

**Memphis Annual Conference Resolution Regarding Continued Progress toward the Tennessee-Western  
Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church**

- Whereas: The Nashville Episcopal Area is comprised of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences, and
- Whereas: In 2014, the Memphis and Tennessee annual conference delegates adopted the same mission statement:
- The mission of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences is to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world one neighborhood at a time, and
- Whereas: We are committed to our mission more than to our geographic boundaries, and
- Whereas: Over the past five years, numerous areas of ministry have been aligned between the two conferences, and
- Whereas: After successful alignment efforts demonstrated increased focus, efficiency, and fruitfulness, an advisory team was identified to further pursue what benefits and challenges would be presented by formation of a new conference to include all geographic areas of the current Memphis and Tennessee conferences, and
- Whereas: In 2018, the Tennessee Annual Conference and Memphis Annual Conference sessions voted to endorse the intent to move forward with a plan to form a new conference, and
- Whereas: In 2019, the Tennessee Annual Conference and Memphis Annual Conference sessions affirmed sending a motion to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, for action at its 2020 session, requesting that the Tennessee and Memphis conferences be joined to form a new conference, and to meet as a fully unified annual conference in 2021, and
- Whereas: The 2020 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference session has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore, action on formation of the new conference has likewise been delayed, and
- Whereas: In 2019, the Tennessee Annual Conference and Memphis Annual Conference sessions endorsed a set of goals and objectives for the newly formed conference, as well as a funding plan and guiding principle plan for benefits, and
- Whereas: In accordance with the actions taken at the 2019 annual conference sessions of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences, a resolution has been submitted to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in which it will be asked to take the following action at its next session: that the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference approve realigning the boundaries of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences to form one new conference known as the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church, with boundaries coextensive with the current Tennessee and Memphis conferences, and authorizing such new conference to conduct an organizational meeting consisting of the voting membership (lay and clergy) of the Tennessee and Memphis conferences prior to commencement of the new conference, and to begin operations as a fully unified conference thereafter, all in accordance with a Plan of Union to be adopted by both conferences during their 2021 annual conference sessions; and
- Whereas: Despite the delay resulting from the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference postponement, the two conferences wish to continue to align their operations as much as possible to fulfill their jointly-held mission;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, in accordance with the actions taken at the 2019 annual conference sessions of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences, that the Connectional Table of the future Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, as well as the committees on Finance and Administration of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences, the trustees of both conferences, the newly-appointed Joint Distributing Committee, and other appropriate stakeholders continue working to develop the Plan of Union for the newly formed conference, to be considered by each annual conference at their 2021 annual conference sessions, with the goal that such Plan of Union shall govern the creation and structure of the new conference.

Be it further resolved, in accordance with the actions taken at the 2019 annual conference sessions of the Memphis and Tennessee conferences, that the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference be asked to take appropriate action at its next session in accordance with the resolution that has been submitted for its consideration, as described above.

Be it further resolved, that the Memphis Annual Conference takes the following actions in order to align the operations of the two conferences from the date of closure of annual conference 2020 until the conferences operate as one under the Plan of Union that will be presented at the 2021 annual conferences:

1. Approval of the new conference ministry structure, which is attached as an appendix to this resolution;
2. Selection of the teams required by the new conference ministry structure, as outlined in the report of the Nominations Committee;
3. Adoption of individual conference budgets, including some joint budgeting for the conferences, which shall be accomplished by separate vote;
4. Ratification of any other contracts necessary for organization and operation of the new conference;
5. Authorizing the execution of any necessary legal documents to finalize and complete the union of the two conferences;

Be it further resolved, that upon union of the two conferences after approval by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the name of the corporation currently known as Tennessee Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc., be changed to Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc.; and

Be it further resolved, that the Memphis Annual Conference approves the merger of the corporate entity called “Memphis Conference of The United Methodist Church” into the corporate entity currently known as the “Tennessee Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc.”, but to be renamed Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc., such merger to take place after approval by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and all other necessary prerequisites according to law.

Be it further resolved, that the Memphis Conference Board of Trustees shall be directed and empowered to take all necessary and appropriate steps to effectuate property transfers related to the creation of the new conference.

Submitted by:

Jim Allen  
Rev. Melinda Britt  
Larry Davis  
Rev. Jefferson Furtado  
Bethany Huffman  
Rev. Rob Martin  
Bishop Bill McAlilly  
John Pearce  
Cindy Solomon  
H. G. Stovall  
Lynn Taylor\*

\* Retired June 30, 2020