Black Methodists for Church Renewal Endorses Reverend Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. for the Episcopacy

DETROIT, MICHIGAN — Members of Michigan Area Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) have endorsed the Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr. for the episcopacy of The United Methodist Church in the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ). The endorsement was confirmed on May 11, 2016 in Detroit, Michigan. BMCR is committed to an inclusive Church that engages the world with the justice and equity of followers of Jesus Christ! The endorsement of Boayue reaffirms our belief that he will provide our denomination with a truly global and inclusive leadership.

The Rev. Hilda Harris, a retired elder of the Detroit Conference and president of Michigan Area BMCR, expressed her support for Boayue: “Dr. Boayue has worked with BMCR for the past 23 years and is a trusted leader who will fight of the common person and foster goodwill among all people. He is respected across the state of Michigan as a bridge-builder and has a strong pastoral record. The North Central Jurisdiction and United Methodism will be blessed to have him in the episcopacy. He has fought for justice and equality at the local church, annual conference, jurisdictional and general church levels and has actually done much to uplift people around the world.” We endorse Dr. Boayue and offer him to the delegates at the 2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference as a uniquely qualified, trustworthy, and experienced global leader for the episcopacy.

The Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr. is currently superintendent of the Detroit Renaissance District in the Detroit Annual Conference where he was appointed in July 2015. He served as senior pastor of Second Grace UMC in Detroit, Michigan from 1999 to 2015; Associate Council Director/Urban Missioner from 1993 to 1999; Pastor of Detroit: Jefferson Avenue UMC from 1991 to 1993; associate pastor of Detroit: Metropolitan UMC from 1990 to 1992. Every congregation he has served grew numerically and spiritually under his dynamic leadership. Under his leadership Second Grace UMC grew in membership by 70%, built a health clinic to serve thousands of people without health insurance or money, and bought a new parsonage and a community center. He served as chair and vice chair of the conference board of ordained ministry; clergy delegate to four general conferences and first reserve delegate to two additional general conferences from 1996 to 2016; chair of the global ministries legislative committee at the 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh, PA where he authored the motion that admitted the Protestant Methodist Church of Ivory Coast (and its 1 million members) into The United Methodist Church; chaired the subcommittee on church structures at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Florida; served as a director of the General Board of Global Ministries from 1996 to 2004 and served as vice chair of its Mission Development Committee and chair of its National Advisory Committee on Church & Community Ministry from 2000 to 2004. Known and well respected across the general church as a leader, Dr. Boayue served from 1991 to 2001 on the executive committee and presidium of the World Methodist Council (which inducted him into the Council’s Honorable Order of Jerusalem – a distinction awarded to a few international leaders of ecumenical Methodism). Dr. Boayue has earned the following degree: BSc. In Business Administration (Bethune-Cookman College), MBA (Florida Southern), Master of Divinity (Duke), and Doctor of Ministry (United Theological Seminary). Married to Elizabeth Duncan Boayue since December 22, 1990, they have one son, Charles III, a student at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. “It is my humble privilege to accept this endorsement from BMCR. If elected to the episcopacy, I will serve the Church faithfully and offer my best for the glory of God.” Boayue responded in a statement to BMCR.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference will be held in Peoria, Ill., July 13-16, 2016. Four of the NCJ active bishops have announced their retirements following the 2016 jurisdictional conference: Michael Coyner (Indiana), John Hopkins (East Ohio), Jonathan Keaton (Illinois Great Rivers) and Deborah Kiesey.
Following the election of new bishops, assignments will be made of all newly elected and continuing NCJ bishops to the nine episcopal areas across the North Central Jurisdiction. Assignments will be effective September 1, 2016 for the following four years.