

**Minutes of the Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force of Christ United Methodist Church  
July 14, 2022**

*Present:*

|                    |                       |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Bill Stoltz, chair | Bob Ayers, vice chair | Barbara Burnham |
| Ken Crouch         | Sue Fredrickson       | Sarah Jowell    |
| Gail McClendon     | Tom Young             |                 |

*Absent:*

|                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sunday Coffman | Joey Moreland | Liz Williams |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|

*Ex officio members present:*

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

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

**Agenda item 2:** The minutes from the July 6 meeting were submitted for approval. All were in favor with no alterations.

**Agenda item 4c: Timeline (moved up in discussion):**

Chair Bill Stoltz asked member Barbara Burnham to recap the proposed timelines. The first is “Framework for Affiliation Discernment Process Timeline, J29 Task Force with History.” It is proposed to be the first item on our webpage under “General Information.” It will be a living document, i.e., to be updated as meetings of our Task Force occur.

The second document is “Framework for Affiliation Discernment.”

*It is noted for the record that there was approximately one hour of discussion regarding the purpose and timing of the Sept. 25 Church Council meeting and possible Oct. 9, Oct. 23, or later, called Church Conference meetings. A transcript of the comments can be made available on request.*

The committee held extended conversation on the dates in the documents, and the context around those dates. Key points of discussion:

- The date for the joint meeting of committees on Finance and Trustees should be Aug. 8 to give them enough time for full review of the costs of changing our affiliation. Bill Stoltz or Bob Ayers will attend to represent Jeremiah 29 and explain what is needed.
- A possible date of Oct. 9 for a called Church Conference is too soon
- The possible called Church Conference will be between the dates of Oct. 17 and Oct. 23, pending the availability of the District Superintendent. Sunday is preferred in the evening, and we need to have child care.
- We will be clear in our communication that this is a “reserved date,” not necessarily set
- The Church Council meeting will remain Sept. 25, as already announced in the Church calendar

- Should the Church Council meeting be open to the floor for a vote as this is becoming a “vote before the vote”; this is not a decision for the Jeremiah 29 Task Force
- An email will be sent to the Church Council asking for a preference indication as to whether any votes on Sept. 25 will be Church Council members only or open to all Church members present at the meeting

### **Agenda Items under Old Business**

Continued to be postponed while the following were discussed.

Pastor Temple gave his comments:

- There is much to be done in the fall as part of our normal process to get ready for Annual Church Conference, such as the budget.
- The Bishop’s Cabinet has approved for pastors to stay through the end of the appointment year (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023), whichever way a church may choose to affiliate.
- His preferred date for a possible affiliation vote is Oct. 9.
- December 3 is the set date for a called Annual Conference to hear requests for disaffiliation.
- All churches disaffiliating this fall will use Dec. 31 as their end date as a UMC church.
- The Global Methodist Church signed an agreement with Wespath this week for retirement and health benefits.

Chair Bill Stoltz commented that he feels we should also plan a timeline for using the Annual Conference May 2023 option for disaffiliation. Comments to that were:

- Would we then have to pay apportionments for 2022/2023?
- Do we have enough “soak time” for the congregation to understand all?
- What would we do with extra time in the discernment process (if extended to May 2023)?
- We can adjust the date for a possible vote as we receive feedback from the congregation.

Pastor Temple outlined steps and which group votes regarding disaffiliation:

- Jeremiah 29 does not make the motion to hold a church-wide vote; that motion comes from the Church Council.
- Jeremiah 29 could vote on should we recommend to the Church Council for their Sept 25 meeting that a meeting of the congregation is called to vote upon what is the alignment of Christ Church effective the first of the new year.
- The Church Council is not going to vote if should we go into the Global Methodist or stay UMC. Church Council is going to vote on should we call a called session of the membership
- The membership then votes on the pivotal question.

Chair Bill Stoltz summarized how the dates on the timeline will be updated to reflect the conversation. (See above bullets under Agenda item 4C.)

Pastor Temple will put the email to the District Superintendent in the Jeremiah 29 mailbox so it can become part of the minutes.

**Agenda Item 4a:** Disciplinary Provision was moved up in the Agenda per Pastor Temple's request.

Pastor Temple asked to speak to this item because he also needs to communicate that item to the DS, and he would like a statement included in the minutes.

There was lengthy discussion about Book of Discipline Paragraphs 2548.2 and 2553, including:

- The Judicial Council is currently reviewing the question of which disaffiliation paragraph is accepted.
- Getting a statement in our minutes might give the ability in the future to ask for "grandfathering."
- The only difference between the two Paragraphs is the margin vote of simple majority (2548.2) or two-thirds (2553).
- Why not just wait for the Judicial Council decision?
- The decision of which Paragraph to use is not the responsibility of the Jeremiah 29 committee; we can only make a recommendation, if that.
- Communication from the Bishop and from the Texas Annual Conference consistently recommends following Paragraph 2553.
- There are two pathways listed, however, on the Texas Annual Conference website.

*The recording or a written transcript of the entire discussion can be made available on request.*

The committee agreed on this statement:

**The Texas Annual Conference principles of disaffiliation outline pathways for both (Paragraphs) 2548.2 and 2553. We will utilize one of these two.**

### **Agenda Item 3: Old Business, Communication**

Member Sue Fredrickson reported on the following communication items and these decisions reached:

- Launch of the website is targeted for August 8, if not sooner.
- The sections for the website are General Information, UMC, GMC, Jeremiah 29.
- FAQs will be the largest content development ahead.
- The email account launch has been successful with more responses coming from the weekly email Blast, which allows a simple click, vs. the bulletin.

- Clarified that simpler, survey-like responses will be tallied and put on the website; more in-depth responses will become part of the FAQs.
- A mail workbox will be established in the Church workroom for those that don't have email or want anonymity.
- We will utilize the Q&As published by the Conference Future Discernment Task Force as needed.
- Concerns were voiced how to reach members that don't have computer access.
- A congregational letter, written by Tom Young, was reviewed; editing will continue.
- As much as possible the term "affiliation" will be used over "disaffiliation," but it was recognized that context often dictates use.

#### **Agenda Item 4b: Process**

Work groups for accomplishing tasks were decided:

- Communications: Sue Fredrickson, Gail McClendon, Sarah Jowell
- Process: Barbara Burnham, Bob Ayers, Jeff Thomas
- FAQs: Tom Young, Bill Stoltz, JimRose

Those who are not at the meeting can decide on their choice after the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Other business**

Chair Bill Stoltz believes people will ask about the mechanics of moving to another affiliation.

Member Barbara Burnham has been working on a document that answers those questions in part, and will share with committee.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Meeting Schedule**

The Task Force scheduled a regular meeting day and time going forward of Tuesday, 4:30. A regular room will be requested.

The next meeting will be July 19, with a plan for the work groups to break out during the meeting and then report back at the end.

#### **Agenda Item 7**

The meeting was closed at 6:25. Jeff Thomas offered a closing prayer.

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

**Addendum to July 14, 2022 Minutes**

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

Framework for Affiliation Discernment Process Timeline, J29 Task Force with History

Framework for Affiliation Discernment