



The *South Georgia* Conference
of The United Methodist Church

November 1, 2017

To the Clergy of the South Georgia Conference:

As we begin thinking ahead to the 2018 appointment making season, let's take a moment to celebrate some examples of the ways we are Alive Together in Christ.

I am receiving exciting reports about increased worship attendance in many of our churches as we live into this year's theme, Alive Together in Worship. Our disaster response efforts have been ongoing for the past fourteen months in our own conference and in our giving to Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. We continue to experience growth in our apportionment giving. Over the past year, I have been inspired by the collaborative efforts of the Strategic Initiatives Team, which includes the Appointive and Extended Cabinets, the Connectional Ministries Staff, the Board of Ministry Executive Committee, and the Leadership Forum.

Let's allow these huge successes to energize us as we each reflect upon our service to Christ by asking the following questions. Where have I been most alive in the past year? What is God blessing in my life? Where might I be more alive in the coming year? What steps am I already taking to move in that direction? What help do I need to reach that goal? How will I know when I get there?

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving with you in South Georgia. I am having a great time because I know that in the Lord our labor is not in vain.

Alive Together in Christ,

Lawson Bryan

Important Information for Clergy

Below is important information regarding forms, meeting dates and timelines related to the appointment making process. Also included are announcements about our 2018 Annual Conference Session, apportionments and statistical tables.

Appointment Making Process Related Information

Each year the Cabinet utilizes a tool called the "Master Move Book" in order to help facilitate the appointment making process. This year they are also utilizing an online appointment making tool. The forms below are used to populate these tools and ensure accurate information is used as the Cabinet discusses clergy appointments. Your help in completing these forms in a timely manner is appreciated.

Compensation Form

Deadline to complete: December 6, 2017

Clergy Serving a Local Church: www.sgaumc.org/dashboard

Clergy Serving in an Extension Ministry Position: www.sgaumc.org/emdashboard

Clergy serving a local church will utilize the Church Dashboard to complete their compensation form (link above). This form is filled out as part of the Charge Conference packet.

Extension Ministers will utilize the Extension Ministry Dashboard to complete their compensation form (link above). The narrative form is also available through the dashboard if it has not previously been completed.

The last day to make updates or complete the compensation form is **December 6**. Any changes made after this date must be made through the District Office.

Appointment Preference: Report to the Bishop and Cabinet

Form sent by: January 2, 2018 | Deadline to return: February 2, 2018

No later than **January 2**, the District Office will mail to each clergyperson a form entitled "Report to the Bishop and Cabinet" where information relative to the appointment process for 2018-2019 will be recorded. The District Office will also mail a similar report to each SPRC chairperson that solicits similar information. Each party is to sign the other's form after it is completed prior to returning to the District Office. Please remember, the deadline to return forms to the District Office is Friday, **February 2**.

Appointment Information Review

Review form made available: January 17, 2018 | Deadline to complete review: January 22, 2018

Clergy Serving a Local Church: www.sgaumc.org/dashboard

Clergy Serving in an Extension Ministry Position: www.sgaumc.org/emdashboard

In order to provide one last snapshot for clergy to review their information prior to the printing of the "Master Move Book," clergy will be asked to login to their dashboard (links above) between **January 17 and January 22**. There is nothing to complete; it is simply a one-page sheet to review. If there are any changes that need to be made clergy will need to contact their District Office. There are 5 sections to review:

- Charge Membership Information for 2017 (pulled from the December Discipleship Report)
- Charge Apportionment Information for 2017 (pulled from the Administrative Services Office)
- Appointment Information as of 7/1/2017 (pulled from the Conference Database)
- Compensation Information for 2018 (pulled from the Clergy Compensation Form)
- Sexual Ethics Workshop Last Attended (pulled from the Conference Pastoral Counselor Office)

Again, if there are any changes that need to be made please contact your District Office. Please note that the Charge Membership Information will be blank for Extension Ministers. The deadline to review this form, and to request changes to be made, is **January 22**.

Cabinet Appointment Making Sessions

The Appointive Cabinet will meet on the following dates. Consultation is a year-round process, and District Superintendents will continue consultations with Pastors and SPRC as needed throughout the appointment making process.

- Appointment Making Session #1 - February 19-21
- Appointment Making Session #2 - February 26-28
- Appointment Making Session #3 - March 19-21
- Appointment Making Session #4 - April 2-4
- Appointment Making Session #5 - April 9-11
- Appointment Making Session #6 - April 16-18
- Appointment Making Session #7 - April 23-25
- Anticipated release of appointments - April 29

Orientation for Moving Pastors

Bishop Bryan and the Appointive Cabinet will host an orientation session in May for full-time moving clergy. Superintendents will release the date, location, and time for this event in the Spring. Please remember that this is a mandatory meeting for all moving pastors.

Preaching Schedule & Moving Day

In an effort to encourage clergy to take a Sabbath break, the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet invite all clergy, especially those who are projected to move to a new appointment, to observe the following:

Preach in Local Churches as Scheduled – June 3, 2018

For Clergy moving to a new appointment, this is your final preaching Sunday in your current appointment.

Pulpit Supply Sunday – June 10, 2018

Clergy are encouraged to coordinate with their SPRC to have retired clergy or lay supply fill the pulpit to preach this Sunday. All clergy are invited to participate in this Sabbath break but clergy on the projected move list are strongly encouraged to do so.

Moving Day – June 13, 2018

Annual Conference Session Information

Annual Conference Meeting Dates

The 2018 session of the South Georgia Annual Conference will meet **June 3-5** at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, during which Bishop Bryan will fix these appointments for 2018-2019. Please note that this is a one-day reduction from last year's conference session. The 2018 Annual Conference will begin with the Opening Worship Service at 6:30 pm on Sunday evening, June 3, and go through Tuesday afternoon, June 5, at 4:00 pm.

Annual Conference Materials

All Annual Conference materials for the 2018 session will be placed on the conference and district websites to download and print or save to an electronic device prior to Annual Conference. *The Book of Recommendations* will also be available to order at a minimal cost through lulu.com. All clergy for whom we have an email address will receive a notification when Annual Conference materials are available. If an email address was entered during Charge Conference season for the lay member to Annual Conference from your church that person will receive an email as well. However, clergy are requested to check with the church's lay member to Annual Conference to make sure they receive all of the Annual Conference materials. Information will also be included in the district newsletter and conference communications.

Please make note of these procedures for Annual Conference materials. The process remains the same as last year. If printing out the materials, downloading them to an electronic device or ordering from lulu.com presents a hardship please let your District Office know by **April 3**.

Apportionments

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving to the mission and ministry of The South Georgia Conference and The United Methodist Church. The final day to make payments on your local church's 2017 apportionments is **January 12**. Payments must be turned into the Administrative Services Office by this date. As a reminder, there are electronic means available in which to pay apportionments. Also, the 2018 "Budget At a Glance," which explains the various apportionments, is available at www.sgaumc.org/conferencebudget.

Statistical Tables Information

The Statistical Tables will launch on **January 23** and must be completed by **March 2**. Statistical tables will be filled out through the Ezra website (ezra.gcfca.org/login.aspx). Login information will be emailed to the pastor and treasurer/financial secretary in early January.