Ratification of Paragraph 4, Article IV, Ballot #2 Highlights

1. Delegates at the Postponed 2020 General Conference voted unanimously to amend Paragraph 4, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution.
2. The amendment protects membership for all people by adding the words "gender" and "ability" to the categories safeguarded from exclusion.
3. The revised amendment will now read:
   *Inclusiveness of the Church - The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, **gender, ability,** color, national origin, status or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.*
4. This means that membership in The United Methodist Church is open to all. No one can be excluded based on race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status or economic condition. **A pastor may not deny a person membership in the church because they are female or male, or they identify as a person with a disability.**
5. To ratify the amendment, every annual conference will vote. Every lay and clergy voting member will vote via paper ballot.
6. A "yes" vote on Ballot #2 means you believe all persons, those who identify with a disability, who are female or male, can be members in The United Methodist Church.
7. After the vote, the ballots will be collected and returned to the Council of Bishops for counting.
8. A 2/3 vote of "yes" is required to ratify the United Methodist Constitution. Every vote counts.