

**PETITION
to the
2021 MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE**

TITLE: Resolution in Support of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the 2019 special General Conference, The United Methodist Church has
2 been in conflict over the passage of the “Traditional Plan,” with some constituencies within the Church
3 lauding its passage and others lamenting it, and
4

5 WHEREAS, the irreconcilable differences between constituencies in The United Methodist Church has
6 created a stalemate leading to further declines in church membership, financial support, and mission
7 vitality, and
8

9 WHEREAS, a diverse group of United Methodists representing these various constituencies were called
10 together by Bishop John Yambasu to a mediation led by attorney Kenneth Feinberg, leading to a negotiated
11 agreement known as the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation (hereafter known as the
12 “Protocol”) which proposes an orderly process for amicable separation, and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Protocol has been endorsed by seven major advocacy groups representing different sides
15 of the conflict, including Reconciling Ministries Network, UMCNext, Mainstream UMC, Uniting
16 Methodists, The Confessing Movement, Good News, and the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and
17

18 WHEREAS, the members of the negotiating team included eight active Bishops of the United Methodist
19 Church, including Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, the current President of the Council of Bishops, and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Protocol legislation has been submitted to the Commission on General Conference by
22 several annual conferences pursuant to ¶ 507 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
23

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountain Sky Annual Conference hereby supports and
25 urges the passage of the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation when said legislation
26 comes before the next regularly scheduled General Conference session, or before a special called General
27 Conference session.

RATIONALE (Not debatable):

1 The irreconcilable differences in the United Methodist Church have led to an impasse that has been
2 harmful to people on all sides. Other Protestant denominations facing similar differences and separation
3 have engaged in the rancorous process of costly litigation over property and assets, further damaging the
4 Church’s witness in the world. The Protocol provides a way for the United Methodist Church to deal with
5 our differences with integrity while enabling us to bless one another to live out our different visions of
6 ministry. The passage of the Protocol would allow for the Mountain Sky Annual Conference to fully live
7 out its vision while allowing those who do not share that vision to depart amicably with their property and

8 assets. This resolution, while not binding, thus indicates the Mountain Sky Conference's support for the
9 plan of separation negotiated by a diverse group of United Methodist leaders.

EVALUATION (Not debatable):

1 Passage of this resolution will indicate the Mountain Sky Conference's position on the Protocol to the rest
2 of the General Church while also informing delegates as they prepare for the next session General
3 Conference.

ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)

The full text of the Protocol legislation can be found at <https://gracethroughseparation.com/legislation>.

PETITION DETAILS

This petition is a

Binding Action

Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date:

November 1, 2021.

Termination Date:

June 30, 2025.

PETITION ADVOCATES

This person will be the contact person for the Petition before and during the annual conference session and will be responsible for overseeing the presentation of the Petition in Hearing Groups and Plenary.

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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: 09/27/2021

Included in proposed 2021 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