implementation of the Traditional Plan as consistent with biblical teaching, and also in regards to its support of fidelity in heterosexual marriage and celibacy in singleness as the standards for Christian living taught in the scriptures; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Love's Grove United Methodist Church, with more than two thirds vote of the members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Love's Grove United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Love's Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.65%), 73 No (4.35%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Macedonia United Methodist Church, Troy, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Macedonia United Methodist Church, Troy, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Macedonia United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Macedonia United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Macedonia United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Macedonia United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Macedonia United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out.

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Macedonia UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it.

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Macedonia UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Matton's Grove United Methodist Church, Gold Hill, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Matton's Grove United Methodist Church, Gold Hill, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, Matton's Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the WNCC's reaction to the traditional plan as expressed in the UMC Next petition that was passed at the WNCC Annual Conference in June of 2019. We specifically disagree with the WNCC's promotion and acceptance of homosexual practice; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Matton's Grove United Methodist Church, with a more that two thirds vote of members at a called Church Conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Matton's Grove United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Matton's Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,608 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent of the Mount Carmel United Methodist Church (Mount Carmel UMC) Administrative Church Council, Mount Carmel UMC agrees to pursue disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church (UMC) based upon the opposition of the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) to the "Traditional Plan" as adopted by the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference; and

Whereas, Mount Carmel UMC disagrees with Petitions 21 and 22 that were passed by the 2019 session of the WNCC annual conference. Petition 21 request that the next General Conference vote to remove the sentence “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching* from *The Book of Discipline*. Petition 22 agrees with the four commitments of “UMC Next”, including “We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.” Resistance and defiance to the rules and regulations, as stated in the current United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, are being allowed by leadership within the UMC, the direction of the UMC and the tolerance of noncompliance to approved regulations do not represent the values of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, the General Conference provided Paragraph 2553 to establish a process for disaffiliation of the Local Church over issues related to human sexuality and the actions of the UMC regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; Although the disaffiliation related paragraph 2553 only relates to the practice of homosexuality, our disagreements with the direction and future of the UMC and WNCC revised practices and beliefs run much deeper and much more harmful to The United Methodist Church.

Therefore, Mount Carmel UMC, at a special-called church conference, voted and passed, with more than two-thirds vote of the members present, to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*; and

Therefore, Mount Carmel UMC requests formal disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church be placed on the 2023 Annual Conference agenda of the meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Shepherd United Methodist Church, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Shepherd United Methodist Church, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Mount Shepherd United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Mount Shepherd United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Shepherd United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Mount Shepherd UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Shepherd UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Vernon UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Bennett, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Zion UMC, Bennett, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by a more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Mount Zion United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference’s actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, Mount Zion United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mount Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mount Zion United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mount Zion UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, pursuant to duly adopted resolutions of the members and Board of Trustees and the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement, Mount Zion United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mount Zion UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,611 Yes (96.12%), 65 No (3.88%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of New Hope United Methodist Church, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Administrative Committee of New Hope UMC, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the New Hope United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference’s actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented: and

Whereas, New Hope United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, New Hope United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, New Hope United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of New Hope United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and New Hope have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that New Hope United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of New Hope United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of New Hope Methodist Church, Inc., Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of New Hope Methodist Church, Inc., Denton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the New Hope United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the New Hope United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan,” and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Hope United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of New Hope UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the New Hope UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.06%), 66 No (3.94%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of New Hope United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of New Hope United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of New Hope United Methodist Church has disagreed with the ongoing battle within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continued to consume more time and resources into proving who is right, causing the UMC at large to lose sight of its real purposes and core values; and

Whereas, the New Hope United Methodist Church supports the “traditional plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, which affirms the historic Christian view on human sexuality; and

Whereas, New Hope United Methodist Church believes that the changes made to *The Book of Discipline* by the “traditional plan” as approved do not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the New Hope United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”, and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, at special church conference, the voting members approved disaffiliation by more than a 2/3 majority, be it

Resolved, that the Trustees and the Disaffiliation Committee of New Hope United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the New Hope congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church effective at the close of the Annual Conference.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.82%), 70 No (4.18%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Oak Grove UMC, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Oak Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan,” and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Oak Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Oak Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Oak Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Inc., Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the Pine Grove United Methodist Church disagrees with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference regarding the Traditional Plan approved by the 2019 General Conference, specifically in the Western NC’s adoption of Petition 22, which characterizes the Traditional Plan as “inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ”. And vows to “resist it”.

Whereas, the Pine Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as consistent with biblical teaching, and also regards to its support of fidelity in heterosexual marriage and celibacy in singleness as the standards for Christian living taught in the scriptures.

Whereas, the Pine Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pine Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Pine Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pine Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pisgah United Methodist Church, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pisgah UMC, Asheboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by a more than 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Pisgah United Methodist Church has expressed Disagreement with the Western North Carolina Conference's actions and inactions following the 2019 special session of the Western North Carolina Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Pisgah United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Pisgah United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Pisgah United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Pisgah United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Pisgah UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, pursuant to duly adopted resolutions of the members and Board of Trustees and the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement, Pisgah United Methodist Church hereby respectfully petitions that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed, ratified, and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and hereby petitions that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Pisgah UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,613 Yes (96.24%), 63 No (3.76%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, Seagrove, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, Seagrove, N.C., Uwharrie

Whereas, the congregation of the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of

petitions at 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the "traditional plan"; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 May special meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Polkton United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Polkton United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Polkton United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Polkton United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved Does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly Disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Polkton United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Polkton United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Polkton UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Polkton UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Salem United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Salem United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, numerous members of the congregation of Salem United Methodist Church have expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Salem United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Salem United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Salem United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees of Salem UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that the Church Council of Salem UMC be given the authority to establish a Disaffiliation Team that will be responsible for completing the tasks required for disaffiliation, including but not limited to raising/borrowing funds to cover the costs of disaffiliation and establishing a non-profit organization representing Salem membership; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the June 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Salem UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Sandy Plains United Methodist Church, Wadesboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Sandy Plains United Methodist Church, Wadesboro, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of Sandy Plains United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Sandy Plains United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Sandy Plains United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Sandy Plains United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Sandy Plains UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Sandy Plains UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Morven, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Morven, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, the congregation of the Shiloh (Morven) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the United Methodist General Conference. Regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Shiloh (Morven) United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Shiloh (Morven) United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, one of which presented the tenants of “UMC Next” which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan” and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Shiloh (Morven) United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference voted by a greater than 2/3 vote of the members present to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553;

Resolved, that and will instruct that the board of trustees from Shiloh (Morven) United Methodist Church has authority to negotiate and enter into formal disaffiliation agreement with the conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Shiloh United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,612 Yes (96.18%), 64 No (3.82%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Smyrna United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Smyrna United Methodist Church, Monroe, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent, the congregation of the Smyrna United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Smyrna United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Smyrna United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next, which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Smyrna United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special-called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Smyrna UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that meeting said formal of the disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the May 6 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that of the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Smyrna UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of The Arbor United Methodist Church, Salisbury, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of The Arbor United Methodist Church, Salisbury, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of The Arbor United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, The Arbor United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, The Arbor United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, The Arbor United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of The Arbor United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and The Arbor UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of The Arbor United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Tyro United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Tyro United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by unanimous consent of the Tyro United Methodist Church (Tyro UMC) Administrative Church Council, Tyro UMC agrees to pursue disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church (UMC) based upon the opposition of the Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC) to the "Traditional Plan" as adopted by the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference, and

Whereas, Tyro UMC disagrees with Petitions 21 and 22 that were passed by the 2019 session of the WNCC annual conference. Petition 21 requests that the next General Conference vote to remove the sentence "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching" from *The Book of Discipline*. Petition 22 agrees with the four commitments of "UMC Next", including "We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation." Resistance and defiance to the rules and regulations, as stated in the current United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, are being allowed by leadership within the UMC. The direction of the UMC and the tolerance of noncompliance to approved regulations do not represent the values of Tyro UMC, and

Whereas, the General Conference provided Paragraph 2553 to establish a process for disaffiliation of a Local Church over issues related to human sexuality and the actions of the UMC regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; Although the disaffiliation related paragraph 2553 only relates to the practice of homosexuality, our disagreements with the direction and future of the UMC and WNCC revised practices and beliefs run much deeper and are much more harmful to The United Methodist Church.

Therefore, Tyro UMC, at a special called church conference, voted and passed with more than two-thirds vote of members present to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*; and

Therefore, Tyro UMC requests formal disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church be placed on the 2023 Annual Conference agenda of the meeting of Western North Carolina Conference; and be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees and Leadership Team of Tyro UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and, be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Tyro UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,589 Yes (95.09%), 82 No (4.91%), 50 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Union Chapel United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Union Chapel United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Union Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Union Chapel United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Union Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Union Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Union Chapel UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Union Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.82%), 70 No (4.18%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Wightman United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Submitted by: Trustees of Wightman United Methodist Church, Polkton, N.C., Uwharrie District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Wightman United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Wightman United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved Does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly Disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Wightman United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Wightman United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Wightman UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Wightman UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Yadkin Valley District (41)**Disaffiliation of Antioch United Methodist Church, Belews Creek, N.C., Yadkin Valley District**

Submitted by: Trustees of Antioch United Methodist Church, Belews Creek, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Antioch United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Antioch United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Antioch United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that I disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Antioch United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Antioch UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Antioch UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Arcadia United Methodist Church, Clemmons, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Arcadia United Methodist Church, Clemmons, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Arcadia (Clemmons) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the United Methodist General Conference. Regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Arcadia (Clemmons) United Methodist Church believes the ‘traditional plan “as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Arcadia (Clemmons) United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, one of which presented the tenants of “UMC Next” which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan” and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Arcadia (Clemmons) United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference voted by a greater than 2/3 vote of the members present to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553;

Resolved, that and will instruct that the board of trustees from Arcadia (Clemmons) United Methodist Church has authority to negotiate and enter into formal disaffiliation agreement with the conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Arcadia United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Baltimore United Methodist Church, East Bend, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Baltimore United Methodist Church, East Bend, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has, for many years, been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continually created strife within the church with the resulting effect of losing members and financial support preventing the church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions in this world, and

Whereas, the congregation of Baltimore United Methodist Church disagrees with this controversy and effect it has on its church, and

Whereas, Baltimore United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Baltimore United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the Traditional Plan as such plan as approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Baltimore United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Baltimore United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council and Disaffiliation Committee of Baltimore United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry it out disaffiliation, and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Baltimore United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church of Thomasville, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church, Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Bethel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”: and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Bethel United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, Para 2553; and will instruct that the Board of Trustees of Bethel United Methodist Church will be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that the said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Bethel United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethesda United Methodist Church, Pine Hall, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethesda United Methodist Church, Pine Hall, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Bethesda United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Bethesda United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Bethesda United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Bethesda United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Bethesda UMC be given -the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Bethesda UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by a two-thirds majority consent the congregation of the Bethlehem United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Bethlehem United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Bethlehem United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Bethlehem United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Bethlehem UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bethlehem United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Center United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Center United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Center United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into

a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Center UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church, Welcome, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Center United Methodist Church, Welcome, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by 2/3 majority vote, the congregation of the Center United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Center United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Center UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Center UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Center United Methodist Church of Yadkinville, Inc., Yadkinville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Center United Methodist Church, Yadkinville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Center United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas; the Center United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Center United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Center UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Center UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.64%), 73 No (4.36%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Chestnut Grove UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.58%), 74 No (4.42%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Concord United Methodist Church of Lewisville, Inc., Lewisville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Concord United Methodist Church, Lewisville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Concord United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Concord United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Concord United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Concord United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Concord UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Concord UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Dulin United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Dulin United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Dulin United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Dulin United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Dulin United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Dulin United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Dulin United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Dulin UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Dulin United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,605 Yes (95.71%), 72 No (4.29%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Elbaville United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Elbaville United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent the congregation of the Elbaville United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Elbaville United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Elbaville United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter *The Discipline*’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Elbaville United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Elbaville United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Elbaville UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Elbaville United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Elm Grove United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Elm Grove United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, as a result of years of dissention and disregard with the greater United Methodist Church regarding sexual ethics and marriage as it relates to the practice of homosexuality. Thus, presenting a deeper symptom in the theological divide over the very nature and authority of the scripture.

Whereas, the 2019 Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference was a pivotal moment for Elm Grove United Methodist Church. At that conference, The United Methodist Church Next Petition (#22), our conference declared the official position of the denomination, “The Traditional Plan” approved at the 2019 General Conference, to be evil, unjust, oppressive, and incompatible with the gospel and vowed to resist its execution. This is in addition to the persistent charge that the Traditional view “does harm” leaves us with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the continuing United Methodist Church in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscious with the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church using Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. By a more than 2/3 vote of members present at a special church conference, Elm Grove UMC voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, the council of Elm Grove United Methodist Church has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to disaffiliate.

Resolved, Elm Grove United Methodist Church is asking that the formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Conference, and we request that Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%) 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Fairview United Methodist Church, Pinnacle, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Fairview United Methodist Church, Pinnacle, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle) has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle) believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle) does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle), with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle) be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 special meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Fairview United Methodist Church (Pinnacle) congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.65%), 73 No (4.35%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Fairview United Methodist Church, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Fairview United Methodist Church, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the United Methodist General Conference. Regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church believes the ‘traditional plan “as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, one of which presented the tenants of “UMC Next” which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan” and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553; and instructed that the board of trustees from Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church will be given authority to negotiate and enter into formal disaffiliation agreement with the conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Fairview (Thomasville) United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.89%), 69 No (4.11%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Farmington United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Farmington United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has, for many years, been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continually created strife within the church with the resulting effect of losing members and financial support preventing the church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions in this world, and

Whereas, the congregation of Farmington United Methodist Church disagrees with this controversy and effect it has on its church, and

Whereas, Farmington United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Farmington United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the Traditional Plan as such plan as approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Farmington United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Farmington United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Council and Disaffiliation Committee of Farmington United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry out disaffiliation; and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Farmington United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Friendship United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington) has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington) believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington) does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington), at a special, duly called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553; and will instruct that the Board of Trustees of Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington) be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that the said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the Conference respect and affirm the desire of Friendship United Methodist Church (Lexington) congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.70%), 72 No (4.30%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Fulton United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Fulton United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has been deep conflict within The United Methodist Church concerning human sexuality, which has caused division within the church, resulting in the loss of members and financial support and at the same time preventing the church from fully focusing on its fundamental values and missions.

Whereas, the congregation of Fulton United Methodist Church disagrees with this ongoing conflict and the effect it has on its church.

Whereas, Fulton United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” which affirms the teaching of the Holy bible concerning human sexuality and which was approved by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church during a Special Session held in 2019.

Whereas, Fulton United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference, during which they approved the Traditional Plan without addressing the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who refuse to honor and enforce *The Book of Discipline*.

Whereas, Fulton United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 Western North Carolina Annual Conference, during which they passed petitions that rejected the “Traditional Plan” and tried to remove the language in *The Book of Discipline* regarding the practice of homosexuality as “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference approved a process to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* for United Methodist congregations, who disagree as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues. Therefore, be it hereby

Resolved, that Fulton United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of professing members present at a special called church conference, has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church in accordance with paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*, and be it further

Resolved, that the Leadership Team and Disaffiliation Committee of Fulton United Methodist Church be authorized to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees in accordance with paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and to execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry out disaffiliation, and be it further

Resolved, that said Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference, and Fulton United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Good Hope United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Good Hope United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation present at Good Hope United Methodist Church on October 24, 2022 has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Good Hope United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Good Hope United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Good Hope United Methodist Church, with a more than two-thirds vote of members at a special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Good Hope United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Good Hope United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of ¶2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the May 6, 2023, called Annual conference of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Good Hope United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Claudville, VA, Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Claudville, VA, Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of Paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Hatcher’s Chapel United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Kingswood United Methodist Church, Rural Hall, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Kingswood United Methodist Church, Rural Hall, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Kingswood United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Kingswood United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Kingswood United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and Its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, that Kingswood United Methodist Church, at a special duly called church conference, voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* ¶2553; and,

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Kingswood United Methodist Church entered into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 special May meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Kingswood United Methodist Church (Rural Hall) congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,594 Yes (95.16%), 81 No (4.84%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Midway United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Midway United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Midway United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Midway United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Midway United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Midway United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference will vote to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Midway UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Midway UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,598 Yes (95.40%), 77 No (4.60%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Boonville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mitchell’s Chapel UMC, Boonville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has, for many years, been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continually created strife within the church with the resulting effect of losing members and financial support preventing the church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions in this world, and

Whereas, the congregation of Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church disagrees with this controversy and effect it has on its church, and

Whereas, Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the Traditional Plan as such plan as approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council and Disaffiliation Committee of Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry it out disaffiliation, and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Mitchell’s Chapel United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mocks United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mocks United Methodist Church, Advance, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Mocks United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Mocks United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mocks United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”: and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Mocks United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference will vote to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and will instruct that the Board of Trustees of Mocks United Methodist Church will be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions, and be it

Resolved, that the said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Mocks United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Herman United Methodist Church, Mt. Airy, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Herman United Methodist Church, Mt. Airy, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of the Mount Herman United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Mount Herman United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Mount Herman United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mount Herman United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Mount Herman United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mount Herman United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of Paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mount Herman United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Yadkinville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Yadkinville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Mount Olive United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Mount Olive United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Mount Olive United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Mount Olive United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Mount Olive UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Mount Olive congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,610 Yes (96.00%), 67 No (4.00%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Tobbacoville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Tobbacoville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, a result of years of dissension and disregard with the greater United Methodist Church regarding sexual ethics and marriage as it relates to the practice of homosexuality, thus presenting a deeper symptom in the theological divide over the very nature and authority of the scripture, and

Whereas, the 2019 Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference was a pivotal moment for Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church. At that meeting, The United Methodist Church Next Petition (#22), our conference declared the official position of the denomination, “The Traditional Plan” approved at the 2019 General Conference, to be evil, unjust, oppressive, and incompatible with the gospel and vowed to resist its execution. This is in addition to the persistent charge that the Traditional view “does harm” leaves Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church with no confidence that traditional churches will be respected in the continuing United Methodist Church in the Western North Carolina Conference, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church using Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Council of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to disaffiliate, and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Conference and Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church respectfully request that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Palmyra United Methodist Church, Germanton, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Palmyra UMC, Germanton, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Palmyra United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Palmyra United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Palmyra United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Palmyra United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553 and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Palmyra UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Palmyra UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,606 Yes (95.77%), 71 No (4.23%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Kernersville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Kernersville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of the Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”: and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church: and be it

Resolved, that Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church, at a special, duly called church conference voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, ¶2553;

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church have the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; said actions; and be it

Resolved, that the said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Pine Grove Kernersville United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pine Woods United Methodist Church, Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pine Woods United Methodist Church, Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Pine Woods Thomasville United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Pine Woods Thomasville United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Pine Woods Thomasville United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pine Woods Thomasville United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Pine Woods Thomasville UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pine Woods Thomasville congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,609 Yes (95.95%), 68 No (4.05%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church of Thomasville, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Thomasville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Pleasant Grove UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pleasant Grove UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.64%), 73 No (4.36%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, Pfafftown, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, Pfafftown, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC General Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenets of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Pleasant Hill UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 6, 2023, meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Pleasant Hill UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,607 Yes (95.88%), 69 No (4.12%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Salem United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Salem United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has, for many years, been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continually created strife within the church with the resulting effect of losing members and financial support preventing the church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions in this world, and

Whereas, the congregation of Salem United Methodist Church disagrees with this controversy and effect it has on its church, and

Whereas, Salem United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Salem United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the Traditional Plan as such plan as approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Salem United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Salem United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council and Disaffiliation Committee of Salem United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry it out disaffiliation, and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Salem United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.53%), 75 No (4.47%), 43 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Lexington, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, there has, for many years, been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality, which has continually created strife within the church with the resulting effect of losing members and financial support preventing the church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions in this world, and

Whereas, the congregation of Shiloh United Methodist Church disagrees with this controversy and effect it has on its church, and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church objects as a matter of conscience to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the Traditional Plan as such plan as approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Shiloh United Methodist Church disagrees as a matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section 161G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Shiloh United Methodist Church, with a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* paragraph 2553, and be it further

Resolved, that the Council and Disaffiliation Committee of Shiloh United Methodist Church be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry out disaffiliation, and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Shiloh United Methodist Church respectfully requests that said Annual Conference respect the desires of said congregation and approve its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.58%), 74 No (4.42%), 45 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Shoals United Methodist Church, Pinnacle, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Shoals United Methodist Church, Pinnacle, N. C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by unanimous consent, the congregation of Shoals United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, Shoals United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, Shoals United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the “traditional plan”; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Shoals United Methodist Church, with more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Shoals United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with The Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and

Whereas, The Conference Trustees and Shoals United Methodist Church have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2023 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Shoals UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,602 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 48 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Smith Grove United Methodist Church, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Smith Grove UMC, Mocksville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, for many years there has been an ongoing controversy within The United Methodist Church on issues related to human sexuality. This controversy has created tension within our church and many members have expressed their desire to leave the church resulting in a severe loss of financial support. This financial loss will prevent our church from focusing on its fundamental values and missions within our community.

Whereas, the congregation of Smith Grove United Methodist Church disagrees with this on-going controversy and the effects it has had on the church and the community.

Whereas, Smith Grove United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instruction of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality.

Whereas, Smith Grove United Methodist Church objects as a “matter of conscience” to the actions of the 2019 General Conference approving the “Traditional Plan” as such the plan approved does not address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly defy and disobey *The Book of Discipline*.

Whereas, Smith Grove United Methodist Church disagrees as a “matter of conscience” with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which sought to remove Section G from the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”.

