

1 UNYAC2021.7

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, General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation, and Nominations
11 and Leadership Development

12 Financial Implications: None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 1. What is the size of your congregation in terms of total membership and average worship
50 attendance, both before and during the pandemic?

51 2. What is the size of your congregation's annual operating budget?

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

53 4. How does your congregation serve and engage with its community?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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80 Date of Submission 06/11/2021

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