

RESOLUTIONS

*The South Georgia Conference
of The United Methodist Church*

2022 Annual Conference Session



**June 5-8, 2022
Columbus, Georgia**

RESOLUTION 1 – Say ‘No’ to Single-Use Plastic Resolution

South Georgia Conference UMC

February 2020

WHEREAS, “The earth belongs to the Lord, and everything in it – the world and all its people” (Psalm 24:1);

WHEREAS, as a community of faith we are responsible for the way we live and use God’s creation, “those who are trusted with something valuable must show they are worthy of that trust” (1 Corinthians 4:2); and

WHEREAS, we, the people of The United Methodist Church affirm that “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it...God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect” (The United Methodist Social Principles, *The Book of Discipline* [2016] ¶162); and

WHEREAS, plastic pollution is an important problem that negatively impacts the environment and the health and wellbeing of humans, animals, fish, and birds; and

WHEREAS, plastic never goes away. Plastic is a material made to last. Plastic cannot biodegrade; it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. Disposed plastic materials can take thousands of years to break down causing irreparable damage to water quality, sea life, and food supplies. Nevertheless, 33 percent of all plastic – water bottles, bags, and straws – are used just once and thrown away; and

WHEREAS, plastic piles up in the environment. Americans discard more than 30 million tons of plastic a year. Less than 10 percent gets recycled. The rest ends up in landfills, is burned or becomes litter; and

WHEREAS, plastic spoils our groundwater. There are thousands of landfills in the United States. Buried beneath each one of them, toxic chemicals from plastics drain out and seep into groundwater, flowing downstream into lakes and rivers. There are long-term risks of contamination of soils and groundwater by some additives and breakdown by-products in plastics, which can become persistent organic pollutants; and

WHEREAS, plastic clogs cities’ sewer systems and increases the risk of flooding. Larger pieces can fill with rainwater, providing a breeding ground for disease-spreading mosquitos. Up to 13 million tons of plastic waste end up in the ocean each year. Plastic marine debris found in our oceans or waterways is often consumer items such as food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, plastic/foam cups, plastic container lids, plastic utensils, plastic drinking straws, plastic stirrers, plastic/foam carryout containers, Styrofoam coolers, and grocery bags.

WHEREAS, plastic threatens wildlife. Wildlife become entangled in plastic, they eat it or mistake it for food and feed it to their young, and it is found littered in even extremely remote areas of the Earth. In our oceans alone, plastic debris outweighs zooplankton by a ratio of 36-to-1. Over 260 species, including invertebrates, turtles, fish, seabirds and mammals, have been reported to ingest or become entangled in plastic debris, resulting in impaired movement and feeding, reduced reproductive output, lacerations, ulcers and death; and

WHEREAS, plastic adversely affects human health. Toxic chemicals leach out of plastic and are found in the blood and tissue of people at every stage of life. Exposure to them is linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, endocrine disruption and other ailments. While the plastics used to package our foods are usually nontoxic, most plastics are laden with chemicals – from softeners (which can act as endocrine disruptors) to flame retardants (which can be carcinogenic or toxic in higher concentrations). These chemicals can make it through groundwater, the ocean and its food chain – and onto our plates.

NOW THEREFORE, let it be resolved that those persons who are responsible for planning Conference, District, and/or local church events adopt Creation Care practices that focus on waste prevention and waste reduction with the goal of moving toward eliminating the use all single-use plastics.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, to this end, we will encourage our clergy and laity to learn more about what it
2 means to be faithful stewards of creation by intentionally eliminating single-use plastics in all their forms wherever
3 possible, as one way to be a faithful witness of our responsibility to care for God's earth.

