

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Confessing Movement Board of Directors Statement on the "Reimagining the Passion of a Global Wesleyan Movement " Document

Twenty eighty traditionalist United Methodist leaders who were invited to a meeting in Atlanta March 2- 4 signed the document Reimagining the Passion of a Global Wesleyan Movement. This group of people included clergy and laity representing every U.S. jurisdiction, three central conferences, and seven bishops from around the world for three days of reflection, sharing, and praying. The goal was to seek consensus about the doctrine, polity and mission of a new denomination should the Protocol pass at General Conference 2020. They concluded with this assertion:

"God calls us to embrace a new day as the people called Methodists. Established in the faith entrusted to us by our forbearers, we discern the Holy Spirit reviving the Methodist movement in a new work. We are committed to God's vision given to our predecessors "to reform the continent(s) and spread scriptural holiness over the lands."

Dr. Maxie Dunnam, clergy member of the Kentucky Conference and President of The Confessing Movement, indicated his conviction that this meeting and its conclusion were the result of pervasive honest sharing, dynamic spiritual commitment and was in the spirit of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. He said he was able, with great joy as he comes to the close of his ministry, to be a part of this group intending to "form a global Wesleyan movement, committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth, grace, renewal, and sanctification to all people who repent and believe."

Believing that the 2020 General Conference will adopt the Protocol, the group's intention is to be prepared to establish this new expression of Methodism soon after the close of the conference. In preparation, the group developed a paper entitled, "Reimagining the Passion of a Wesleyan Movement," which stated in concrete terms their unfolding vision which includes: The Church's Culture and Mission, Essential Doctrinal Beliefs, and a Global Connectional Organization.

Senator Patricia Miller (retired), Executive Director of The Confessing Movement who was a convener and part of the Atlanta meeting and served as a member of the group that negotiated The Protocol, said "it was amazing that my highest expectations were met because the possibility of this new expression as an amicable separation was what The Protocol sought to provide." She indicated that the "Reimagining" paper has been publicly released and posted on The Confessing Movement web page. The Confessing Movement Board of Directors expresses gratitude for and supports the Reimagining the Passion of a Global Wesleyan Movement document and joins in affirming the confession of faith rooted in Scripture and our doctrinal standards.

Bishop Scott Jones, one of the co-conveners, stated "The conversation summary by this document is an important contribution to the ongoing discernment about the future of The United Methodist Church. This vision offers a clear alternative for a wide spectrum of traditionalists to consider. I was privileged to be a part of this discernment process."

The group concluded their paper with this statement of their commitment:

"Our covenant with God and each other will be renewed as we claim, teach, and live into a life-affirming confession of faith rooted in Scripture and our doctrinal standards. We worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are sent to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. And we are called to be the Body of Christ in the world, bearing witness to the transforming power of the Good News as we humbly, but boldly, strive to serve others in Christ's name.

"By the power of the Holy Spirit, this new traditional Methodist denomination is dedicated to fulfilling this mission. May we be a people of integrity, living out what we believe as the Church. May God grant us the grace and wisdom to grow into this Church so conceived!"