



The Episcopal-United Methodist Dialogue Committee

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Co-Chair, The United Methodist Church

Bishop C. Franklin Brookhart, Co-Chair, The Episcopal Church



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We write to you today with encouraging news about the dialogue between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church. After years of careful and fruitful dialogue, our churches have taken a significant step toward establishing a full communion relationship. In January, the dialogue committee unanimously adopted a draft proposal for full communion entitled *A Gift to the World: Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness (The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church, A Proposal for Full Communion)*. After a period of dialogue, study and feedback, among parishes, clergy and bishops in both denominations, an official resolution will then be presented to our respective legislative bodies.

A Gift to the World is the product of a long and mutually enriching dialogue that took on new life with the formation of a bi-lateral dialogue committee in 2002. The initial years of this dialogue produced the interim Eucharistic Sharing Agreement that defines our current official relationship. In 2006, a study guide entitled *Make Us One with Christ* was issued for congregational use. *A Theological Foundation for Full Communion between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church* was published in 2010 establishing the theological basis for full communion and clarifying perceived church dividing issues.

The relationships formed over these years of dialogue, and the recognition that there are presently no theological impediments to unity, paved the way for this current draft proposal. These achievements serve as a necessary backdrop to the current proposal and should be read and studied in tandem with it. All of these items, including the draft proposal, are available for your review online at www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-methodist-episcopal-dialogue and at www.oucir.org/bilateral-dialogues/episcopal-church/.

We hope you will join us in seeing this proposal as cause for celebration, giving us great hope that our churches might soon live into Jesus' command that all his followers may be one. There is, however, still much work to be done. Participation at all levels of the church is needed to move this proposal forward. We encourage you to reach across denominational lines to establish new relationships and deepen existing relationships by shared study of these materials and mutual prayer for the unity our churches. We believe that this proposal represents a significant witness of unity and reconciliation in an increasingly divided world and pray that you will join us in carrying this work forward.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, The United Methodist Church, Ohio West Episcopal Area

Bishop C. Franklin Brookhart, The Episcopal Church, Diocese of Montana