4
5 Rev. Ashley Randall
6 Denise Rooks
7 Rev. J. Michael Culbreth

Rev. Patricia A. Burns
Yolanda Sewell

8
9 Sources:

10 www.umc.org/what-we-believe/the-natural-world
11 www.umc.org/topics/topic-united-methodists-care-for-creation
12 www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability
13 www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/environmental-justice
14 [plasticpollutioncoalition.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/222813127-Why-is-plastic-harmful-](http://plasticpollutioncoalition.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/222813127-Why-is-plastic-harmful-marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/publications-files/2018_Plastics_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
15 marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/publications-files/2018_Plastics_Fact_Sheet.pdf

16 17 **RESOLUTION 2 – Resolution on Wage Equality (Equity)**

18 South Georgia Conference UMC
19 February 2020

20
21 WHEREAS, God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted
22 by Him. (Acts 10:34b-35)

23
24 WHEREAS, Jesus says the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves and that all the law
25 and the Prophets hang on that along with the greatest command to love the Lord our God with all of our heart and
26 with all our soul and with all of our minds. (Matthew 22:37-40). We acknowledge to love our neighbor entails to
27 treat our neighbor fairly. We also acknowledge our neighbor is not limited to just the ones who live next door, just
28 as it is not limited to those who agree with us.

29
30 WHEREAS, “We should not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a
31 fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.” (Deuteronomy 24:14)

32
33 WHEREAS, Exploitation or underpayment of workers is incompatible with Christ’s commandment to love our
34 neighbor – a love that extends to all persons in all places, including the workplace.

35
36 WHEREAS, A woman earns just 49 cents to the typical man’s dollar, and when measured by total earnings across
37 the most recent 15 years for all workers who worked in at least one year, women workers face a wage gap of 51
38 percent in the 2001-2015 period.

39
40 WHEREAS, Christ teaches that faith requires action for social and spiritual well-being and especially care for the
41 poor and the oppressed.

42
43 WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has been concerned about the plight of working men and women; now,
44 therefore, be it KNOWN that when one is treated unfairly due to his or her gender, that person is being oppressed
45 whether in the home, business, or community.

46
47 THEREFORE, Let it be resolved, since “The worker is worthy of his wages, he or she deserves fair compensation”
48 (1 Timothy 5:18) in all areas of business. Let us furthermore denounce any policies that prohibit, condone, or
49 reinforce the inopportunity for women to be paid less wages than men doing the same job. We ask that women be
50 treated fairly in their jobs by getting the same pay as their male counterparts and other minorities be treated fairly in
51 jobs with pay.

52
53 In accordance with our Social Creed, “We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young
54 adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to the improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity
55 of all persons.

1 We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and
2 in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and
3 responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.”
4

5 We further ask that the church and all of its members denounce the policies that do not grant equal employment
6 opportunities and Title IX in education, and support and adopt those policies which will help women enter higher
7 paying jobs in fields and occupations that are still off limits to women.
8

9 Denise Rooks	Rev. Ashley Randall	Rev. Dr. Ivelisse Quiñones
10 Rev. Earnestine Campbell	Rev. Patricia A. Burns	
11 Rev. Michael Powell	Carol Banks	

12
13 www.umc.org/what-we-believe/our-social-creed
14 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. (Psalm 82:3)
15 www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/women-and-children
16 iwpr.org/publications/annual-gender-wage-gap-2018/
17 iwpr.org/women-earn-just-half-of-what-men-earn-over-15-years/
18

19 **RESOLUTION 3 – Resolution of the Delegation of the South Georgia Annual** 20 **Conference**

21
22 Whereas, the postponement of the 2020 General Conference has meant a delay in consideration of the “Protocol for
23 Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation,” the Delegation of The South Georgia Annual Conference calls on its
24 members, laypersons and clergypersons, to remember both the content and the intent of the “Protocol,” one of the
25 items to be considered there.¹
26

27 Whereas, the “Protocol” reflects the missional hope of its authors for The United Methodist Church – that our
28 church would be led by grace, we believe the same set of factors that prompted the sixteen persons to gather and
29 craft the Protocol, in late 2019, remain relevant today to the laypersons, clergypersons, and local churches of the
30 South Georgia Conference.
31

- 32 • The United Methodist Church and its members have fundamental differences regarding their understanding
33 and interpretation of Scripture, theology and practice.
- 34 • The United Methodist Church and its members are at an impasse, the Church’s witness and mission is being
35 impeded, and the Church itself as well as its members have been injured.
- 36 • The United Methodist Church and its members have a deep desire to fulfill our long-stated mission to make
37 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- 38 • The United Methodist Church is committed to recognizing, respecting and protecting the rights and personal
39 dignity of every person, including people of all races, sexual orientations, genders, national origins, ages, and
40 social classes.
- 41 • Restructuring The United Methodist Church by separation resolves our differences, allowing each part of the
42 Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and
43 respect of every person.²
44

