

PETITION
to the
2022 MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

TITLE: AN INVITATION TO GRACE-FILLED MINISTRY

ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:

1 The Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church formally extends an open invitation to
2 those Florida Annual Conference candidates for commissioning who were denied the opportunity to live
3 out their calling by actions of the clergy session of that Annual Conference, to find hope and grace in the
4 Mountain Sky Annual Conference, with the understanding that any person who would join us, would work
5 with our Board of Ordained Ministry to find solutions to honor their calls and dedication to the process.

RATIONALE (Not debatable):

1 Whereas we are a people dedicated to building a “Beloved Community”, a community that can only exist in
2 a spirit of diversity and inclusion; and Whereas we have a long-standing tradition of inclusivity and justice
3 for all of God’s children, regardless of where they may be in theological perspective, and especially for the
4 examination and support of those seeking vocational ordained ministry; and Whereas we continue to be a
5 safe harbor for all those examined to possess the gifts and grace of God’s call into ordained ministry; and
6 Whereas, the Western Jurisdiction has long provided safe harbor for those clergy who are persecuted for
7 who they are and who they love; and Whereas we have committed as an Annual Conference to support all
8 people no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity to be examined by District Committees on
9 Ministry, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and be approved by the clergy session in line with the current
10 Book of Discipline; and Whereas we believe candidates in the Florida Annual Conference have been
11 wrongly denied, through actions of hatred and bigotry, the yoke of ordained vocational ministry; and
12 Whereas we resist all forms of evil, even evil within our own denomination that has darkened the bright
13 Gospel message.

14 THEREFORE, be it resolved that we in the Mountain Sky Conference extend an open invitation to those
15 sixteen (16) provisional candidates to know they are ALL welcome here and that there is a place at the
16 table for them.

EVALUATION (Not debatable):

1 This action will be part of the permanent record of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference and encourages
2 our Board of Ordained Ministry, through the safe harbor process, to find paths for these and any candidates
3 who have been unjustly removed from the processes of ordination and ministry in their home conferences.

ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)

N/A

PETITION DETAILS

This petition is a
___ Binding Action

Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date: June 17, 2022

Termination Date: N/A

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, petitions will terminate on December 31, 2026.

PETITION ADVOCATE

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PETITION SUPPORTERS:

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

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Pastor Sam Fisher | Clergy - Grace UMC / Billings, MT |
| Pastor Ann Lantz | Clergy – UMC of Estes Park / Estes Park, CO |
| Pastor AJ Bush | Clergy - Centenary and First UMC / Salt Lake City, UT |

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 2022 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