



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dakotas-Minnesota Area

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Dear Friends in the Dakotas Annual Conference,

The Commission on the General Conference for The United Methodist Church announced that the 2020 General Conference, already postponed twice, will be postponed again, this time until 2024. This is a decision that will be disappointing to everyone. While unfortunate, it is hardly surprising given the uneven distribution of vaccines around the world, the inability of many elected delegates to receive visas to enter the United States, and the current state of world affairs.

We all regret that the many significant decisions awaiting General Conference action will again be delayed. I especially feel sorrow for the members of the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences who were long engaged in planning and hosting this General Conference. The Council of Bishops has scheduled a meeting for March 8, and I may have more to share with you following that meeting and, in the months, to come. For now, please read announcement from the Commission on the General Conference, which explains in detail their decision-making process.

Even in the midst of disappointment, remember that God is with us and calls us to embody the love of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Bishop Laurie
Interim Bishop
Dakotas Conference