
REPORT OF THE MISSION SHAPED FUTURE ASSETS, PROPERTY, AND LEGAL WORKING TEAM

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSETS, PROPERTY, AND LEGAL WORKING TEAM

The goal of the Mission Shaped Future process is to create a new Mountain Sky Conference that will re-ignite a Christian movement that begins with grace, offers abundant life, and reclaims the life-changing love of Jesus Christ for all people.

The responsibility of the Assets, Property, and Legal Working Team is to develop a Plan of Union which will bring together the assets, properties, and legal functions of both the Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain Conferences to ensure that resources and relationships are aligned toward the mission of the new conference.

The members of the APL Working Team include the chairpersons of the Conference Boards of Trustees: Neena Hagans and James Barth; Conference Councils on Finance and Administration: Kirsten Barlow and Morie Adams-Griffin; Conference Chancellors: Rich Marsh and David Nielsen; Conference Treasurers: Noreen Keleshian and Anita Saas; and Mission Shaped Future Guiding Team members: Philip Cardin, Janet Forbes, and David Burt.

THE PLAN OF UNION FOR THE NEW MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

In collaboration with Bishop Karen Oliveto, the Mission Shaped Future Guiding Team, and the Joint Annual Conference Planning Team, the Conference Chancellors are framing a Plan of Union for a new legal and ecclesiastical entity, the Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church. The Plan of Union document will be shared with every member of both the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone annual conferences prior to the gathering in Ogden, Utah, June 7-10, 2018. Based on the mission, values, resources, and timelines of the Mission Shaped Future research, the Plan of Union will be presented for adoption by both conferences.

INCORPORATION: In order to secure the name of the new corporation (Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church) through the deliberation and voting processes in Ogden, the chancellors have filed a reservation of this trade name with the Colorado Secretary of State.

GUIDELINES FOR OUR LIFE TOGETHER: The chancellors have also met with a Joint Rules Committee with representatives from both the Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain conferences to propose guiding rules and parliamentary practices for coming together. The Joint Annual Conference Session Planning Team will host a ZOOM Town Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 to review the Annual Conference schedule and process at the Eccles Conference Center in Ogden, Utah, June 7-10.

RELATIONSHIPS: The Assets, Property, and Legal (APL) Team has identified entities which are affiliated with each conference – such as camps, institutions of higher education, medical facilities, foundations, and social agencies – and provided for their amenability to a new conference. A listing of these entities will be included as an attachment in the Plan of Union.

TRANSPARENCY: The APL Team, in collaboration with the Conference Boards of Trustees, is identifying all corporate assets and liabilities. These include:

- Assets owned by the Rocky Mountain or Yellowstone conferences, including camps and retreat centers and residences
- Restricted assets, designated assets, and endowed funds held by the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone conferences
- Major liabilities or obligations of the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone conferences
- Closed churches and other properties
- Pending or known claims and litigation

The Plan of Union will provide for the assignment of assets from the Rocky Mountain Conference and the Yellowstone Conference, respectively, to the new Mountain Sky Conference, and the Mountain Sky Conference's assumption of liabilities of both legacy conferences. The pension and health plans will remain in place with both legacy conferences until January 2020.

ELECTION OF A NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A new 12-member Board of Trustees will be nominated and elected in the Plan of Union to serve as the directors of the new corporation and the trustees of the new annual conference. The Joint Nominations Committee has received a list of potential nominees from the two existing Boards of Trustees with the hope of allocating members over the next quadrennium to proportionally represent membership in each of our states.

PENSION BENEFITS AND RELATED ASSETS: ELECTION OF THE JOINT DISTRIBUTING COMMITTEE

Under ¶1509 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, The Assets, Property, and Legal Team has identified three members and three alternates from the Rocky Mountain Conference and the Yellowstone Conference who are knowledgeable in pension and health benefits to serve on a Joint Distributing Committee. The Rocky Mountain Conference and Yellowstone Conference Nominations Committees have approved the three members from each conference. This Committee is convened by the General Secretary of Wespeth Benefits and Investments (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) and will work with Wespeth to manage and provide for the orderly consolidation of pension and health assets and liabilities. This group will work for at least 18 months until we have a new conference pension plan in 2020.

Rocky Mountain Conference JDC Members: Kim James, Kay Marsh, Sandy Towns

Yellowstone Conference JDC Members: Pam Dandrea, Doug Morton, Phil Brooks

STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY

At the recommendation of John Wimberly, consultant to the Mission Shaped Future process (full report available at www.mtnskyumc.org/missionshapedfuture), Bishop Karen Oliveto and the new Conference Board of Trustees may explore the possibility of moving the Mountain Sky Conference office to a location that would be more strategic in achieving our mission as the Mountain Sky Conference.

PROPERTY INSURANCE: Both conferences have authorized Church Mutual Insurance Company to propose a property and liability insurance plan for a new conference, with property coverage tiered by size of church. Church Mutual is the RMC conference-wide provider. Approximately 80 of the YAC churches have their policies with Church Mutual through a broker; but there is currently no conference-wide plan.

The Assets, Property, and Legal Team favors the possibility of churches keeping their property insurance plans in a time of transition. Then, the new Mountain Sky Conference Board of Trustees would plan to present a conference-wide, tiered plan at a future date due to the need for communication with all stakeholders.

A PLAN FOR FUNDING THE NEW CONFERENCE

Both the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conference Councils on Finance and Administration are preparing 2019 budgets for the current conferences. In collaboration with those efforts, a Joint Interim Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is preparing a 2019 budget for the new Mountain Sky Conference. The Joint Interim CFA met again on Wednesday, May 2. The proposed budget for the new conference will be available to members of both conferences prior to the sessions in Ogden.

APPORTIONMENT/MISSION SHARES FORMULA: We are recommending that the new Mountain Sky Conference apportion its churches using the church income-based connectional giving model currently used by the Rocky Mountain Conference.

STAFFING: Plans for staffing the new Mountain Sky Conference were announced through the Conference Organization Team (www.mtnskyumc.org/missionshapedfuture) and Mountain Sky Area Episcopal Office. Funding for the new staffing plan will be included in the proposed 2019 budget of the new Mountain Sky Conference.

A Personnel Policies and Practices Committee to address compensation, housing allowances and employment practices for conference staff – clergy and lay employees – is included in the new structure through the auspices of the Council on Finance and Administration as a part of the Responsible Stewardship Committee. This committee will submit the yearly recommendation for compensation to executive leadership.

ONGOING WORK

The new Conference Rules Committee will review standing rules and guiding policies of both legacy conferences and bring proposed standing rules and guiding policies to 2019 Annual Conference.

JOIN THE ASSETS, PROPERTY, AND LEGAL TEAM IN A TOWN HALL

You are invited to join the Assets, Property, and Legal Team members in an online town hall on Tuesday, May 15 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. There will be more information on the Plan of Union and budgetary documents at that time.