TO: Our Bishops in Africa.

From: Conference Administrative Assistance to the Bishop, District Superintendent's, District Lay leaders, Conference Women Presidents, Conference Men president, Conference Youth/Young Adults Directors and some key leaders of Nigeria Episcopal Area.

RE-STATEMENT OF CHURCH UNITY FROM UNITED METHODISTS IN AFRICA

Grace to you and Peace from God Almighty be with you. We trust that the peace of God and joyous fellowship from above will continue to work with you in the vineyard of our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Our attention has been drawn to a widely circulating document purportedly written by the group that claimed to be advocate of "African Voice of Unity". We the under signed Leaders of Nigeria episcopal Area disassociate ourselves with the said document. We therefore, awaiting implanting of legislation for the Protocol for reconciliation & Grace through Separation come 2021 General Conference.

We are confidence that the protocol for Reconciliation and Separation through Grace is a way forward towards resolving our present Conflict within UMC family. This is because, through the leadership of the holy spirit, sixteen leaders representing Centrists, progressives, traditionalists, and bishops were carefully invited and participated in crafting the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation document led by late Bishop John K. Yambasu of blessed memory.

These leaders were ably facilitated by Kenneth Feinberg, a world- renowned Conflict resolution experts who generously donated his services despite the fact that he is not united Methodist. These leaders who have odds with one another but labored enthusiastically meetings over five months, after significant compromises from all sides, they arrived unanimous decision on the protocol. It is unfortunate that some individuals are now trying to pull down the excellent work done by this Church leaders. We therefore wish to submit that:

1. Whereas, weleaders and members of various status of Nigeria Episcopal who passionately love the unity of our belove Church The United Methodists,

- We want to make it crystally that the signatories of the purported document are **NOT** the representative of the Nigeria Episcopal area.
- 2. Whereas, the writers claimed that the document is bornout of passionate love for our Church the united Methodists, they could have embrace the teaching of Jesus as according to Gospel of Matthew 5:14-16 which encourages believers to stay away from act that will destroy the unity of The United Methodist Church in Africa from shining. Therefore, we must shine clearly and not deceitfully.
- 3. Whereas, We continue to mourn the home call of our beloved Episcopal leader- Bishop John K.Yambasu who slept in the bosom of the Lord. We would continue to celebrate his brilliant idea of *Protocol for reconciliation & Grace through Separation*. Though, the Lord call him home such that he did not live to witness the gracious separation of our Church The United Methodist. We in the Nigeria Episcopal area would uphold his Separation plan with amendment to regionalization of the Book of Discipline. We therefore, uphold again that, we are traditionalists rooted in the Biblical Christianity.
- 4. Whereas, The growth of our Church-The United Methodistin Africaisat geometric rate. We are warried that this growth is about to thrown the continent into despair by the activities of this group if not checked. We perceived; their aim is to canvas vote of Africa taking the advantage of our numerous growths for their selfish schema.
- 5. **Whereas,** we await the deliberation and resolution of the 2021 General Conference, we the under signed, leaders want to re-iterate our position as the traditionalists rooted in the Scripture and strongly believing that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.
- 6. **Whereas,**thepositionofsomeBishopsinAfricaisnotclearlydefinedand straight forward to ascertain position. We want to identified with some members of the college of Bishop for standing with us on Protocol for

reconciliation & Grace through Separation plan. The position also held by

Africa Initiative, Coalition of tradition Leaders, Good News, Wesleyan covenant Association, The Confessing Movement. UMAction and Institute on Religion and Democracy.

We therefore, urge conferences and our esteem readers to embrace change reality. As UMC in Africa and worldwide long to move forward into a new reality,

we pray that the by God's grace the current reality of expectant waiting the United Methodist Church shall be realistic.

With you in Jesus Christ our Lord and savior.

Today 15/January 2021

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