

**RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO RECENT EVENTS
DURING THE 2021 APPOINTMENT SEASON**

WHEREAS, U. S. clergy in The United Methodist Church are appointed to serve in a charge annually with their appointments being fixed when their respective annual conferences meet in May and June of each year;

WHEREAS, ¶426 of the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church provides, “Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or district superintendent confer with the pastor and committee on pastor-parish relations.... Consultation is not merely notification.... Consultation is both a continuing process and more intense involvement during the period of a change in appointment”;

WHEREAS, ¶ 426.1 provides, “The process of consultation shall be mandatory in every annual conference”;

WHEREAS, the announcement of the proposed *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation* created an atmosphere where all parts of the UM Church could live into a season of reduced conflict and tension while they amicably prepare for the next chapter in Methodism as the UM Church restructures creating one or more new expressions of Methodism;

WHEREAS, during the 2021 appointment process, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson without consultation recently informed Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in the North Georgia Annual Conference and its senior pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jody Ray, of her intention to not appoint him to serve at Mt. Bethel, but rather to appoint him to a newly created and still evolving position on the conference staff. Neither Dr. Ray nor the church requested a change in leadership, and both the church and Dr. Ray requested reconsideration of it;

WHEREAS, during the 2021 appointment process, Bishop John Schol without consultation recently informed Bethany Korean United Methodist Church in the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and its senior pastor, Rev. James Lee, of his intention to not appoint him to serve Bethany Korean, but to serve another much smaller congregation, in spite of the objection of the church and Pastor Lee. Neither Rev. Lee nor the church requested a change in leadership, and both the church and Rev. Lee requested reconsideration of it;

WHEREAS, during the 2021 appointment process, Bishop Grant Hagiya without consultation has informed three Korean pastors in the California-Pacific Annual Conference that he will not appoint them to continue to serve their current churches without designating their new appointment, in spite of the objections of these pastors and their churches to such action; and

WHEREAS, such actions by these and other bishops are provocative and disruptive, and are targeted at pastors and churches who are theologically conservative and who have expressed their desire to align with the Global Methodist Church once the *Protocol* is adopted and the Global Methodist Church is legally formed;

WHEREAS, a pattern appears to be developing of specifically targeting Korean pastors and churches as a way of intimidating ethnic pastors and churches; and

WHEREAS, these actions do not comply with the *Book of Discipline* and are out of step with the spirit of the *Protocol*;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Global Legislative Assembly of the Wesleyan Covenant Association meeting on April 30, 2021

1. Condemns the actions of these bishops and calls upon them to reconsider each of these decisions, to reappoint these pastors to their current churches during the 2021 appointment season, and to engage in dialogue with such pastors and churches about their future ministry;
2. Calls on the Council of Bishops and each of the active bishops, during this season of awaiting the decisions of the General Conference on the *Protocol* legislation, to respect the expressions of each pastor and church concerning their desire to continue in ministry with each other in each appointment season and to refrain from changing appointments in churches where the pastor and churches are theologically aligned and wish to continue their appointed relationship;
3. Urges bishops, district superintendents, and pastors to allow and promote the full and complete sharing of information about a potential future restructuring of the UM Church due to our deep divisions as proposed in the *Protocol* without penalizing those who share such information; and
4. Urges the bishops, churches, clergy, and laity of the UM Church during this season of uncertainty and tension to maintain a spirit of peace and goodwill toward those of differing theological and ethical perspectives.