

**UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION FOR THE CLOSURE OF A LOCAL CHURCH

WHEREAS, Gowanda United Methodist Church was organized in 1827, and faithfully served its community in ministry for over 199 years;

WHEREAS, Rev. Mary Kelly, Cornerstone & Niagara Frontier District Superintendent, comprehensively assessed Gowanda United Methodist Church's past, present and potential ministry, after prayerfully and extensively meeting with, listening to and guiding the congregation;

WHEREAS, the members of the Gowanda United Methodist Church convened at a duly noticed Church Conference held on April 12, 2026, and voted in favor of closing the church pursuant to the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*;

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent determined that Gowanda United Methodist Church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized and recommended that it be closed pursuant to the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*;

WHEREAS, in relation to the proposed closure, the District Superintendent recommended that control and possession of all real and personal property of the Gowanda United Methodist Church vest in the Annual Conference Trustees;

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent recommended that the membership of Gowanda United Methodist Church be transferred to the Collins Center United Methodist Church or other United Methodist churches as the individual members select;

WHEREAS, Bishop Héctor Burgos Núñez, a majority of the District Superintendents, and the Niagara Frontier District Board of Church Location and Building received and consented to the District Superintendent's closure recommendations; and

IT IS THEREFORE

RESOLVED, that Gowanda United Methodist Church is closed; and it is further

RESOLVED, all real and personal property of the Gowanda United Methodist Church be administered and/or transferred by the Upper New York Conference Board of Trustees, in accordance with the standing resolutions and polices of the Upper New York Conference Board of Trustees with respect to closed churches; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the membership of the Gowanda United Methodist Church be transferred to Collins Center United Methodist Church or other United Methodist churches as the individual members select.