



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



For Immediate Release
Monday, March 22, 2021

Bishops Reconsider May 8 Special Session of General Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church met on Monday, March 22, 2021 in an additional meeting to consider pressing matters related to the Council's work. After much conversation, the bishops reached a decision that in the best interest of the church at this time, they would cancel the Special Session of the General Conference which was set for May 8, 2021.

The bishops announced that they will dedicate their regularly scheduled April meeting to conversation based on results of listening sessions that are occurring and discern a possible need for a new timeline toward [General Conference 2020 set for August 29 to September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.](#)

At the April meeting, the bishops will also discuss ways to empower the work at the Jurisdictional and Central Conferences.

"Much has been learned over the past few weeks and the extended timeline will allow for even deeper listening by the bishops at the general church level but also in our residential settings," said Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, president of the Council. "We are thankful for the collaboration fostered with the Commission on General Conference and especially grateful for the work that had already begun in the planning for the Special Session," Harvey added.

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