



The Alaska United Methodist Conference
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Bishop: Rev. Cedrick D. Bridgeforth
Superintendent: Rev. Christina DowlingSoka
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January 11, 2024

Dear Clergy and Lay Members of the Alaska Conference of The United Methodist Church:

Today, I am writing to call for a Special Session of the Alaska Conference on January 29, 2024, responding to a unanimous request from the Leadership Team, the Mission District Task Force, and the AUMC Delegation to General Conference. The sole purpose of this session is to reconsider our decision to ask the General Conference to release us from Missionary Conference status in order to become a mission district of the PNW Conference.

The voting membership of the special session will consist of the clergy members of the annual conference as defined in ¶ 586 of The Book of Discipline and the lay members of the June 2023 Annual Conference (lay member or alternate, whoever was last seated in the June annual conference) in accordance with The Book of Discipline, ¶ 602.5.

The circumstances that existed both inside and outside the State of Alaska, as well as within and without The United Methodist Church, have changed dramatically since February 2020. This Special Session will allow us to revisit our decision with new information and to consider asking the delegation to work to defeat the petition we submitted to General Conference in early 2020. Your participation and discernment are crucial to this process.

Meeting Details:

Date: January 29, 2024

Time: 6 p.m. AKT

Platform: Zoom (<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92383677636>)

Please mark this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend. It is through our collective wisdom, prayer, and faithful deliberation that we will make the best decision for the future of our Conference.

In preparation for the Special Session, relevant documents and additional information will be shared with you in advance. A registration process will also be forthcoming.

Let us come together in the spirit of unity and discernment as we seek God's guidance in this matter. And even when the world sometimes feels trapped in twilight, may we seek out the light of Christ to guide our path ever forward.

In Christ's service,

Cedrick D. Bridgeforth
Resident Bishop, Greater Northwest Episcopal Area