

Date: September 7, 2019

To: The Association of the Korean Churches in the United Methodist Church

Title: Decision from the AKCUMC Standing Committee

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The AKCUMC Standing Committee meeting was held from August 26th to the 28th at Korean Central UMC at Dallas, TX (Rev. Sung Chul Lee). The main agenda was to look at the possibility of amicable separation of the denomination becoming realized at the May 2020 General Conference, the alternate action to protect the Korean-American Church and examine the course of action going forward for the AKCUMC as well as to find other minority groups with whom to form solidarity.

At this meeting, the Standing Committee examined the proposed plans by each group: Progressives, Traditionalists, and Centrists. On August 27th, the Standing Committee met with the Chairperson and board members of WCA that share the same position on “Human Sexuality.” Also Bishop Jones, the drafter of the Bard & Scott Plan, as well as Bishop Jonathan Holston from the evangelical group, and Bishop Young Jin Cho were present. We heard their thoughts and positions on ‘amicable separation’ and had the Q&A session.

Clergy and laity representatives of five jurisdictions in the U.S., 50 plus members of the Standing Committee met three times and had the time for discussion and inquiry for about ten hours. We deeply discussed what’s best for the future of the Korean-American Church, and came to the following resolutions:

First, draft/submit a petition of the AKCUMC to the GC 2020

- Consensual Amicable Separation
- Disaffiliation Resolution & Trust Clause
- Do No Harm Policy Upon Separation

Second, AKCUMC will form solidarity with the “Traditionalist group.”

Amendment: AKCUMC will be connectional with WCA and work towards Amicable Separation.

Third, president of AKCUMC will form a Task Force Team.

The AKCUMC Standing Committee members recognized that each Annual Conference and local church has its own special situation and agreed that implementing the decision may vary regionally and timely. However, these resolutions reflect the **rights and interests of the Korean-American Church**. The Standing Committee agreed that this is a practical and urgent matter to protect, that no disadvantage will occur to the Korean-American churches, that belong to progressive Annual Conferences when choosing position on “human sexuality,”

Meanwhile, as the Standing Committee meeting was going on, there was a misunderstanding amongst the committee members that this meeting was held to form the Korean-American Annual Conference. Although this is one of the viable options, the purpose of the meeting was to examine and decide the future direction that AMCUMC could take upon the separation of the denomination. This misunderstanding was resolved through discussions.

From now on, as resolved at this Standing Committee meeting, AKCUMC will closely be connectional with WCA that pursues the same faith and theology. Although we are situated in the rapidly changing circumstances, we promise to do our best in firmly protecting the biblical tradition of the Korean-American Church and making a new expression of the United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church Korean-American Church Conference

President, Reverend Chulgoo Lee