

**UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**REQUEST TO DISAFFILIATE FROM THE UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AND THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

WHEREAS, the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted legislation establishing the limited right of a local church to petition its annual conference to disaffiliate from the denomination “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.” This limited right is codified as ¶2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, revised.

WHEREAS, the Upper New York Annual Conference Board of Trustees (the “Conference Board of Trustees”) established the terms of disaffiliation by which congregations of the Upper New York Annual Conference (the “Conference”) may disaffiliate from the Conference and the denomination under the provisions of ¶2553.

WHEREAS, Westford United Methodist Church, (*the “Local Church”*), with the authorization of its district superintendent, held a church conference to consider a resolution to disaffiliate from the Conference and the denomination and that this resolution was adopted by the church conference by a 2/3 majority of members present.

WHEREAS, upon direction of the Church Conference, the Local Church’s board of trustees worked with the Conference Board of Trustees to finalize the terms of disaffiliation, which were memorialized in a signed disaffiliation agreement (the “Disaffiliation Agreement”).

WHEREAS, the Local Church has fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated in the Disaffiliation Agreement, including making a cash payment to the Conference of \$13,706 to fulfill the financial obligations related to disaffiliation, including:

- any unpaid apportionments for the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the disaffiliation date, and an additional twelve (12) months of apportionments,
- an amount equal to the Local Church’s pro rata share, as determined by the Conference, of the Conference’s unfunded pension obligations,
- estimated costs related to the transfer of real and personal property to a new church entity,
- and any other debt or obligation owed to the Conference as identified in the Conference’s disaffiliation policy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper New York Annual Conference hereby ratifies the Disaffiliation Agreement and consents to the request of Westford United Methodist Church to disaffiliate from the Conference and the denomination.