



The *South Georgia* Conference
of The United Methodist Church

To the Clergy of the South Georgia Conference:

Thank you for the endurance you are showing as we navigate a global pandemic, reckoning with racial justice, the rolling restart of our churches, and a national election! As John Killinger once said, “Alone you are but a fragile vessel, but filled with the power of God there is nothing in the world that can defeat you.”

Your steadiness in Christ is a great strength to the people you serve, and it is a blessing to me. Thanks!

Another source of strength is the connectional system itself. And an important part of that system is the appointment process through which clergy and congregations are brought together based on gifts, characteristics, and opportunities for ministry.

Listed below is information about important items such as: the clergy compensation form, the appointment preference form, the review of your appointment information, and orientation for moving pastors. Thank you for giving your full attention to these items so that the Cabinet and I can be equipped to give our full attention to the appointment making process.

I am glad to be Alive Together at the Table with you.

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 2021 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 BOTH part 1 and part 2: December 4, 2020

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 to or complete both parts of the compensation form is **December 4**. 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 4, 2021 | Deadline to return: February 1, 2021

No later than **January 4**, 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 2021 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 Monday, **February 1**.

Appointment Information Review

Review form made available: January 19, 2021 | Deadline to complete review: January 22, 2021

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 19 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 2020 (pulled from the December Discipleship Report)
- Charge Apportionment Information for 2020 (pulled from the Administrative Services Office)
- Appointment Information as of 7/1/2020 (pulled from the Conference Database)
- Compensation Information for 2021 (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 and Apportionment 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 15-19
- Appointment Making Session #2 - February 22-26
- Appointment Making Session #3 - March 4
- Appointment Making Session #4 - March 8-12
- Appointment Making Session #5 - March 15-19
- Appointment Making Session #6 - March 22-24
- Appointment Making Session #7 - April 5-9
- Appointment Making Session #8 - April 12-16
- Anticipated release of appointments - April 18

Orientation for Moving Pastors

Bishop Bryan and the Appointive Cabinet will host a workshop on **May 5** for full-time moving clergy. Superintendents will release the 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 6, 2021

For Clergy moving to a new appointment, you are encouraged to make this your final preaching Sunday in your current appointment.

Pulpit Supply Sunday – June 13, 2021

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 16, 2021

Annual Conference Session Information

Annual Conference Meeting Dates

The 2021 session of the South Georgia Annual Conference is set for **June 6-8** at the Columbus Convention Center, during which Bishop Bryan will fix the appointments for 2021-2022. In addition to our time together in June, Bishop Bryan, in consultation with the leadership of the South Georgia Conference, has set a post-General Conference gathering for Saturday, October 9, 2021. The UMC's General Conference will take place Aug. 29 - Sept. 7, 2021. The program committee is also preparing for alternatives should an in-person gathering not be possible or recommended. Read more at www.sgaumc.org/annualconference.

Annual Conference Materials

All Annual Conference materials for the 2021 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. 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, 2021**.

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 2020 apportionments is **January 8, 2021**. 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 2021 "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 25, 2021**, and must be completed by **March 9, 2021**. Statistical tables will be filled out through the Ezra website (ezra.gcfa.org/login.aspx). Login information will be emailed to the pastor and treasurer/financial secretary in early January.