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a “matter of conscience” with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on the stated issues, a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline*. Therefore, be it

Resolved, Smith Grove United Methodist Church voted at a special called church conference to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2553; and be it further

Resolved, Smith Grove United Methodist Council be given authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry out disaffiliation; and be it further

Resolved, Smith Grove United Methodist Church respectfully requests that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference respect the desires of the congregation of its request for disaffiliation to be placed on the agenda at the May 6, 2023 Annual Conference for approval for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,601 Yes (95.47%), 76 No (4.53%), 44 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Snow Hill United Methodist Church, Danbury, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Snow Hill United Methodist Church, Danbury, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, the congregation of Snow Hill United Methodist Church has become increasingly uncomfortable with the direction of The United Methodist Church regarding their departure from strict adherence to *The Book of Discipline* regarding matters that the Bible defines clearly specifically regarding human sexuality and marriage as well as the actions and inactions of the Western North Carolina Conference in response to this departure; and

Whereas, the defiance and disregard for *The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline* and the lack of accountability regarding these matters has left the denomination in an untrustworthy and selective system of governance that is untenable, and

Whereas, the Traditional Plan passed by the 2019 General Conference was not sufficient to address the lack of accountability of bishops, annual conferences, and entire jurisdictions that refuse to abide by it, and

Whereas, Snow Hill United Methodist Church disagrees with the petition passed at WNC Annual Conference 2019 which stated the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 should be resisted as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and

Whereas, Snow Hill United Methodist Church does agree that there is sacred worth of LGBTQ persons and welcome them into our church, Snow Hill United Methodist Church does not agree that it is acceptable for self-avowing, practicing LGBTQ persons to hold leadership roles such as pastors, District Superintendents, and Bishops of the church, and

Whereas, Snow Hill United Methodist Church has completed a season of prayerful discernment and has reached consensus concerning its future, and

Whereas, the General Conference provides for a disaffiliation process for congregations. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Snow Hill United Methodist Church with a more than two thirds vote of members at special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and be it further

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Leadership team are given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the 2023 of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Snow Hill United Methodist Church congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,603 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 47 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Tobaccoville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Tobaccoville, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Tabernacle United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Tabernacle United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Discipline*; and

Whereas, the Tabernacle United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan”, and another petition which stated the annual conference’s strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan; and

Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Tabernacle United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *The Book of Discipline* per paragraph 2553; and be it

Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Tabernacle UMC be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the May 2023 meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of the Tabernacle UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,604 Yes (95.76%), 71 No (4.24%), 46 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Trinity United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Trinity United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, on September 13, 2022 the Church Council of Trinity United Methodist Church voted to pursue disaffiliation in accordance with Paragraph 2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and sent a letter, as required by the District Superintendent to the District Office of the Yadkin Valley District requesting a Called Charge Conference to allow our congregation to vote upon disaffiliation, and

Whereas, Trinity United Methodist Church supports the “Traditional Plan” adopted by the 2019 Special Session of The United Methodist Church General Conference which upheld and affirmed the instructions of the Holy Bible pertaining to human sexuality, and

Whereas, Trinity United Methodist Church disagrees as matter of conscience with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference which voted and approved “petitioning the General Conference to remove” from *The Book of Discipline* and rejected and condemned the “Traditional Plan”, and

Whereas, based on Paragraph 2553 allowance to “disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provision of *The Book of Discipline* in allowance of the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues, and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference provided United Methodist congregations that disagreed as a matter of conscience with the actions of the 2019 General and Annual Conferences on said issues a process for local churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*, and

Whereas, Trinity United Methodist Church voted by a more than 2/3 majority of members present to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per ¶2553. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Church Council of Trinity United Methodist Church be given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference Trustees pursuant to ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline* and execute all instruments, deeds, affirmations as required to carry out disaffiliation; and be it further

Resolved, that the said formal Disaffiliation Agreement be placed on the agenda of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference and Trinity United Methodist Church respectfully its request for disaffiliation.

Vote: PASSED: 1,596 Yes (95.40%), 77 No (4.60%), 48 Abstain

Disaffiliation of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, Pilot Mountain, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Trustees of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church, Pilot Mountain, N.C., Yadkin Valley District

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, the Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey *The Book of Disciplines* and

Whereas, the Whitaker's Chapel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan", and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, and

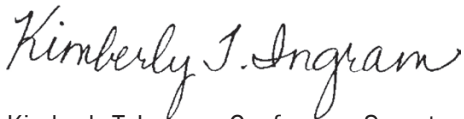
Whereas, the General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of The United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church. Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Whitaker's Chapel UMC, with more than two-thirds votes from members at a special called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church per *Book of Disciplines* per paragraph 2553 and be it

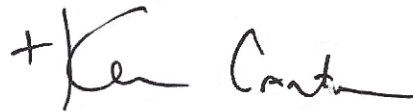
Resolved, that Board of Trustees and Disaffiliation Committee of Whitaker's Chapel UMC has the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out; and be it

Resolved, that said formal disaffiliation agreement will be placed on the agenda of the June meeting of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference and ask that the conference respect and affirm the desire of Whitaker's Chapel UMC congregation to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

Vote: PASSED: 1,599 Yes (95.58%), 74 No (4.42%), 48 Abstain



Kimberly T. Ingram, Conference Secretary



Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Resident Bishop



3. ATTENDING MEMBERS OF THE MAY 6 SESSION

Attendance was recorded by voting at the May 6, 2023 virtual called session of the 2022 Annual Conference. For a list of attending clergy, diaconal ministers, lay ministers, deaconesses, and home missionaries, please see Section XII. Conference Members.

a. Conference Lay Members Ex Officio

Conference Lay Leader: John Crane (First (Gastonia), CV)

President, Conference United Methodist Men: Walter Vaughan (Mount Pleasant (Sherrills Ford), CV)

President, Conference United Women in Faith: Joanie Strohm (Weaverville, BR)

b. District and Local Charge Lay Members

1: Appalachian

Local Charge: *Banner Elk (Banner Elk):* Don Stine, *Bethany (West Jefferson):* Burt Prange, *Bethlehem (Statesville):* Jeff Morrow, *Boone (Boone):* Carroll Ann Busher, *Boone (Boone):* Harold Miller, *Chapel Hill (Statesville):* Steve Brown, *Clarksbury (Harmony):* Carol Johnson, *Creston (Creston):* David Ahrens, *Deerfield (Boone):* Lori Williams, *Ebenezer (Granite Falls):* Kim Ellis, *Elmwood (Statesville):* Phyllis Curry, *First (Granite Falls):* Rebecca McKercher, *First (Lenoir):* John Davis, *First (North Wilkesboro):* Brian Smith, *First (Taylorsville):* Ed Jacobs, *First (Troutman):* Julie Yager, *Friendship (Statesville):* Reggie Weisner, *Gamewell (Lenoir):* Raymond Kendall, *Harmony (Harmony):* Scott Branch, *Harper's Chapel (Patterson):* Cheryl Miller, *Henson Chapel (Vilas):* Robin Tyndall, *Hudson (Hudson):* Kim Burns, *Little Laurel (Creston):* Rose Cox, *Marvin (Stony Point):* Dale Pope, *Mount Bethel (Harmony):* John Cullen, *Mount Bethel (Hickory):* Nancy Johnson, *Mount Hermon (Lenoir):* David Wagner, *Mountain View (Statesville):* Judy Miller, *Pleasant Valley (Boone):* Lisa Miller, *Providence (Statesville):* Marie Hare,

Rocky Springs (Hiddenite): Daniel Scott Mitchell, *Sandy Ridge (Statesville)*: Walter Joyner, *South River (Hiddenite)*: Bill Randlett, *Sparta (Sparta)*: Gayle Cobb, *Stony Point (Stony Point)*: Larry Moose, *Trinity (Lenoir)*: Gary McLean, *Union Grove (Union Grove)*: Lori McKay, *Valle Crucis (Banner Elk)*: Mike Marcela, *Wesley Chapel (Troutman)*: Jennifer Holt, *White Rock (Thurmond)*: Lorene Fleming, *Wilkesboro (Wilkesboro)*: Janice Taylor;

District At Large: *Boone (Boone)*: Kelly Broman-Fulks, *Boone (Boone)*: Ken Connelly, *Boone (Boone)*: Dennis "Neil" Hartley, *Boone (Boone)*: Adam Hege, *Boone (Boone)*: Patricia Miller, *Broad Street (Statesville)*: Allen Bost, *Broad Street (Statesville)*: Maryette Bost, *Broad Street (Statesville)*: Sharon Reavis, *Broad Street (Statesville)*: Peggy Willhide, *Cedar Valley (Lenoir)*: William Deal, *Dunkirk (Ferguson)*: Kenneth Bumgarner, *Ebenezer (Granite Falls)*: Irene Austin, *Grace Chapel (Granite Falls)*: Beverly Curtis, *Henson Chapel (Vilas)*: Wanda Anderson, *Hudson (Hudson)*: Terri Clark, *Hudson (Hudson)*: Sherry Summerlin, *Jefferson (Jefferson)*: Janice Henson, *Linville (Linville)*: Kay Webb, *Mount Bethel (Hickory)*: Hannah Bost, *Pleasant Valley (Boone)*: Randy Miller, *Sparta (Sparta)*: Donald Cobb, *Stony Point (Stony Point)*: Angie Moose;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: *Deerfield (Boone)*: Emma Austin;

District Lay Leader: None.

(Total 64)

2: Blue Ridge

Local Charge: *Acton (Asheville)*: Robert Shepherd, *Asbury Memorial (Asheville)*: Madeline Moseley, *Avery's Creek (Arden)*: Buddy Taylor, *Balfour (Hendersonville)*: Martha Gaillard, *Biltmore (Asheville)*: Kylee Rose Frye, *Bright Hope Laurel (Mars Hill)*: Rich Ashley, *Brook's Chapel (Polkville)*: Patricia Withrow, *Central (Asheville)*: John Klees, *Central (Asheville)*: Mary Longknight, *Central (Asheville)*: Hugh Meyer, *Clinchfield (Marion)*: Jim Arnold, *Covenant Community (Asheville)*: James Snook, *East Asheville (Asheville)*: Mark Carlson, *Etowah (Etowah)*: Dave Hudelson, *First (Brevard)*: Steve Arnaudin, *First (Brevard)*: Andrew Lewis, *First (Hendersonville)*: Joyce Forth, *First (Hendersonville)*: Clint Holt, *First (Hendersonville)*: Deidre West, *First (Marion)*: Leslie Smith, *Francis Asbury (Candler)*: Pam Moser, *Groce (Asheville)*: Laura Jones, *Kistler's Chapel (Rutherfordton)*: David McCraw, *Mills River (Mills River)*: Donna Cannon, *Montmorenci (Candler)*: Robin Shaw, *New Hope (Rutherfordton)*: Joyce Spake, *Providence (Rutherford)*: Brent Clayton, *Salem (Bostic)*: Morgan Wood, *Salem (Weaverville)*: Jane Criser, *Skyland (Asheville)*: Diane Rutledge, *Snow Hill (Candler)*: Linda Barefoot, *Spindale (Spindale)*: Pamela Deck, *Spring Creek (Spring Creek)*: Donald Hopkins, *Spruce Pine (Spruce Pine)*: Sharon Drum, *St. Timothy (Brevard)*: Charles Wallis, *Tabernacle (Black Mountain)*: Lynn Swann, *Trinity (Asheville)*: Lauren Bujdoso, *Tryon (Tryon)*: Pamela Monterisi, *Upward (Flat Rock)*: Sharon Whitted, *Weaverville (Weaverville)*: Michael Diluigi, *Windom (Burnsville)*: Gwen Harris;

District At Large: *Brook's Chapel (Polkville)*: Keith Wilson, *Covenant Community (Asheville)*: Nicole Ray, *First (Hendersonville)*: Richard Weaver, *First (Hendersonville)*: Lori Wilson, *First (Rutherfordton)*: Jimmy Dancy, *Groce (Asheville)*: Rocky Redd, *Groce (Asheville)*: Suzanne Schilling, *Higgins Memorial (Burnsville)*: Russ Darnall, *Mars Hill (Mars Hill)*: Heath Nettles, *Montmorenci (Candler)*: Lane Mallonee, *Pensacola (Burnsville)*: Sherry Ingram, *Piney Mountain (Candler)*: Karen Scarborough, *Pleasant Grove (Forest City)*: Becky Pendleton, *Salem (Bostic)*: Caroline Wood, *Salem (Bostic)*: Gary Wood, *Snow Hill (Candler)*: Jim Barefoot, *Tabernacle (Black Mountain)*: Don Yost, *Trinity (Asheville)*: Lazslo Bujdoso, *Weaverville (Weaverville)*: McKenzie Dillingham;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: None;

District Lay Leader: None.

(Total 60)

3: Catawba Valley

Local Charge: *Abernethy Memorial (Newton)*: Joel Herman, *Abernethy Memorial (Rutherford College)*: Mike Baumberger, *Aldersgate (Shelby)*: Kay Harvell, *Aldersgate (Shelby)*: Randy Simmons, *Asbury (Lincolnton)*: Billy Buff, *Bethel (Denver)*: Julie Shackleton, *Bethel (Dry Ponds)*: Ray Kiser, *Bethlehem (Claremont)*: Dayne Miller, *Boger City (Lincolnton)*: Janet Oathout, *Boiling Springs (Boiling Springs)*: Cari Bellairs, *Bradley Memorial (Gastonia)*: Beverly Bradley, *Burke Chapel (Hickory)*: Britt Paige, *Center (Catawba)*: Gary Mauney, *Central (Kings Mountain)*: Audrey Brooks, *Central (Shelby)*: Catherine Wray, *Christ (Drexel)*: Judy Greer, *Christ (Gastonia)*: Joyce Welch, *Christ (Hickory)*: Samuel Johnson, *Christ (Hickory)*: Tim Kincaid, *Christ (Hickory)*: Mike Marshall, *Christ (Hickory)*: Myra Marshall, *Christ (Hickory)*: Angie Wright, *Concord (Catawba)*: Ronald Dollyhite, *Denton's Chapel (Morganton)*: Sandy Denton, *Denver (Denver)*: Gary Garlow, *Epworth (Gastonia)*: Deborah Green, *First (Belmont)*: Jane Herstine, *First (Conover)*: Bob Goodson, *First (Conover)*: Gerald Loftin, *First (Dallas)*: Neil Boyd, *First (Gastonia)*: Clara Harris, *First (Hickory)*: Pamela Huss, *First (Lincolnton)*: Robert Combs, *First (Mount Holly)*: Glenda Painter, *First (Mount Holly)*: Johnny Painter, *First (Newton)*: Susan Reinhardt, *First (Valdese)*: John Kiser, *Friendship (Fallston)*: Terry McCollum, *Friendship (Newton)*: Nancy Fulbright, *Hartzell Memorial (Hickory)*: Ida Clough, *Hebron (Vale)*: Aneta Bever, *Highland (Hickory)*: Mike Jones, *Iron Station (Iron Station)*: Johnny Miller, *Kadesh (Lawndale)*: Becky Earley, *Lawndale (Lawndale)*: Bobby Hord, *Linville (Morganton)*: Joe Dishman, *Maylo (Gastonia)*: Nell Jenkins, *May's Chapel (Maiden)*: Eddie Barringer, *McKendree (Lincolnton)*: Revonda Willis, *Messiah (Lincolnton)*: Heather Tompkins, *Mount Pleasant (Stanley)*: Frances Marshall, *Myers Memorial (Gastonia)*: Jennifer Rhodes, *Myers Memorial (Gastonia)*: Mike Rhodes, *New Covenant (Mount Holly)*: Angela Hallman, *Oak Hill (Morganton)*: David Butler, *Pisgah (Lincolnton)*: Richard Beeker, *Pleasant Grove (Lincolnton)*: Ellen Hoyle, *Polkville (Polkville)*: Janet Sanders, *Providence (Catawba)*: Velma Armstead, *Puett (Dallas)*: Lynn Stubblefield, *Reep's Grove (Vale)*: Melissa Peeler, *Rhyne Heights (Lincolnton)*: Ricky Detter, *Salem (Morganton)*: Doris Ingram, *Sharon (Shelby)*: Bonnie Scruggs, *St. James (Denver)*: Stanley Roseboro, *St. Luke's (Hickory)*: Andrew Straw, *St. Luke's (Hickory)*: Angela Vandett, *St. Luke's (Hickory)*: Ric Vandett, *St. Paul's (Shelby)*: Melba McSwain, *Tucker's Grove (Iron Station)*: Jeannine Sherrill, *Webbs Chapel (Denver)*: Mike Huss, *Wesley Chapel (Newton)*: Jim Pruitt, *Westview (Hickory)*: Kelly Ross;

District At Large: *Aldersgate (Shelby)*: Gina Blanton, *Aldersgate (Shelby)*: Richard Strachan, *Asbury (Lincolnton)*: Joy Buff, *Asbury (Lincolnton)*: Kelly Byrd, *Christ (Drexel)*: Mary Lail, *Christ (Hickory)*: Natalie Johnson, *Christ (Hickory)*: Andrea Soler, *Christ (Hickory)*: Juan Soler, *Denver (Denver)*: Elisabeth Kelley, *Denver (Denver)*: Janis Mlynarski, *Denver (Denver)*: Waldemar Mlynarski, *Denver (Denver)*: Jeanie Strickland, *Denver (Denver)*: Tim Strickland, *Epworth (Gastonia)*: Jennifer Davis, *First (Cherryville)*: Bess Thornburg, *First (Dallas)*: Vickie Boyd, *First*

(Dallas): Talica Ervin, *First (Gastonia)*: Jesse Caldwell III, *First (Gastonia)*: Becky Greene, *First (Gastonia)*: Angela Neal, *First (Gastonia)*: Steven Neal, *First (Gastonia)*: Eleanor Wixson, *First (Gastonia)*: John Wixson, *First (Hickory)*: John Murphy, *First (Morganton)*: Susan Amico, *First (Morganton)*: Browning Rochefort, *First (Newton)*: Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, *Kistler's (Lawndale)*: Judy Gantt, *Lawndale (Lawndale)*: Terri Hord, *May's Chapel (Maiden)*: Sally Barringer, *May's Chapel (Maiden)*: Paul Campbell, *May's Chapel (Maiden)*: Rebecca Campbell, *Messiah (Lincolnton)*: Janet Reep Morgan, *Mount Pleasant (Sherrills Ford)*: Belinda Worsham, *Mount Pleasant (Stanley)*: Monique Luckey, *Myers Memorial (Gastonia)*: Angie Flake, *Rehobeth (Terrell)*: Cheryl Hamby, *Salem (Denver)*: Barbara Lauro, *Salem (Denver)*: Jenny Reilly, *Salem (Morganton)*: Zane Whitener, *St. Luke's (Hickory)*: Elizabeth Osbahr, *St. Luke's (Hickory)*: Jessica Stamey, *St. Paul (Newton)*: Dorothy Lackey, *St. Peter's (Lawndale)*: Judy Hamrick-Canipe;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: *First (Belmont)*: Kaleb Setzer, *Rock Hill (Stanley)*: Torey Haynes;

District Lay Leader: *First (Lincolnton)*: Gordon Hubbell.

