A STATEMENT FROM THE INDIANA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DELEGATION TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

January 11th, 2020

The release of the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation has created much conversation and some confusion. Bishop Trimble has recently released a statement on this proposed Protocol. As the Indiana Conference Delegation, we want to reassure the Conference of our commitment to the delegation's work and offer some reminders.

Contrary to the wording of some media outlets, the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” is the framework for a plan that will be considered during the 2020 General Conference, which meets this May 5-15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Though this Protocol has the backing of key leaders from a variety of theological perspectives, no decision has been made about the possible separation of the UMC. The actual legislation that will be considered has not been made public yet. This coming legislation will provide more details concerning the potential implications of the Protocol. We anticipate that the Protocol will be one of many plans that will be considered by the General Conference; all of which are subject to amendment in the legislative process.

No statement becomes an official stance of the UMC, or legally binding throughout our church, until the General Conference makes a decision. The 2020 General Conference will consist of 862 delegates, equally divided between clergy and laity, and elected from annual conferences across the USA, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Indiana's delegates are listed on the “General Conference 2020” page of the INUMC.org website. We would encourage all members of the Indiana Annual Conference to stay apprised of continuing developments, along with potential decisions that may be required by the Annual Conference in June.

The Indiana delegation will continue the work of reviewing the variety of plans that will be presented at the 2020 General Conference, as well as the vast quantity of other important legislation that will be addressed. The delegation is committed to being as prepared as possible in order to make informed votes. Just as the UMC is not of one mind, the delegates represent diverse views. Yet, together, we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the important days ahead. We ask for your continued prayers as the process continues.

Please feel free to contact the delegation at 2020inumcdelegation@inumc.org with any questions or concerns.