



January 3, 2023

Dr. Jessica Terrell, District Superintendent
Central West District
North Georgia Annual Conference
PO Box 2058
Hiram, GA 30141

Dear Dr. Terrell,

Please consider this the formal request of the Administrative Board of Due West United Methodist Church for a timely called church conference for the sole purpose of voting to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church under the provisions of Paragraph 2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline as amended by General Conference 2019. We previously notified you of this vote by letter dated October 29, 2022.

The vote of our Administrative Board to make this request was 18 Yes votes and 5 No votes taken at the October 24, 2022, meeting. (Official Minutes attached). It is our intention to continue communication with our congregation including town hall meetings to inform our church of this decision and the options before us.

We are aware of the statement issued on December 28, 2022, from then Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, the Appointive Cabinet, and the Conference Board of Trustees relating to the purported "pause" of the disaffiliation process in North Georgia. Respectfully, we believe this action to be a direct violation of the Book of Discipline, contrary to the language of Paragraph 2553, and beyond the authority of the bishop, cabinet, and trustees.

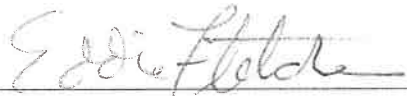
It should be noted that Due West United Methodist Church has done nothing to violate the Book of Discipline and is in good standing as defined by the Conference Board of Trustees at the 2022 Annual Conference Session. Additionally, this church has done nothing to engage in any negative conduct as outlined in the December 28, 2022, statement. Moreover, you, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and Randy Hardy the Central West District Lay Leader spoke to our congregation presenting the conference positions and perspectives on disaffiliation. They had the unfettered and unlimited ability to communicate any corrective information desired and in fact did so.



Therefore, it is inequitable and unjust to prohibit Due West United Methodist Church from continuing through the revised agreement and disaffiliation process found on page 77 of the 2022 Annual Conference Handbook, as presented to and accepted by the 2022 Annual Conference Session Two on June 3, 2022 (Conference Journal page 268) after 70 local church disaffiliations were approved by the conference during Session One on June 2, 2022, as documented on page 266 of the 2022 Conference Journal.

Therefore, we prayerfully expect you to set the date for the church conference as requested and provided for by the 2019 General Conference actions in Paragraph 2553. We expect to receive a reply to this letter no later than ten (10) days from the date of this letter. We are not expecting you to set a date for a vote within ten days, but that you merely reply to this letter. If we do not receive a reply by that date, we will assume you do not intend to reply.

Yours in Christ,



Eddie Fletcher
Administrative Board Chair



Bob Mitchell
Administrative Board Secretary



Robert Mooney
Trustees Chair



Dusty Cantrell
SPRC Chair

CC: Dr. David Campbell
Enclosure



Results of vote requesting a Church Conference on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church per Paragraph 2553 taken on October 24, 2022:

18 Vote to Request a Church Conference on Paragraph 2553

5 Vote not to Request a Church Conference on Paragraph 2553

The vote was counted and certified by:

Allison Sligh - Church Lay Leader 

Bob Mitchell - Secretary of the Board 



Admin Board Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2022

South Campus Choir Room

Eddie Fletcher opened the meeting 7:04 with a devotional from 2 Corinthians 4: 7-10

Opening prayer delivered at 7:06 by Bob Mitchell

August minutes were approved at 7:08

Ministry Area Reports

Trustees – Adam Glass

- Robert Mooney is the Trustee Chair Starting November 1st
- Roof update: we have been approved by County. We are pricing out decking materials
- Wi-Fi update: completed in all three buildings. Working out bugs now.
- New paint and carpet in Building C (sanctuary and hallway)
- New carpet in both Pastor's office

Finance – Darren Frost

- 2022-2023 (September): \$133,407 in giving and \$147,193 in expenses
- 2022-2023 (YTD): \$454,368 in giving and \$479,663 in expenses.
- First quarter is on par with 2020 and 2021.
- Giving in line with the past two years for these months.

Alicia Iles – Children's Ministries

- Back to School Splash & dwCrew swim party was a great success
- 3rd Grade Bible presentation was held on October 9 during 11:00 service
- Family Advent Celebration on November 27 immediately following Hanging of the Greens Service
- dwCrew Christmas Party is December 4

Pre-School – Shelly Kubek

- We have 201 students enrolled from one year old to Kindergarten
- Our 3 years old and up classes visited the pumpkin patch
- Ones and Twos classes do a pumpkin hunt in the courtyard or their room
- Our bible story this month is Good Samaritan
- We awarded \$3846.50 in scholarship money to students this school year
- We are getting ready for **Holiday Market**. It is in 20th year. We have vendors, entertainment, raffle, and silent action on Saturday, November 12th from 9am - 2pm in FLC

Youth Ministries- Lora Parker-Gavler

Since our last meeting:

- The Pumpkin Patch has been very successful! Very thankful for the many adult Sunday School classes who have filled the morning shifts during the week!