45 Whereas, one important component aspect of the Protocol is a path that states, “Annual Conferences, whether in the
46 Central or Jurisdictional Conferences, may choose to vote on whether to affiliate with one of the Methodist
47 denominations pursuant to this Protocol.” The “Protocol” included language that this would happen by a motion
48 made on the floor of an Annual Conference session.
49

50 Whereas, a careful review of the “Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation” reveals that it is not
51 merely a plan of separation or exit, but rather a plan for true reconciliation and grace; and
52

1 Whereas, we are confident that South Georgia would be faithful to the spirit of the “Protocol,” giving ample
2 pathways for any local church or clergy seeking a different path forward the means to affiliate based on God’s
3 leading in their congregations and lives; and
4

5 Whereas, the Delegation believes our witness to the world and the mission of Christ is best served by
6 consideration and vote of the South Georgia Annual Conference as a whole, now, therefore, be it
7

8 Resolved, the Delegation calls upon the South Georgia Annual Conference to adopt this resolution stating its
9 intention of being affiliated with a traditional Wesleyan denomination when that path is allowable and wise.
10

11 Signed by the Lay and Clergy Members of the current General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation of the
12 South Georgia Conference
13

14 Lay Members

15 Bill Hatcher
16 Jennifer Cowart
17 Larry Price
18 Richard Shinhoster
19 Brenda Adams
20 Chuck Cowart
21 Steve Rumford
22 Debbie Turner
23 Jeff Barker
24

Clergy Members

Jim Cowart
Robert Beckum
Doreen Smalls
Jay Hanson
Scott Hagan
Jimmy Towson
David Thompson
Scott Tucker
Alaina Harrison

25 ¹ Reconciliation And Grace Through Separation, accessed on July 28, 2021,
26 <https://www.gracethroughseparation.com>.

27 ² ibid
28

29 **RESOLUTION 4 – A Resolution for a Called Session of the Annual Conference in**
30 **Response to a Meeting of the General Conference**
31

32 SUMMARY – *The Resolution provides for a called session of the Annual Conference if General Conference meets*
33 *in 2022, to allow the Conference to make such decisions as it may choose in response to the General Conference, to*
34 *allow churches to petition for disaffiliation, and to clarify how church which wish to remain United Methodist may*
35 *do so.*
36

37 WHEREAS members and clergy of The United Methodist Church have been unable to agree on several aspects of
38 theology and practice, including profound and irreconcilable disagreements over human sexuality, despite decades
39 of conversation and conferencing on the matter; and
40

41 WHEREAS the General Conference meeting in special session in February, 2019 provided a means for churches to
42 disaffiliate through a new ¶2553 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and related legislation;
43 and
44

45 WHEREAS assuming the General Conference would meet in 2020, and that said Conference would adopt
46 legislation and procedures such that ¶2553 would no longer be needed, ¶2553 was approved with an expiration of
47 December 31, 2023; and
48

49 WHEREAS the South Georgia Annual approved a Disaffiliation Policy at the June, 2019 session; and
50

51 WHEREAS the General Conference which was scheduled to meet in May, 2020 has been postponed due to the
52 worldwide Covid-19 pandemic; and
53

1 WHEREAS legislation entitled “Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation” (“The Protocol”) has
2 been submitted to the General Conference, which legislation provides for an orderly separation of The United
3 Methodist Church into two or more denominations; and
4

5 WHEREAS the impending expiration of ¶2553 is of concern to the members, clergy and churches of the South
6 Georgia Annual Conference, especially if General Conference does not meet; and
7

8 WHEREAS if General Conference does meet, the members, clergy, and churches of the South Georgia Conference
9 want the opportunity to respond to any legislation which may be approved, or to take such action as seems best to
10 them, including possible disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church; and
11

12 WHEREAS many of our churches and clergy desire to remain in the South Georgia Conference hoping for General
13 Conference to meet and pass helpful legislation, but may be unwilling to remain if the window for disaffiliation
14 seems to be closing;
15

