



**Statement of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities
On the Proposal to Create a Regional Conference in the U.S.**

We, the schools, colleges, universities and seminaries affiliated with The United Methodist Church in North America affirm the work of the mediation group and express our support for a new spirit of unity that empowers ministry in contextually relevant ways. In order to cultivate such contextual empowerment, we call upon the denomination to support the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference at the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis, MN in May.

As representatives of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church (NASCUMC), we recognize that the needs and priorities of the Church and the educational institutions it has helped to establish in North America are necessarily different than is the case in other regions of the globe. We acknowledge and respect these differences, while still holding firm to the conviction that education should be accessible to all. Even from our differing social contexts, our denomination can join as a global body in the formation and nurture of individuals who are prepared to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and to transform our world.

Therefore, we ask the delegates of the 2020 General Conference to vote in favor of forming a U.S. Regional Conference, remembering the words of St. Paul as they structure the Church's future: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." *1 Corinthians 12:12* (NRSV)

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By Members present and voting



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