



# College of Bishops

North Central Jurisdiction

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Update on the North Central Jurisdiction Special Session, November 2021

October 11, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ in the North Central Jurisdiction

One month ago, the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops made the difficult decision to move from an in-person special session of the jurisdictional conference to a virtual gathering. In making that decision, we also decided to pare down our agenda to focus on three critical areas that either delegates have been telling us they would like to discuss, or we have identified as critical for the on-going mission of The United Methodist Church in our jurisdiction: the work of dismantling racism, the future United Methodist Church, and the role and deployment of episcopal leadership within the jurisdiction.

The next question we needed to ask was whether or not we could organize and bring resources together to actually meet in virtual sessions. The College worked with our NCJ Communicators network to develop a plan for meeting. The good news is that this will work. It has meant a revision in our initial schedule. We began looking at a three-day conference, meeting for half a day for each session. The schedule has changed. We will be meeting for one and a half days, November 10 and 11. **Please reserve November 10 and 11 on your calendars. November 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time and ending at 5:00 p.m. with the possibility of evening small group or delegation meetings. November 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time and ending at 12:30 p.m.**

Three working groups have been formed to create the content for each segment of the agenda. They have met to coordinate their efforts and determine an agenda. While work continues the agenda will flow as follows:

### **Block Agenda (all times Eastern Time)**

#### **Wednesday November 10**

- **9:00-9:30 a.m. Worship**
- **9:30-Noon: Dismantling Racism**
  - There will be presentation and discussion interspersed in this segment
- **Noon- 1 p.m. Lunch**
- **1:00-2:20 p.m. Episcopal Leadership Conversation**
  - A twenty-minute presentation will be followed by an hour discussion using guided questions. Delegates will meet in cross-delegation groups.
- **2:20-2:35 p.m. Break**



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- **2:35-5:00 p.m. The Future United Methodist Church Conversation**

- This section will include presentations and breakout group discussions. The team planning this conversation expects feedback from the conversations will be used to form a document for consideration of the delegates at Thursday's plenary session.

## **Thursday, November 11**

- **9:00-9:30 a.m. Worship**
- **9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Plenary session**
  - **9:30-10:00 a.m. Report from the previous day's work**
  - **10:00-12:15 Conversation and Action on any items proposed for vote**

### **Registration:**

A matter of importance at this time is that you register for this Special Session. To register please go to <https://forms.gle/YFiznkg6HXtNRjgd7> and complete this short Google form. Your registration should be received no later than October 31.

We are grateful to the College of Bishops for the additional work being done in order to make this conference a reality. We are grateful to our conference communicators for their coordination of efforts. We are grateful to other leaders in the jurisdiction for their work in planning. We are grateful to each of you delegates for your patience and prayers as we work to put this conference together. The College of Bishops wants to express its appreciation to Paul White, our NCJ secretary for all his work for this special session.

Together let us pray that God's Spirit will use this unique opportunity at this critical time to enhance the future of our ministry for Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

*Bishop David A. Bard*  
President, NCJ College of Bishops

*Paul R. White*  
NCJ Secretary