16 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if General Conference does meet in 2022, the South Georgia Annual
17 Conference set a Special Session to be held on Oct. 1, 2022, so that the conference may make decisions about the
18 future of the Annual Conference, its churches, clergy, property, and all related matters, including but not limited to
19 withdrawing from The United Methodist Church and affiliating with a traditional Methodist denomination.
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Conference shall provide a means for churches to disaffiliate at this
22 called session, and for churches which wish to remain part of the United Methodist Church to do so.
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the present Disaffiliation Policy shall remain in effect for churches who wish to
25 withdraw at the June 2023 session of the Annual Conference.
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, since a one-day session does not have the expense of a multi-day session, the
28 registration fee for delegates be set at \$10.00; that the per diem reimbursement for retired clergy, lay members, and
29 others receiving the per diem be set at \$25.00 per day; and that the Council on Finance and Administration be
30 authorized to pay for the Conference from the Annual Conference session budget, then budgeted contingency funds
31 as needed. The estimated expense of a one-day conference, including building rental and audio-visual support, is not
32 to exceed \$15,000.
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resolutions may be presented to this special session in keeping with the
35 announced purpose of the session. Resolutions submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions at least 10
36 days prior to the session shall be posted on the Conference website, and such posting shall be deemed as having
37 presented those resolutions to the Conference, in order that a vote may be taken on the day of the special session.
38 Resolutions shall be presented in accordance with our standing rules, except for these specific stipulations.
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Rule 3.1.3 shall be suspended to allow for materials to be prepared
41 and presented prior to the called Annual Conference session.
42

43 Respectfully submitted,
44

45 Rev. Jim Cowart	Dr. Anthony McPhail	Rev. Jim Morrow
46 Rev. David Thompson	Mr. Jeff Barker	Rev. Randy Nease
47 Rev. Scott Tucker	Rev. Steve Patton	Ms. Anne Bosarge
48 Ms. Debbie Turner	Dr. Nita Crump	Dr. John Ray
49 Rev. David Unkles	Rev. Jay Hanson	Rev. Jerry Roe
50 Rev. Howard White	Dr. Derek W. McAleer	

51
52
53

1 **RESOLUTION 5 – A Resolution for a Called Session of the Annual Conference in**
2 **Response to a Decision of the Judicial Council**

3
4 SUMMARY – *The Resolution provides for a called session of the Annual Conference if Judicial Council issues a*
5 *decision regarding the ability of conferences to withdraw from The United Methodist Church, to allow the*
6 *Conference to make such decisions as it may choose in response to the General Conference, to allow churches to*
7 *petition for disaffiliation, and to clarify how churches which wish to remain United Methodist may do so.*
8

9 WHEREAS the Judicial Council has been asked by the Council of Bishop to issue a Declaratory Decision on
10 questions related to whether or not an annual conference may choose to withdraw from The United Methodist
11 Church under the current 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church; and
12

13 Whereas, the members, clergy and churches of the South Georgia Conference want the opportunity to respond to the
14 ruling or to take such action as seems best to them, including possible disaffiliation from The United Methodist
15 Church; and
16

17 WHEREAS many of our churches and clergy desire to remain in the South Georgia Conference hoping for General
18 Conference to meet and pass helpful legislation, or for Judicial Council to rule there is a legal path to disaffiliation
19 under the present Book of Discipline, but may be unwilling to remain if the window for leaving seems to be closing;
20

21 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if the Judicial Council does issue a decision in response to our petition or
22 related to our petition, the South Georgia Annual Conference set a Special Session to be held on a date within 6
23 weeks of the date on which the decision is publicly issued, so that the conference may make decisions about the
24 future of the Annual Conference, its churches, clergy, property, and all related matters, including but not limited to
25 withdrawing from The United Methodist Church and affiliating with a traditional Methodist denomination.
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Bishop and Cabinet are authorized to set the date within the parameters in
28 the above paragraph.
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Conference shall provide a means for churches to disaffiliate at this
31 called session, and for churches which wish to remain part of The United Methodist Church to do so.
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the present Disaffiliation Policy shall remain in effect for churches who wish to
34 withdraw at the June 2023 session of the Annual Conference.
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, since a one-day session does not have the expense of a multi-day session, the
37 registration fee for delegates be set at \$10.00; that the per diem reimbursement for retired clergy, lay members and
38 others receiving the per diem be set at \$25.00 per day; and that the Council on Finance and Administration be
39 authorized to pay for the Conference from the Annual Conference session budget, then budgeted contingency funds
40 as needed. The estimated expense of a one-day conference, including building rental and audio-visual support, is not
41 to exceed \$15,000.
42