(Total 120)

4: Metro

Local Charge: *Ann Street (Concord)*: Ed Shuffler, *Assurance (Huntersville)*: Whitney Vincel, *Boger's Chapel (Concord)*: Cathy Newsome, *Broad Street (Mooresville)*: Jayne Chester, *Calvary (Charlotte)*: Becky Pinion, *Centenary (Mount Ulla)*: Tom Corriher, *Center (Concord)*: Susan Hicks, *Central (Concord)*: Margaret Dabbs, *Central (Concord)*: Wayne Dabbs, *Christ (Charlotte)*: Julie Olney, *Covenant (Charlotte)*: Billy Joy, *Davidson (Davidson)*: Robert Weitzel, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Kelly Hofstatter, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Betty Hunter, *Fair View (Mooresville)*: Jane Testerman, *First (Charlotte)*: Jean Sperow, *First (Landis)*: Patti Honeycutt, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Amanda Dyer, *Greater Vision (NS) (Charlotte)*: Shana Pearson, *Harmony (Concord)*: Clyde Overcash, *Harrisburg (Harrisburg)*: Rebecca Douglass, *Harrison (Pineville)*: Jean Jones, *Harrison (Pineville)*: Joseph Navarro, *Hawthorne Lane (Charlotte)*: Deloris Varner, *Heath Memorial (Waxhaw)*: Joan Swiger, *Hickory Grove (Charlotte)*: Tom Fox, *Hickory Grove (Charlotte)*: Loretta Wilson, *Huntersville (Huntersville)*: William Kerns, *Light Of Christ (Charlotte)*: Lisa Wohlford, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Amy DeVore, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Nancy Harris, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Elizabeth Mockler, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Philip Tate, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Becky Yates, *Memorial (Charlotte)*: Melanie Lanier, *Midway (Kannapolis)*: Steven Tilley, *Mill Grove (Indian Trail)*: Jeff Hodge, *Mineral Springs (Monroe)*: George Stone, *Mount Mitchell (Kannapolis)*: Donna Goodman, *Mount Pleasant (Mount Pleasant)*: Gary Kenendy, *Mount Zion (Cornelius)*: Laurie Knight, *Mount Zion (Cornelius)*: Linda Lott, *Myers Park (Charlotte)*: Havaleh Havelka, *Oak Grove (Charlotte)*: Kelly McWhirter, *Oak Grove (Mount Pleasant)*: Eddie Aiton, *Pleasant Grove (Charlotte)*: Hazel Sanders, *Providence (Charlotte)*: Debbie Arnold, *Providence (Charlotte)*: Christopher Lawing, *Roberta (Concord)*: Doris Burris, *Rocky Mount (Mooresville)*: Kevin Thompson, *Rocky Ridge (Concord)*: Terry Hicks Sr., *Sedgefield (Charlotte)*: Frank Fields, *Simpson-Gillespie (Charlotte)*: Jeffrey Tucker, *SouthPark (Charlotte)*: Pat Peacock, *St. Andrew's (Charlotte)*: Maria Alvarado, *St. Andrew's (Charlotte)*: Anne Lisk, *St. Andrew's (Charlotte)*: Pat Wolfe, *St. Stephen (Charlotte)*: Steve Courtney, *The Gathering (Concord)*: Linda Hood, *Trinity (Kannapolis)*: Margie Shuman, *Triplett (Mooresville)*: Angie Harrison, *Unity (Kannapolis)*: April Baucom, *Vanderburg (Mooresville)*: Brenda Byrd, *Weddington (Weddington)*: Dick Davidson, *West (Mooresville)*: Josh Pettit, *Westford (Concord)*: Christian Kelly, *Williamson's Chapel (Mooresville)*: John Dyer, *Williamson's Chapel (Mooresville)*: Nancy Gekas;

District At Large: *Assurance (Huntersville)*: David Zietlow, *Boger's Chapel (Concord)*: Diane Ezzell, *Boger's Chapel (Concord)*: Jim Ezzell, *Boger's Chapel (Concord)*: Libby Smith, *Center (Concord)*: Bonita Dombroski, *Central (Concord)*: Bob Anderson, *Central (Concord)*: Don Irons, *Christ (Charlotte)*: Missy Gabriel, *Covenant (Charlotte)*: Kathy Joy, *Davidson (Davidson)*: Haley Hamblin, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Alex Long, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Ann Macon-Ellis, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Dave Mildenberg, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Anna Sink, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Matt Sink, *Dilworth (Charlotte)*: Elizabeth Turbyfill, *Epworth (Concord)*: John Shepherd, *Faith (Indian Trail)*: Tim Moore, *First (Charlotte)*: Christopher Hampton, *First (China Grove)*: Tom Easterling, *First (China Grove)*: Frank Greene, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Rebecca Dyer, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Scott Dyer, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Edward Peurifoy, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Kris Peurifoy, *Forest Hill (Concord)*: Dori Thurman, *Harrisburg (Harrisburg)*: Shirley Luce, *Harrison (Pineville)*: Anita King, *Heath Memorial (Waxhaw)*: Gary Swiger, *Huntersville (Huntersville)*: Wanda Kerns, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Kathleen Benjamin, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Rick Benjamin, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Carol Goolsby, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Fred Goolsby, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Mike Horai, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Don Morrison, *Matthews (Matthews)*: James Ross, *Matthews (Matthews)*: Allie Watterson, *Morrows Chapel (Mooresville)*: Gwendolyn Kadima, *Myers Park (Charlotte)*: Laurie Guy, *Myers Park (Charlotte)*: Sandy Hieronymus, *Pleasant Grove (Charlotte)*: Jana Alexander, *Pleasant Grove (Charlotte)*: Pat James, *Providence (Charlotte)*: Bill Musgrave, *Providence (Charlotte)*: Karen Perry, *Providence (Charlotte)*: Teresa Stewart, *Roberta (Concord)*: Carolyn Hindel, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Veronica Adams, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Glenda Boatwright, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Henry Dozier, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Teila Hand-Broadnax, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Stephanie Harris, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: James Howze Sr., *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Michelene Mathews, *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Robert Penny, *St. Stephen (Charlotte)*: Linda Linfors, *Trinity (Charlotte)*: Cheryl Howard, *Triplett (Mooresville)*: Dale McCoy, *University City (Charlotte)*: Kathy FitzJefferies, *Weddington (Weddington)*: Andrew Vollenweider, *Williamson's Chapel (Mooresville)*: Mary Ana Smith;

District Youth Lay Member: *Mount Zion (Cornelius)*: Sadie Vaughan;

District Young Adult Lay Member: None;

District Lay Leader: *St. Mark's (Charlotte)*: Loretta Howze.

(Total 131)

5: Northern Piedmont

Local Charge: *Archdale (Archdale)*: Rebecca Hunt, *Bethlehem (Climax)*: David Robb, *Centenary (Greensboro)*: Betty Durham, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Gloria Jordan, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Brian Styers, *Collins Grove (Greensboro)*: John Barbee, *Covenant (High Point)*: Christan Holt, *Covenant (High Point)*: Rodney Shipwash, *First (High Point)*: Gary VanLandingham, *First (High Point)*: Ann Williams, *First (Liberty)*: Sarah Marshall, *Gethsemane (Greensboro)*: Mark Lee, *Gibsonville (Gibsonville)*: Denise Little, *Guilford College (Greensboro)*: Barbara McDonald, *Guilford College (Greensboro)*: Amy Wall, *Hinshaw (Greensboro)*: Roy Grant, *Julian (Julian)*: Steven Burton, *Laughlin Memorial (Greensboro)*: Doris D Vincent, *Lee's Chapel (Greensboro)*: Sandy Ellington, *Madison (Madison)*: Dwight Lake, *Meadow View (Eden)*: Nick Parleir, *Mitchell's Grove (High Point)*: Connie Chambers, *Mizpah (Reidsville)*: Gladston Jones, *Morehead (Greensboro)*: Sharon

Barnes, *Mount Carmel (Reidsville)*: Ann Boaz, *Mount Hermon (Madison)*: Rick Bullins, *Mount Lebanon (Randleman)*: Russ Brown, *Mount Pleasant (Kimesville)*: Deborah Black, *Mount Tabor (Greensboro)*: Earl Mebane, *Mount Vernon (Trinity)*: Robert Upchurch, *Muir's Chapel (Greensboro)*: David Berrier, *New Salem (Randleman)*: Jeanette King, *Newlyn Street (Greensboro)*: Daisy Adams, *Old Union (Sophia)*: Darrell Spillman, *Pleasant Garden (Pleasant Garden)*: Harry Lockhart, *Pleasant Union (Liberty)*: Tammy Graves, *Rehobeth (Greensboro)*: Wally Forrest, *Ruffin (Ruffin)*: Phil Strader, *Salem (Reidsville)*: Wallis Merricks, *Shiloh (Liberty)*: Roger Davis, *Spray (Eden)*: Vivian Salvador, *St. Matthews (Greensboro)*: William Phifer, *Stokesdale (Stokesdale)*: Amy Redding, *Summerfield Peace (Summerfield)*: Barbara Martin, *Tabernacle (Greensboro)*: Rumsey Helms, *The Beloved Community (High Point)*: Catherine Payne, *Triad Native American (Greensboro)*: Connie Locklear, *Trinity Memorial (Trinity)*: Renee Hayes, *Trinity Memorial (Trinity)*: Kay Lynn Miller, *Wesley Memorial (High Point)*: Phillip Dixon, *Wesley Memorial (High Point)*: David McCoy, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Jan Meade, *Woodmont (Reidsville)*: Lori Inman;

District At Large: *Archdale (Archdale)*: Gary Hunt, *Bass Chapel (Greensboro)*: Alex Williamson, *Bass Chapel (Greensboro)*: Sandra Williamson, *Celia Phelps (Greensboro)*: JoAnn Carter, *Centenary (Greensboro)*: Edna Johnson, *Center (Greensboro)*: Stephanie Ouzts, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Laura Auberry, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Jennifer Boggs, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Caroline Camp, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Anne Dooley, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Tom Jordan, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Michelle Pyle Rogers, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Liz Reinecke, *Christ (Greensboro)*: Valerie Rogers, *College Place (Greensboro)*: Paul Freeman, *College Place (Greensboro)*: George Knight, *College Place (Greensboro)*: Andrew Mails-Saine, *College Place (Greensboro)*: Emily Mails-Saine, *Collins Grove (Greensboro)*: Laquetta Barbee, *Covenant (High Point)*: Laura Danford, *Covenant (High Point)*: Ellen Florian, *Covenant (High Point)*: Amy Higgins, *Glencoe (Summerfield)*: Lindsay Johnson, *Guilford College (Greensboro)*: Bonnie Burkett, *Jamestown (Jamestown)*: Erin Betlej, *Jamestown (Jamestown)*: Connie Carroll, *Jamestown (Jamestown)*: Dennis Carroll, *Laughlin Memorial (Greensboro)*: Anthony Vincent, *Madison (Madison)*: Grover Lowery, *Madison (Madison)*: Martha Sharpe, *Memorial (High Point)*: Frederick Jones Sr., *Metropolitan (Greensboro)*: Darnese Waddell, *Metropolitan (Greensboro)*: William Waddell, *Mount Carmel (Reidsville)*: Vicki Walker, *Mount Vernon (Trinity)*: Judy Upchurch, *Muir's Chapel (Greensboro)*: Lynn Alexander, *New Goshen (Greensboro)*: Pamela Shoffner, *Newlyn Street (Greensboro)*: Ceola Ross-Baber, *Pleasant Union (Liberty)*: Nancy Fisher, *Pleasant Union (Liberty)*: Patricia Shoffner, *Salem (Reidsville)*: Patricia Merricks, *St. John (Eden)*: Eunice Hannah, *St. Matthews (Greensboro)*: Karlah Burton, *St. Matthews (Greensboro)*: Dana Lyles, *St. Matthews (Greensboro)*: Myra Waddell, *St. Matthews (Greensboro)*: Erica Weaver, *St. Paul (Reidsville)*: Etta Marcellus, *St. Timothy's (Jamestown)*: Jennie Maness, *St. Timothy's (Jamestown)*: Martha Parrish, *St. Timothy's (Jamestown)*: William Parrish, *Trinity Memorial (Trinity)*: Sherry Sink, *Trinity Memorial (Trinity)*: David Welch, *Trinity Memorial (Trinity)*: Molly Welch, *Wesley Chapel (Reidsville)*: Patricia Settle, *Wesley Memorial (High Point)*: Emily Robbian, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Betty Betts, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Lynne Gilbert, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Mary Belle Gilbert, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Mary Ann James, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Dave Johnston, *West Market Street (Greensboro)*: Charles Spicer, *Woodmont (Reidsville)*: Sean Taylor;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: None;

District Lay Leader: *Newlyn Street (Greensboro)*: Kim Eller.

(Total 116)

6: Smoky Mountain

Local Charge: *Andrews (Andrews)*: Beth Duncan, *Asbury (Otto)*: Carol Harper, *Bryson City (Bryson City)*: Catherine Gantt, *Central (Canton)*: Doug Williams, *Crabtree (Clyde)*: Marie Ferguson, *First (Franklin)*: Bob Williams, *First (Hayesville)*: Nancy Franza, *First (Sylva)*: Jessica Green, *First (Waynesville)*: Maggie Melville, *Francis Cove (Waynesville)*: Michael Bostic, *Hickory Stand (Brasstown)*: Perry Prewett, *Highlands (Highlands)*: Patti Moschouris, *Long's Chapel (Lake Junaluska)*: Sandy Breitmeier, *Patton (Franklin)*: Dixie Barker, *Piney Grove (Waynesville)*: Deborah Reed, *Plains (Canton)*: Sandra Garland, *Ranger (Murphy)*: Walter Terrell, *Robbinsville (Robbinsville)*: Beverly Whitehead, *Union (Franklin)*: Jean Wright;

District At Large: *Cashiers (Cashiers)*: Sue Jones, *Central (Canton)*: Monty Williams, *First (Franklin)*: Victoria Lawrence, *First (Waynesville)*: Julia Gibson, *First (Waynesville)*: Phillip Gibson, *First (Waynesville)*: Pat Poag, *First (Waynesville)*: Debbie Ray, *First (Waynesville)*: Scott Taylor, *First (Waynesville)*: Sarah Tippet, *Long's Chapel (Lake Junaluska)*: Grady Wiley, *Maggie Valley (Maggie Valley)*: Natalie Hawkins, *Mount Zion (Clyde)*: Bill Bowers, *Plains (Canton)*: Karen Bowman;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: *Cullowhee (Cullowhee)*: Rachel Gibby;

District Lay Leader: None.

(Total 33)

7: Uwharrie

Local Charge: *Bethany (Albemarle)*: Jackie Jernigan, *Bethany (Lexington)*: James West, *Bethlehem (Waxhaw)*: Dolly Tyson, *Cedar Grove (Norwood)*: Gary Biles, *Center (Troy)*: Donna Hurley, *Central (Albemarle)*: Chris Bramlett, *Central (Asheboro)*: Marilyn Fowler, *Central (Denton)*: Andy Morris, *Central Falls (Asheboro)*: J R Harrelson, *Chapel Hill (Denton)*: Ava Badgett, *Charlotte (Asheboro)*: Yana Reynolds, *Christ (Salisbury)*: Pat Gilbert, *Concord (Wadesboro)*: Paige Burr, *First (Asheboro)*: Ann Hoover, *First (Denton)*: Belinda Covington, *First (Lexington)*: John McWhorter, *First (Norwood)*: Pam Humphrey, *First (Salisbury)*: Charles Bowman, *First (Wadesboro)*: Krista Herold, *Flag Springs (Asheboro)*: Roy Edmonds, *Gold Hill (Gold Hill)*: David Maulden, *Grays Chapel (Franklinville)*: Virginia Harrelson, *Green Memorial (Norwood)*: Bill Bowman, *Greer's Chapel (Linwood)*: Larry Graves, *Hopewell (Peachland)*: Pat McCollum, *Jordan Memorial (Ramseur)*: Ann Hutchins, *Love's Chapel (Stanfield)*: Jim Whitley, *Love's Grove (Stanfield)*: Carolyn Morris, *Macedonia (Lexington)*: Larry Watson, *McCrary Chapel (Ramseur)*: Debra Brown, *Milford Hills (Salisbury)*: Daryl Presson, *Mount Carmel (Lexington)*: Reginald Leonard, *Mount Shepherd (Asheboro)*: Lia McCranie, *New Hope (Asheboro)*: Doug Wise, *New Hope (Monroe)*: Rachel Hill, *New Mount Tabor (Richfield)*: Andrew Burleson, *Peachland (Peachland)*: Nancy Diggs, *Pine Grove (Albemarle)*: Dave Howard, *Pisgah (Asheboro)*: Kim Lucas, *Pleasant Grove (Trinity)*: Karen Copley, *Reeds (Lexington)*: Seth Craver, *Rockwell (Rockwell)*: Victor Jackson, *Salem (Albemarle)*: Cindy Newsom, *Shiloh (Granite Quarry)*: Andy Hoffman, *Stony Hill (Albemarle)*: Bill Randle, *The Arbor (Salisbury)*: Darlene Angel, *Tyro (Lexington)*: Gary Ends, *Wesley Chapel (Misenheimer)*: Lane Peeler, *West Bend (Asheboro)*: Laurie Hunt, *Wingate (Wingate)*: Kurt Hendrix;

District At Large: *Bethany (Albemarle):* Bradley Eudy, *Central (Albemarle):* Pat Bramlett, *Central (Denton):* Cathy Ward, *Charlotte (Asheboro):* Kerri Frazier, *First (Lexington):* Gay Smith, *First (Salisbury):* Linda Bowman, *First (Salisbury):* Jenni Fogt, *First (Salisbury):* Joshua Starnes, *Gold Hill (Gold Hill):* Casey Habich, *Jordan Memorial (Ramseur):* Jaidymar Smith, *Love's Grove (Stanfield):* Charlie Morris, *Milford Hills (Salisbury):* Betty Jo Hardy, *Milford Hills (Salisbury):* June Hundley, *Morven (Morven):* Davi Trotti, *New Hope (Monroe):* Shelia Baker, *Porter (Albemarle):* Frank Hare, *Randall By the River (Norwood):* Elizabeth Hinson, *St. Stephen (Lexington):* Tonya Lanier, *Stony Hill (Albemarle):* Kayla Aiton, *Stony Hill (Albemarle):* Jacob Lancaster, *Tabernacle (Trinity):* Bobby Chaney, *The Arbor (Salisbury):* Carolyn Link, *Wingate (Wingate):* Susan Hendrix;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: *New London (New London):* Isaac Pyatt;

District Lay Leader: None.

(Total 74)

8: Yadkin Valley

Local Charge: *Advance (Advance):* Dan Robertson, *Antioch (Rural Hall):* David Orcutt, *Ardmore (Winston-Salem):* Debbie Williams, *Asbury (Hamptonville):* Ricky Johnson, *Baltimore (East Bend):* Tracy Doss, *Bethel (Thomasville):* Pat Loftin, *Bethesda (Lexington):* Daniel Swain, *Bethesda (Pine Hall):* Kim Knight, *Bethlehem (Advance):* Kyle Laird, *Boonville (Boonville):* Teresa Royall, *Brooks Temple (Winston Salem):* Montessa Thomas, *Brookstown (Pfafftown):* Bruce Bailiff, *Burkhead (Winston-Salem):* Kathy Lisle, *Canaan (Winston-Salem):* Keith Smith, *Centenary (Clemmons):* Paul Davis, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Jeannette Juran, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Megan Lawson, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Tom Lawson, *Center (Mocksville):* Alice Barnette, *Center (Welcome):* Gary Brinkley, *Central (Mount Airy):* Lyn Smith, *Central (Thomasville):* Catherine Hopkins, *Chestnut Grove (Mocksville):* Sheryl Briggs, *Clemmons (Clemmons):* Thomas Miller, *Delta (Sandy Ridge):* Darian Watkins, *Fairview (Thomasville):* Rhonda Mize, *Faith (Rural Hall):* Martha Gwyn, *First (Mocksville):* Carolyn Cartner, *First (Mocksville):* Mike Harrison, *First (Pilot Mountain):* Patrina Kayanek, *Friendship (Lexington):* Georgeanna Crotts, *Fulton (Advance):* Kay Swing Caudle, *Good Hope (Lexington):* Van Scott, *Green Street (Winston-Salem):* Leigh Stanfield, *Hickory Ridge (Winston-Salem):* Wanda Lingle, *Johnsontown (Thomasville):* Linda Ray, *Kingswood (Rural Hall):* Robin Walker, *Level Cross (Dobson):* Jamie Smith, *Main Street (Kernersville):* Liza Garner, *Main Street (Kernersville):* Wade Hampton, *Main Street (Kernersville):* Chris Thompson, *Marvin (Winston-Salem):* Paula Webster, *Memorial (Thomasville):* Phillip Hepler, *Memorial (Thomasville):* Elaine Rabon, *Memorial (Thomasville):* Prentice Weldon, *Midway (Lexington):* William Spainhour, *Mitchell's Chapel (Boonville):* Billy Wagoner, *Mocks (Advance):* Jack McCoy, *Morris Chapel (Walkertown):* George Walker, *Mount Carmel (Winston-Salem):* Lynn Harmon, *Mount Herman (Mount Airy):* Melissa Hooker, *Mount Olivet (Lexington):* Linda Mitchell, *Mount Pleasant (Boonville):* Ronnie Vanhoy, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Blaine Burton, *New Day Community Church (Lewisville):* Bradley Thomason, *New Hope (Winston-Salem):* Sylvia Earnhardt, *Oak Forest (Winston-Salem):* Mary Catherine Middleton, *Oak Grove (Mount Airy):* Harold Mooney, *Palmyra (Germanton):* Pam Boles, *Pilot View (Pilot Mountain):* John W Hunt, *Pine Grove (Kernersville):* Sandra Letchworth, *Pine Grove (Winston Salem):* Rhita Newcomb, *Sedge Garden (Kernersville):* Martha White, *Shiloh (Lexington):* Wayne Sink, *Snow Hill (Danbury):* Janet Gregg, *St. James (Rural Hall):* Vera Richardson, *Stony Knoll (Dobson):* Lynn Crouse, *Trinity (King):* Beth Carroll, *Trinity (Winston-Salem):* Richard Harding, *Union Ridge (Winston-Salem):* Judith Martin, *Wesley Chapel (Mocksville):* Lisa West, *Woodleaf (Woodleaf):* Heather Ratledge, *Yadkin College (Lexington):* Paula Stroud-Kenney, *Yadkinville (Yadkinville):* Valerie Prim;

District At Large: *Ardmore (Winston-Salem):* Carolyn Coram, *Ardmore (Winston-Salem):* Steve Felts, *Ardmore (Winston-Salem):* Barbara P Foster, *Ardmore (Winston-Salem):* Ed Foster, *Bethel (Thomasville):* Wade Loftin, *Bethesda (Pine Hall):* Elwood Mabe, *Bethlehem (Advance):* Jimmy Michael, *Brooks Temple (Winston Salem):* Dorothy Thomas, *Brooks Temple (Winston Salem):* Linda Thomas, *Burkhead (Winston-Salem):* Greg Lisle, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Thomas Adams, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Mary Jack Brennan, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Janet Ford, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Elizabeth Holmes, *Centenary (Winston-Salem):* Alan Keely, *Center (Welcome):* Christine Brinkley, *Delta (Sandy Ridge):* Whitney Morgan, *Delta (Sandy Ridge):* Maxine Steele, *Faith (Rural Hall):* Amy Johnson, *Faith (Rural Hall):* Shannon Orcutt, *First (Mocksville):* Danny Cartner, *First (Mocksville):* Paula Harrison, *First (Mocksville):* Paulette Hendrix, *Lewisville (Lewisville):* Dean Norman, *Maple Springs (Winston-Salem):* Chris Douglas, *Maple Springs (Winston-Salem):* Kimberly Richmond, *Mitchell's Chapel (Boonville):* Anna Laura Wagoner, *Mount Carmel (Winston-Salem):* Diane Harmon, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Stephen Anderson, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Mara Craven, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Deborah Daniels, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Sadie Daniels, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Jean Fuertes, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Patsy King, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* David Rigby, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Bobby Sharp, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Brenda Wills, *Mount Tabor (Winston-Salem):* Charles Wills, *New Beginnings (Thomasville):* Kathy Chadwell, *New Beginnings (Thomasville):* Dessie Johnson, *New Beginnings (Thomasville):* Ty Thrift, *New Hope (Winston-Salem):* Rick Cain, *New Hope (Winston-Salem):* Bob Earnhardt, *Pleasant Grove (Thomasville):* Jennifer Lineberry, *Pleasant Grove (Thomasville):* Eric Reynolds, *Pleasant Grove (Thomasville):* Kathy Reynolds, *Pleasant Hill (Pfafftown):* Wendy Marion, *Prospect (East Bend):* Sara Williams, *Shiloh (Germanton):* Chris Raines, *Shoals (Pinnacle):* Dee Joyce, *Shoals (Pinnacle):* Greg Sawyers, *Shoals (Pinnacle):* Lorrie Sawyers, *Trinity (King):* Steve Carroll, *Trinity (King):* Helen Milleson, *Woodleaf (Woodleaf):* Billie Perrell, *Yadkinville (Yadkinville):* Mildred Carter, *Yadkinville (Yadkinville):* Keri Gaylord;

District Youth Lay Member: None;

District Young Adult Lay Member: None;

District Lay Leader: *Bethlehem (Advance):* Tim Hoffman.

