



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **UMCNext Proclaims A New Season of Ministry, Opportunity**

(Nashville, TN) -- A diverse group of leaders have delivered a [“Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace”](#) to the church that will allow the people called United Methodists to move into a new season of ministry. The “Protocol” provides, among other merits, a moratorium suspending all administrative or judicial processes against LGBTQ clergy and allies, a path to eliminating discriminatory language towards LGBTQ siblings in the Book of Discipline, and a path toward regional governance.

“This Protocol is the fruit of much prayer, discernment, and the work of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ to end the impasse around the full participation of LGBTQ+ persons and to address historic inequities experienced in The United Methodist Church,” says UMCNext Co-Convener and Mediation Team member, the Rev. Junius Dotson.

Several UMCNext Team members were engaged in this work since its beginning and offered strong representation throughout the negotiations initiated by Bishop Yambasu. We express love and appreciation to all organizations who signed this agreement and committed to act in good faith going forward.

We believe the “Protocol” helps our denomination rise above conflicts threatening the capacity of the UMC to fulfill its mission. The “Protocol” is now in the hands of the delegates of the May 2020 General Conference who alone may adopt the plan through a coordinated legislative process. Our sincere hope is that this happens for, in addition to the merits already mentioned, this “Protocol” provides a path to fulfilling the [Four UMCNext Commitments](#) by:

- 1) Providing a grace-filled way, financial support, and self-determination for those who wish to separate from the United Methodist Church;
- 2) Resourcing a fund “to support communities historically marginalized by the sin of racism;”
- 3) Empowering annual conferences and local congregations to make informed decisions about their future as United Methodists in their local contexts;
- 4) Sustaining and reigniting the United Methodist mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” in all places, with all people.

UMCNext will continue advocating for our core commitments, partnering with others to resource and mobilize General Conference delegates, and remaining open to what God is doing through meaningful, humble, respectful dialogue with partners across our global connection.

(more)



John Wesley wrote, “A Methodist is one who has ‘the love of God shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him;’ one who ‘loves the Lord his God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind, and with all his strength.’”

UMCNext and partner organizations dream and work toward a church reflecting this kind of love – a church that compels the people of God to prevent harm of our neighbors; to be a healing force in our communities; to transform the church and the world in ways that bring liberation and abundant life to God’s people; and to be truly “Methodist” as defined by John Wesley.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:... a time to plant and a time to uproot...a time to tear down and a time to build...a time to love...and a time for peace... God has made everything beautiful in its time.”

Together, we believe there is a hope-filled and inclusive future for the global United Methodist movement. May God make God’s church beautiful in its time.

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