

**PETITION
to the
2019 MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE**

NOTE

**This petition requires both
a 2/3 vote for consideration (MSC Session Rules D.5.b) and
an 80% vote for adoption (MSC Session Rules B.5)**

TITLE: Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdiction Conference

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Mountain Sky Conference asks the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to call a special session of the
2 Western Jurisdiction Conference for the following purpose:

- 3 1) To prayerfully consider how we can most faithfully continue to be a home for all God's people, gathered
4 around a table of reconciliation and transformation in the light of the recommendations of the Commission on
5 the Way Forward, and
- 6 2) To consider and develop a process for separation from The United Methodist Church, while defining ourselves
7 clearly, in order to be able to continue to function as one church in our Jurisdiction.

8 The Mountain Sky Conference urges the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to appoint a special planning team
9 that will

- 10 1) Consider creative ways of minimizing the cost of a specially called session, and
- 11 2) Find creative sources of funding for a specially called session.

12 We urge immediate action so that the beginnings of a Jurisdictional plan can be in place prior to the 2020 General
13 Conference.

14

RATIONALE (Not debatable):

1 The Commission on a Way Forward brought forward a proposal called the "One Church Plan" which the majority of
2 the Council of Bishops and the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops endorsed prior to the specially called session
3 of the General Conference in 2019. That plan was not passed, and instead a punitive, and even more discriminatory
4 plan was passed that significantly changed the identity and working theology of The United Methodist Church.

5 The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church has long affirmed that God is calling it to be:

6 a home for all God's people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation. The Western
7 Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is multicultural and inclusive, engaged in the life of its communities,
8 with confident, effective lay and clergy leadership who, in diverse ministry settings, form disciples who live out
9 the Good News of Jesus as global citizens. ("2020: Our Emerging Vision");

10 The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops has declared in its response to Judicial Council decision 1341:

11 We the people called United Methodist in the Western Jurisdiction witness daily the gifts and reflections
12 of God's grace in LGBTQ persons who faithfully serve among us as lay leaders, pastors, district
13 superintendents, and now, as a bishop.

14 Our experience informs how we do ministry together, how Boards of Ordained Ministry approach their
15 work, and how we carry out our episcopal duties.

16 Our life together in Jesus Christ has been enriched by the fullness of their presence and participation. We
17 recognize that we in the church have differing views of what full inclusion means. Even in the West we
18 are not of one mind. Nevertheless, we believe Christ calls us to live and serve together as one even in our
19 differences.

20 Our Christian experience teaches us that God's love is wide enough for all of us.

21 It is not always easy for us to hold relationship with those whose understandings differ from us, but John
22 Wesley encourages us to remember: "We don't have to think alike to love alike."

23 There is much work to be done before we the church are able to love as Jesus has loved us.

24 We in the Western Jurisdiction will continue to be a home for all God's beloved as we strive to be faithful
25 disciples of Jesus the Christ

26 The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops, in its response to Judicial Council Decision 1378 in a document dated
27 April 26, 2019, entitled "A Home For All God's People" has declared that

28 ... the intent of the Western Jurisdiction remains the same as was stated on the floor of General
29 Conference 2019: to live in the spirit of "One Church." ... In the wake of the Judicial Council decisions,
30 we continue our commitment to live into Beloved Community as one church in each of the conferences
31 of the Western Jurisdiction. ...

32 We, your bishops, are prayerfully in conversation in many places, with many individuals and groups
33 about your hopes and your vision for being Church in this challenging time. We remain committed to
34 ministry as one church for all and we ask for your prayers for the church and for the future of the love and
35 grace as we travel this road together, not knowing where it will lead us, yet, but confident in God's
36 presence with us.

37 ¶521.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2016* gives the College of Bishops the authority by two-thirds vote "to call a special
38 session of the Jurisdictional Conference when necessary."

39

EVALUATION (Not debatable):

1 This petition will be successful when a special Western Jurisdiction Conference is called.

2

ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)

PETITION DETAILS

This petition is a

Binding Action

Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date: June 17, 2019

Termination Date: April 30, 2020

PETITION ADVOCATE

Name: Ben Roe
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Email:
Phone:
Phone @ Conference:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Will there be any identifiable financial impact to the Conference?

Yes

No

If "Yes," please complete the information below.

To Be Completed by the Originator of the Petition

Cost: \$

Over what span of time (check one):

One Time

One Year

Multiple Years

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

Review by CFA on: mm/dd/yyyy

Included in proposed 2019 budget?

Yes

No

Amount if included \$

May be considered for budgets in future years?

Yes

No

Projected Total Amount \$

Recommendation by CFA concerning funding

Reason for recommendation