

**Church Conference Minutes**  
**Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 Limited Right of Disaffiliation**  
**Appendix B**

**Church Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 Limited Right of Disaffiliation**

A local church is allowed to exercise the limited right established in ¶ 2553 of the *Book of Discipline* to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church only for reasons of conscience under the conditions stated in ¶ 2553.1 which reads: “Basis – Because of the current deep conflict within the United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.”

The following changes in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline relating to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals were resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference:

(1) **Amendment to ¶ 304.3:** In particular, footnote 1 of ¶ 304.3 was amended to broaden the scope of relationships or activities that were encompassed in the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” who, under ¶ 304.3, are “not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”

(2) **Amendment to ¶ 304.5:** Prohibitions have been added against approvals and recommendations by the district committee on ordained ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry of persons who did not meet the qualifications in ¶ 304, including ¶ 304.3 (*see above*), and specified added instructions for the clergy session presiding bishops to rule that the unqualified candidate to be out of order and ineligible for the appointment.

(3) **Amendment to ¶ 415.6:** Amended to prohibit bishops from consecrating bishops, from commissioning persons on the deacon or elders track, and from ordaining deacons or elders if any of them are self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

(4) **Amendment to ¶ 2702.1(b):** Amendment to footnote 1 of ¶ 304.3 (*see above*) affects the usage of the term “self-avowed practicing homosexual” in the list of chargeable offenses related to clergy (*viz.*, “being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies . . . .”)