



# Westminster

## United Methodist Church

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Blessings to all in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

This seems like a good time to update you on what is going on in the United Methodist Church. I actually wish there was more to tell but things are really on hold at this point in time. There was supposed to be a General Conference held from May 5-15 in Minneapolis but it was canceled due to the Covid-19 virus. This meeting was rescheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 as a one day virtual Conference to carry out what was referred to as “essential business”. This would have covered things like Finance and Administration along with revised dates for Episcopal retirement and elections. There were to be 12 items of business that were to be addressed at this special session.

Not on the agenda was the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. The protocol was authored by 16 Bishops, and United Methodist Leaders along with the guidance of Kenneth Feinberg, mediator, who worked on the settlements for the 9/11 victims and BP’s Deepwater Horizon, oil spill disaster.

The Wesley Covenant Association submitted a petition for the Protocol to be added to the agenda for the one-day virtual meeting for May 8<sup>th</sup>. Upon receiving this petition, the Counsel of Bishops canceled the meeting stating that it was impossible for them to have everyone involved participate in such a meeting. With a difference of 16 hours and an inaccessibility to reliable internet access, was the stated reason for this cancellation.

The Counsel of Bishops decided to use their regular April meeting to further discern and re-schedule a time for General Conference. Many believe this decision was made so the Protocol could not be passed and the conservative branch of the UMC could not leave. Conservatives leaving the UMC would cost them Millions in apportionments. Postponements will delay this loss of dollar.

The Protocol will not only decrease our apportionment contribution but will allow us to keep our property and not be subject to the Trust Clause that would transfer possession of the property to the Conference. Wespath has agreed to continue to administer the health and pension funds for the new Global Methodist Church.

The sooner we can gather and vote on the Protocol for Separation, the better it will be for all people. We will still need to have a Church Conference to vote on what direction we would like to go at the Westminster United Methodist Church. It will take some time to get through all of this mess and it doesn’t seem as though the Bishops are in any hurry to do anything about it any time soon. We will get through this and we will continue to make disciples for the Kingdom of God, it just may not be under the heading of the United Methodist Church but rather under the Global Methodist Church. I will do what I can to keep you informed as we proceed through these difficult times.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Dave

*Catch on fire and people will come for miles to see you burn! - John Wesley*