## **Bishop's Protocol Response Statement**

As signatories of the Protocol, we continue to affirm this work which came to us through the leadership and sacrificial gift of Kenneth Feinberg and his colleagues.

We acknowledge that the Protocol is now in legislative form and is the appropriate discernment of the delegates to the upcoming General Conference. We affirm the way the abeyance has reduced the harm of individuals in our administrative and judicial processes and the future deliberation on the repair of the whole church through resources channeled toward dismantling racism and colonialism.

Lastly, we are united in respect for our colleagues who are led to step away from the Protocol, and pray that we will continue to explore ways to celebrate the ministry of The United Methodist Church even as we work for an amicable separation with those who chose to depart from our fellowship.

Signed:

Christian Alsted Thomas J. Bickerton Kenneth H. Carter LaTrelle Easterling Cynthia Fierro Harvey Rodolfo Rudy Juan Gregory Vaughn Palmer