(Total 132)

4. TOTAL MAY 6 CALLED SESSION ATTENDANCE

Clergy attendance is recorded in the Directory of Records, found in section XII. Conference Members and Service Records.

Total Registration of the May 6 Special Called Session of 2022 Annual Conference, as recorded by voting: 1,726

(Lay Members: 739; WNCC Clergy: 987)

B. PROGRAM OF THE 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis
President-Dean
Gammon Theological Seminary

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. *Matthew 7:24 (CEB)*



Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins
Former General Secretary
and Conference President
The Methodist Church in Great Britain



Rev. Laura Auten
Uwharrie District Superintendent
Western North Carolina Conference



Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr.
Resident and Presiding Bishop
Western North Carolina Conference
Charlotte Area

ONGOING

John Wesley Sightings

Prayer Wall - Live and Digital

Illustrated Ministries

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

- 3:00 p.m. Executive Session of Clergy Members**
¶ 605.6 - "The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference"
- 4:30 p.m. Celebration of the 2023 Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensing Classes**
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess**

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 – GRACE

- 10:30 a.m. Opening Worship: Service of Holy Communion**
Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean Gammon Seminary, preaching
Offering: New Churches in Ukraine and Trauma Responsive, Healing Centered Faith Communities
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Recess**
- 1:30 p.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**
Opening Hymn and Prayer
Welcome from Lake Junaluska
Procedural Matters, Elections for Conference, and Consent Calendar
Committee on Nominations
Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and Procedure
Lay Delegate Elections
Historic Wesley Questions for Ordinands
Committee on the Episcopacy
- 3:00 p.m. Break**
- 3:30 p.m. Bible Study**
Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins, Former General Secretary of The Methodist Church in Great Britain and President of the Conference
- 4:15 p.m. Order of the Day: Recognition of Retiring Clergy**
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess**
- 5:30 p.m. Connect @ Friday Night Fun** <http://www.connectatac.com/>

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 – CONNECTION**8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Membership of the UM Foundation of WNC****8:45 a.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**

Opening Prayer

Lay Delegate Elections (as needed)

Conference Council on Finance and Administration

2024 Conference Budget

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits

Commissioning Lighthouse Churches and Emerging Church Pastors

10:30 a.m. Break**11:00 a.m. Worship Service: Celebration of Life***Rev. Laura Auten, Uwharrie District Superintendent, preaching***12:30 p.m. Lunch Recess****2:00 p.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**

Centering Prayer

Lay Delegate Elections (as needed)

Cabinet Resolutions

Cultivating Thriving Communities

Petitions

3:15 p.m. Break**3:45 p.m. Conference Plenary: Business Session**

Centering Prayer

Lay Delegate Elections (as needed)

Cultivating Thriving Communities

Petitions

5:30 p.m. Dinner Recess**7:30 p.m. Worship Service: The Ordering of Ministry***Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, preaching***SUNDAY, JUNE 18 – HOLINESS****10:00 a.m. Closing Worship Service***Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, preaching*

Offering: New Churches in Ukraine and Trauma Responsive, Healing Centered Faith Communities

Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth

Adjournment of the 2023 Annual Conference, *sine die***USHERS AND TELLERS FOR THE 2023 SESSION**

Chief Ushers: George Eubanks and Kathy McAbee

Chief Tellers: Paul Brown and Dana Lyles

Cole Altizer	Bonita Dombroski	Tony Kapely	Beth Osbahr	Rick Schilling
Rod Arters	Steve Ennis	Grace Kelley	Tom Owens	Suzanne Schilling
D'Andre Ash	Diane Ezzell	Tonya Lanier	Tony Owens	Keith Sherrill
Barby Bowser	Donnell FitzJefferies	Greg Lee	Lane Peeler	Hannah Smith
Kim Burns	Jessica Green	Tonya Martin	Linda Peeler	Anne Tavenner
Caroline Camp	Chris Harbin	Sharon Mason	Meg Peters	Ray Tavenner
Kara Chamberlin	Paula Harrison	Holly McKim	Laura Plush	Janice Taylor
Jane Criser	Stephen Harrison	Janet Morgan	Wil Posey	Robin Tyndall
Russ Darnall	Torey Haynes	Jeremy Morris	Chris Raines	Gary VanLandingham
Darryl Dayson	John Henry	Sue Anne Morris	Jill Rhinehart	Myra Waddell
Jessica Dayson	Ted Henry	Christine Murphy	Emily Robbian	Belinda Worsham
	Michele Hill	Drew Nix	Forrestene Sain	

C. 2023 SPECIAL EVENTS**THURSDAY, JUNE 15**

10:00 a.m.	FLOURISH 2.0	Bethea Welcome Center, Gaines Auditorium
10:00 a.m.	Staying in Jerusalem. Waiting on the Spirit.	Lambuth Inn, L-104
10:30 a.m.	First Church Cohort, Year 1 Gathering.....	The Terrace, T-316
11:00 a.m.	Council on Finance and Administration Meeting.....	The Terrace, T-319
11:30 a.m.	EM-ABLC Luncheon	Kern Center, Auditorium
11:30 a.m.	First Church Cohort, Year 2 Gathering.....	The Terrace, T-316
12:30 p.m.	Fellowship of Deacons Luncheon	Bocelli's Italian Eatery, 319 N Haywood St, Waynesville
1:30 p.m.	Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting.....	Harrell Center, HC-201
2:00 p.m.	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Annual Meeting.....	The Terrace, T-213
6:00 p.m.	Retiree Dinner	Lambuth Inn, International Room
7:00 p.m.	Fellowship of Local Pastors & Associate Members Meeting.....	Maggie Valley UMC, 4192 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

7:30 a.m.	Seminaries United 5K.....	In front of Stuart Auditorium and around the lake
8:00 a.m.	Clergywomen Gathering.....	Lambuth Inn, International Room
8:00 a.m.	Project AGAPE Packing Party	Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym
9:15 a.m.	Usher Training.....	Stuart Auditorium
12:00 p.m.	High Point University Alumni & Friends Luncheon	Lambuth Inn, International Room
12:00 p.m.	Wesley Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon	The Terrace, Bring your lunch to T-316
12:00 p.m.	WNC-Black Methodist for Church Renewal Luncheon	York Commons, Dining Room
12:45 p.m.	Yadkin Valley District Laity Drop-In	Harrell Center, HC-105
3:00 p.m.	Project AGAPE Packing Party	Nanci Weldon Pavilion, Outdoor Gym
5:30 p.m.	Hispanic Latino Pastors Dinner	Lambuth Inn, Dining Room
5:30 p.m.	Hood Theological Seminary Alumni Dinner	The Terrace, T-316
5:30 p.m.	Ordering of Ministry and Service of Life Rehearsal	Stuart Auditorium
5:30 p.m.	CONNECT: Wildwood Wanderers, a bluegrass band of FUMC (Hickory) ...	Stuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
6:30 p.m.	CONNECT: Amateur Radio 101.....	Lawn in front of the Memorial Chapel
6:30 p.m.	CONNECT: Dungeons and Dragons Game.....	Lambuth Inn, Room 102
6:30 p.m.	CONNECT: Open Mic Night.....	Stuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
6:30 p.m.	CONNECT: Yoga.....	Inspiration Point at Lambuth Inn (Rain alternative: Lambuth Inn, Room 100)
7:00 p.m.	CONNECT: Interactive Jazz for Justice & Belonging...Frog Level Brewing Green Room, 56 Commerce St, Waynesville	
7:15 p.m.	Seminarian Ice Cream Social	Lower Back Porch of Harrell Center
7:30 p.m.	Pop-In to RMN!.....	Stuart Auditorium Lawn, Tent by the Lake
8:30 p.m.	Reconciling Ministries Worship	Memorial Chapel

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

7:30 a.m.	United Methodist Rural Advocates Breakfast Fellowship.....	Maggie Valley UMC, 4192 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley
12:30 p.m.	Asian American Ministries Network Luncheon.....	The Terrace, Bring your lunch to T-316
12:30 p.m.	Duke Divinity School Alumni Luncheon	York Commons, Dining Room
12:30 p.m.	Orientation to Ministry Luncheon.....	The Terrace Auditorium
12:30 p.m.	Pfeiffer Alumni & Friends Luncheon	Kern Center, Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	Crossnore & Your Congregation: A Unique Approach	Kern Center, KC-100
4:00 p.m.	Juneteenth Freedom Celebration.....	Street Festival @ First UMC, 566 S Haywood St, Waynesville
5:30 p.m.	Candler/Emory Alumni & Friends Dinner	Lambuth Inn, International Room

D. 2023 DAILY MINUTES**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023****EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CLERGY MEMBERS – 3:00 P.M.**

CLERGY SESSION CONVENES: In compliance with ¶¶ 605.7 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)*, Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. convened an executive session of the clergy members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. A video described Flourish, an assessment and renewal process for clergy. The Rev. Lauren Sims-Salata, Leaksville (Eden, NP) described and celebrated her participation. After singing the hymn 57 (UMH) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, the Rev. Kevin Allan Turner, Davidson (Davidson, ME) providing accompaniment, Bishop Carter opened with prayer.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD: Rev. Jeremy P. Pegram, First (Pilot Mountain, YV), president, presented the report. Rev. Pegram thanked the staff, Rev. Roland T. Barnhardt, executive director, and Robbie Carr, administrative assistant. He reported that benefits had been paid to 19 clergy families during the year in the amount of \$182,000.00+. At the annual meeting, Rev. Chip Webb, Jr., Brookstown (Pfafftown, YV) was elected the new president of the board and an amendment to the by-laws was adopted to allow virtual meetings of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood. Rev. Pegram noted that every clergy is eligible for membership.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary and director of ministerial services, reminded the clergy of an earlier email sent that describes several available opportunities. She highlighted several: Preparation to Proclamation Cohort led by Rev. Rob Blackburn and Brian Combs, Mentoring Pew Sitters led by Rev. Michael Kurtz, Pass the Mantle, a scholarship program funded from contribution given to honor retired clergy, and the Women in Ministry breakfast on Friday, 8:00 a.m. at Lambuth Inn.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY REPORT: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), chairperson, who presented the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The theme of her report was “And Are We Yet Alive” and answered with a resounding yes. She reported the BOM has 75 members, 4 local pastors, 9 deacons, 45 elders, and 15 lay members. The membership come from diverse geography, ages, experience, gender, places of ministry and theology. She thanked the members, the executive committee, the conference staff, and the members of the district committees. Rev. Ferguson recognized the seven discernment teams’ chairpersons. The Justice and Equitable Task Force will continue. The Board is working to prepare a policy relating to plagiarism and AI. She celebrated the 2023 Class of Clergy and requested prayers for the families who have suffered a death, faced health issues, and for all the clergy who are retiring. Bishop Carter thanked Rev. Ferguson for her report.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND: Jane Boatwright Wood presented the report. She reported that the fund had helped 1,000 leaders, seminarians, and local pastors to finance leadership training. She affirmed and assured that funds are available for assistance.

BUSINESS QUESTION 13: Rev Ingram asked business question 13 and Rev. Ferguson supplied the proposed response for business question 13 in regard to the character of the clergy in the annual conference.

BUSINESS QUESTION 14a (members of the Administrative Review Committee): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 15 (certified candidates): Rev. Paul B. Thompson, Huntersville (Huntersville, ME), vice-chairperson, presented the response to business question 15.

BUSINESS QUESTION 16 (persons who have completed licensing school, are approved, but not appointed): Rev. Thompson provided the response, and they were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 17a, b (persons approved and appointed for full time and part-time local pastors): Rev. Thompson provided the response, and they were approved by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 18 (discontinued as local pastors): Rev. Thompson supplied the response.

BUSINESS QUESTION 19 (reinstated as local pastors): Rev. Thompson presented the response, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 20 (ordained clergy or provisional members from other annual conferences or Methodist denominations approved for appointment while retaining conference or denominational membership): Rev. Ferguson read the names for information.

BUSINESS QUESTION 21 (clergy approved for appointments or other ecumenical ministries in the bounds of the annual conference while retaining denominational affiliation): Rev. Ferguson responded, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 24a, b (deacons and elders elected for provisional membership): Rev. Monica C. Childers, St. Luke’s (Hickory, CV), chair of the order of deacons, and Rev. Norma Hickman de Villagrana, Zion (Monroe, ME), chair of the order of elders, presented the names of those to be elected as provisional members of the annual conference, and they were elected by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 25a (what deacons and elders are continued as provisional members): Rev. Childers presented the list of names, and they were approved to continue by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 28, 29, 30 (those deacons and elders elected in full connection and ordained as deacons and elders): Rev. Childers read the two names of the persons to be elected in full connection and ordained as deacons, and Rev. Villagrana read the seven names of the persons to be elected in full connection and ordained as elders. All nine were elected in full connection and approved for ordination by the required 3/4 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 34 (received by transfer from other UMC annual conferences): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 38 b, c (those discontinued as provisional members): Rev. Ferguson presented the names, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 42 a, b (those whose conference membership is terminated by withdrawal to unite with another denomination, and by withdrawal from the ordained ministerial office): Rev. Ferguson presented the 39 names, and they were approved by the required majority vote. Following the vote, Bishop Carter asked that those present stand and/or lift the hands as he offered prayers for these brothers and sisters formerly in covenant with this annual conference.

BUSINESS QUESTION 44 (names of those clergy who have died in the past year): Rev. Ferguson indicated that the names of associate members, elders, and local pastors who have died since the last session will be read at the end of the questions.

BUSINESS QUESTION 45 (names of those clergy with appointments in other Annual Conferences while retaining their membership in this Annual Conference): Rev. Ferguson presented the names for information.

BUSINESS QUESTION 46a (requests for leave of absence): Rev. Avery E. White, Francis Asbury (Candler, BR) secretary of the BOM, presented the requests for personal, family, or transitional leave of absence. Those requesting personal or family leave of five years or less were approved by the required majority vote. Those on personal or family leave of more than five years were approved by the required 2/3 majority vote. Those persons requesting transitional leave were listed but did not require a vote for approval.

BUSINESS QUESTION 47 (request for sabbatical leave): Rev. White read the name and he was granted sabbatical leave by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 48 (request for medical leave): Rev. White presented the names of those persons requesting medical or disability leave of absence, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 49 (full connection retired): Rev. Aldana W. Allen, Providence (Salisbury, UW), discernment team chairperson, read the names of the deacon and 36 elders retiring at the 2023 session of the annual conference, and they were approved by the required majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 50 (associate members retired): Rev. Allen read the name of the associate member retiring this year.

BUSINESS QUESTION 51 (local pastors retired): Rev. Allen read the 13 names of the local pastors retiring at the 2023 session of the annual conference.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 53, 54 (candidates for certification in specialized ministry, persons certified in specialized ministry): Rev. Ferguson reported the names of candidates for certification in specialized ministries, and those persons certified in specialized ministries.

BUSINESS QUESTION 58 a, b (certified as lay ministers): Rev. Ferguson read the names of the persons certified as lay ministers and serving within the annual conference, those persons certified but not under assignment, those persons serving as lay supply assigned by District Superintendents.

BUSINESS QUESTION 67a (less than full-time service): Rev. Ferguson read the names of associate members and elders (full and provisional members) approved for less than full-time service. Those persons serving less than full-time for 8 years or less were approved by the required 2/3 majority vote.

BUSINESS QUESTION 71a, b, c (appointment to extension ministries): Rev. Ferguson provided the response to business question 71, and the required 2/3 majority vote for 71 (c) was given.

BUSINESS QUESTIONS 72 and 73: Rev. Ferguson noted the names of deacons (full connection and provisional) appointed beyond the local church, and those appointed to attend school.

BUSINESS QUESTION 75 (other notations): Rev. Ferguson provided additional personal notations.

BUSINESS QUESTION 76 (site and date of next conference session): Rev. Ferguson announced that the next session of the annual conference is scheduled for June 20-23, 2024, at Lake Junaluska, NC.

RECOGNITION OF DECEASED CLERGY: Rev. Dr. Uiyeon Kim, Myers Park (Charlotte, ME), discernment team chairperson read the names of the 2 associate members retired, the one active elder and 27 elders retired, and the 3 local pastors retired who have died in the last year. Bishop Ken Carter celebrated the lives of these departed sisters and brothers, gave thanks for their years of service and ministry, petitioned for God's grace for their families, friends, and fellow clergy; and, offered a prayer.

Rev. Ferguson moved adoption of the full report of the Board of Ordained Ministry and BAC Questions considered by this executive session of the clergy, and the motion was adopted.

BISHOP CARTER: Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, addressed the clergy. He said his message would begin and end with gratitude. He noted that we have lived through and are continuing to cope with a global pandemic, changed patterns for gathering, births, deaths, graduations, anniversaries, political upheavals, polarizations, and denominational upheaval. Showing up for others is a connection where we do not assume the "we." Connection is what we make of it, and it means showing up for those with less. Theologically connecting and showing up are called incarnation. He said we are on a journey from one place to another, from what has been to what will be. And this involves actively moving from racism and exclusion. The journey involves naming and dealing with the trauma caused by the fighting without and the fears within, the loss of churches, colleagues, and friends. He invited those present to detach from loss. It is a time to pivot to where we are going. We will be smaller but more focused. He announced that there will be no more presentations by other

expressions of Methodism in our churches and no more recruitment for disaffiliation. Our polity in The United Methodist Church is peer accountability and support. Going forward he urged the clergy to take responsibility for one's spiritual life. He concluded with a word of gratitude. He gave thanks to God for the clergy who serve God and the neighbor in an imperfect church.

LUAU! Following the Bishop's remarks, hymn 140 (UMH) *Great is Thy Faithfulness* was sung and a video was presented about the celebration to honor the ordination, commissioning, and licensing of the 2023 Class.

ADJOURNMENT: The executive session of the clergy adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

OPENING WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION – 10:30 A.M.

Vocalists and musicians from The Place UMC (Charlotte, ME) provided gathering music. After a greeting by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr which acknowledged the Cherokee people as the historic and traditional care takers of this place, Rev. Carrilea Hall, WNC Regional Associate Director, Partners in Health and Wholeness, NC Council of Churches (AP) led the call to worship. Dr. Melodie Galloway, Professor and Director of Visual and Performing Arts, UNC-Asheville, and the conference musician, and Dr. Adam Ward, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, Providence (Charlotte, ME), and conference musician led the processional hymn 57 (UMH) *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*. Bishop Carter and Rev. Hall led the blessing for the foundation rocks. The district superintendents and district lay leaders brought forward rocks for our Ebenezer as a visual reminder of God's grace at work in our lives yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Rev. Ashley White, St. Stephen and Hayes Chapel (Madison, NP) led the opening prayer and affirmation, based on *The Book of Discipline*, paragraph 104, and Matthew 6:18. Ms. Ashlee Hand, St. Marks (Charlotte, ME) read the scripture from John 21:1-19. Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, president-dean of Gammon Theological Seminary, who presented the message, "ReUnited." Using the gospel text, Dr. Lewis described how Peter models a reconnection with Jesus after the resurrection. Peter and the Disciples return to what feels familiar. They go "fishin'" as a way to face their denial, personal failure, grief, doubt, and disappointment. She asked, "What is your familiar?" Jesus still meets us in the familiar, as he did for Peter and the Disciples. Jesus comes with instructions and enablement for anyone willing to participate in the abundance of grace. We remember who Jesus is through communion and fellowship. He repeatedly asks, "Do you love me?" more than these: things, privilege, and power. We are challenged to feed, tend, care and welcome unconditionally all God's children. Following an anthem of response, Rev. Dr. Sharad Creasman, College Minister and Advisor to the President, Brevard College, Chaplain Air Mobility Command United States Air Force Reserves, First (Brevard, BR), explained that the offering will be shared between planting new churches in Ukraine and helping refugees in Europe, and training laity and clergy for trauma responses. Following an offertory sung by The Place, the doxology, and communion hymn 616 (UMH) *Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast*, Bishop Carter and Rev. Monica Childers, St. Luke (Hickory, CV), chairperson of the Order of Deacons, led the congregation in a prayer of confession and pardon, and Great Thanksgiving. Bishop Carter celebrated the sacrament of Holy Communion with the assistance of other clergy and lay persons. After the prayer following communion, the singing of the recessional hymn 529 (UMH) *How Firm a Foundation*, benediction by Bishop Carter, and postlude played by Dr. Ward, worship concluded, and the conference recessed at 12 noon.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONVENES – 1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: With Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, presiding, The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church convened in the George R. Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, on June 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Following the singing of hymn 553 (UMH), *And Are We Yet Alive*, Bishop Carter offered an opening prayer, written by the late Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Langford, Jr., and called the 56th session of the annual conference to order at 1:30 p.m.

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Carter introduced Dr. Melodie Galloway, Professor and Director of Visual and Performing Arts, UNC-Asheville, and Dr. Adam Ward, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, Providence UMC, Charlotte, who will serve as conference musicians.

WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY: Bishop Carter introduced Ken Howle, executive director of Lake Junaluska, who welcomed members of the annual conference to Lake Junaluska Assembly. He reaffirmed the mission of Lake Junaluska Assembly as a place of Christian hospitality, where lives are transformed through renewal of mind, soul, and body. He noted that 2023 is the 110th anniversary of the assembly. He reported that the 2022 conference offering for Stuart Auditorium totaled \$16,352.00. Additional gifts brought the amount to over \$100,000.00 for the preservation project to Stuart Auditorium. Mr. Howle noted that 1 million dollars has been spent for Lake Junaluska Assembly, which includes Wi-Fi upgrades. He thanked Bishop Carter and the members of the conference for their continued support.

