

**Minutes of the Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force of Christ United Methodist Church
May 26, 2022**

Present:

Bill Stoltz, chair	Bob Ayers	Barbara Burnham (via zoom) *
Ken Crouch	Sue Fredrickson	Sarah Jowell
Gail McClendon	Joey Moreland	Liz Williams
		Tom Young

Absent: Sunday Coffman

Ex officio members present:

Jim Rose, Lay Leader Jeff Thomas, Church Council chair

Absent:

Chappell Temple, senior pastor

Guests:

Dan Conway, Michelle Hall, DeAndre Johnson, associate pastors of Christ UMC

Agenda item 1: Chair Bill Stoltz opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Agenda item 2a: Ken Crouch nominated Bob Ayers as vice chair; Sue Fredrickson seconded the motion. Bob Ayers was elected vice chair by acclamation.

Added Agenda item 2b: Bill Stoltz nominated Sue Fredrickson as recording secretary; Bob Ayers seconded the motion. Sue Fredrickson was elected recording secretary by acclamation.

Agenda item 3: Chair Bill Stoltz extended an invitation to the guests, the three associate pastors, to speak on their thoughts regarding disaffiliation, the future place of Christ UMC, and any personal thoughts.

In order of speaking: Dan Conway, Michelle Hall, and DeAndre Johnson.

Following the individual presentations, Task Force members held an open discussion, with participation by the guests, regarding their thoughts and opinions on the implications to the congregation, perceived or real, to say that we are entering a “discernment process.” The discussion led to Agenda item 4.

Agenda item 4: Church Council chair and ex officio member Jeff Thomas confirmed that the motion voted by this Task Force on May 19 “to enter the discernment process,” is on the Church Council agenda for June 5, and confirmed that presenting the motion will call for a vote to proceed.

** A recording of the Zoom meeting was begun approximately half-way through the meeting. The link for viewing the recording will be provided on request.*

Chair Bill Stoltz distributed a proposed statement for presentation to the Church Council meeting. The group suggested modifications and additions, one of which was adding the definition of the word “discernment,” which vice chair Bob Ayers had previously researched and then distributed during the meeting.

The planned statement, after committee discussion, is:

“In consideration of critical discussions now ongoing throughout the United Methodist Church and the Texas Annual Conference, the Jeremiah 29 Task Force recommends that Christ Church begin a season of study and discernment on the issues surrounding disaffiliation, effective with notification to the district superintendent after this approval.

“The task force wants it to be clearly understood that study and discernment are not disaffiliation and that looking at options does not predetermine what an outcome should be.

“The fundamental definition for Christian discernment is ‘a decision-making process in which an individual makes a discovery that can lead to future action. In the process of Christian spiritual discernment, God guides the individual to help them arrive at the best decision.’ “

Agenda item 5: Chair Bill Stoltz briefly presented the possible next steps, stating that we will discuss these further and decide action, if any, at the next meeting of the Task Force.

- Task Force meet with District Superintendent
- Resource material and making it available for Christ Church members
- Town Hall meeting(s)
- Form teams to address these issues
- Others’ thoughts

Agenda item 6: The next meeting of the Jeremiah Task Force will be Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 p.m., at a location to be announced. **

Agenda item 7: Chair Bill Stoltz called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Vice chair Bob Ayers offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fredrickson, recording secretary, Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force

** *The location for the June 8 meeting has been set for rooms 11/12*

Addendum to May 26, 2022 Minutes

Materials provided for Task Force general information, but not discussed as part of the meeting:

“Recent rulings shape annual conference season” UM News article dated May 26, 2022

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/recent-rulings-shape-annual-conference-season>

page 1-2 (of 49) “IN THE MATTER OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 2548.2 OF THE 2016 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY DECISION”

<https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/jcd-media/0522-2-cob-request-for-declaratory-decision-re-2548.ashx?la=en&hash=C20EECB41CF862F44D4A824F2302FD019D3B0C04>

“Frequently Asked Questions” and “Why the rush to disaffiliate” from That We May Be One organization website

<https://twmbo.org/> (see Resources)