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that resolutions may be presented to this special session in keeping with the
44 announced purpose of the session. Resolutions submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions at least 10
45 days prior to the session shall be posted on the Conference website, and such posting shall be deemed as having
46 presented those resolutions to the Conference, in order that a vote may be taken on the day of the special session.
47 Resolutions shall be presented in accordance with our standing rules, except for these specific stipulations.
48

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Rule 3.1.3 shall be suspended to allow for materials to be prepared
50 and presented prior to the called Annual Conference session.
51

52 Respectfully submitted,
53

54 Rev. Jim Cowart
55 Rev. David Thompson

Dr. Anthony McPhail
Mr. Jeff Barker

Rev. Jim Morrow
Rev. Randy Nease

1 Rev. Scott Tucker Ms. Anne Bosarge Rev. Steve Patton
2 Ms. Debbie Turner Dr. Nita Crump Dr. John Ray
3 Rev. David Unkles Rev. Jay Hanson Rev. Jerry Roe
4 Rev. Howard White Dr. Derek W. McAleer

5
6 **RESOLUTION 6 – Resolution to Amend the Disaffiliation Policy of the South**
7 **Georgia Conference**

8
9 SUMMARY – *This resolution amends the Disaffiliation Policy of the Annual Conference to provide for churches to*
10 *petition for disaffiliation at called sessions of the Annual Conference.*

11
12 WHEREAS The 2019 General Conference adopted legislation (§2553) which allows for local churches to
13 disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

14
15 WHEREAS the 2019 session of the South Georgia Annual Conference adopted a process for disaffiliating from our
16 annual conference; and

17
18 WHEREAS the process adopted in South Georgia presumes the Annual Conference will meet in June to vote on
19 disaffiliations, and provides a time-line consistent with the needs of the appointive process, particularly that
20 churches must hold their votes by April 1 to be eligible to disaffiliate in June; and

21
22 WHEREAS the Annual Conference is planning for potential special called sessions in response to possible meetings
23 of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and/or General Conference, and/or a potential ruling by the Judicial
24 Council; and

25
26 WHEREAS churches might delay voting on whether or not to disaffiliate by April 1, 2022, if they knew they would
27 have another opportunity to disaffiliate at a special session later in 2022, should circumstances warrant disaffiliation
28 in their view; and

29
30 WHEREAS the Annual Conference wants to provide for churches to disaffiliate at special sessions, and not have to
31 decide until such session is called;

32
33 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Disaffiliation Policy of the South Georgia Conference be amended to
34 provide for an adjusted timeline when the conference meets in special session; the specific amendment being to
35 insert the words “unless a special session of the annual conference is called under the provision of #9” into item 3 of
36 the Conference Disaffiliation policy. The whole section shall then read:

37
38 **3. Time Limits** – The vote by a local church conference to disaffiliate under this policy shall be made no
39 later than April 1 of the year in which the local church intends to seek Annual Conference consent to
40 disaffiliate. If the decision is not made by April 1, the church may not request to disaffiliate until the next
41 year’s session of annual conference, *unless a special session of the annual conference is called under the*
42 *provisions of #9.* The latest date by which a local church can elect to disaffiliate under this policy is April 1,
43 2023.

44
45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Disaffiliation Policy of the South Georgia Conference be amended to
46 provide for an adjusted timeline should the conference meet in special session; the specific amendment being to add
47 a new section #9:

48
49 **9. Called Sessions of Annual Conference** – §603.5 provides that “a special session of the annual
50 conference may be held at such time and at such place as shall have been determined by the annual
51 conference after consultation with the bishop, or by the bishop with the concurrence of three-fourths of
52 the district superintendents. A special session of the annual conference shall have only such powers as are
53 stated in the call.” Should there be a called session of the annual conference after a meeting of the
54 General Conference or Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference or a ruling by the Judicial Council, and