VOTING BAR AND ELECTION OF DISTRICT-AT-LARGE MEMBERS: Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram, conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the voting bar, or legal limits, of the conference be set to include all of Stuart Auditorium, and that those voting must be seated within the bar unless other instructions are given in case of a full house. And, she further moved that the district-at-large members, who have been identified by the districts according to the equalization process, be elected to serve, and they were elected.

RATIFY SPECIAL CALLED SESSION: Rev. Ingram moved that the actions of the Special Called Session of The Western North Carolina Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, by on-line meeting, be ratified and confirmed by this session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. The conference adopted the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the conference program as printed on pages 3 and 4 of the *Supplement* booklet constitute the official agenda of the 2023 conference session.

REPORTS OF BOARD AND AGENCIES: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that the reports of the conference boards and agencies as printed in the *Program and Reports* booklet and the *Supplement* be ordered to record insofar as they do not require conference action and provided that the conference agencies be permitted to file late reports and/or corrections no later than July 1, 2023.

SECRETARIAL STAFF: The conference secretary nominated the following persons as members of the conference secretarial staff for the 2023 session, and they were elected: Marsha Patton and Rev. A. Owen Peeler, associate secretaries; Rev. Kathy M. McAbee and George Eubanks, assistant secretaries; and Rev. Dr. Charles D. White, Jr. (Denny) as conference secretary *emeritus*.

GREETINGS TO THOSE MEMBERS ABSENT: The conference secretary moved, and the conference approved that any action concerning conference members unable to attend because of illness or other family emergency be given directly to the conference secretary, and that the secretary write these absent members expressing the greetings and prayer concern of the conference.

CONSENT CALENDAR MOTION: The Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, reported that the list of petitions for the consent calendar is found on page 10 of the *Supplement*. Rev. Ingram moved that the consent calendar, PETITIONS 3-13 be adopted as printed, and it was approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: The conference secretary moved the adoption of the report of the committee on nominations for 2020-2024 *ad interim*, and they were elected. Rev. Ingram noted that these changes are proposed based on our conference rules for people asking to come off a committee, filling vacancies, and inactivity.

CONFERENCE RULES AND PLAN OF ORGANIZATION: Bishop Carter introduced Dr. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, First (Newton, CV), chairperson, who presented the report of the committee on conference rules and organization and moved the adoption of the proposed amendments, and they were adopted. The Conference Rules and Plan of Organization is printed in the *Supplement* on pages 16-24. The first change is to **Part I, A. Membership**. There is added to item **d. and home missionaries**. An additional change under **Membership** is a new item **m.** is added for **Certified Lay Ministers** and the resulting new lettering for items **n., o.,** and the addition of **p.** In **Part II Rules of Order, C. Business Procedure, Rule 9. Pre-Conference Publications** item **a. Booklet of Program and Reports** is changed by deleting the final prepositional phrase **“for print.”** In item **b. Supplement** the phrasing is changed to read, **“made available electronically and for printing to the members of the conference and available on request at the time of registration.”** Dr. LeMaster-Smith announced plans to prepare educational resources to help explain the conference rules and procedures. In addition, he noted that the committee was researching alternative decision-making models along with *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE LAY LEADER: Bishop Carter introduced John Crane, First (Gastonia, CV), conference lay leader. Mr. Crane presented his report to the conference. He thanked the Lay Members for their willingness to serve and applauded the Clergy’s commitment to mission and ministry. He thanked those persons who are standing for election to serve as delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. He appreciated the Board of Laity for their efforts to equip and engage the laity for mission and ministry.

LAY DELEGATE ELECTIONS: Kim Ingram, conference secretary, explained the reason for the need to elect three lay delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She gave instructions for the use of personal voting devices and the procedures to vote. She then moved the following enabling motion establishing voting procedure:

Many of the regulations which govern our delegate elections are set forth in the *Discipline* or in our conference rules; however, in order that we may properly carry out the balloting process, the following motion is necessary:

1. That the voting bar be set to include Stuart Auditorium.
2. That all ballots in this election be cast using personal electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) secured by lay members; or that write-in votes may be cast by requesting a written ballot from an usher by standing.
3. That when using a paper ballot, conference member should write the names of all persons for that ballot on the paper ballot provided, and will not use a personal electronic device for that ballot.
4. That a voting number be assigned to any person receiving at least twenty-five write-in votes on any ballot.
5. That taking ballots and ballot reporting will continue until the full number of delegates to the Jurisdictional conference has been elected. Balloting must be completed by Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
6. That at least one laity usher and one clergy usher be present in the rehearsal room as the results are being tabulated and produced.
7. That the ushers and chief tellers named on page 4 of the Supplement be elected to assist in the election process.

The enabling motion was approved. Rev. Ingram introduced the two Chief Tellers, Rev. Paul Brown, clergy and Dana Lyles, laity. She referenced the voting roster on page 26 of the Supplement of lay members standing for election but indicated the qualifications necessary for any lay member to be elected as a write-in candidate. She listed the reasons that would “spoil” or invalidate a ballot. Rev. Ingram walked the lay members through a practice ballot test using personal electronic devices.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Lynda L. Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), chairperson, who presented the report. Rev. Ferguson on behalf of the board of ordained ministry and the district committees on ordained ministry introduced the following candidates who have been examined, reviewed, and approved for readiness and effectiveness for ministry: Nine persons to be licensed as local pastors, three persons received from other annual conferences for transfer into the Western North Carolina Conference, ten provisional members to be commissioned, two deacons and seven elders to be ordained. She noted that the work of the board had been both rewarding and challenging. She reported that the board has established and implemented policies for fair, equitable treatment of candidates, while holding candidates to high standards of preparation and accountability. The quadrennial clergy ethical training emphasis has focused on anti-racism education and application. She thanked the members of the district committees on ordained ministry and the conference board of ordained

ministry, especially the lay members who serve. She introduced Jane Boatwright Wood, member of the board of ordained ministry, who read a statement from the ministerial education fund subcommittee. The ministerial education fund affirms that financial resources for leadership development and education and support of partner institutions are available for the foreseeable future.

HISTORIC WESLEY QUESTIONS FOR ORDINANDS: Rev. Ferguson invited the candidates for ordination to the platform. Bishop Carter, as a preface to asking the questions, referred to *The Book of Discipline*, ¶104, which declares the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church. Despite reports to the contrary these doctrinal standards have not changed and will not change. These standards are core doctrines and are not up for debate. He next referenced ¶105, Our Theological Task, which calls each generation to interpret and apply the core values for its historical time. Bishop Carter declared that The United Methodist Church is an orthodox Christian church. At the core of that orthodoxy is God's gift of grace, God's desire to connect us to each other, and God's work with us to be God's people, perfected in love. Bishop Carter publicly asked each ordinand the historic questions of John Wesley. Bishop Carter asked the conference to welcome the ordinands and he greeted each of them by name.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY: Rev. Sanford L. Giles, chairperson, presented the report. Rev. Giles introduced Rev. Pam Carter, the Bishop's spouse, and a clergy member of this annual conference. She introduced their two daughters and spouses and two grandchildren. Rev. Giles noted that on November 4, 2022, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy assigned Bishop Carter to serve solely the Western North Carolina Conference. Beginning January 1, Bishop Carter was able to give his full attention to this annual conference. The conference has been blessed by his ministry, visiting every district, preaching, teaching, and listening to various groups and ministries, respecting all opinions and dispositions. Rev. Giles explained that the committee's primary role is to provide support for the bishop. A part of that support comes from Rev. Amy Coles, assistant to the bishop, and Ms. DeEtta Rivens, executive administrative assistant to the bishop. Rev. Giles encouraged prayer on behalf of Bishop Carter as a powerful way to provide support for his ministry. Bishop Carter, in his remarks as response, expressed his deep gratitude and indicated that his desire and purpose for his episcopal oversight is that the clergy and churches in this conference enjoy and receive the opportunities that he had known earlier in his ministry in this annual conference. Rev. Giles introduced Rev. Dr. Otto D. Harris, III, a member of the committee, St. Marks (Charlotte, ME), who offered prayer for Bishop Carter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Kim Ingram made necessary announcements. She noted the book provided to delegates, Bishop Carter's *Unrelenting Grace*, announced the conference choir rehearsal scheduled for 6:45 p.m. in Stuart Auditorium, and highlighted the options of Connect@AC.

RECESS: With the singing of hymn 451 (UMH) *Be Thou My Vision*, the conference recessed at 3:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess conference reconvened at 3:30 p.m. with the singing of hymn 369 (UMH) *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*.

BIBLE STUDY: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins, former General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and President of the Conference. Dr. Atkins presented four selective observations using as his texts, The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). His first observation about them is that the mission of the church and the current context of that mission is that both texts need to be viewed both on their own and taken together. A disciple of Jesus cannot keep one without the other. One cannot love God without loving your neighbor. In Matthew these two texts are the only words spoken by the risen Jesus directly to the disciples. Together the Great Commandment and The Great Commission are the primary instructions to his disciples. Dr. Atkins second reflection noted that the two texts are best understood and practiced in relation to each other. They help fulfill one another. The Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission together show us not only what to do, but how and in what mood we undertake the task of evangelism. His third observation pointed out that these texts are understood and probably misunderstood to have only restricted application. That the texts only apply to some of the people some of the time and not to all people all of the time. The common key for both texts is that you cannot keep people out. Dr. Atkins' final observation was that it is the great co-mission for two reasons. First, co-mission involves us all and belongs to us all. Second, co-mission takes place with the promise of Christ being with us. The bible study concluded with the singing of hymn 405 (UMH) *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*.

TRANSITION TO THE ORDER OF THE DAY: The Modern Worship Collective provided a praise break of twelve songs to honor the 2023 Class of Retirees.

ORDER OF THE DAY – 4:15 P.M. RECOGNITION OF 2023 RETIREES

Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Kalish, chairperson WNCUMC Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, delivered opening remarks, noting the combined 1,390 years of service of the 53 retirees being honored. She thanked them for their years of ministry and petitioned God's blessing going forward. After an opening prayer led by Rev. Katherine E. Sherrill, Pastoral Psychotherapist, Sanctuary Counseling Group (Charlotte, ME), 2023 member of full connection class, Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. led the litany, "Whom Shall I Send." Rev. Shirley Canty, Burge Memorial -Rock Hill (Mount Holly, CV), 2023 member of retiree class, spoke on behalf of the retirees. Rev. Canty urged her fellow retirees to stay focused, stay alert, pray, and celebrate. She declared, "God is not finished with us yet." Rev. Nina Miller, Bethlehem-Wentworth (Reidsville, NP), 2023 member of full connection class, spoke in response on behalf of the 2023 class in full connection. Using a Garth Brooks' song, Rev. Miller compared a life survived versus a life lived in the fire. Following the singing of hymn 545 (UMC) *The Church's One Foundation*, Mr. Dale Bryant, benefits administrator, presented the 2023 class of retirees. Bishop Carter greeted each retiree. Rev. Dr. R. Mark King, conference treasurer and director of administrative services, Rev. Kim Ingram, director of ministerial services and conference secretary, and Peter Hang, representative of Wespeth participated. Bishop Carter led a response in gratitude from the church. Rev. Sherrill offered the closing prayer. Following the singing of hymn 140 (UMH) *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, Bishop Carter pronounced the benediction.

RECESS: Pursuant to adjournment the conference recessed at 5:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023**CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 8:30 A.M.**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.: Anne Martin, chairperson of the board of directors, called the meeting to order and presented the report. She noted that the theme of the report is Here for Good, based on Ephesians 2:10. She explained some of the ways the Foundation has lived into its calling to do good works. Despite a downturn in the financial market the Foundation's fund options outperformed the market benchmarks. The development fund contributed 25 million dollars in gifts for land, building, loan refinancing, new construction, and renovations for United Methodist churches and institutions. The Reynolds Foundation grants provided for clergy enrichment and \$375,000 in grants to 29 different communities. She noted that it is not just about the numbers but the ministry. She shared some of her personal history and deep ties to Methodism, noting that she has tried to model her life according to John Wesley's Rules. Mrs. Martin nominated the following for election to the board and they were elected: in the class of 2024, Matt Sink, and in the class of 2026, Pam Blackstock, Glenn Kinken, Tom Latimer, Bill Mileham, and Leesa Sluder. She noted that Tom Jordan has been named an honorary board member and highlighted his service to the board and the foundation. Ms. Martin introduced Rev. David A. Snipes, president, and executive director, who continued the report. He thanked the members of the board and the foundation staff members. He summarized the ways the foundation is evolving to build churches for generations to come, especially through the intentional visioning process begun in September 2022. This process has involved asking, "What is it God would have us do at this time?" The difficult task to that question is listening for God. This visioning has reaffirmed the following core values for the foundation: excellence, integrity, innovation, and relationships. Rev. Snipes celebrated the unique history of the foundation with the annual conference begun 56 years ago. Ms. Martin presented to Bishop Carter a check in the amount of \$255,000.00, which represents an annual tithe of \$176,000.00 and an additional gift of \$79,000.00 from an excess in the 2022 operating budget, for the Bishop's Initiative. Bishop Carter explained that the foundation's gift is being used for anti-racism, equity and justice initiatives, peacemaking as discipleship in partnership with the church in Northern Ireland, and to support "First Churches," churches across the conference that are in the center of their communities. The annual meeting of the Foundation adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

CONFERENCE CONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 8:45 a.m. with singing hymn 408 (UMH) *The Gift of Love*, and prayer offered by William Waddell, Metropolitan (Greensboro, NP).

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Carter announced that the conference offering to date totaled \$34,900.00 for the two designees: support of the church in the Ukraine and training clergy and laity for trauma response.

FIRST JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LAITY BALLOT: Following the instructions from Rev. Kim Ingram, the first Jurisdictional Conference laity ballot for three delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was taken.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Irish Gaymon-Spencer, Memorial (High Point, NP), president, presented the report of the council on finance and administration. Dr. Spencer summarized the responsibilities of CF&A required by *The Book of Discipline* to develop, maintain, and administer the fiscal policies of the annual conference, to develop and manage the budget, and to serve as a ministry partner to make ministry and mission possible. Dr. Spencer presented PETITION 1a: 2024 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES, and moved the adoption of items 1-20, and they were adopted. She noted that the amount paid by the local church for apportionments will be removed from the formula for calculating annual conference apportionments. She further reported that the local church 2024 conference apportionment will be a 2% reduction from the prior year, district apportionments will be unchanged, and the local churches will receive no increase in apportionments for 2024. Dr. Spencer presented and moved adoption of PETITION 1b: 2024 CONFERENCE BUDGET, and it was approved. The 2024 conference budget totals 14.5 million dollars and is a 6.67% decrease or 1 million dollars less than the 2023 budget. The Council has approved the use of 75% of the funds paid by the churches disaffiliating to further reduce the budget by 15%. At the same time increased funding will be provided for key ministry areas, church growth, and evangelism.

Dorian Palmer, Glen Alpine (Glen Alpine, CV) noted the need to edit the date in item 17, and it was noted. Rev. Nathan Finsel, Fair View (Mooresville, ME) asked a question and Dr. Mark King responded.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS: Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Kalish, president, presented the report of the conference board of pensions and health benefits. Dr. Kalish thanked the members of the board, and in particular Rev. Dr. Mark King, conference treasurer, and Dale Bryant, benefits administrator. She introduced Peter Hang, the Wespath representative for the annual conference. He brought greetings on behalf of Wespath, announced that if the new pension plan proposed is approved by General Conference the pension contribution match will increase from 1% to 4% effective in 2026, and celebrated the service of the 2023 class of retirees. Dr. Kalish reported the response from the board in regard to Petition 16 referred to from the action by the 2022 Annual Conference. The Conference Board of Pensions does not recommend submitting the petition to revise the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) to General Conference. The petitioners were notified of the board's decision. Dr. Kalish presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2a: PROPOSED PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, and it was approved. Rev. Kalish presented and moved adoption of PETITION 2b: PROPOSED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES, and it was approved.

TEACHING MOMENT: Bishop Carter presented a teaching moment in regard to the financial strength and clergy pension stability of the annual conference. First, the African Episcopal Methodist Church experienced an event that nearly collapsed their clergy pension plan. Wespath Benefits came alongside the denomination to assist their recovery. Second, among mainline denominations, The United Methodist Church provides greater equity for clergywomen than churches with a polity of "called" appointment to a church. Third, The Western North Carolina Conference is well-managed financially. This is due to the faithfulness and generosity of the people, the stewardship of resources at the annual conference level, and the wise investment of funds. The financial impact of churches disaffiliating has had limited consequences for the annual conference.

DENMAN AWARDS: Jane Boatwright Wood, president of the Foundation for Evangelism, presented the report for the Foundation by recorded video. She noted that for over 74 years the foundation has promoted, encouraged, and resourced Wesleyan Evangelism. The video showcased the 2023 Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipients: clergy, Rev. Juan Julio Paredes, Aldersgate (Charlotte, ME), and laity, George Henry, Cashiers (Cashiers, SM). Bishop Carter introduced and greeted Rev. Paredes. Mr. Henry was not present.

REPORT OF FIRST JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LAITY BALLOT: Bishop Carter announced the results of the first Jurisdictional Conference laity ballot as follows: votes cast, 711, valid, 625, necessary to elect, 314. There was no election.

SECOND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LAITY BALLOT: The second Jurisdictional Conference laity ballot for three delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was taken.

COMMISSIONING LIGHTHOUSE CHURCHES AND EMERGING CHURCH PASTORS: Bishop Carter introduced and applauded the work of Rev. Rob Hutchinson, conference director of church development, and Rev. Amy Coles, assistant to the bishop. Bishop Carter explained the role of Lighthouse Churches to extend a welcome to United Methodists who had been a part of churches who disaffiliated, but desire to be United Methodists. Bishop Carter led the following litany of recognition:

Recognition of Lighthouse Congregations:

Bishop: In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven." This Light is the beacon that many people found themselves looking for as they sought out places of care and safety during a difficult season of grief and transition in their lives of faith. Lighthouse Congregations emerged as local churches particularly equipped to welcome anyone whose church had closed or disaffiliated. These United Methodist faith communities are a resting place, filled with people who are ready to offer love and care - while providing a haven of peace and grace.

First, we would like to recognize anyone who has been displaced or directly impacted by disaffiliation. (*Asked them to stand.*) Please know that we love you, care about you, and are here for you.

And, we would like to recognize the more than (86) churches in the WNCC that have chosen to be Lighthouse Congregations. (*Asked them to stand.*) These churches have specifically focused their love and attention on our UM brothers and sisters who have been displaced by disaffiliation, offering them a welcoming place to belong during this time of grief and transition - a safe space with caring relationships, listening hearts, and unconditional love. More specifically, it's a place that they know will be free of any conversation about disaffiliation during this current season.

Thank you for living out your faith and for being a tangible part of The United Methodist Church at its best. All of you are truly shining brightly as the Light of The World.

Bishop, to those standing: Will you continue to be a beacon of the Light of Christ, a resting place, a well of care, and a source of light for any person who has been displaced by disaffiliation?

Remnants and Lighthouse Churches: *As long as we are in the world, we will be the Light of the World.*

Bishop: We are ALL the Light of The World. We are all called to care for all to seek the light and a resting place in the midst of the storm.

Everyone: *As long as we are in the world, we will be the Light of the World.*

Bishop Carter explained that the annual conference has begun a pivot and part of that is not to abandon geographical areas or the people who live in those communities. The Duke Endowment has committed a grant of 5.2 million dollars over five years to strengthen the churches. He introduced Rev. Robb Webb, director, rural church, The Duke Endowment, who addressed the conference. Quoting Reinhold Niebuhr, Rev. Webb indicated that the transformative work by church is to be undertaken in a framework of humility, and bolstered by hope, faith, love, and forgiveness. Bishop Carter explained the ministry of emerging communities and invited the seventeen pastors to be appointed to those communities to introduce themselves. Emerging communities will experiment in the bounds of the annual conference new ways to reach and gather God's people and journey with them in a United Methodist way of life. When speaking of God's people, we mean those who have lost their church through disaffiliation, people who have been harmed or excluded from the church, and people who might be new to the journey of faith.

Emerging Community Pastors will approach their appointed communities by exploring the question, "What does a healthy, vital United Methodist presence look like in this community?" As they discern the answer to this question, they will begin to nurture new forms of United Methodist faith communities that might emerge as house churches, Fresh Expressions, churches within an existing church, collaborative faith expressions with other denominations, extensions of a Lighthouse Congregations, or perhaps some other creative expression of church that we have yet to even define... Bishop Carter led the following liturgy for commissioning emerging community pastors:

Bishop: Dear friends, as we celebrate the commissioning and sending of these Emerging Community Pastors, we are reliving a practice of the early church, who eagerly sent its leaders out into the world, to assist those who were already of the household of faith and those who did not yet believe in Christ.

Today we also send our sisters and brothers to serve the needs of the Church throughout our Conference. This commissioning and sending will strengthen the bonds we maintain with the faith-filled communities to which they are going, and the prayers we offer are an expression of the unity we have that bind us together as the body of Christ.

Bishop: In humble reliance upon divine grace, do you give yourself unreservedly to the work of Christ as you live in the creative tension that you will encounter in this new ministry opportunity?

Emerging Church Pastors: *I do, Christ being my helper.*

Bishop: Will you seek to sustain the basic practices of faith, follow the Holy Spirit unreservedly, discover, learn, heal, invite, and welcome everyone unconditionally as you walk together with them in love?

Emerging Church Pastors: *I will endeavor so to do.*

Bishop: Will you receive and extend grace, do everything you can to strengthen our United Methodist connection, be curious, assume the best in others, worship constantly, pray without ceasing, and move into the unknown with hopeful expectation?

