

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF CHURCH DISAFFILIATIONS
PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 2553 OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

Submitted by the Board of Trustees of the New Mexico Annual Conference

1 **WHEREAS**, the following local churches in the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United
2 Methodist Church (the “New Mexico Conference”) seek to disaffiliate from the United
3 Methodist Church pursuant to Paragraphs 2553 and 2529.1b(3) of the *2016 Book of Discipline of*
4 *the United Methodist Church*, as amended by the 2019 General Conference (“the Discipline):

<u>Name of Local Church</u>	<u>City</u>
5 Grace United Methodist Church	Alamogordo, NM
6 Amistad United Methodist Church	Amistad, NM
7 First United Methodist Church	Artesia, NM
8 Balmorhea United Methodist Church	Balmorhea, TX
9 Trinity United Methodist Church	Carrizozo, NM
10 Epworth United Methodist Church	Carlsbad, NM
11 First United Methodist Church	Carlsbad, NM
12 Cimarron United Methodist Church	Cimarron, NM
13 First United Methodist Church	Clayton, NM
14 First United Methodist Church	Clovis, NM
15 Kingswood United Methodist Church	Clovis, NM
16 First United Methodist Church	Crane, TX
17 Elida United Methodist Church	Elida, NM
18 Riverstone Church	Farmington, NM
19 Floyd United Methodist Church	Floyd, NM
20 First United Methodist Church	Fort Sumner, NM
21 Grady United Methodist Church	Grady, NM
22 Hope United Methodist Church	Hope, NM
23 Community United Methodist Church	High Rolls, NM
24 Logan United Methodist Church	Logan, NM
25 First United Methodist Church	Lovington, NM
26 Maxwell United Methodist Church	Maxwell, NM
27 First United Methodist Church	Melrose, NM
28 Nara Visa United Methodist Church	Nara Visa, NM
29 First United Methodist Church	Pecos, TX
30 Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church	Peralta, NM
31 Community United Methodist Church	Ruidoso, NM
32 First United Methodist Church	Santa Rosa, NM
33 First United Methodist Church	Springer, NM

35 First United Methodist Church Tatum, NM
36 Center Street United Methodist Church Tucumcari, NM

37 **WHEREAS**, Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline provides a process for a local church to disaffiliate
38 from the United Methodist Church “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the
39 requirements and provisions of the Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality” and to
40 obtain the release of its real and personal property from the trust imposed by Paragraph 2501
41 of the Discipline, which is commonly known as the “trust clause”; and

42 **WHEREAS**, Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline requires the decision of a local church to disaffiliate
43 from the United Methodist Church for the stated reasons must be approved by the affirmative
44 vote of at least two-thirds of the church’s professing members who are present at a church
45 conference that is convened in accordance with Paragraph 248 of the Discipline; and

46 **WHEREAS**, Paragraph 2553.4 of the Discipline requires the terms and conditions of a local
47 church’s disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church to be “established by the Board of
48 Trustees of the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (“New Mexico
49 Conference Board of Trustees) and set forth in a Disaffiliation Agreement to be executed by the
50 local church, the New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees, and the New Mexico Conference;
51 and

52 **WHEREAS**, each of the disaffiliating churches has executed a Disaffiliation Agreement with the
53 New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees and the New Mexico Conference; and

54 **WHEREAS**, the Disaffiliation Agreement executed by each of the disaffiliating churches provides
55 that, subject to approval of the disaffiliation by the members of the New Mexico Conference
56 and the performance and satisfaction by the church of all the terms and conditions of the
57 Disaffiliation Agreement, the disaffiliation of the church from the United Methodist Church will
58 be effective as of June 1, 2023 (the “Disaffiliation Date), and the New Mexico Conference will
59 release all interest of the Conference and the United Methodist Church in the real and personal
60 property of the church from the Trust imposed by Paragraph 2501 of the Discipline; and

61 **WHEREAS**, Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline and the Disaffiliation Agreement executed by each
62 of the Disaffiliating Churches obligate the church to pay to its appointed clergy any unpaid salary
63 and/or benefits that are due through the Disaffiliation Date and to pay to the New Mexico
64 Conference and/or the New Mexico Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits before
65 the Disaffiliation Date the following: (1) any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to
66 its disaffiliation; (2) an additional 12 months of apportionments; (3) any unpaid pension or
67 health insurance benefit obligations for the appointed clergy of the church that are due through
68 the disaffiliation date; and (4) its pro rata share of the aggregate unfunded pension obligations
69 of the New Mexico Conference through the Disaffiliation Date in accordance with Paragraph
70 2553 of the Discipline; and

71 **WHEREAS**, the disaffiliating churches have fully satisfied all obligations described in the
72 foregoing paragraph; and

73 **WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees has approved the disaffiliation of
74 each of the disaffiliating churches from the United Methodist Church pursuant to the terms and
75 conditions of Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline and the Disaffiliation Agreement executed by the
76 church; and

77 **WHEREAS**, Paragraph 2529.1.b(3) of the Discipline provides that a local church cannot sever its
78 connectional relationship to the United Methodist Church without the consent of the annual
79 conference and the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church has ruled in Decision 1379
80 dated April 25, 2019, that this consent may be provided by a vote of “simple majority of the
81 members of the annual conference present and voting” at a session of the annual conference
82 convened after the vote by the church conference of the local church to disaffiliate from the
83 denomination, pursuant to Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline.

84 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico Conference ratifies, approves, and
85 authorizes the following with respect to the disaffiliation of each of the disaffiliating churches
86 pursuant to Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline:

87 (a) The execution, delivery, and performance by the Bishop, New Mexico Conference Board
88 of Trustees, and the District Superintendent of the Disaffiliation Agreement with the
89 church;

90 (b) The disaffiliation of the church from the United Methodist Church effective as of June 1,
91 2023, pursuant to Paragraph 2553 of the Discipline and the terms and conditions of the
92 Disaffiliation Agreement of the church;

93 (c) The release of all interest of the New Mexico Conference and the United Methodist
94 Church in the real and personal property of the church from the trust imposed by
95 Paragraph 2501 of the Discipline (the trust clause) upon the performance and
96 satisfaction of all the terms and conditions of the Disaffiliation Agreement of the church;

97 (d) Payment of the funds of the New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees of any and all
98 fees, costs, taxes, expenses, and other disbursements that are desirable, necessary, or
99 appropriate to prepare and execute the Disaffiliation Agreement and all ancillary
100 documents with each Disaffiliating Church and consummate its disaffiliation from the
101 United Methodist Church;

102 (e) Subject to the approval of the New Mexico Conference Board of Trustees, but without
103 any further approval of the members of the New Mexico Conference, an extension of
104 the Disaffiliation Date may be approved by the New Mexico Conference Board of
105 Trustees if requested by the disaffiliating church.