

**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. (team leader in bold).

- A. Explain the UMC org structure: **Joey Moreland**, Bob Ayers, Bill Stoltz, Gail McClendon. Comments: the group liked the power point 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: **Tom Young**, Ken Crouch, Jim Rose, Liz Williams. Comments: Member 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: **Barbara Burnham**, Sarah Jowell, Jeff Thomas, Sue Fredrickson, Sunday Coffman. Comments: Member Barbara Burnham wanted to have the document seen as across the U.S., not just the Texas Annual Conference. All the pastors had 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:

There will be District Meetings conducted in July and August by the Texas Annual Conference Future Discernment Task Force. Participants will be Bishop Scott Jones, Conference Treasurer Carol Bruse and other staff members. Five-minute video presentations will be prepared in advance on the topics:

- Staying UMC
- What is the GMC
- Options for Independent

The meeting for our District is **Sunday, August 7, 4-5:30, at St Peter's UMC** in Katy. The meeting may be simulcast, but questions can only be asked in person.

The called Annual Conference, at which requests for disaffiliation will be voted, is **December 3** (most likely a Zoom meeting). The Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference bring forth the requests from those churches requesting; delegates to the Annual Conference vote.

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 (Memorial Day weekend), or later, to make a decision.

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 until 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.

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 as received.

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 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 (This is already on the Church site, but difficult to locate)
- 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.

opened to general discussion and updates resumed conducting the meeting, returning to the Agenda for "thoughts on how the Task Force can best proceed with information-gathering and information sharing."

He thanked member Joey Moreland for his efforts in advance to provide an outline for information sharing, titled "What are we discerning about?" (See Addendum page)

There is a possibility of a standardized presentation from the Annual Conference Task Discernment Force.

Member Barbara Burnham suggested we need a process for congregation members to ask questions.

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Member Sue Fredrickson suggested a dedicated email box; Pastor Temple said the Church often sets up such a process and will look into doing so with an address of j29@christchurchsl.org.

Other ideas were to gather questions into an FAQ, which would include email input and ones asked in person of a member. The email address, the FAQ document, and future items can be put on a dedicated portion of the Church website.

Returning to the outline, Chair Bill Stoltz recommended we take the first three sections, divide into working groups and develop content for review at the next meeting (team leader in bold).

- D. Explain the UMC org structure: **Joey Moreland**, Bob Ayers, Bill Stoltz, Gail McClendon
- E. How did we get to where we are: **Tom Young**, Ken Crouch, Jim Rose, Liz Williams
- F. Give some high-level sense of the factions currently within the UMC: **Barbara Burnham**, Sarah Jowell, Jeff Thomas, Sue Fredrickson, Sunday Coffman

Agenda item 5: Chair Bill Stoltz set the next meeting for Monday, June 20, 4:00 p.m. * *

Agenda item 6: Chair Bill Stoltz called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:10 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 20 meeting has been set for the Faith Corner room.*

Addendum to June 8, 2022 Minutes

Materials listed in minutes; hard copies available on request

Draft of congregational letter drafted by Pastor Temple regarding entering discernment process (hard copy)

Final congregational letter (emailed)

<https://www.christchurchsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Congregational-Email-June-9-2022.pdf>

Bulletin insert (hard copy)

“What are we discerning?,” by Joey Moreland (hard copy)

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

“The Risk of Waiting,” by Texas Wesleyan Covenant Association (hard copy)

“Myths About the Global Methodist Church,” by Global Methodist Church (hard copy)

Commissioning with Fairness; A Resolution to Clarify the Unfunded Pension Liability (adopted by Texas Annual Conference at May 2022 meeting) (hard copy)

United Methodists: A Connected Church info gram (UMnews.org)

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/connectional-structure-graphic>

Jurisdictions/US conferences info gram

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/imagining-the-future-us-regional-context>

Joey’s group

Tom’s group

Barbara’s group