

Resolution on Intent to Form a New Conference

- Whereas: The Nashville Episcopal Area is comprised of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences,
- Whereas: In 2014, the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conference delegates adopted the same mission statement:
The mission of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences is to discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world one neighborhood at a time,
- Whereas: We are committed to our mission more than to our geographic boundaries,
- Whereas: Over the past four years, the following areas of ministry have been aligned between the two conferences:
- Appointive cabinets meeting/working together as one
 - Office of Ministerial Concerns provides shared services for both conferences (ex: administration, licensing school, Orientation to Ministry, Healthy Boundaries training)
 - Clergy Spiritual Life Retreat combined to serve both conferences
 - Area wide Hispanic Ministries team
 - Area wide Archives and History team
 - Area wide New Church Development team
 - Annual conference sessions have worshiped and learned around the same themes and speakers,
- Whereas: After successful alignment efforts demonstrated increased focus, efficiency and fruitfulness, an advisory team was identified to further pursue what benefits and challenges would be presented by formation of a new conference to include all geographic areas of the current Memphis and Tennessee Conferences,
- Whereas: Bishop McAlilly, along with other conference leaders, led 18 district sessions for clergy and laity across the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences to offer information which had been compiled by the advisory team, and
- Whereas: The advisory team's report indicated there were significant benefits to the creation of a new conference, and no insurmountable challenges in the formation of a new conference.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That we will rely on God to show us the "new thing" that God is doing! (Isaiah 43:19)
2. That we will model innovation, unity, and good stewardship of our resources.
3. That we endorse the intent to move forward with a plan to form a new conference, with the expectation that each conference will receive additional information and will then vote upon whether or not to approve a plan for a new conference in 2019. If each conference votes in 2019 to approve such plan(s), including a motion for approval to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2020, and if those are passed, we would meet as a fully unified new annual conference in 2021.
4. That in the 2018-2019 conference year, the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences continue the process of alignment in any additional areas where there might be a benefit to both conferences.
5. That the advisory team continue its work on two main items listed below needing more clarification, with quarterly reports during the 2018-2019 conference year.
 - a. The methodology used to pay for the conference budget, including health and pensions costs.
 - b. A decision regarding utilization of one health care provider for both conferences.
6. That the advisory team complete its study and offer its findings on these and any other remaining items no later than the 2019 annual conferences.

Submitted by: The Tennessee Conference Appointive Cabinet