

**PETITION  
to the  
2021 MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: DISAFFILIATION OF BOWEN COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH pursuant to Discipline Paragraph 2553**

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

- 1 Does the Mountain Sky Annual Conference consent to the disaffiliation of Bowen Community United  
2 Methodist Church as a local church of The United Methodist Church?

**RATIONALE (Not debatable):**

1 The 2019 Special General Conference enacted new Paragraph 2553 to the Book of Discipline which sets  
2 forth a process for the disaffiliation of a local church from The United Methodist Church for reasons related  
3 to human sexuality. Paragraph 2553 authorizes the conference board of trustees to negotiate the terms of  
4 local church disaffiliation. Paragraph 2529.1(b)(3) authorizes an annual conference to consent to the local  
5 church's disaffiliation. Paragraph 2553 sets forth mandatory and discretionary terms for any such  
6 disaffiliation.

7  
8 The Conference Board of Trustees has followed all directions under Paragraph 2553. The Conference  
9 Board developed and published its template for a Disaffiliation Agreement which was patterned on a  
10 template developed by the General Council on Finance and Administration. As part of its process, the  
11 Conference Board sought the advice of the cabinet, the Conference treasurer, the Conference benefits  
12 officer, the Conference director of connectional ministries and the Conference chancellor, among others.  
13 Additionally, the Conference Board developed and published Implementation Procedures and an Outline of  
14 Steps for guidance to local churches choosing to disaffiliate under Paragraph 2553.

15  
16 Bowen Community United Methodist Church ("Bowen CUMC") requested disaffiliation from The United  
17 Methodist Church pursuant to Paragraph 2553 and complied with all the conditions precedent under  
18 Paragraph 2553. There then ensued negotiations between the Conference Board and Bowen CUMC which  
19 resulted in a Disaffiliation Agreement and related Exhibits authorized by the Conference Board and signed  
20 by Bowen CUMC.

21  
22 Conference ministry leaders determined there was not a viable opportunity for vital United Methodist  
23 ministries in this locality. Accordingly, the Conference Board did not require payment for the release of the  
24 denominational trust interest from church property. Instead, the Conference Board and Bowen CUMC  
25 agreed to insert provisions in the quit claim deed releasing the denomination trust which place restrictions  
26 on the sale or transfer of church property after the disaffiliation process is concluded. Generally, if the  
27 property ceases to be used as a house of worship in the ten years following the effective date of  
28 disaffiliation, the Bowen Community Church or its successor in ownership of the property the owner shall

29 pay the conference a percentage of the value of the property or sales price. In all other respects, the local  
30 church has agreed to pay all other obligations imposed by Paragraph 2553, including unpaid mission shares  
31 and apportionments, unfunded retiree healthcare, and unfunded pension liabilities.  
32

33 Under Paragraph 2529.2(b)(3), the Conference must consent to the disaffiliation of Bowen CUMC as a  
34 pre-condition to disaffiliation and the annual conference must ratify the Disaffiliation Agreement by simple  
35 majority vote. There is no requirement under Paragraphs 2529.1(b)(3) and 2553 that the Disaffiliation  
36 Agreement must be published or made available to the annual conference delegates before the delegates  
37 vote on the petition consenting to Bowen CUMC's disaffiliation.  
38

39 The Conference Board requests the Mountain Sky Conference to consent to the disaffiliation of Bowen  
40 Community United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.  
41

42 One further note: the Disaffiliation Agreement recognizes the challenge to voting at the 2019 Special  
43 General Conference now pending before the Judicial Council. Both parties have agreed to proceed with  
44 disaffiliation regardless of the outcome of that challenge.

**EVALUATION (Not debatable):**

1 Following annual conference consent to disaffiliation, the Conference Board will monitor payments  
2 required under the agreement and deliver the quit claim deed releasing all property from any trust interest,  
3 as further provided in the Disaffiliation Agreement.

**ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)**

**PETITION DETAILS**

This petition is a

Binding Action

Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date:

Effective upon vote to ratify the Disaffiliation Agreement

Termination Date:

This matter terminates upon performance of all outstanding matters set forth in the Disaffiliation Agreement.

**PETITION ADVOCATE**

*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.*

Name: Chris Carr, District Superintendent  
Address: 310 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
City, State, Zip: Pueblo, CO 81003  
Email: ccarr@mtnskyumc.org  
Phone: 303-919-1886  
Phone @ Conference:

**PETITION SUPPORTERS:**

*Names of additional persons who wish to be identified in support of the Petition.*

|                                 |       |   |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| Tyler Ratzlaff, President       | Laity | Bowen Community United Methodist Church |
| Virginia Christensen, Treasurer | Laity | Bowen Community United Methodist Church |
| Donna Andrews, Secretary        | Laity | Bowen Community United Methodist Church |
| Bonnie Bonner, Trustee          | Laity | Bowen Community United Methodist Church |
| Lois Pickett, Trustee           | Laity | Bowen Community United Methodist Church |

**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 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