



*possibility*

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE | MAY 21-23

**ADDENDUM**

1 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISAFFILIATION FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - PART I**  
2

3 **WHEREAS**, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church sitting in official session as a body in 2019  
4 promulgated legislation recorded as ¶2553 of *the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, allowing a  
5 local church to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church for reasons of conscience regarding the actions or  
6 inactions of The United Methodist Church around human sexuality;  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, there are congregations across GNJ who have been in a season of prayerfully discerning if they are  
9 being called to leave The United Methodist Church to live out their call.  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, ¶2553 indicates Annual Conferences can develop a process for churches to discern disaffiliation; and  
12 each church named in the attached **Exhibit “A”** has met with the support of a conference guide to study, pray,  
13 engage in holy conversation, discern and vote according to their discernment.  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, United Methodist connectionism is one of our core values, we grieve the loss of these congregations,  
16 and all the ways that they have mattered to our fellowship and mission. This has been a long and painful process,  
17 both for those who wish to leave as well as those who chose to continue The United Methodist mission. These  
18 congregations represent hundreds of years of ministry and countless lives have been changed by God’s grace  
19 through Jesus Christ in the time that they served as a United Methodist congregation.  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the churches named in the attached **Exhibit “A”** have met the timelines, and explored and discerned  
22 disaffiliation through this process outlined in the Greater New Jersey Conference, and have voted by a two-thirds  
23 majority to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as outlined in ¶2553 of *the Book of Discipline of The*  
24 *United Methodist Church*; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, real and personal property held by the churches named herein have always been explicitly been for  
27 the mission and activities of The United Methodist Church. Pursuant to the terms of *The Book of Discipline of The*  
28 *United Methodist Church* (the “*Discipline*”), the property is subject to a trust clause (the “Trust Clause”), which  
29 may be found in previous deeds affecting the real and personal property, providing as follows:  
30

31 *“This conveyance is made in trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of*  
32 *divine worship of the United Methodist ministry and members of The United Methodist Church, subject*  
33 *to the Discipline, usage and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and*  
34 *declared by the General Conference and the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises*  
35 *are situated, this provision being solely for the benefit of the Grantee, and the Grantors reserve no right or*  
36 *interest in said premises.”*  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, today we recognize this loss. At the same time, we honor their decisions and direction that the  
39 members of these churches have made.  
40

41 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that churches named herein be considered no longer part of or affiliated  
42 with The United Methodist Church effective the earlier of 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2023 or 11:59pm of the date  
43 full payment is made in accordance with the Disaffiliation, and that said churches hereby relinquish any and all  
44 benefit and support of and from The United Methodist Church now and in the future. Churches that do not meet  
45 these requirements may not disaffiliate.  
46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church  
48 does hereby relinquish any and all present and future claims granted by the commonly called Trust Clause, under  
49 *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* to property owned by the churches named herein. The  
50 Greater New Jersey Annual Conference does hereby release any right or privilege to enforce any restrictions to

1 any real property that may be held in trust and held, kept, maintained and disposed of for the benefit of The  
2 United Methodist Church and subject to the usages and *The Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or of any  
3 predecessor denomination, as set forth in the *Discipline*, any Deed, or any deed previously recorded with respect  
4 to any real or personal property of the churches named herein. To the extent that words of grant are necessary,  
5 the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference does hereby convey all its interest created by virtue of the Trust  
6 Clause in any real and any personal property held by the churches named herein. THIS CONVEYANCE IS MADE  
7 WITHOUT WARRANTY OF TITLE, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.

8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, if a church named herein is unable to make the full payment required under the  
10 Disaffiliation agreement by 11:59pm on December 31, 2023, the disaffiliation process ceases, the church remains  
11 an ongoing part of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the real and  
12 personal property held by the churches remains subject to the Trust Clause. Churches that do not meet these  
13 requirements may not disaffiliate.

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18 **Submitted by**

19 The Greater New Jersey Cabinet

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**Exhibit A**

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Bethany UMC Wayne, Skylands District, Church Number 1108  
Total valid ballots: 329  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 328 (99%)

Cornerstone Church Englewood, Meadowlands District, Church Number 2116  
Total valid ballots: 22  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 22 (100%)

Grace Bethel UMC Leonia, Meadowlands District, Church Number 2130  
Total valid ballots: 37  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 37 (100%)

Korean Community Church of NJ Englewood, Meadowlands District, Church Number 2138  
Total valid ballots: 175  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 175 (100%)

First Korean UMC Cherry Hill, Central District, Church Number 4124  
Total valid ballots: 267  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 231 (87%)

St. John UMC Turnersville, Delaware Bay District, Church Number 5175  
Total valid ballots: 65  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 53 (82%)

Sicklerville UMC, Cape Atlantic District, Church Number 6159  
Total valid ballots: 56  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 53 (95%)

Elmer UMC, Delaware Bay District, Church Number 5124  
Total valid ballots: 26  
Total voted to disaffiliate according to reasons outlined in paragraph 2553: 23 (88%)



**UNITED METHODISTS**  
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

[WWW.GNJUMC.ORG](http://WWW.GNJUMC.ORG)

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