

## **“WAY FORWARD” LISTENING SESSION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2018 \* 3:00PM – 5:00PM**

**WESTERN HILLS UMC, EL PASO, TEXAS**

*Comments/Questions can be sent directly to the delegation at:*

**[delegation@nmconfum.com](mailto:delegation@nmconfum.com)**

### **Question 1:**

**What are your fears with regard to the current impasse of the church?**

1. Don't let society decide.
2. We could run people away.
3. The issue distracts us from serving God.
4. Ongoing dissension.
5. We'll get stuck and not move forward.
6. Split in the church.
7. Compromise beliefs to stay united.
8. Repeating history.
9. Churches dividing.

### **Question 2:**

**For you personally, what are your most important values and convictions in seeking a way forward for the United Methodist Church?**

1. Stay Unified.
2. Stay strong in worldwide ministry.
3. Recognize diversity and context.
4. Listen to each other.
5. Affirm all of God's children.
6. Respect for all.
7. God still speaks through scripture.
8. Value differing viewpoints.

### **Question 3:**

**Considering the three sketches, what implications does this process have for your local congregation?**

1. Message of Christ should be the same.
2. People changing affiliations.
3. Someone will be unhappy no matter what.
4. It will force hard choices for individuals and churches.
5. Focuses on physical assets, not God.
6. Churches finding new paths.
7. Church move to another denomination.
8. Decline in membership.
9. Small churches find another path.
10. Present the best of Christ, regardless.
11. Church can't make a decision for all time if makeup of membership keeps changing.
12. Current path is downhill.
13. Using changes to limit God.

### **Question 4:**

**What are your hopes with respect to the Way Forward?**

1. Being prayerful.
2. Keeping God in the room.
3. Keep focused on mission not numbers.
4. Stay united; hold all clergy accountable for all sins.
5. Continue to talk with each other with open minds.
6. Maintain global missions.
7. Respect all and give them the right to speak.
8. Acknowledge encouragement for the Commission on a Way Forward.
9. Decide something quickly and then get on with mission.