

Preserving the Unity of the Church

A Request for Transparency from our NEJ Episcopal Leaders Regarding their Intentions to Remain in a Post-Separation UMC

To Bonnie Marden & the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose passion we now solemnly remember and whose triumph over death and the grave we anticipate with joy and pleasing expectation! We give thanks to God for your leadership and service to our Church and Jurisdiction, and we join you in your fervent prayers for God's will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven through our United Methodist Church.

Our United Methodist Church has approached a vital threshold in its life and ministry. As preparations are well under way for the formation of new expressions of Methodism, we reaffirm, as delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, the need for leaders who continue to display a passion for the unity of the church (§ 403.1.e, "The Superintendency," in the *Book of Discipline*).

Therefore, we humbly ask the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy to enter into frank conversations with each of the active episcopal leaders serving in the Northeast Jurisdiction with the goal of ascertaining their intents for continued servant leadership in a Post-Separation United Methodist Church. Furthermore, in the interest of transparency and living in the light of the truth that sets us free, we ask you to consider making the results of these conversations public.

Again, thank you for your continued service and leadership to our Church and Jurisdiction, and we pray that you have had a meaningful Holy Week and that you will have a joyful Easter.

Your Siblings in Christ:

The Undersigned 17 of the 23 Upper New York Annual Conference delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conference:

Carmen FS Vianese, Chair	Rev. William A. Mudge, Vice Chair	J.J. Warren, GC
Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, GC	Ian Carlos Urriola, GC	Rev. Rebekah Sweet, GC
Marthalyn Sweet, GC	Rev. Carmen Perry, GC	Samuel E. Smith, GC
Samuel Mudge, JC	Rev. Dr. Michelle Bogue-Trost, JC	Drew Griffin, JC
Rev. Martha Swords-Horrell, JC	Rev. Andrew Sperry, JC	Rev. Rebecca Laird, JC
Rachel Giso, JR	Rev. Harold Wheat, JR	