

PETITION
to the
2022 MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

TITLE: CLOSURE OF UNITED CHURCH OF WALSENBURG ~ WALSENBURG, COLORADO

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

- 1 BE IT RESOLVED, that
- 2 The United Church of Walsenburg – Walsenburg, CO, is declared closed, effective November 1, 2022;; and
3 that
- 4 The Mountain Sky Annual Conference Board of Trustees is directed to sell or otherwise dispose of the
5 property of the church in accordance with its customary practices regarding sales of closed churches; and
6 that,
- 7 The Conference Board of Trustees shall deposit tje net proceeds of any such sale or disposition in an
8 interest-bearing account of its choosing and under its control and management; and that,
- 9 Interest earned on amounts in the account shall be paid annually on or about July 1 to the Trinity District
10 Roundtable (or its successor) for disbursal at its discretion in furtherance of vital local church mission and
11 ministry in the southern Colorado Counties of Baca, Prowers, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Lincoln, Crowley, Bent,
12 Otero, Las Animas, Huerfano, Pueblo, Costilla, Fremont, Custer, Alamosa, Saguache, Rio Grande,
13 Conejos, and Kit Carson; and that,
- 14 The principal amounts in the account shall at all times be available to the Conference Board of Trustees for
15 uses consistent with the provisions of the 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and
16 Conference policies on the use and disposition of of closed local church property; and that,
- 17 The Conference Board of Trustees shall have the discretion, but not the obligation, to pay the Trinity
18 District Roundtable such amount or amounts from the principal in the account as the Board deems in
19 keeping with the purposes of the interest payments.

RATIONALE (Not debatable):

Organized as a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1884, what became the United Church of Walsenburg (following a merger with the Community Congregational Church in 1961) held its last worship service and church conference on Sunday, March 20th, 2022. The last 14 hardy, but tired, members agreed unanimously to close the doors after well over a century of faithful service to God and their community. Their decision, not made lightly, was the culmination of several years of discernment. The congregation has been effectively closed since that date, pending formal dissolution by this 2022 Annual Conference. The parsonage and church facility were sold in recent years, so there was no physical property to be disposed of. In the end, the congregation made several significant gifts from the remaining general fund to local non-profit organizations, as well as to La Veta United Methodist Church.

The resolution above incorporates the congregation’s desire that proceeds from the investment of funds obtained through the sale of the parsonage and church building be utilized in support of ministry in the southern part of Colorado. The congregation recognized that the principal should be held and disbursed by the MSC Trustees according to policies adopted by the Annual Conference in recent years. Namely, the support of new ministries in the conference. And yet, they also desired specifically to leave a legacy in the region they so love. The nature of

Annual Conference legislation, and United Methodist polity, is to continue perfecting our policies and practices. This request by the people of the United Church of Walsenburg is offered in that spirit.

EVALUATION (Not debatable):

How will we know when the Mountain Sky Conference has done this?

Following annual conference ratification of this closure, the Conference Board of Trustees will execute and monitor steps necessary to finalize the closure of the United Church of Walsenburg and the disposition of assets, and report back to the Annual Conference at its 2023 session.

ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)

PETITION DETAILS

This petition is a

Binding Action
 Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date:

Effective upon vote to ratify the closure

Termination Date:

This matter terminates upon performance of all outstanding matters set forth in the closure process.

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

Yes
 No

Conference Agency responsible for implementation and termination review: **Conference Trustees**

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: Rev. Chris Carr, Trinity District Superintendent
Address: P.O. Box 462200
City, State, Zip: Centennial, CO 80046
Email: ccarr@mtnskyumc.org
Phone: 303-919-1886

PETITION SUPPORTERS:

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

None, as remaining congregation members transferred to La Veta UMC

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: 09/30/2022

Included in proposed 2023 budget?

Yes
 No

Amount if included \$

May be considered for budgets in future years?

Yes
 No

Projected Total Amount \$

Recommendation by CFA concerning funding: Note that the petition deviates from Annual Conference policy regarding distribution of funds from church closures.

Reason for recommendation