Upcoming Excitement:

- Fall Confirmation Class is on track to be confirmed on November 13th.
- Youth Fall Retreat will be at Camp Lee on November 18-20
- Murphy-Harpst Christmas Ball is December 4th

College Ministries – Tracie Cantrell/ Pattie Pass

- 21 students registered
- First mailing was sent out last month
- Still looking for families to “adopt” the college students
- Next mailing to be sent prior to end of semester
- Committee planning dinner for students during the Christmas/New Year break

Adult Education – Marianna Drinkard – Presented by Eddie Fletcher

- Sunday School averages slowly rising. Jan-April was 110, Jan-July was 115, Jan-Sept was 118. Total numbers in attendance Jan-Sept. = 4,562.
- Small-Group averages remaining about the same. Jan-June was 26, July-Sept. was 27. Total attendance numbers for Jan-Sept. = 2,183.
- Small-Groups make up just under 1/3 of the total numbers, and Sunday School a little over 2/3, when you look at the total attendance numbers for Jan-Sept.---- 6,745.
- We had 3 new groups begin this fall, with 41 participants.

Women’s Ministries – Kerri Casteel

- Women of Joy Conference went well. 8200 women were there. Great speakers. I’ve booked us for next year
- Cookies with Santa - (December 3rd) Making progress and are working on volunteers to help out. UMM’s group will handle working the cocoa bar and Nichole is working to prepare a short

play of the birth of Jesus. We have 10 families and about 32 kids that will attend. Santa will also be present!

- Christmas Brunch - (December 10th) Plans are coming along with our theme being Love's Pure Light with scripture from 1 John 1:5: God is light; in him is no darkness. We have 38 women registered. We have it capped at 80 due to restrictions with the caterer. We are using Carriage Housing Catering, Our speaker is Tracy Arntzen. She has two ministries: Saving Susan Ministry - Orphanage and We Pray Through It: Support for people with mental health diagnosis.

Methodist Men – Larry Sago

- UMM hosted the 35th Annual Murphy Harpst Dinner. As always, it's a huge success. This year was no exception in raising over \$10,000.
- Be on the lookout.... Turkeys coming!!!!

Music Ministries – Christine Salazar

- Christmas is Coming!
WCCC December 10, 6pm and Dec 11 (9 & 11am)
- CFA update
- MOWTS Recap
- Welcome Katy Simmons, Music Associate!
- Some new gear being ordered in advance of Christmas programming

Mission/Evangelism – Kerri Casteel / Mark Hellman

- Go Hike Ministry is off the ground. They have already had one outing and have another one planned for November 19.
- Table on Delk ministry partner visit on October 26
- We have an ERT team on the ground in Florida this week.
- We will be hosting/coordinating a multi-agency Hotel to Home resource day in February
- Christmas mission opportunities: Murphy Harpst Angel Tree, Calvary Children's Home Angel Tree, Wrap with a Cop present wrapping evening
- Teach Love: hosted a caramel apple bar for Due West Elementary last week during conference week.
- Over 300 families in the Rec Ministry and Adult Exercise received a Q4 church activity update letter

Media Ministries – Matt Boullain

Completed Things:

- Behind the scenes changes for announcement videos
- New format for monthly newsletters
- Announcement videos now get uploaded to Facebook as well

Future Plans:

- Making tech more streamlined and accessible for new volunteers or events where I am not available

- Involve the congregation more for announcement videos
- Reaching out to youth to involve them in the media team more; ask your kids or grandkids if they would be interested to see what it's like!

David offered a prayer for Matt's fiancé Carol's cousin Hunter who was involved a horrific accident

Staff Parish Relations – Dusty Cantrell - Presented by David Campbell

- Welcome our new Music Associate / Accompanist Katy Simmons
- Updating Staff Handbook
- Annual Evaluations
- Pleased to announce that David has been asked to return!!