Emerging Church Pastors: *I will, Christ being my helper.*

(Name), I commission you to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into your appointed communities in order to create new places for new people to be the Body of Christ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer: Almighty God, Source of all mercies,
graciously behold these your servants,
now commissioned as Emerging Community Pastors of your Church.
Fill them with your Holy Spirit,
enrich them with your heavenly grace,
and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead;
that in all their works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
they may glorify your holy name,
and advance your Kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REPORT OF THE SECOND JURISDICTIONAL LAITY BALLOT: Reverend Kim Ingram reported that the second jurisdictional laity ballot is declared invalid for technical reasons. Rev. Dana Lyles, chief laity teller, explained the ballot corruption was not a voter issue but a technology issue. The issue has been fixed.

SECOND JURISDICTIONAL LAITY BALLOT: The second Jurisdictional Conference laity ballot for three delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was taken. Ms. Lyles and Rev. Ingram talked the lay members through casting the ballot.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2024 HOST COMMITTEE: Bishop Carter introduced Wanda Musgrove, chairperson of the host committee, who reported that the Western North Carolina Conference will serve as the local host for the 2024 General Conference at the convention center in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 23-May 3, 2024. Our annual conference will work in partnership with the local host committee of the North Carolina Annual Conference. The host committee will provide volunteers and give hospitality to the delegates attending the General Conference. Volunteers will begin serving starting April 19th. Volunteers will greet delegates at the airport and help delegates with their departures. They will serve at the hotels to assist in registration and provide information. Volunteers will work at the convention center for greeting and registering delegates and observers. Registration to volunteer will be through the conference website and volunteers will be trained. Everyone is asked to pray for the volunteers and the delegates who will be attending the General Conference 2024. Bishop Carter announced that the annual conference will organize a conference-wide prayer vigil prior to the convening of the General Conference. On April 28, 2024, persons attending the General Conference will be available to be invited to preach in congregations across the annual conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Ingram made necessary announcements. She announced that today is John Wesley's birthday.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 10:40 a.m. in preparation for the Celebration of Life worship service.

WORSHIP SERVICE – CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE – 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Nathan Webb, Checkpoint (Denver, CV) led the call to worship and Rev. Caitlin McAlhany, Locust (Locust, UW) offered the opening prayer. Rev. Bahekelwa Imatha, St. Paul – Wesley Chapel (Reidsville, NP) read Psalm 31:1-5 and Rev. Cade Barefoot, Dilworth (Charlotte, ME) read I Corinthians 13:8-13. Rev. Laura Auten, district superintendent Uwharrie District, preached the sermon entitled, "In a Window, Dimly." In her message, Rev. Auten noted that scholars suggest that Paul's chapter 13 in I Corinthians is an encomium, a speech of high praise. The high praise is for the eternal faithfulness of God's agape love. Love is the only thing that lasts and supports Paul's purpose to help the Corinthians to get along with each other. Love is the answer to their disagreements and divisions. Paul continues with an image of unclear glass or a darkened mirror. This image speaks to the reality of human life. We have experienced this reality. Life contains mystery. And this prompts our questions of how to understand grief and loss. How can we move forward from loss? We know that it is the grace and strength of God that can move us forward, but in the moment of grief that is hard to see, it is like looking through a glass dimly or often a mirror shattered. Paul's message is the same whether we are coping with division and factionalism or the grief and loss of a beloved. What is embedded in this biblical encomium is a message of hope and life grounded in the promises of God and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a message that holds the body of Christ together. Always pivoting us to the future and moving us forward. This message is that the partial vision will come to an end. The complete will come. That which divides us and distorts our vision will come to an end. We will be fully known and see face to face. God's reign will come despite the current obstacles. We will hold on to the divine completion that nothing will finally separate us from God's love. The group VocalSpace and the Annual Conference Choir provided special music. Dr. Melodie Galloway and Dr. Adam Ward, conference musicians, directed and accompanied the special music groups and the congregational singing. Rev. Taylor Pryde Barefoot, Myers Park (Charlotte, ME), Rev. Andrew Baten, Rehobeth (Greensboro, NP), Rev. Emily Miles, Centenary (Winston-Salem, YV), Rev. Nina Miller, Bethlehem (Reidsville, NP), and Rev. Katherine Sherrill, St. Francis (Charlotte, ME), members of the 2023 class elected to full connection assisted in the service as readers, bell ringers, and candle lighters. Ms. Leisa Stamey, conference piper, and a fellow piper, provided special prelude and recessional music on bagpipes. During the

Naming of the Saints, the lives of 36 clergy and diaconal ministers were remembered and celebrated, as well as the spouses of 28 clergy and diaconal ministers who died in the year. Bishop Ken Carter offered the prayer of thanksgiving, led the Lord's Prayer, and pronounced the blessing.

CONFERENCE PLENARY – BUSINESS SESSION – 2:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the conference reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with the singing of hymn 349 (UMH) *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, and prayer offered by Kayla Stewart, CCYM President, Central (Concord, ME).

REPORT OF SECOND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LAITY BALLOT: Bishop Carter announced the results of the redone second Jurisdictional Conference laity ballot as follows: Votes cast, 724; Valid, 675; necessary to elect, 339. Joseph Navarro received 437 votes, Shareka R. Brown received 409 votes, John Barbee received 343 votes, and they were declared elected as delegates to the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. This completed the laity delegation and elections were complete. It is yet to be determined by the General Church if these three delegates will be allowed to serve.

CABINET RESOLUTIONS: Rev. Amy L. Coles, assistant to the bishop, proposed adoption of the following resolutions on church discontinuance and abandonment, and they were adopted:

Resolution for the Closure of Cramer Memorial United Methodist Church, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District GCFA: 293362

Whereas, the membership of Cramer Memorial United Methodist Church, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District, has declined in worship and resources and are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶201-204; and,

Whereas on May 21, 2023, the leaders of Cramer Memorial UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation; and,

Whereas, the Catawba Valley District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Catawba Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **Cramer Memorial United Methodist Church, Gaston County, Catawba Valley District**, be closed effective June 30, 2023, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Closure of Roaring River United Methodist Church, Wilkes County, Appalachian District GCFA: 288285

Whereas, the membership of Roaring River United Methodist Church, Wilkes County, Appalachian District, has declined in worship and resources and are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶201-204; and,

Whereas, on March 2, 2023, the leaders of Roaring River UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation; and,

Whereas, the Appalachian District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **Roaring River United Methodist Church, Wilkes County, Appalachian District**, be closed effective June 30, 2023, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Closure of St. James (Sedalia) United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District GCFA: 966990

Whereas, St. James United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;

Whereas, St. James United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016), ¶¶201-204; and

Whereas, members present from St. James United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, made a faithful decision by vote on December 4, 2022 to discontinue as a congregation, effective December 31, 2022; and,

Whereas, St. James United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on December 18, 2022; and,

Whereas, the Northern Piedmont District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **St. James United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District**, be discontinued effective December 31, 2022; that the remaining members be transferred to Jackson (Brown Summit) United Methodist Church; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of
Wade (Wadesboro) United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District
GCFA: 292846**

Whereas, the Administrative Council of Wade United Methodist Church, made the faithful decision to close as a congregation by unanimous vote on January 8, 2023, and

Whereas, Wade United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources; and is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (2016), ¶¶201-204; and

Whereas, Wade United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on April 30, 2023; and

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **Wade United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District**, be closed effective May 31, 2023, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

**Resolution for the Closure of
Whitnel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District
GCFA: 300388**

Whereas, the membership of Whitnel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District, has declined in worship and resources and are not available to meet financial obligations; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to *The Book of Discipline* (2016), ¶¶201-204; and,

Whereas, on March 26, 2023, the leaders of Whitnel UMC made a faithful decision to close as a congregation; and,

Whereas, the Appalachian District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the **Whitnel United Methodist Church, Caldwell County, Appalachian District**, be closed effective June 30, 2023, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶2549 of *The Book of Discipline* (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Rev. Coles led a litany of thanksgiving for the mission, ministry, heritage, and the people of the several congregations dissolved and abandoned.



PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Carter expressed his gratitude to Rev. Amy Coles and DeEtta Rivens for their work throughout the year, and to Greg Huffman, conference chancellor, for his diligent and thorough work in guiding and preparing the necessary documents for church disaffiliations and church closures.

CULTIVATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES: Rev. Nicole Jones, Morning Star (Canton, SM), and Rev. D'Andre Ash, Snow Hill – Iotla (Franklin, SM), shared about the Vitality Through Storytelling project. Through video and their witness, they explained how story telling helps reframe one's life story and a church's life story to bring hope, connection, and purpose in God's greater narrative of grace and redemption. Rev. Nathan Webb, Checkpoint (Denver, CV), presented a crash course on the building blocks of digital church. He noted the various streaming and digital platforms that he has used to create Checkpoint Church, a fully online congregation.

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Carter introduced Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey, retired, who was greeted by the conference members and addressed the conference.

PETITION 14: LOCAL CHURCH CREATION CARE TEAMS: Sue Jones, Cashiers (Cashiers, SM), chairperson of the petitions committee, introduced the petition. Rev. Jonathan Brake, St. Luke's (Hickory, CV), presented the petition and spoke in favor of the petition. Kim Richmond, Maple Springs (Winston-Salem, YV), made a closing statement. The petition was adopted.

PETITION 15: ADD FOSSIL FUELS TO UNITED METHODIST INVESTMENT SCREENS: Sue Jones introduced the petition and Rev. Brake presented the petition and spoke in favor. Dave Johnston, West Market Street (Greensboro, NP), spoke against the petition. Kim Richmond spoke in favor of the petition. Rev. Mark Curtis, Pineville (Pineville, ME), asked a question for clarification and Bishop Carter directed the maker to respond in his closing remarks. Rev. Linda-Arlene Hoxit, Central (Clyde, SM), spoke against the petition. Karla Burton, St. Matthews (Greensboro, NP) spoke in favor of the petition. Rev. Nathan Finsel, Fairview (Mooresville, ME), spoke against the petition. Rev. Brake made a summary statement and responded to the earlier question from Rev. Curtis. Following a standing vote, the conference approved the petition.

PETITION 16: PARENTAL LEAVE IN THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE: Sue Jones introduced the petition and introduced Rev. John Bryant, currently on family leave, presented the petition and spoke in favor of the petition. Rev. Chad Nelson, McKendree (Mooresville, ME), spoke against the petition because it appeared not to include children adopted. Bishop Carter asked Rev. Bryant to respond, who answered that both children by birth or adoption are included in the current policy for family leave. Following a summary statement by Rev. Bryant, the petition was approved.

PETITION 17: ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY: Sue Jones introduced the petition and introduced Rev. Darryl Dayson, Simpson-Gillespie (Charlotte, ME), who presented the petition and moved its adoption. Rev. Emmanuel Boakye-Yiadom, All Nations (Charlotte, ME), spoke against the petition. Rev. Dr. Sam Moore, Jr, district superintendent Yadkin Valley district, spoke in favor of

the petition. Rev. Cathy Davis, Mt. Zion (Piney Creek, AP) asked a question for clarification and Rev. Dayson responded. Gary Garlow, Denver (Denver, CV) spoke against the petition. Rev. Marilyn Weiler, retired, Centenary (Winston-Salem, YV) spoke for the petition. Walter Terrell, Ranger (Murphy, SM), spoke against the petition. Rev. Dayson made a final statement, and the petition was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rev. Ingram made necessary announcements.

RECESS: The conference recessed at 3:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE RECONVENES: Pursuant to recess the annual conference reconvened at 3:45 p.m. with singing hymn 374 (UMH), *Standing on the Promises of God*, and prayer offered by Jaidy Smith, Jordan Memorial (Ramseur, UW).

PRIVILEGE MATTER: Bishop Carter introduced Rev. Marcus Singleton, St. James (Denver, CV), who presented a statement from the Black Methodists for Church Renewal. The statement which had been provided to members of the annual conference urged the Cabinet to work more diligently for equity toward Black Methodists and strengthening the Black Church. It called on the annual conference to combat and fight racism and provide greater equity for Black United Methodists. Bishop Carter suggested that the annual conference affirm the statement and begin working toward the general direction of the statement, and that suggestion was approved. Bishop Carter next proposed that the annual conference proceeds with a pledge that the Cabinet would engage in dialogue with the BMCR around issues noted in the statement, and second, in the nomination process for leadership for the next quadrennium a task force would apply the concerns noted in the statement. The annual conference approved the Bishop's proposal.



2023 WNCC BMCR Annual Conference Statement

Submitted by Executive Team, WNCC BMCR – June 2023

From the beginning of the Methodist movement to the present, the constant sin of racism has plagued our Church. In 1844, the denomination split over the issue of slavery resulting in the formation of several Methodist denominations, with one sanctioning slavery as being compatible with being a Christian.

In 1939, when several branches of Methodism sought to merge, Black Methodists were relegated to the status of second-class Christians as that merger resulted in the racial segregation and isolation of Black persons into the Central Jurisdiction. Once again Black Methodists were denied access to power and equitable treatment.

With the 1968 merger, Black Methodists partnered to form The United Methodist Church. That same year Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) was established, with the mission to serve as an agitating presence to ensure that equity is a reality for Black people in our Church and that equity becomes integral to the DNA of The United Methodist Church.

Since the founding of the Methodist movement in America in 1784, Black Christians have been a vital part of The Methodist Church. Talented and gifted figures were instrumental to the vitality and life of the Methodist movement, such as the Rev. Harry Hoosier also known as Black Harry, who was recognized for his powerful preaching.

Yet, despite these amazing gifts to The Methodist Church, Black people were marginalized and continue to experience marginalization in so many areas of The United Methodist Church. We still have major challenges before us toward obtaining equity for Black Methodists. Even with the 1968 merger, Black Methodists have been confronted with the evils of racism in the Church up unto this present time.

We are heartened and encouraged by the strides that our Church, in particular the Western North Carolina Conference, have made in its efforts to eradicate the sin of racism from our ranks and the fabric of our Conference. This progress is indicative of the great potential our Conference holds to eradicate racism and marginalization from our midst.

Laudable examples of the progress we have made so far in our efforts to eliminate racism are:

1. Establishing mandatory Antiracism Ethics Training for our clergy in partnership with the laity of our congregations.
2. The adoption of the Black Church Master Plan (BCMP) to strengthen the vitality of Black churches along with contracting a position to implement the BCMP.
3. The hiring of a Conference Director of Equity and Justice, and a Coordinator of African American/Black Church Growth and Vitality.
4. The commitment to start a new Black church for every new church start in an Anglo community.
5. Cross Racial Appointments of Black clergy to churches with significant and major leadership responsibilities.
6. The appointment of Black clergy to the Cabinet to serve as District Superintendents.
7. The recognition of the severe disparity of salaries between white clergy and clergy of color with the establishment of the Equitable Compensation Team to examine these disparities and recommend solutions to eliminate these compensation disparities among our clergy.

However, despite these significant first steps and strides we have made, much work remains before us toward eradicating the vestiges of the pernicious sin of racism because racism continues to be a moral, ethical, and theological issue for our Conference.

With the disaffiliation of over 190 churches in our Conference, it is significant that of the nearly 200 churches choosing to leave the Western North Carolina Conference, only four have been historically Black congregations. The vast majority of Black churches have chosen instead to honor our covenant as United Methodists. These churches continue to be committed and loyal to The United Methodist Church despite centuries of being subjected to systemic racism within our home denomination.

As a result of these disaffiliations, some might look for ways to diminish financial support to the commitments made to pursue the eradication of racism and strengthening our Black congregations. However, our position is there should be an even greater resolve from our Conference to strengthen Black churches, considering the historic commitment and loyalty demonstrated by our Black congregations to the ministry of The United Methodist Church.

We believe our Conference should demonstrate an even greater commitment to strengthen these churches, eradicating racism, and working hard toward equity so that our Conference can continue to thrive. Such a commitment will continue to bring the great gifts of empowerment, inspiration, and possibilities for a greater future for our Conference that our Black churches are uniquely gifted by God to provide.

Our determination to eradicate racism and the racial disparities that plague us must be even more intentional than ever before because these challenges are a continuing chasm between our Conference and the vision Jesus Christ has for his church. We are called to be a community in which all people are welcomed and whose worth is affirmed regardless of their race or ethnic heritage.

Among those challenges that still remain are:

1. Full funding of the African American/Black Church Growth and Vitality initiative. No other Conference initiative is required to raise their own funding.
2. Providing financial investment and resources in Black church leadership training for local pastors and laity that is culturally sensitive. In addition, resources for the recruitment of young Black Pastors to attend seminary.
3. We continue to see highly disturbing disparities between white clergy and Black clergy salaries and pension benefits. The salaries of Black clergy are 35-42% less than the salaries of their white counterparts. Consequently, there is a major disparity in the pension provisions among Black clergy compared to their white colleagues since pension benefits are based upon the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).
4. There is limited investment in building the leadership capacity of Black clergy and lay leaders that aligns with an understanding and appreciation of Black culture.
5. Making sincere and concrete efforts to understand Black persons history and culture, especially in light of the horrific history and lasting impact of slavery and racism upon Black people within our church and our society.
6. Commitment to maintain our conference Anti-racism initiative since systemic racism continues to be a persistent problem within our Conference.
7. There remains a lack of diversity in key positions among our conference staff.
8. The appointment of Black clergy as District Superintendents that goes beyond what may be perceived as tokenism. When openings become available on the Cabinet, these opportunities are not used to expand the number of Black clergy appointed to the Cabinet. The impression is given there can only be one Black District Superintendent at a time in that immensely powerful and influential table of leadership led by our Bishop. Who among us would know and understand better the needs of our historically Black churches than a Black clergy person?

If there is a commitment to the Black church let us demonstrate that commitment by providing the continuing support of our Conference initiatives that are making a difference in dismantling racism and strengthening our commitment to the Gospel. Let us commit to providing support and advocacy in addressing these continuing challenges to justice and equity for our Black churches so that we can continue our mission to eradicate racism.

Ultimately, when the Black Church is strong it makes our conference even stronger. The time is NOW for the continued investment in the Black Church in every way. Walk with and alongside us and trust God with us. Let us make clear our commitment to becoming ONE truly United Methodist Church – living, supporting, and loving ALL people as the one church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
The WNCC BMCR Executive Team

REPORT OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES: Rev. Dr. Bill White, Jr., conference director of equity and justice ministries, Light of Christ (Charlotte, ME), presented by video the report on equity and justice ministries. One of the main goals is the implementation of the comprehensive plan of equity. Additional video segments provided voices from various persons who are participating in annual conference efforts to foster and sustain racial justice and equity.

CULTIVATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES: Bishop Carter introduced, Rev. Dr. Ken Spencer, Hopewell (Trinity, NP), who shared his doctor of ministry project related to diversity, inclusion, and equity in Lincoln County. In partnership with community leaders, persons in the client communities, and with assistance from Rev. Dr. Yvette Pressley and the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School, the project sought to challenge the unequal and transactional nature of the relationship with Hispanic neighbors and other persons of color in the community and to adopt a solution model that is centered around empathy, listening, and trust.

PETITION 18: VOTING AT CHURCH CONFERENCES: Sue Jones introduced the petition and Rev. Dr. Mary John Dye, Triplett (Mooresville, ME), presented the petition and spoke in favor. Rev. Dawn Hand, District Superintendent, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, St. Mark's (Charlotte, ME), spoke against the petition. Rev. Kevin Quick, Guilford College (Greensboro, NP) moved to amend the petition as follows: In the first paragraph following "quantifiable measures:" strike "financial support (gifts)", and in the parenthesis add, "Financial support is difficult to fairly judge due to unknown income." In the paragraph beginning "The amount of financial giving..." delete the entire paragraph. Rev. Mike MacDonald, Black Mountain (Black Mountain, BR), retired, asked a question and Rev. Dye responded. Margaret Lebeck, First (Brevard, BR), spoke against the amendment. Bishop Carter asked Rev. Quick to repeat the amendment. The Quick amendment was **not** supported. Rev. Richard Blount, III, Weaverville (Weaverville, BR), spoke against the petition. Dorian Palmer, Glen Alpine (Glen Alpine, CV), moved to lay the petition on the table, and with a standing vote the motion was not sustained. John Davis, First (Lenoir, AP), called the question, and Bishop Carter ruled the motion not in order at this time. Rev. Daniel Pezet, II, district superintendent, Metro, moved to amend the petition with the following substitute motion and spoke in favor for adoption:

Whereas, the inactive members who do not live into the membership vows of the church have participated in church conference votes, *Whereas*, the current rules for removing members is a lengthy process, and technology exists today to speed up that process, *Whereas*, cemetery rules have been used to manipulate inactive members to stay members over time; therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference petition The General Conference to reduce the length of time to remove members to 1 year; and, to explore ways to protect cemetery rights of former members.

At the direction of Bishop Carter, Mary John Dye noted that the petition sought to avoid a change in membership but only to suggest qualifications to vote at a church conference; and, spoke against the substitute motion. Bishop Carter provided additional guidance and requested Rev. Pezet to restate his amendment. The Pezet amendment was **not** approved.

Rev. Michelle Chappell, Dilworth (Charlotte, ME), spoke in favor of the petition. Rev. Dye presented closing remarks for the petition. A standing count vote was taken, and the petition was adopted as originally published by a vote of 508 for and 434 against.

EXTENSION OF TIME: Joseph Navarro, Harrison (Pineville, ME), moved suspension of the rules to extend the time to consider the remaining three petitions, and the motion was approved.

PETITION 19: IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Sue Jones introduced Rev. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley, Harrison (Pineville, ME), who presented the petition and spoke in favor of adoption. Walter Terrell, Ranger (Murphy, SM), asked a question and Rev. Coppedge-Henley responded. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, Reep's Grove-Macedonia (CV), spoke in favor of the petition. The petition was approved.

