

**PETITION TO THE 2017 ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: Standing United and Embracing Our Differences**

**ACTION TO BE VOTED ON:**

- 1 We, as members of the 2017 Annual Conference Session of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist  
2 Church, strive to stand united and welcoming to all, regardless of the social, political, and theological differences that  
3 exist within our society. In order to make that possible, we commit to embracing difference on a conference,  
4 congregational, and individual level.
- 5 As we continue to live into the Bishop's call to live into Beloved Community as an annual conference, we commit to  
6 intentional partnerships between conference boards and committees as we strive to respect the many diverse voices  
7 across our region.
- 8 We also covenant to engage in intentional dialogue and conversation on a congregational level about understanding  
9 diversity and embracing difference. We will then report back to the District Superintendents on our progress at our  
10 Charge Conferences.
- 11 Finally, we challenge ourselves to embrace difference on an individual level in our day-to-day lives. As John Wesley  
12 asked the early Methodists, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart,  
13 though we are not of one opinion?"
- 14

**PETITION DETAILS**

This petition is a

- Binding Action  
 Non-Binding Resolution

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

Termination Date: June 30, 2018

Does this petition modify the Annual Conference Standing Rules and Operational Procedures (SROP)?

- Yes  
 No

If "Yes," please complete the information below.

- This petition will modify Section x.x.x  
 This petition will create a new Section x.x.x

Conference Agency responsible for implementation and termination review:

NOTE: All paragraph numberings within the SROP and the final designation of the Conference Agency responsible for implementation and termination review are subject to review by the Rules Committee.

**ORIGINATOR OF THE PETITION (individual, church, or organization):**

Name Conference Council on Youth Ministries  
Address 6110 Greenwood Plaza Boulevard  
City, State, Zip Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111  
Email youngpeople@rmcumc.com  
Phone 303-389-9478

**PERSON TO PRESENT PETITION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**

Name Susan De Tar  
Address 5475 Mt. Evans Place  
City, State, Zip Longmont, Colorado 80503  
Email susansoccerkeep1@gmail.com  
Phone 303-652-7902  
Phone @ Conference 303-652-7902

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Will there be any identifiable financial impact to the Conference?

Yes

No

If "Yes," please fill in the information below.

To Be Completed by the Originator of the Petition

Cost: \$

Period

One Time

One Year

Multiple Years

To Be Completed by Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA)

Review by CFA 05/12/2017

Included in proposed 2018 budget

Yes

No

Amount if included: N/A

May be considered for budgets in future years: N/A

Yes

No

Projected Amount: N/A

Recommendation by CFA concerning funding:

N/A

Reason for recommendation:

No Rocky Mountain Conference 2018 operating budget impact.

**RATIONALE (Not debatable):**

1 The 2016 General Conference involved many petitions for peace, equality, change, and an overall understanding as a  
2 global church. Many voices were heard, sometimes on top of each other. However, one voice that was not heard as  
3 loud as others was the voice of the young people. Very few people between the ages of 13-30 were in attendance as  
4 General Conference, raising the eyebrows of United Methodists across the world. Many were questioning why the  
5 average age of attendees was high.

6 With the lack of representation at General Conference and a passion to be heard, the RMC Conference Council on  
7 Youth Ministries decided to create a statement for a united body. This was not only in response to actions taken at GC,  
8 but also to events in the world which have created conflict, skims, and in some cases, violence.

9 One event is very close to home for all of us. Although it is sad to say, the election of an openly gay bishop has posed  
10 questions and accusations about the rules and ethics of our church. We, as youth, understand that there are those who  
11 are thrilled of the results with Bishop Oliveto's election while others are less than thrilled. Regardless, the youth of the  
12 church feel that we need to stand together as one family to push through our differences.

13 This petition was scripted by Council on Youth Ministries and presented at the 2017 Youth Leadership Conference.  
14 At this event in January, about 100 youth passed the petition as a means for voicing our opinion on the matters at hand  
15 in society. Many spoke for and against this petition, some more than others, but we had one goal as Youth; we were  
16 going to walk away from the Youth Leadership Conference with a petition which would state exactly what we wanted  
17 to say.

18 We have been grateful of the support of many leaders in the conference who have supported this petition to get this far.

19 We request that you not think of this petition as an answer to every problem. We are not asking you to vote on whether  
20 you support every decision made in the last year. We ask that you take this as an opportunity to state your love for God  
21 in being united. Every person has a different opinion and moral beliefs. To ask for uniformity would take away that  
22 individual opinion. Instead, we will stand united in faith and in love.

23 With recent events that have occurred in 2016, including but not limited to: the presidential election, talk of church  
24 schism, and debate regarding gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and religious beliefs, we have decided to propose a  
25 statement of unity and acceptance. Although we all have many differences and often do not share the same opinions,  
26 we find it important to stand united as United Methodists. In the end we, the youth, bring this petition to your eyes, the  
27 eyes of the legislative body of the 2017 Annual Conference for the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United  
28 Methodist Church. This is our voice as a body, ready to be heard. The question now is, will you listen? Will you  
29 commit to the following?

30

**ATTACHMENTS (Additional Information / Not Debatable)**

None