

## **Annual Conference Summary: The Lay Perspective**

At the 2019 Mountain Sky Annual Conference, Bishop Karen Oliveto delivered a powerful message urging unity, not unanimity, in making our voice heard by the United Methodist Church General Conference.

Our unified message: We, the Mountain Sky Conference, reject any mandate that makes us a church of bias.

Amid the hundreds of appointment announcements of the coming year's Mountain Sky clergy and key staff, Bishop Oliveto stated to delegates from throughout our Conference that her goal was to have the strongest, healthiest possible churches, regardless of whether progressive, conservative or centrist. Thankfully, both Rev. Melanie and Rev. Cynthia have been reappointed to First Church for another year.

Mountain Sky unity was demonstrated by a strong vote of support for all the Conference's Consent Agenda items but one, which was passed with a 71% plurality, falling short of the 80% requirement for Consent Agenda approval.

That single item, however, was an important one. It was GSC-01, a petition calling for "Organizational Restructure of the United Methodist Church." Having failed to garner the required 80%, that petition may now be submitted to General Conference by way of the Mountain Sky Conference's leadership roundtable.

Most notable among the Consent Agenda items resoundingly approved by delegates were the following:

- **MSC-09 Moving Toward God's Good Future:** Mountain Sky Annual Conference directs its Roundtable to form a team to develop options for moving forward, including but not limited to (1) partnering with other like-minded bodies, (2) developing legislation for General Conference 2020, and (3) separation from The United Methodist Church, which embraces the Traditional Plan. The plan development shall include listening sessions and no less than quarterly reports to members of the Annual Conference.
- **MSC-10 All Are Welcome:** A petition by the Core Team (which included Rev. Melanie) which stipulated that we, the members of the Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church, cannot and will not comply with the strict requirements of the Traditional Plan adopted at the 2019 General Conference. However, MSC-10 was approved with an amendment stating that Mountain Sky will embrace and support the desires of churches who fall on the other side of the issue of LGBTQIA+ rights.

The Annual Conference has forwarded its action to the leadership roundtable that will prepare our items for submission to the General Conference.