**UNYAC2017.A**

**New Delegates for the 2019 Special Session of General Conference**

Total Number of Pages: 2

*Book of Discipline* / *Book of Resolutions*: ¶14

Conference Committee/Agency, et al. that would be affected by/responsible for implementation if passed: Sessions Committee

Financial Implications: TBD

Brief Rationale: None

***Whereas,*** a special session of the General Conference has been called by the Council of Bishops for February 23-26, 2019; and

***Whereas,*** Section II Article II (¶14) of the Constitution in The United Methodist Book of Discipline states that, “Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so”; and

***Whereas,*** the 2016 General Conference delegates, elected in 2015, have completed their appointed task faithfully and the 2019 special session of the General Conference will occur nearly four full years after their election, during which time three new classes of eligible and voting clergy will have joined the Upper New York Annual Conference and new laity will have become active; and

***Whereas,*** to not allow new clergy and laity within our conference to vote on a new slate of delegates or to put their names in for consideration for election would be to effectively disenfranchise those members of the annual conference; and

***Whereas,*** the 2019 General Conference will have a very specific and targeted purpose aimed at providing a way forward for the denomination as it relates to issues of human sexuality and the unity and/or division of our denomination and the delegates elected in 2015 had a very different charge; and

***Whereas,*** a new slate of delegates for the 2019 special session of the General Conference would need to be elected no later than the 2018 session of the Upper New York Annual Conference; and

***Whereas,*** costs associated with the election of new delegates for the 2019 special session of the General Conference could be mitigated by borrowing another annual conference’s voting machines and efficiently managing the planning of the currently scheduled 2018 session of annual conference so as to not necessitate an additional day of conference;

***Therefore be it resolved*** that the Upper New York Annual Conference select a new slate of delegates for the 2019 special session of the General Conference.

Dated: January 27, 2017

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