

**Minutes of the Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force of Christ United Methodist Church  
June 20, 2022**

*Present:*

Bill Stoltz, chair	Bob Ayers	Barbara Burnham*
Sunday Coffman	Ken Crouch	Sue Fredrickson*
Sarah Jowell	Gail McClendon	Joey Moreland
Tom Young	Liz Williams	

*Ex officio members present:*

Jim Rose, Lay Leader      Jeff Thomas, Church Council chair  
Chappell Temple, senior pastor

\* *attended via Zoom*

**Agenda item 1:** Chair Bill Stoltz opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. with a prayer.

**Agenda item 2:** The minutes from the June 8 meeting were submitted for approval. All were in favor with no alterations.

**Agenda item 3:** Chair Bill Stoltz asked for reports from the three “Education Work Groups.” All groups sent their reports ahead and were reviewed. (Members and team leader are listed in June 8 meeting minutes.)

- A. Explain the UMC org structure: The group liked the power point prepared by team leader Joey Moreland, because it clearly and simply explains the connections and responsibilities of the UMC structure. All agreed it should be included on the planned web site.
- B. How did we get to where we are: Group leader Tom Young pointed out that the information was changing “all the time,” and that this is a document that allows people to go as deeply as they’d like if we post it on our website.
- C. Give some high-level sense of the factions currently within the UMC: Team leader Barbara Burnham wanted the document seen as across the U.S., not just the Texas Annual Conference. All CUMC pastors reviewed in advance with Pastor Conway making additions and Pastor Johnson suggesting edits.

Updated versions of these three documents will be made part of the minutes.

Chair Bill Stoltz raised the question of how quickly it would take to pull these into a unified document; at least a month of editing was agreed.

That question led to discussion of what we would like to see, in general, on our proposed website (Agenda Item 4, b). Member Tom Young proposed we launch with as much information as possible. Chair Bill Stoltz said we don’t want to rush the site. Member Joey Moreland suggested posting our minutes to assure transparency.

**Inserted Agenda Item A:** Pastor Temple gave the following updates:

The Texas Annual Conference Future Discernment Task Force presentations will occur in July-August (note: the full schedule is available on the TAC website: <https://www.txcumc.org/fdtf-meeting-schedule> )

Participants are Bishop Scott Jones, Conference Treasurer Carol Bruse, and other staff members. Five-minute video presentations will cover the topics: Staying UMC; What is the GMC; Other Options, such as Free Methodist.

The Southwest District meeting is **Sunday, August 7, 4-5:30, at St Peter's UMC**, 20775 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, TX 77450. The meeting may be broadcast, but questions can only be asked in person.

The called Annual Conference, at which requests to date for disaffiliation will be voted, is **December 3** (most likely a Zoom meeting). Any church desiring to disaffiliate should file the paperwork by **November 10**.

Bishop Jones has announced that he will retire effective **December 31, 2022**.

Pastor Temple clarified that these dates do not imply that a church cannot wait to after Texas Annual Conference 2023.

Pastor Temple suggested that we could have a Church Conference before **November 10** to decide if we are going to disaffiliate or not.

Member Joey Moreland asked for a recap of the disaffiliation process.

- Vote to have the discernment process
- Follow the steps in one of the two Book of Discipline processes – 2548.2 or 2553; the process will be determined after a Judicial Council ruling in July.
- Pay unpaid-apportionments for past and current year
- Pay the unfunded pension liability, a number to be obtained from the Conference Treasurer

Pastor Temple said the Texas Annual Conference Future Discernment Task Force has issued guidelines that he will send to all members. (note: the document is available on the TAC website: <https://www.txcumc.org/period-of-local-church-discernment> )

**Agenda items 4:** Chair Bill Stoltz returned to the Agenda, asking what are we hearing from church members, neighbors, and noting that many of the Agenda items under 4 had already occurred in previous discussion.

Pastor Temple said there have been only a few emails to the Jeremiah 29 email box. Those emails are supposed to forward to Chair Bill Stoltz, but a technical glitch has prevented that from occurring. Pastor Temple will begin to send the emails to all on the committee.

Discussion ensued on the email mailbox process, with Member Sue Fredrickson offering to research the issues, summarize into a proposal and present at the next meeting.

Member Gail McClendon was on the church-sponsored Choir Trip when the congregational letter went out; several people asked her about the committee. Member Joey Moreland received similar questions of: "What is going on?"

Items the committee suggested for inclusion on the website:

- Letter to the District Superintendent notifying CUMC has entered the discernment process and the response
- All minutes and pdfs or hyperlinks of the addendum items; i.e., those distributed at the meetings
- Notice of the August 7 District Wide Information meeting
- A Pastoral Conversation on Same-Sex Marriage, paper co-authored by Tom Pace and Chappell Temple
- The documents prepared by the sub-committees
- Links to videos, sermons, articles that we have found to be informative
- And, as Chair Bill Stoltz noted: "If you see something excellent, give a recommendation to the committee."

**Agenda item 5:** Chair Bill Stoltz moved to Other Business.

Pastor Temple asked about setting a date for the Annual Church Conference prior to November 10, as he needs to give notice to the District Superintendent as far in advance as possible. A vote for disaffiliation will not necessarily be on the Agenda for that meeting.

Sunday was agreed as the best day of the week, with evening suggested to allow for those returning from travel and includes the Youth who are members. **November 6** was the recommended date.

Member Gail McClendon asked how a vote, were it to occur, would be conducted? Pastor Temple said there will be paper ballots. McClendon asked about protecting privacy, and suggested numbers assigned to the ballots. Pastor Temple added a person must be a member and must be present to vote.

**Agenda item 6:** Chair Bill Stoltz set the next meeting for Wednesday, July 6, 6:00 p.m. Vice chair Bob Ayers will chair the meeting in Bill's absence.

**Agenda item 7:** Chair Bill Stoltz called for the meeting to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Member Liz Williams offered a closing prayer.

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

**Addendum to June 20, 2022 Minutes**

*Materials listed in minutes; hard copies available on request*

United Methodist Church Corporate Structure - powerpoint

Background on the Conflict. PDF to be created

Theological Groups within the United Methodist Church. PDF to be created

Disaffiliation letter to District Superintendent. PDF to be created

Response from District Superintendent. PDF to be created

Texas Annual Conference Discernment Task Force Meeting Schedule

<https://www.txcumc.org/fdtf-meeting-schedule>

Texas Annual Conference Discernment Task Force Letter

<https://www.txcumc.org/period-of-local-church-discernment>

Link to Zoom recording of the meeting  
(to be obtained)