

REC 26-13 | CLOSURE OF MONTCLAIR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUBJECT: Closure and Property Disposition of Montclair First United Methodist Church, Montclair, CA

SUBMITTED BY: Appointive Cabinet

WHEREAS, Montclair First United Methodist Church, located in the East District, has faithfully served its community through worship, discipleship, and Christian mission since its ministry first began in 1956; and

WHEREAS, changing demographics and challenges over recent years have severely impacted the church's ability to effectively maintain and carry out its vital ministries; and

WHEREAS, the active membership of Montclair First United Methodist Church has declined to two remaining members, who have prayerfully discerned that it is no longer sustainable to continue operating as an active congregation; and

WHEREAS, the remaining membership has voted to discontinue as a local church, and consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop, the Cabinet, and the East District Board of Church Location and Building pursuant to the Book of Discipline ¶2549; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the East District and the remaining membership that this space continue to be a source of life for the neighborhood, and selling the property to the City of Montclair stands as the best stewardship of this legacy, ensuring the property will continue to serve the needs of the local community;

WHEREAS, in 2019, Montclair First United Methodist Church dissolved its corporate entity without prior notification to or authorization from the District Superintendent or the Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, in light of the 2019 corporate dissolution, the East District is actively working alongside legal counsel to resolve the legal status of the entity, with the intent to finalize the sale upon receiving formal approval from the California Attorney General;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church approves the formal closure of Montclair First United Methodist Church, effective June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Annual Conference authorizes the Appointive Cabinet and the Board of Trustees to finalize the sale of the real property to the City of Montclair, with all net proceeds from the sale to be distributed and allocated in accordance with the provisions of Conference Resolution 17-9.