PETITION 20: REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE: Sue Jones, introduced the petition, and Linda Linfors, St. Stephen (Charlotte, ME), presented the petition and spoke in favor of its adoption. Rev. Emmanuel Boakye-Yiadom, All Nations (Charlotte, ME), spoke against the petition. Rev. Mandy Jones, Forest Hills (Concord, ME), called for the question. Bishop Carter ruled the call for the question not in order at this time, according to the conference rules. Joseph Navarro, Harrison (Pineville, ME), spoke in favor of the petition. Jonathan LeMaster-Smith, Reep's Grove-Macedonia (CV), asked a question. Ricky Johnson, Asbury (Hamptonville, YV), moved to amend the several petitions listed in Petition 20 by both deletion and addition. Bishop Carter ruled that the proposed amendments were out of order at this time, because the amendments would be changing language in petitions already submitted to be considered by the 2024 General Conference. Bishop Carter suggested that Mr. Johnson speak either in support or opposition to the petition. Mr. Johnson spoke against the petition. Rev. Mandy Jones called the question, Linda Linfors provided a summary statement, and the motion was approved. The conference approved the petition.

PETITION 21: JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE: Sue Jones introduced the petition, and Helen Ryde, Haywood Street Congregation (Asheville, BR), presented and spoke in favor of the petition with two amendments as follows:

4. Commits itself to protecting, affirming, and empowering LGBTQIA+ people within the life and ministry of the churches of our Conference, particularly as Laity and on boards and agencies.
5. Requests the Bishop and Cabinet to form a conference-level LGBTQIA+ Ministries Team of laity and clergy, tasked with creating/collecting/sharing resources to equip and empower local churches to do ministry to and with people of the LGBTQIA+ community. This team should collaborate with other ministry-specific areas, particularly Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Campus Ministry in order to most effectively and safely minister to and with LGBTQIA+ people of all ages.

The petition as amended was approved by the annual conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bishop Carter announced that the 2024 session of the Western North Carolina Conference will convene June 21-23, 2024, at Lake Junaluska Assembly. Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary, made necessary announcements and noted that the announcements in the *Supplement* of resources and opportunities for ministry and mission provide valuable information for the local church. Bishop Carter extended his thanks and appreciation for the work of the ushers. Calling attention to Rev.

Kathy McAbee, who is retiring as chief usher, and applauding George Eubanks, who will continue as chief usher. He thanked the chief tellers, Rev. Paul Brown and Dana Lyles. Bishop Carter thanked the conference worship team, especially Rev. Justin Lowe, chairperson; and the conference musicians, Dr. Melodie Galloway and Dr. Adam Ward. He spoke words of appreciation for the annual conference and district staffs. He expressed thanks to the volunteers who registered delegates. He was grateful for the staff of Lake Junaluska Assembly and their work of hospitality. Bishop Carter thanked the conference secretarial staff, Rev. Owen Peeler and Marsha Patton. He thanked John Crane, conference lay leader and Rev. Kim Ingram, conference secretary. He praised the members of the annual conference both lay and clergy for their presence and continued witness to tell the story of United Methodists in Western North Carolina.

RECESS: Bishop Carter asked that all present join him in reciting the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26. The conference recessed for dinner at 5:43 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE – THE ORDERING OF MINISTRY – 7:30 P. M.

Following pre-service music and the processional hymn 577 (UMH), *God of Grace and God of Glory*, Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. led the responsive greeting and prayer; and, the act of remembering our baptism and common ministry. Rev. Lynda Ferguson, First (Asheboro, UW), conference chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry, presented to the bishop those to be consecrated, licensed, commissioned, and ordained; and read the name of the candidate to be consecrated as a deaconess. Rev. Mary Hatley, Mount Carmel (Reidsville, NP), chairperson of the fellowship of local pastors and associate members, read the names of those to be licensed as local pastors. Rev. Paul Thompson, Huntersville (Huntersville, ME), vice-chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, read the names of those to be commissioned as provisional members. Rev. Ferguson, read the names of those to be ordained as deacons and elders. Following a hymn of preparation 2130 (TFWS), *The Summons*, Rev. Dr. Kevin Turner, Davidson (Davidson, ME), treasurer, Board of Ordained Ministry, led the prayer for illumination. Rev. Avery White, Francis Asbury (Candler, BR), read the Gospel lesson from Matthew 22:34-40. Bishop Kenneth Carter, Jr. delivered the sermon entitled, “Call and Connection.” Using the conference icon of an Ebenezer, stones placed as a reminder of God’s presence, Bishop Carter focused on two touchstones, call and connection. A call, generally, is an extended process. Call begins with becoming a Christian, symbolized by our baptism. Next, a call is a recognition to be a part of a set apart ministry – a voice and insight that comes to us from within and beyond. When it is the call of God, it is the way these two voices resonate. It is not enough that you heard a call or that others heard a call in you, you had to hear it together. United Methodists do not apologize for the time it takes to hear, test, refine, and confirm a call. This time provides formation. Formation is life-long and in our tradition is understood as sanctification, being made perfect in love. You are being set apart, your full time, to focus on your calling to live a life of obedience to the teaching of Jesus to love God and to love your neighbor as you love yourself. And you want to see a church and world where there is an increase of love of God and neighbor. A call implies that there is a “caller.” This caller is God and to hear the call involves understanding that the call “is more important to God than it is to you.” The second touchstone is the connection. You are not only affirmed in your call, but you come into a connection with brothers and sisters in ministry, not only other clergy but with the people you will lead and serve. The connection provides accountability and support for the call. You are called to strengthen this connection. In conclusion Bishop Carter encouraged all the clergy to renew their call, that it is more important to God than it is to you. Following a musical response by VocalSpace, Dr. Ceola Ross Baber, Newlyn Street (Greensboro, NP), lay member, executive team, Board of Ordained Ministry, led the Nicene Creed. Bishop Carter commissioned the one candidate as a deaconess. Bishop Carter examined all the candidates to be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. The nine candidates to be licensed as local pastors were authorized by the bishop, recognized by Rev. Hatley, and presented their license by Rev. Kim Ingram, director of ministerial services. Bishop Carter examined the ten candidates to be commissioned as provisional members and then commissioned each candidate. Each newly commissioned member received a cross and was presented with a certificate of their commissioning. Bishop Carter examined the two candidates to be ordained deacons and then ordained them as deacons, assisted by other clergy. Each deacon received a stole and was presented certificates of ordination and membership. Bishop Carter examined the candidates to be ordained elders and with the assistance of Bishops Charlene P. Kammerer, J. Lawrence McLeskey, Paul L. Leeland, and other clergy ordained the seven candidates as elders. Each new elder received a stole and a certificate of ordination and membership by Rev. Ingram. Bishop Carter extended a call to renewal and invited clergy and laity to come to a station to pray and to be prayed over. Following a prayer of thanksgiving and the recessional hymn 584 (UMH), *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*, Bishop Carter gave the dismissal with blessing. Dr. Melodie Galloway and Dr. Adam Ward, conference musicians, provided musical direction and accompaniment for the worship service. In addition, Rev. Laura Auten, district superintendent Uwharrie district and cabinet representative to the Board of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Monica Childers, St. Luke’s (Hickory, CV), chair of the conference Order of Deacons, Rev. Norma Hickman de Villagrana, Zion (Monroe, ME), chair of the conference Order of Elders, and Rev. Maegan Habich, conference associate director of ministerial services, participated in the ordering of ministry service.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

CLOSING WORSHIP, AND THE FIXING OF APPOINTMENTS – 10:00 A.M.

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., taking his text from Galatians 5:1, 13-15, 22-23 preached the sermon entitled, “Holiness and Mission.” Bishop Carter declared nothing is sacred but the mission. To be in mission is to know our purpose. To be in God’s purpose is to seek and stay connected into God’s purpose. To be in mission is to love our neighbor. We become holy by loving our neighbor. Holiness is loving God and neighbor without separation, according to the categories of the world’s sorting, including institutions. We see the image of God in each other. Christ died for all. Love is greater than preferences or prejudices. The most powerful form of evangelism is to love the neighbor. The neighbor shows up on the way to something else and God shows up. When God’s mission

is taking place, it is not clear who is helping whom always. The missional strategy is to love my neighbor. “Nothing is sacred but the mission.” And this is the mission, to love God, neighbor, and yourself. Mission is our holiness, scriptural holiness, to love God and neighbor. Underneath it all is a missional God who loves the world. The mission is rooted in the grace of God that saves us, sustained by a connection with others, who strengthen us. Holiness is our path to healing, community, and to our purpose. The Martha Bassett Band, Winston-Salem and Centenary UMC (YV), and Vocal Space, Asheville, under the direction of Dr. Melodie Galloway, professor and director of visual and performing arts, UNC-Asheville, and annual conference music director, provided special music. Dr. Adam Ward, director of music ministries and organist, Providence (Charlotte, ME), and annual conference musician, provided accompaniment and special music. Rev. Dr. Hyung Jae Lee, district superintendent (SM), Rev. Tim Lee, Hickory Stand (Brasstown, SM), Rev. Donna Strickland Smith, Mt. Olive (Lexington, YV), Rev. KayIn Wiley, Longs Chapel (Lake Junaluska, SM), Dr. Andrea Johnson, Central (Thomasville, YV), Mr. Beckham Edwards, Abernethy Memorial (CV), Rev. Joshua Britton, Mount Shepherd retreat center and Charlotte UMC (Asheboro, UW), served as worship leaders.

OFFERING: Rev. Dr. Sharad Creasman, college minister and advisor to the president, Brevard College, chaplain Air Mobility Command United States Air Force reserves, First (Brevard, BR), explained that the morning offering will be shared equally for creating trauma responsive, healing centered faith communities and to build new churches in Ukraine following the war.

COMMISSIONING OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS: Bishop Carter, with the assistance of Rev. Amy Coles, assistant to the bishop, commissioned the eight district superintendents: Rev. Lory Beth Huffman (AP), Rev. Dr. Mark Ralls (BR), Rev. David Christy (CV), Rev. Daniel Pezet, II (ME), Rev. Beverly Copley (NP), Rev. Dr. Hyung Jae Lee (SM), Rev. Beth Crissman (UW), Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore, Jr. (YV).

FIXING OF THE APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. officially fixed the 2023-2024 clergy appointments to the local churches, appointments beyond the local church, and appointments to extension ministry for the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Carter charged all appointed and assigned persons to ministry, elders, deacons, associate members, and local pastors, to go where they are sent and called to serve, to build up the body of Christ, engage communities, and establish hope.

CHARGE TO THE LAITY, DEACONESSES, HOME MISSIONERS, AND DIACONAL MINISTERS: Bishop Carter charge the laity, deaconesses, home missioners, and diaconal ministers, to live and serve in God’s world, and to receive and support those leaders sent to serve Christ, support, and lead the church in ministry to all the world.

INVITATION TO HEALING: Bishop Carter noted that we have come through a time, and continue in a season, of hardships, challenges, trauma, grief, and brokenness. He invited the laity and clergy to receive a blessing and anointing of oil for their healing and to be a person of healing at one of the several stations of clergy and laity.

BENEDICTION: Bishop Carter invited worshippers to raise their rock, their Ebenezer, given out earlier, as he gave the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT: The Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church adjourned *sine die* at 11:20 a.m.

Kimberly T. Ingram

Kimberly T. Ingram, Conference Secretary

+ Ken Carter

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., Resident Bishop



E. 2023 SESSION PETITIONS

The petitions are printed as approved, and are not in every case identical to the original submission. In the interest of clarity and economy, the texts of petitions which were not adopted or referred by the conference are not printed. Whenever the text of a petition is printed elsewhere in the journal, as in the case of proposals from conference agencies, the reader will be referred to the appropriate section. Actions and related discussions are recorded in the Daily Minutes, Section IV.C., page 134.

- PETITION 1** **2024 Conference Funds and Financial Policies (1a) and 2024 Budget (1b)**
 Submitted by: Irish Gaymon-Spencer, President, on behalf of the Council on Finance and Administration
 Text: See Section VIII.A.1, pages 219 and 222
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 17, 2023
- PETITION 2** **Pension Programs and Policies (2a) and Health Benefits Program and Policies (2b)**
 Submitted by: Sarah Kalish, President, on behalf of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits
 Text: See Section VIII.A.2, Page 225 and 228
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 17, 2023
- PETITION 3** **Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines**
 Submitted by: Brad Treece, Chairperson, on behalf of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, and
 Brandon Lazarus, Chairperson, on behalf of the Just Compensation Task Force
 Text: See Section VIII.A.3, page 231
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 4** **Boards of Directors for Western NC Conference Camps**
 Submitted by: Tresca McSwain, Member At Large, on behalf of the Council on Camp and Retreat Ministry
 Text: See Section VIII.B.3, page 244
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 5** **Campus Ministry Boards**
 Submitted by: Cindy Turner, Chairperson, on behalf of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries
 Text: See Section VIII.B.5, page 249
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 6** **Advance Specials**
 Submitted by: Brian Mateer, Director of Missional Engagement, on behalf of the Mission Engagement Team
 Text: See Section VIII.B.9, page 255
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 7** **Board of Directors of Aldersgate Life Plan Services, Inc. (7a),
 Board of Directors of Aldersgate Retirement Community, Inc. (7b), and
 Board of Directors of Aldersgate At Home, Inc. (7c)**
 Submitted by: Brooks Shelley, Chief Branding and Community Engagement Officer
 Text: See Section VIII.D.1.a, page 261
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 8** **Board of Directors of Arbor Acres**
 Submitted by: Andrew W. Applegate, President and CEO, and John Willingham, Chairperson, Board of Directors
 Text: See Section VIII.D.1.b, page 261
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 9** **Board of Directors of Givens Communities**
 Submitted by: Kevin Schwab, Chief Executive Officer
 Text: See Section VIII.D.1.e, page 264
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 10** **Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.**
 Submitted by: Andra Eason, Chief Development Officer
 Text: See Section VIII.D.1.g, page 266
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 11** **Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development**
 Submitted by: Joel A. Gilland, President, and Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors
 Text: See Section VIII.D.11, page 272
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 12** **Trustees of Brevard College**
 Submitted by: Bradley J. Andrews, President
 Text: See Section VIII.E.1.f, page 283
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)
- PETITION 13** **Trustees of High Point University**
 Submitted by: Nido R. Qubein, President
 Text: See Section VIII.E.1.f, page 283
 Conference Action: Adopted Petition June 16, 2023 (on the consent calendar)

Local Church Creation Care Teams

Petition 14 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, scripture proclaims God created all—from Earth’s hospitable atmosphere, mighty seas, abundant forests, and other plants to nutrient-rich soil, from majestic whales to the tiniest microbes and all sentient and non-sentient beings in between; Scripture also proclaims God called humans to be caretakers of creation (Genesis 1–2). Jesus declared the Greatest Commandments are to love God and to love neighbor, especially the most vulnerable (Luke 10:25-37). Persons living in poverty, persons of color, and indigenous people in this country and throughout the world are harmed first and most by the degradation of creation, and these same groups have the fewest resources to recover from that harm. Thus, care for creation is clearly a matter of justice. Creation, including all people, is already or will be affected by the current and coming level of danger from climate change and its consequences that intersect with multiple expressions of injustice. It follows that loving God, the Creator, means loving God’s creation and that loving neighbors in distress requires stopping harm and righting wrongs, in other words, working for justice; and,

Whereas, tradition for United Methodists includes John Wesley’s Three Simple Rules for living faithfully: First, do no harm; second, do all the good you can; and third, stay in love with God. Proposed Social Principles for the next General Conference begin with “The Community of All Creation,” outlining the care and justice work that is needed in the midst of the multiple crises that are adversely affecting God’s creation and our neighbors. The 2009 Pastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, *God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*, pledges leadership in addressing the work of renewal. The 2016 *Book of Discipline* (§ 254) includes an Earth Advocacy ministry group as a way “to fulfill the mission of the local church.” It follows that the church provides both a mandate and guidance for doing what is needed; and,

Whereas, reason is a God-given gift. Our reasoning capabilities are informed by modern scientific research and practices. The scientific community has given clear warning that creation is under tremendous strain due to the poisoning of air, water, and land; habitat destruction; the unsustainable consumption of earth’s finite resources; and the rapidly accelerating extinction of species. Scientists have sounded the alarm of catastrophic harm to creation if global warming and associated climate change are not halted and reversed. They point to how rising temperatures have already intensified wildfires, hurricanes, drought, and sea-level rise throughout the world with devastating impacts. Our reasoning capabilities are also informed by the examples of indigenous peoples whose traditional wisdom and practices honor living in harmony with nature. It follows that, globally, humans have the capacity for understanding the damage and danger and for stopping or mitigating the effects. Individuals and congregations have access to trustworthy knowledge and the reasoning ability to discern what is needed and how to carry out plans in their local situations; and,

Whereas, experience is honored by United Methodists as a way of recognizing lifetime gains of knowledge, understanding, perspectives, and practices of individuals, which they all bring to the work before them. Functioning as a team, they become stronger in their efforts (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Experience is also honored as the varied ways in which humans encounter God. For many people that meeting is through God’s gift of the natural world. It follows that a group of people caring about creation and justice, working together, can use their wisdom and passion to create faithful and meaningful experiences that help others love God and neighbor; therefore, be it; therefore, be it

Resolved, that every local church is urged to form a Creation Care Team or strengthen an existing one for action in five areas each year—Worship, Discipleship, Stewardship, Mission, and Evangelism—providing children, youth, and adults of all ages with inspiration, knowledge, encouragement, and practical means for caring for creation and justice. These actions include:

- One or more occasions of worship, celebrating God’s grace, glory, and beauty in creation and connecting creation care and justice to the scriptural call to love God and neighbor.
- One or more discipleship (educational) opportunities, held within and for the congregation and/or community, related to some aspect of creation care and justice.
- One or more positive changes in the stewardship practices of the church’s life and/or to the church building or grounds.
- One or more evangelism activities that put your creation care initiatives into action, and/or connect, with your community to help others become involved.
- One or more mission activities that advocate for change in systems that perpetuate injustice and harm to creation and communities either locally, regionally, nationally, or globally; and, be it further

Resolved, that every local church is urged to integrate creation care and justice in all areas of ministry and mission, including preaching, liturgy, communications, education, outreach, and advocacy so that the church will become an increasingly effective witness of loving God and neighbor; and, be it further

Resolved, that every local church is urged to communicate any actions taken as an idea exchange and inspiration throughout the connection. They can be reported at charge conference and could be celebrated locally, in the annual conference, and beyond; and, be it further

Resolved, that the annual conference will assist churches with resources and mentors, through the WNCC Mission Engagement office and WNCC Creation Care Team, as needed. [Support and resources for creation care ministry actions can be found at <https://www.wnccumc.org/wncc-creation-care-ministry>; CreationCareWNCC@gmail.com; www.umcreationjustice.org.]

Submitted by: Rev. Jonathan Brake, St. Luke’s UMC, Hickory, and

Kim Richmond, Maple Springs UMC, Winston Salem
 Karlah Burton, Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro
 Ellen Van Velsor, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro
 Julia Gibson, Green Street, Winston-Salem
 Gary Mahathey, Loves UMC, Walkertown
 James Tolbert, Skyland United Methodist Church, Skyland

Laura Byrch, Boone UMC & Blackburns’ Chapel, Boone & Todd
 Jeremy Benton, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro
 Nicole Jones, Smokey Mountain District Office
 Brian Mateer, WNCCUMC Creation Care Team Member; and
 Cole Altizer, Maggie Valley UMC, Maggie Valley
 Bryan Betts, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro

PETITION 14 Cont. Kerry Purselle, FUMC, Brevard
 Nancy Keziah, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Mary Taylor Setliff, Maple Springs UMC, Winston-Salem
 Jennifer Kerrigan, Maple Springs UMC, Winston-Salem
 Gaye Smith, St. Stephen, Charlotte
 Rev. Dr. Catherine Davis, Mt. Zion UMC, Piney Creek
 Patsy Sheppard, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Philip Setzer, FUMC, Newton
 Nina Wynn, Charlotte
 William Garrard, St. Lukes, Hickory
 James Ross, Maple Springs UMC
 Erin Moses, Maple Springs UMC
 Belinda Worsham, Mount Pleasant, Sherrills Ford
 Lisa Szymanski, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Karen Crutchfield, Central UMC, Asheville
 Linda Johns, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Sharon Leduc, Central UMC, Asheville
 Ellen Furney, Central UMC, Asheville
 Janet Imig, Central UMC, Asheville
 Sam Keziah, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Tommy Sprinkle, Maple Springs UMC, Winston Salem
 Louise Woods, Central UMC, Charlotte
 Margaret Graham, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Kelly Regueira, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Raquel Ramirez-Harrison, HUMC

Dale Carpenter, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Brian Elwell, First UMC, Stanley
 James Pugh, Providence UMC, Charlotte
 Lynda Morris, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Susan Wilson, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Stephen Duraski, Providence UMC, Charlotte
 Mandy Chandler, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Beverly Smith, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Katharine Parker, First UMC, Brevard
 Billy Clark, Harrison UMC, Charlotte
 Paul Richards, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Karlah Burton, Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro
 Diane Rutledge, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Kelly Cunningham, Maple Springs UMC
 Renee Hayes, Trinity Memorial UMC, Trinity
 Joe Donoghue, First UMC, Hendersonville
 Linda Greer, FUM, Taylorsville
 Charles DiRico, Assurance, Huntersville
 Charlotte Alwine, Maple Springs UMC, Winston-Salem
 Amy Mateer, Harrison, Charlotte
 Martha Carpenter, Charlotte
 Mark Casper, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 William L Ester, First UMC, Brevard
 Sharon Leduc, Central, Asheville
 Janice Wakefield, Green Street, Winston-Salem

Add Fossil Fuels to United Methodist Investment Screens

Petition 15 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, The United Methodist Church in its 1980 General Conference resolution on energy policy was the first denomination to link the burning of fossil fuels to what was then called “global warming” and urged that nations and the church make renewable energy and conservation the main energy priorities; and,

Whereas, that resolution has been updated almost every General Conference since 1980 and as of 2016 declares that “The burning of fossil fuels causes large-scale pollution and seriously alters the environment by increasing the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.” (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-resolutions-energy-policy-statement>); and,

Whereas, the church has been calling for the nations of the world and the church to quit relying on polluting fossil fuels for energy for more than four decades and instead rely on renewable energy and serious conservation efforts. It is time that the church cease investing its money in fossil fuel mining and use and put its investments where its resolutions have been calling for so long; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls for “fossil fuels” to be added to the investment screens in ¶717 of *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* as follows:

¶ 717. Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments—In the investment of money, it shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administration agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds with policies and practices that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles. All United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to seek investments in institutions, companies and corporations, or funds that promote racial and gender justice, protect human rights, prevent the use of sweatshop or forced labor, avoid human suffering, and preserve the natural world, including mitigating the effects of climate change. In addition, United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to avoid investments in companies engaged in core business activities that are not aligned with the Social principles through their direct or indirect involvement with the production of anti-personnel weapons and armaments (both nuclear and conventional weapons), **fossil fuels**, alcoholic beverages or tobacco; or that are involved in privately operated correctional facilities, gambling, pornography or other forms of exploitive adult entertainment. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions and actively exercise their responsibility as owners of the companies in which they invest. This includes engaging with companies to create positive change and hold them accountable for their actions, while also considering exclusion if companies fail to act responsibly; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Conference Secretary will forward this resolution as a petition calling the 2024 General Conference to include “fossil fuels” in the list of investment screens in ¶717.

