

PETITION TO THE 2018 ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: Consideration of a Plan to Continue the Process of a Union of the Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences into a new Mountain Sky Conference

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 Whereas the 2016 Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church approved the recommendation from the
2 Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences to “realign the boundaries of the Yellowstone and Rocky
3 Mountain Annual Conferences to form one, new Annual Conference, *following, and contingent upon, the full*
4 *discernment and agreement of the two participating conferences*”(italics added),
5 Therefore be it resolved that the process of discernment be continued until a financial impact report of the union of the
6 Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences to our local churches can be presented to the two Annual Conference
7 bodies of 2020.

PETITION DETAILS

This petition is a

- Binding Action
 Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date: Immediately

Termination Date: After the financial impact report is presentation
to the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences in 2020

Does this petition modify the Annual Conference Standing Rules and Operational Procedures (SROP)?

- Yes
 No

If “Yes,” please complete the information below.

- This petition will modify Section x.x.x
 This petition will create a new Section x.x.x

Conference Agency responsible for implementation and termination review:

NOTE: All paragraph numberings within the SROP and the final designation of the Conference Agency responsible for implementation and termination review are subject to review by the Rules Committee.

ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church, or organization):

Name Jeffrey R Babb
Address 3969 W. Grambling Drive
City, State, Zip Denver CO 80236
Email babbjk@msn.com
Phone 303-815-9268

PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

NOTE: The Presenter is asked to attend the Legislative Process training session prior to the opening of Annual Conference Session. All information below must be completed with petition. A person may present only one petition.

Name Jeffrey Babb
Address 3969 W. Grambling Drive
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Phone 303-815-9268
Phone @ Conference 303-815-9268

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any identifiable financial impact to the Conference?

Yes

No

If "Yes," please fill in the information below.

To Be Completed by the Originator of the Petition

Cost: \$

Period

One Time

One Year

Multiple Years

To Be Completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA)

Review by CFA mm/dd/yyyy

Included in proposed 2019 budget

Yes

No

Amount if included \$

May be considered for budgets in future years

Yes

No

Projected Amount \$

Recommendation by CFA concerning funding

Reason for recommendation

RATIONALE (Not debatable):

1 The General Council on Finance and Administration report on the “Historical Effects of UMC Annual Conference
2 Mergers” dated May 23, 2014, concluded that the decline of membership and number of churches continued after
3 mergers and that in most cases the cost savings of the unification was only temporary (page 1). At this time, as
4 separate conferences, we are sharing resources of staff, clergy, Cabinet, planning, missions and management, along
5 with the relocation of the Yellowstone Conference Office into the Rocky Mountain Conference office. Any additional
6 economic savings would be minimal at best.

7 The history of mergers has not proven advantageous for the culture and norms of the minority groups, as in the 1968
8 merger of the E.U.B. and Methodist Church. The uniqueness of past histories is soon overcome by the larger group.
9 All considerations should be undertaken when such a large geographical merger is voted on.

10 By Discipline, there will be an Annual Conference held each year, as well as a Clergy Session. Financially, we will
11 need to meet where the greatest density of church members reside, thus cutting the cost of housing and transportation.
12 The Denver/Front Range area has the greatest density, the most hotels and meeting spaces and an international airport.
13 There are already 106 United Methodist Churches within an hour and a half drive from Denver, plus the Conference
14 office and staff, those appointed beyond the local church and the retirees. This will cause an increased burden of travel
15 time and housing for our smaller and more distant churches to travel to Denver.

16 Population growth along the Front Range of Colorado is projected to increase by three million people in the next 30
17 years (*Denver Post* 2017/11/07). The financial focus of resources for church growth, logically, would need to be in
18 area of greatest population growth.

19 The Mission Shaped Future strives to reduce structure size with a new governing “Round Table” which would have to
20 contend with the needs of a four-state area, with large geographical and cultural differences. These four states have a
21 combined area that exceeds the size of two California placed side by side! However, the organizational goal of the
22 new Mission Shaped Future is to focus resources on to the Local Church and its circuit/district and thus reducing the
23 number of standing committees into task/goal-based groups. With a larger Annual Conference, the voices of the
24 individual and of laity assigned to conference committees will obviously be diminished.

25 Ecologically, the more travel that is required to attend any meetings increases our carbon footprint. As stewards of
26 God’s creation we are called to protect the earth for generations to come. A merger of this size needs to count the costs
27 and benefits to the people of the Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences as well as its environmental impact.

28 We need to see hard numbers on what a merger of the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences will do for our
29 Local Churches. Will insurance, property and health or the cost of pensions and salaries go up with the union? The
30 discernment of such a monumental undertaking of uniting two of the largest geographical Conferences in the United
31 States into a mega Conference could have drastic economic, environmental and cultural consequences.

32 The hard work of the Mission Shaped Future Team is appreciated and can be put to good use. Both the Rocky
33 Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences can benefit individually from the time, expense and resources
34 invested in this work and product of the team’s efforts over the past quadrennium. Their recommendations for the
35 most part could have been the same as that of the Imagine Team, had that team been allowed to conclude its work.

Title: Consideration of a Plan to Continue the Process of Union

Petition Number: RMC-16 / YAC-16

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Posted to Web: 05/18/18

Assigned to: Plenary

ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)