



# College of Bishops

North Central Jurisdiction

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**November 17, 2023**

**To:** The Elected Delegates of the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

**From:** The North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that each of you are enjoying the beautiful Fall season and are anticipating the start of Advent. I am writing to share with you a recent action by the NCJ College of Bishops regarding a special session of the North Central Jurisdiction.

## **On the matter of a special session of the North Central Jurisdiction**

In accordance with ¶521.1 and ¶521.3 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops will convene a special session of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on Tuesday January 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. CST, and the session will be convened virtually.

This special session of the jurisdictional conference is for the sole purpose of approving new episcopal areas for episcopal assignments to be effective September 1, 2024. Specifically, we will consider forming two new episcopal areas: (1) Northern Illinois and Wisconsin; and (2) East Ohio and West Ohio. If approved, there would be seven episcopal areas in the North Central Jurisdiction to which bishops would be assigned at the regular session of the jurisdictional conference meeting on July 10-13, 2024, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. ¶40 of The Book of Discipline authorizes the jurisdictional conference to determine the “number, names and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas.” Names for the new areas will be approved at our July jurisdictional conference.

In accordance with ¶521.3 “the delegates to a special session of the jurisdictional conference shall be the delegates last elected by each annual conference.” The delegates to this special session will be those who were elected to attend the regular session of the jurisdictional conference in 2022 and remain delegates for the 2024 jurisdictional conference.



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In accordance with ¶521.4, “a called session of the jurisdictional conference cannot transact any other business than that indicated in the call.” The rules of procedure of the North Central Jurisdiction and Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> Edition shall govern our meeting.

Please share this information with your delegates and representatives. Information for attending this virtual gathering will be released shortly after January 1, 2024. Thank you for making this special-called session a part of your prayers for the North Central Jurisdiction.

God bless,

Bishop Frank J. Beard  
On Behalf of the NCJ College of Bishops

cc: Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area  
Bishop David Bard, Michigan Episcopal Area  
Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, West Ohio Episcopal Area