Submitted by: Rev. Jonathan Brake, St. Luke’s UMC, Hickory, and

Kim Richmond, Maple Springs UMC, Winston Salem
 Karlah Burton, Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro
 Ellen Van Velsor, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro
 Julia Gibson, Green Street UMC, Winston-Salem
 Laura Byrch, Boone UMC & Blackburns’ Chapel, Boone & Todd
 Jeremy Benton, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro

Nicole Jones, Smoky Mountain District, Waynesville
 Brian Mateer, WNCCUMC Creation Care Team
 Cole Altizer, Maggie Valley UMC, Maggie Valley
 Bryan Betts, West Market Street UMC, Greensboro
 Kerry Purselle, FUMC, Brevard
 Nancy Keziah, Harrison UMC, Pineville

Mary Taylor Setliff, Maple Springs UMC, Winston-Salem
 Jennifer Kerrigan, Maple Springs UMC, Winston-Salem
 Rev. Dr. Catherine Davis, Mt. Zion UMC, Piney Creek
 Gaye Smith, St. Stephen, Charlotte
 Philip Setzer, FUMC, Newton
 Nina Wynn, Charlotte
 William Garrard, St. Lukes, Hickory
 James Ross, Maple Springs UMC
 Erin Moses, Maple Springs UMC
 Belinda Worsham, Mount Pleasant UMC, Sherrills Ford
 Lisa Szymanski, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Karen Crutchfield, Central UMC, Asheville
 Linda Johns, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Sharon Leduc, Haywood Street, Asheville
 Ellen Furney, Central UMC, Asheville
 Sam Keziah, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Janet Imig, Central UMC, Asheville
 Louise Woods, Central UMC, Charlotte
 Margaret Graham, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Kelly Regueira, Harrison UMC, Pineville
 Raquel Ramirez-Harrison, HUMC
 Dale Carpenter, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte

Brian Elwell, First UMC, Stanley
 Ben Sloan, Wesley Memorial, Winston-Salem
 Lynda Morris, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Susan Wilson, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Stephen Duraski, Providence UMC, Charlotte
 Beverly Smith, St. Stephen UMC, Charlotte
 Billy Clark, Harrison Church, Charlotte
 Katharine Parker, First UMC, Brevard
 Paul Richards, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Karlah Burton, Saint Matthews UMC, Greensboro
 Diane Rutledge, Skyland UMC, Skyland
 Kelly Cunningham, Maple Springs UMC
 Gary Mahathey, Love's UMC, Walkertown
 Renee Hayes, Trinity Memorial UMC, Trinity
 Joe Donoghue, First UMC, Hendersonville
 Linda Greer, FUMC, Taylorsville
 Charles DiRico, Assurance, Huntersville
 Amy Mateer, Harrison UMC, Charlotte
 Martha Carpenter, Providence UMC, Charlotte
 William L Ester, First UMC, Brevard
 Sharon Leduc, Central, Asheville
 Janice Wakefield, Green Street, Winston-Salem

Parental Leave in the Western North Carolina Conference

Petition 16 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, The Book of Discipline ¶355 allows for parental leave of up to one quarter of a year for all appointed clergy, but only requires compensation be maintained for the first eight weeks of leave; and,

Whereas, generous parental leave policies contribute to the wellbeing of families and serve as a helpful incentive for the recruitment and retention of clergy because young clergy discuss how support varies among the various annual conferences and across denominations; and,

Whereas, clergy serving churches with limited resources often feel pressure from their congregation to not take all of their available leave because of the additional expenses it places on their appointment; and,

Whereas, across the connection, congregations have disproportionate access to resources and opportunities for support; and,

Whereas, within the connectional system we have a responsibility to support each other across district boundaries, however an uneven distribution of financial resources across our districts leads to differing levels of support for clergy leave based solely on geography; and,

Whereas, paid parental leave builds necessary bonds between parents and children for healthy thriving relationships; and

Whereas, our conference has consistently made decisions based on the welfare of children, and the children of our clergy are part of our baptismal covenant where we promise to “nurture these children in Christ’s holy Church” and “surround these persons with a community of love”; and,

Whereas, supporting our clergy families across the connection enables us to live up to our calling to welcome all generations as Christ welcomes children (Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:15, Luke 18:16); therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Conference:

1. Expand the clergy parental leave policy to allow all clergy under appointment who apply for parental leave to have their compensation maintained for the full one quarter of year of leave.
2. Establish a fund that provides at least \$1,000 for each clergy member granted parental leave to assist with the arrangement of pastoral responsibilities of the church or churches involved (pulpit supply, leadership, and pastoral care coverage) per leave request.
3. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration will determine the most appropriate source of funding.
4. Encourage local churches to offer a corresponding parental leave policy for their lay employees.

Submitted by: Rev. John Bryant, Rev. Kathy Randall Bryant, Rev. Jessica Dayson, and Rev. Sarah Howell-Miller

Encouraging Leadership with Integrity

Petition 17 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and,

Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ’s church at heart, and,

Whereas, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and,

Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and,

Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church, and,

Whereas, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of leading with integrity was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church; and, be it further

Resolved, that, as we continue this period of transition the Western North Carolina Annual Conference calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference asks all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders; and, be it further

Resolved, that we encourage the Western North Carolina Conference Board of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

Submitted by: Rev. Veranita Alvord, Emma Austin, Rev. Sarah Belles, Erin Betlej, Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, Rev. Ben Carson, and

Rev. Amy L. Coles	Lynne Gilbert	Tom Jordan	Helen Ryde
Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley	Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand	Rev. Uiyeon Kim	Rev. Josh Sherfey
Jennifer Pharr Davis	Havaleh Havelka	Tonya Lanier	Matt Sink
Rev. Darryl Dayson	Sandy Hieronymus	Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee	Rev. Julia Trantham Heckert
Amy Devore	Rev. David Hockett	Linda Linfors	Rev. Jeremy Troxler
Rev. Carter Ellis	Rev. Dr. James C. Howell	Dana Lyles	Rev. Shelly Webb
Rev. Lynda Ferguson	Rev. Lory Beth Huffman	Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore, Jr.	Caroline Wood
Kathy FitzJefferies	Amy Johnson	Rev. Sally M Queen	Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

Voting at Church Conferences

Petition 18 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, paragraph 248 of the *Discipline* provides for the Church Conference setting “to encourage broader participation by members of the church”, the Church Conference extends the vote to “all professing members of the local church present at such meetings;” and,

Whereas, the purpose of these occasional decision-making settings is to give the full membership of the church a voice in matters of supreme importance to the whole congregation – like sale and acquisition of property, the encumbrance of debt and, in the past 3 years, disaffiliation from the denomination; and,

Whereas, in the last few years, the unrestricted scope of voting members of a Church Conference has been misused against its purpose of integrity to give all active members a voice in decisions involving their congregation. The broad term “all professing members” (meaning all names on the membership role) has been used as an open door for people who are inactive in every way to be recruited to be full participants in determining critical decisions of the church. Recruiting people to come vote at Church Conference has been a legal – though not honorable—way for inactive people to, in many cases, actually determine the vote of a church and over-ride the votes of those members who are active and faithful to their membership vows. When churches have not reached out to inactive members or kept the membership rolls current through the *Discipline*’s provision of reading inactive names for 3 years to remove them, the names of these inactive members—many of them completely inactive for decades—stay on the roll and, when there is an upcoming Church Conference have full eligibility to vote. Without any amending the current provisions for voting at the Church Conference, long inactive members become a pool of potential voters. Without another option for eligibility for the Church Conference vote, these inactive members are fully eligible to vote at a Church Conference when they have shown no other signs of participation or support of the church. The practice of recruiting inactive members to vote has become a manipulation of the inclusive intent of the Disciplinary provision and a weapon to draw uninvolved people into the church’s decision; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, meeting at Lake Junaluska June 16-18, 2023 send the following amendment to the 2024 General Conference for ¶248: **The Church Conference**. (The amendment by addition is in bold):

To encourage the broadest possible participation of active members of the church, the charge conference may be convened as the church conference, extending the vote to all professing members of the local church present at church meetings.

The vote of the Church Conference shall be extended to any and every member who has shown evidence of faithfulness to the membership vows for which there are quantifiable measures: attendance (presence), financial support (gifts) and acts of service in and through the church. (The membership vows of prayers and witness are important but impossible to quantify).

For integrity of the vote, at the prospect of a Church Conference, each Administrative Council (or equivalent governing group) shall determine the baseline standards for the three quantifiable categories of membership vows (presence, gifts, and service) and name a group of no fewer than 3 people to develop a list of eligible voters for the Church Conference.

The minimum standards for voting which a church establishes shall be approved by the church’s governing body and well publicized ahead of the church conference. Once the membership list of eligible professing members is developed, any member(s), upon request, shall have access to the list to clarify their eligibility and have a chance to appeal to the church-appointed eligibility committee. The list of eligible members to vote at a Church Conference shall be finalized at least one week prior to the Church Conference. Professing members eligible to vote at a Church Conference shall have some evidence of fidelity to the quantifiable membership vows at least within the 5-year period prior to the announcement of the church conference.

The amount of financial giving to a church shall continue to be kept strictly confidential. When the financial baseline standard for a church is set by the Administrative Council (or equivalent governing group) and a Church Conference eligibility list developed, the Financial Secretary shall confidentially review said list to be sure the names of everyone on the list meet the church's standard and to ensure that no member who meets the giving threshold has been omitted.

This provision does not change the membership status of any member. It only changes the eligibility of members to vote at a Church Conference to those who have some measurable signs of faithfulness to their membership vows.

Submitted by: Dr. Mary John Dye, Rev. Duke Ison, Rev. Frank Stith III, and Rev. Michelle Chappell

In Support of Creating a U.S. Regional Conference

Petition 19 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and,

Whereas, the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and,

Whereas, the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be re-envisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church governance; and,

Whereas, the Apostle Paul offered a beautiful example making clear the value of a church established in diverse places with shared beliefs, alongside local and regional differences in structure, worship, and style best suited to particular contexts; and,

Whereas, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the *Christmas Covenant*, developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church; and,

Whereas, the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by *the Connectional Table* will establish the governance necessary to allow each region to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and,

Whereas, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church, and,

Whereas, in November of 2022, and in historic fashion, a resolution in support of a U.S. Regional Conference was adopted at all five Jurisdictional Conferences; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and, be it further

Resolved, that in line with the intent of the non-disciplinary petition submitted by the Connectional Table, the Western North Carolina Annual Conference requests the Council of Bishops to immediately appoint a 20-25 member Interim Committee on Organization for a US Regional Conference to develop and propose to the 2024 general conference the structure and organization of a US Regional Conference. In line with the CT's legislation, this body would organize and plan for the establishment and functioning of a new United States Regional Conference comprising the five jurisdictions of the United States. Committee membership should have a minimum of 3 members of each US jurisdiction, 3 central conference members and shall meet standards of racial and gender diversity. The Committee should recommend a structure for the US Regional Conference including considerations such as its membership, committee structure, meeting time, agency, and function; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference secretary and communications office shall send copies of this resolution to the Commission on General Conference and the Council of Bishops; as well as, include the action in the Annual Conference report to the denomination and issue a press release to UMNS.

Submitted by: Rev. Veranita Alvord, Emma Austin, Rev. Sarah Belles, Erin Betlej, Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, Rev. Ben Carson, and

Rev. Amy L. Coles

Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley

Jennifer Pharr Davis

Rev. Darryl Dayson

Amy Devore

Rev. Carter Ellis

Rev. Lynda Ferguson

Kathy FitzJefferies

Lynne Gilbert

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand

Havaleh Havelka

Sandy Hieronymus

Rev. David Hockett

Rev. Dr. James C. Howell

Rev. Lory Beth Huffman

Amy Johnson

Tom Jordan

Rev. Uiyeon Kim

Tonya Lanier

Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee

Linda Linfors

Dana Lyles

Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore, Jr.

Rev. Sally M Queen

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley

Helen Ryde

Rev. Josh Sherfey

Matt Sink

Rev. Julia Trantham Heckert

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

Rev. Shelly Webb

Caroline Wood

Removal of Discriminatory Language**Petition 20** (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC is a testament to a more complete image of God, which includes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and,

Whereas, a more diverse and fully welcoming UMC allows all United Methodists to offer their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, as followers of Jesus, to further Christ's mission, and,

Whereas, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God calls and includes all persons into the life and leadership of the Church, transcending the limitations of human categorization, and,

Whereas, the current language in *The Book of Discipline* places limits on Christ's teaching and example of God's universal love, and,

Whereas, the current language in *The Book of Discipline* falls short of embodying the spirit of John Wesley's simple rules to do no harm, do all the good we can, and love God, and,

Whereas, legislative changes to *The Book of Discipline* would reduce barriers and allow movement toward wider diversity and inclusion in our United Methodist Church; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference supports the removal of all discriminatory policies and harmful language related to sexual orientation, and urges delegates to adopt the following petitions; petitions already submitted and that will be before the voting body of the next General Conference:

Petition No: 20730-CB-¶161-G | Entitled: Revised Social Principles-161 and 162 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 208*

Summary: Removes the statement that affirms marriage as only between "one man and one woman." Removes the statement that only affirms "heterosexual" marriage. Removes, "The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Petition No: 20177-FO-¶304.3 | Entitled: A Simple Plan #3 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 624*

Summary: Removes ¶304.3 which states, "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church." Also removes the corresponding footnote stating that "self-avowed practicing homosexual is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual."

Petition No: 20469-OM-¶341.6 | Entitled: A Simple Plan #5 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1041*

Summary: Removes ¶341.6, which states (under unauthorized conduct), "ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

Petition No: 20181-FA-¶613-G | Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 6 of 8 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 504*

Summary: Removes ¶613.19, which prohibits annual conferences from giving "United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality . . ."

Petition No: 20190-FA-¶806-G | Entitled: A Fully Inclusive Way Forward-Part 7 of 8 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 1, Page 508*

Summary: Removes ¶806.9, which tasks GCFA with "ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council gives United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group . . ."

Petition No: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G | Entitled: Next Generation UMC #11—Amend Episcopal Responsibilities | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 977*

Summary: Removes statements prohibiting bishops from commissioning, ordaining, or consecrating persons determined to be "self-avowed practicing homosexuals."

Petition No: 20387-JA-¶2711.3-G | Entitled: Next Generation UMC #22—Penalties | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 933*

Summary: Removes predetermined, mandatory minimum penalties for clergy who officiate same sex weddings.

Petition Number: 20365-JA-¶2702.1-G | Entitled: Next Generation UMC #21 - Chargeable Offenses | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 924*

Summary: Removes chargeable offenses that target "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" and clergy who conduct same-sex weddings.

Petition No: 20420-OM-¶310.2d-G | Entitled: A Simple Plan #4 | *ADCA Vol 2, Sec 2, Page 1022*

Summary: Removes statements from Footnote 3 that repeat phrases being removed from other paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline*; and be it further

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference secretary and communications office shall send copies of this resolution to the Commission on General Conference and the Council of Bishops; as well as, include the action in the Annual Conference report to the denomination and issue a press release to UMNS.

Submitted by: Rev. Veranita Alvord, Emma Austin, Rev. Sarah Belles, Erin Betlej, Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, Rev. Ben Carson, and

Rev. Amy L. Coles	Lynne Gilbert	Tom Jordan	Helen Ryde
Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley	Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand	Rev. Uiyeon Kim	Rev. Josh Sherfey
Jennifer Pharr Davis	Havaleh Havelka	Tonya Lanier	Matt Sink
Rev. Darryl Dayson	Sandy Hieronymus	Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee	Rev. Julia Trantham Heckert
Amy Devore	Rev. David Hockett	Linda Linfors	Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Rev. Carter Ellis	Rev. Dr. James C. Howell	Dana Lyles	Rev. Jeremy Troxler
Rev. Lynda Ferguson	Rev. Lory Beth Huffman	Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore, Jr.	Rev. Shelly Webb
Kathy FitzJefferies	Amy Johnson	Rev. Sally M Queen	Caroline Wood

Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People

Petition 21 (Approved June 17, 2023)

Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences; and,

Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings; and,

Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,² by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and,

Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God; and, Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, 46 queer General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates from across all five jurisdictions wrote the original resolution which was historically adopted at all five jurisdictional conferences in November 2022; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, within and beyond our local churches, districts, departments, centers, and committees;
2. Until changes can be made in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*, implores our Annual Conference to resolve in a timely fashion through a process of just resolution any complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or the officiating of weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;
3. Aspires to become a United Methodist Church in which LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout our life, mission, and ministry together;
4. Commits itself to protecting, affirming, and empowering LGBTQIA+ people within the life and ministry of the churches of our Conference, particularly as Laity and on boards and agencies;
5. Requests the Bishop and Cabinet to form a conference-level LGBTQIA+ Ministries Team consisting of Laity and Clergy, tasked with creating/collecting/sharing resources to equip and empower local churches to do ministry to and with people of the LGBTQIA+ community. This team should collaborate with other ministry-specific areas, particularly Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Campus Ministry in order to most effectively and safely minister to and with LGBTQIA+ people of all ages.

Submitted by: Rev. Veranita Alvord, Emma Austin, Rev. Sarah Belles, Erin Betlej, Rev. Dr. John S. Boggs, Rev. Ben Carson, and

Rev. Amy L. Coles	Lynne Gilbert	Tom Jordan	Helen Ryde
Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley	Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand	Rev. Uiyeon Kim	Rev. Josh Sherfey
Jennifer Pharr Davis	Havaleh Havelka	Tonya Lanier	Matt Sink
Rev. Darryl Dayson	Sandy Hieronymus	Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee	Rev. Julia Trantham Heckert
Amy Devore	Rev. David Hockett	Linda Linfors	Rev. Jeremy Troxler
Rev. Carter Ellis	Rev. Dr. James C. Howell	Dana Lyles	Rev. Shelly Webb
Rev. Lynda Ferguson	Rev. Lory Beth Huffman	Rev. Sally M Queen	Caroline Wood
Kathy FitzJefferies	Amy Johnson	Rev. Dr. Samuel Moore Jr.	

1. The queer delegates chose to describe themselves using the umbrella term "queer," but refer to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

2. "Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop's supervisory response, suspension proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of Discipline violation asserted in the complaint is that the respondent is a 'self-avowed practicing homosexual' (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted, officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or appointed a 'self-avowed practicing homosexual'; that the respondent has provided 'funds to any gay caucus or group' or used funds 'to promote the acceptance of homosexuality'; or that the respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church currently states is 'incompatible with Christian teaching' as it pertains to LGBTQ relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶2702.1b, but also to any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) 'immorality' under ¶2702.1a; 'disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church' under ¶2702.1d; and 'dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church' under ¶2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following paragraphs: ¶161, ¶304.3, ¶310.2, ¶341.6, ¶613.19, ¶806.9, and ¶2702.1b. This moratorium does not apply to charges under any of these provisions in which the underlying alleged actions address a different subject matter, including but not limited to sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the close of the first General Conference of The United Methodist Church after other denominations separate. Any complaints pertaining to this paragraph filed during this period shall be held in abeyance, and no time limits shall commence until the above-referenced General Conference has concluded." -From the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation

F. CERTIFICATE OF COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION

This is to certify that at a service of commissioning held on Saturday evening, June 17, 2023, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I, Ken Carter Jr., a bishop in The United Methodist Church did

Commission for ministry in The United Methodist Church under The Book of Discipline (2016) as provisional members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference:

Steven Greg Bergkamp, Timothy Edward Fitzgerald, Noah Stephen Glover, Amy Dawn Lambert, Jacob Atlas Lancaster, Lisa Diana Moore, William Blake Smarr, Jason Earl Berryman Smith, Rachel Marie Styers, and Scott Andrew Taylor.

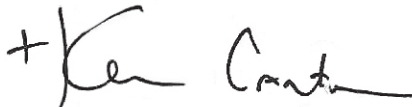
This is further to certify that at a service of ordination held on Saturday evening, June 17, 2023, in George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, I did

Ordain to the Order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church:

Emily Laine Miles, Katherine Elise Sherrill; and

Ordain to the Order of Elder in The United Methodist Church:

Arthur Cade Barefoot, Andrew Dixon Baten, Bahekelwa Soph Imatha, Caitlin Murray McAlhany, Nina Dawn Miller, Taylor Nicole Pryde Barefoot, and Nathan Scott Webb.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Carter" with a cross symbol to the left of the name.

Bishop