Stewardship – Bill Coffeen

- Consecration Sunday is scheduled for November 20. It is once again an opportunity to be thankful for all of God's blessings and in return give back a portion of what is His already. A letter from the Chair and Pastor Campbell will be sent to all members inviting them to be partners in extending Due West's mission in 2023 (the operating budget) and beyond (legacy gifts towards our endowment).
- Our Legacy Ministry committee will continue to meet quarterly and provide Trustees an annual report in January 2023.
- In November, the legacy committee will be reaching out to three separate constituencies: DW members who have moved away but still have significant ties to our mission; Scouting alumni & families going back almost 60 years; those in our church presently who have a special place in their heart for our Loving Through Dementia Ministry. Each of these groups will be encouraged to contribute present or planned gifts to our general and specific ministry endowments.
- Our second Estate Planning Workshop was successfully completed 10-22-22.

Director of Discipleship – Sam Gindlesberger

- The Bonfire Group has begun meeting and taking shape.
- Upcoming meeting: Smores 'n' Smashburger's
- This group is one facet of a larger strategy to connect and disciple young adults in our church family.

Challenges:

- Connecting with the target population
- Creating a viable structure/culture
- Strategies:
- Email Survey

- Trunk or Treat Connection Emails

Validation Task Force Report - Mark Hellman

- Assembled to gather information to validate the recent surveys on whether to request a Church Conference from our District Superintendent.
- The data received indicated that a vote be taken. A motion was suggested and approved. Ballots were passed out to voting members of the Administration Board.
- Results of the vote: See attached document validated by two counters.
- 18 for a call to the DS for a Church Conference
- 5 against a call to the DS for a Church Conference

Next Meeting – Chair

- Next Administrative Board Mtg Jan 30?
- Google Doc Approval of October minutes

Pastor's Report

- Congregation Care Ministers have added care recipients and continue to multiply the ministry of Due West.
- Our Charge Conference is 13 NOV at Bethany UMC in Smyrna at 2 PM.
- There is a group of us leaving for Egypt next Tuesday and we return 11 NOV. We appreciate your prayers.
- Grateful to the staff who went and served in Must Mobile Food Pantry last week

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer at 8:10 by David Campbell

Attendance

Allison Sligh

Alicia Iles

Barry Taylor

Bill Coffeen

Eddie Fletcher

Bob Mitchell

Lew Amick

David Campbell

Christine Salazar

Lora Parker-Gayler

Kerri Casteel

Butch Gaudette

Sarah Baumhoff

Darren Frost

Cindy Knupp

Adam Glass

Larry Sago

Tracie Cantrell

Gordon Via

Shelly Kubek

Ron Moore

Ron Lunk

Fritz Hutchinson Jr.

Mark Hellman

Jane Swanson

Ron Hoover

Ross Olhausen

Tammy Teague

Terri Kilpatrick

Kyle Moore

Matthew Boullain

Attendance totals:

31

Numerous guest attending including Sam Gindlesberger

October Ad Board Devotional

2 Corinthians 4:7-10
(From the Immerse Bible)

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

For the past 39 months I have trouble on all sides;

- The sudden sickness and death of my wife
- The flooding of our house two weeks after her death, resulting in only half the house to live in for the next 6 weeks
- Before we can get the house put back together my daughter is in the hospital diagnosed with the life changing illness of Type 1 Diabetes
- In January 2020 I first hear the word Protocol and I realize I have another trouble to deal with as the Ad Board Chair of my church
- Just as life is somewhat normal in March, we are locked down by COVID
- I also have unfinished business at home. My wife and I had planned to develop the post-secondary education plan for our 18-year-old developmentally delayed son during the 2019-2020 school year. Not only did I not have my schoolteacher wife to help, but the resources at the State were also severely impacted by COVID
- Then in April of 2020 I lose my sister after a short cancer illness also,

I need these verses above! The words distressed, perplexed, and despair I have experienced. It would not be truthful if I had said I had not experienced these feelings during the last 39 months

But I have not felt **forsaken**. I have not felt cast down and I have not felt destroyed! My faith in what Jesus did for us on the Cross has provided peace. Participation in choir, small group bible study and worship even in the new environment of Zoom did provide the comfort of the Body of Christ. And made it even more special when we could engage person to person again.

I'm thankful my parents brought me to church and Sunday school every week. I am thankful for the ministers, Sunday school teachers, choir, and youth directors of my youth. I am thankful for God's Holy Spirit who convinced me of my sinful nature as a college freshman and led me to the understanding that I needed to rely on his strength and not mine to be the holy person that I desired to be and the person God is calling me to be.

I am thankful for the more years than I wanted, living as a single person waiting for God to bring my wife Trish in my life and provide the family I longed for. But in those years, I was able to build my knowledge and understanding of God's Word without other responsibilities getting in my way.

Only the foundations of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ have provided strength for me to live in this fragile clay jar over the last 39 months.