

1 UNYAC2021.7 as amended

2 Title: Proposal to Form a Study Commission on the Readiness of UNY for Implementation of
3 the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation

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5 Book of Discipline (¶): n/a

6 Book of Resolutions paragraph (¶): n/a

7 Conference Committee/Agency that would be affected by/responsible for implementation if
8 passed: Conference Treasurer, Dean of Cabinet, Conference Chancellor, Director of
9 Connectional Ministries, Director of Vital Congregations, Committee on Finance and
10 Administration, Trustees, Board of Ordained Ministry, General and Jurisdictional Conference
11 Delegation, and Nominations and Leadership Development, and a Conference Board of Pensions
12 & Health Benefits.

13 Financial Implications: None

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15 Brief Rationale: The Upper New York Annual Conference needs to know what the state of the
16 Conference will be in the event that the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through
17 Separation is enacted by the General Conference.

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19 Whereas on January 3, 2020, a team of United Methodists, convened by the late Bishop John
20 Yambasu, released proposed legislation for General Conference entitled The Protocol of
21 Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation (“the Protocol”); and

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23 Whereas since that announcement, a number of groups have met to form new expressions of
24 Methodism in the form of new, established denominations; and

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26 Whereas formal study is needed to determine how the Upper New York Annual Conference will
27 be affected in the event that the Protocol be enacted by the General Conference; and

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29 Whereas it is wise and prudent to do the work of this study prior to the convening of the General
30 Conference, rather than after.

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32 Therefore, be it resolved that the Upper New York Annual Conference authorizes the formation
33 of a commission to study and report on the readiness of the Upper New York Annual Conference
34 for the implementation of the Protocol; and

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36 Be it further resolved that this commission shall be composed of the Conference Treasurer, the
37 Dean of Cabinet, the Conference Chancellor, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the
38 Director of Vital Congregations, a representative from the Committee on Finance and
39 Administration, a representative from the Annual Conference Board of Trustees, a representative
40 of the Board of Ordained Ministry, a representative from the Upper New York delegation to the
41 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and up to three persons named by Nominations and
42 Leadership Development; and a representative of the Board of Pensions & Health Benefits.

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44 Be it further resolved that this commission shall organize itself and name its own officers as it
45 sees fit and that the Conference staff shall resource this commission as the commission
46 determines; and

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48 Be it further resolved that this commission shall survey of every local congregation and every
49 new faith community in the Upper New York Annual Conference and request the lay leader, in
50 consultation with the pastor, to ascertain the following information:

51 ~~1. —What is the size of your congregation in terms of total membership and average worship~~
52 ~~attendance, both before and during the pandemic?~~

53 ~~2. —What is the size of your congregation's annual operating budget?~~

54 ~~3. —How many professions of faith has your congregation had over the past five years?~~

55 ~~4. —How does your congregation serve and engage with its community?~~

56 5. 1. Has your congregation had conversations about the Protocol since it was announced?

57 6. 2. Has your church council had conversations about the Protocol since it was announced?

58 7. 3. If the Protocol passes, do you believe that your congregation will remain in the Post-
59 Separation United Methodist Church? (an answer of “unsure at this time” is acceptable)

60 ~~8. —If the Protocol passes, do you believe that your pastor will remain in the Post-Separation~~
61 ~~United Methodist Church?; and~~

62 Be it further resolved that this commission shall also survey every appointed clergyperson
63 serving in the Upper New York Annual Conference to ascertain the above information, as well
64 as:

65 1. If the Protocol passes, do you believe that you will keep your membership in the Post-
66 Separation United Methodist Church?

67 2. How many more years of active ministry do you believe you will have before you retire?;

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69 Be it further resolved that this commission shall report the results of this study, along with an
70 analysis of the financial implications of the data with a two quadrennia forecast, to the Annual
71 Conference through the Communications Team of the Conference staff and to the Upper New
72 York delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference no later than February 1, 2022; and

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74 ~~Be it further resolved that survey results shall be collected and reported in ways that shall reveal~~
75 ~~individual responses of the congregations surveyed but only the aggregate responses of the~~
76 ~~clergy surveyed; and~~

77 Be it further resolved that the commission reports the results of this study in two ways: 1) a
78 broader, high-level summary that will be shared with the Annual Conference and the public,
79 reporting key data marks in the aggregate in general ranges and keeping the specific information
80 for individual congregations and clergy confidential and 2) an executive, confidential report that
81 is shared only with the cabinet, the Council on Finance and Administration, the Commission on
82 Equitable Compensation, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Conference Leadership
83 Team, the General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation, and any other conference teams or
84 agencies the commission determines should see this executive report; this executive report will
85 reveal the results of individual congregations.

86 Be it further resolved that the Upper New York Annual Conference calls on all those who are
87 surveyed to fully cooperate in the commission's work.