

Letter from Bishop Beard's office to Aldersgate

Dear Mr. Nielson:

The Bishop's Office received your congregation's request to pursue the Disaffiliation Process some time ago. Thank you for your patience as we have been awaiting final approvals of this process before acting on your request. I am aware the DS Irvin has been in regular touch with you during this season of waiting.

Today, the Conference Board of Trustees has announced the new 2553 Disaffiliation process. I've attached a draft of the article which appears in the Current Week in Review.

I've also attached an outline of the updated 2553 process. We are basically at the beginning of Phase 3 in our work with Aldersgate UMC. The next step is scheduling a meeting to present the Disaffiliation Settlement Agreement to your church leadership team. This time will include a detailed review of the terms of the Agreement as well as answering your questions.

Next week, many conference leaders are involved in the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and will be out of their offices. During the following week, one of us will be back in touch to schedule the time at which we will meet with your leadership team, either virtually or in person. In the meantime, you now have most of the information you will need to move this process forward over the coming weeks and months.

In the bonds of Christ, we find ourselves loved and forgiven.

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