



Council of Bishops
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



April 24, 2017

TO: Annual Conference Secretaries
Heads of Delegations to the 2016 General Conference (or successors)
Secretary of the General Conference
Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference

FROM: Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops

RE: Special Session of the General Conference

Grace and peace to you from God, our Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Council of Bishops hereby calls a special session of the General Conference per Division Two - Section II - Article II of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church (¶14 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)*).

The special session of the General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

According to Article II of The Constitution (¶14 of the *Book of Discipline (2016)*), this special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their lawful successors, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

The Secretary of the General Conference will be in communication with annual conference secretaries regarding updated delegate information, seating of reserve delegates, and the issuance of new certificates of election for annual conferences choosing to hold a new election.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference will develop and forward additional information regarding the logistics of the special session of General Conference at the appropriate time.

The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the special session of General Conference.