1 should the call include acting upon or responding to said General Conference or Southeastern
2 Jurisdictional Conference or Judicial Council decision, the Conference Chancellor, Director of
3 Administrative Services, and Bishop shall amend the time limits of this policy so as to allow churches to
4 present petitions for disaffiliation at the special session, provided that the timeline also allows for the
5 Bishop and Cabinet to make such appointments as may be necessary in consideration of disaffiliating
6 churches, and provided further that Disciplinary requirements for a called church conference are met. All
7 other provisions of this policy shall be followed.
8

9 If the Annual Conference special session presently called to meet on Aug 20, 2022, meets, then the deadline for
10 informing the District Superintendent that a church wishes to have a called Church Conference to discuss
11 disaffiliation shall be July 8, 2022, and the Church Conference must be held no later than August 5, 2022.
12

13 If the Annual Conference special session presently called to meet on Oct. 1, 2022, meets, then the deadline for
14 informing the District Superintendent that a church wishes to have a called Church Conference to discuss
15 disaffiliation shall be Sept. 7, 2022, and the Church Conference must be held no later than Sept. 23, 2022.
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Rule 3.1.3 shall be suspended to allow for materials related to
18 disaffiliating churches to be prepared and presented prior to the called Annual Conference session.
19

20 Respectfully submitted,
21

22 Rev. Jim Cowart	Rev. Jay Hanson	Rev. Jerry Roe
23 Dr. Derek W. McAleer	Mr. Jeff Barker	Dr. Anthony McPhail
24 Rev. David Thompson	Ms. Anne Bosarge	Rev. Jim Morrow
25 Rev. Scott Tucker	Dr. Nita Crump	Rev. Randy Nease
26 Ms. Debbie Turner	Rev. Ben Gosden	Rev. Steve Patton
27 Rev. David Unkles	Dr. John Ray	Rev. Howard White
28 Dr. Ted Goshorn		

29
30 **RESOLUTION 7 – South Georgia Resolution in Response to the Judicial Council**
31 **Declaratory Decision Stating an AC may Withdraw from the UMC**
32

33 We the people of the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church love God and we love all of God's
34 people. We also love our Church and our Annual Conference. We value our covenantal relationship and believe the
35 unity of our hearts and minds honors God and strengthens our witness.
36

37 While we are deeply rooted in our Wesleyan heritage, we acknowledge God is doing a new thing in our day. With
38 open hearts and ears we continue to strive to hear the voice of God and sincerely seek the courage to faithfully obey.
39 Just as Peter and Paul employed different strategies and Paul and Barnabas set off to different mission fields, there
40 are times when God simultaneously launches movements in different directions. This appears to be one of those
41 times. While it is possible for God to be in both movements, we, while respecting both, may only move forward
42 together in one.
43

44 Our Conference stands at a crossroads with two new paths in front of us; align with the UMC which is moving in a
45 new direction of greater inclusion for LBGTQ persons or align with a new Global Methodist Church which holds to
46 our current theological positions.
47

48 These days are filled with uncertainties, but one thing is clear: it is time to call the question and pick our path and
49 move forward in ministry. To that end be it moved that the 2022 South Georgia Annual Conference vote by a simple
50 majority on the following three items:
51

52 #1 To “declare our intentions” to remain together as an AC and withdraw from the UMC to join the Global
53 Methodist Church (GMC).
54

1 #2 To ask Bishop Graves to empower and instruct the Conference Leadership Task Force to develop an orderly
2 process for our AC to live into its “declared intentions” be that to withdraw from the UMC and join the GMC or
3 remain affiliated with the UMC. Their report should outline organizational issues, financial factors, staffing and
4 other considerations, as well as a timeline which enables our AC to have representation at either the convening
5 conference of the GMC or the next GC of the UMC. Their report will be presented to the AC for a final vote at a
6 called session of the AC to be held prior to Dec. 31, 2022. The Bishop and Cabinet will set the date of the called AC,
7 in consultation with the Task Force.

8
9 #3 Having the direction the AC desires to move determined by the majority, churches seeking to go in a different
10 direction, should be released with our blessing at the special called AC provided they have satisfied the following
11 condition prior to the called AC.

- 12
- 13 A. If the AC desires to remain with the UMC, churches desiring to disaffiliate shall be released under the
- 14 terms and guidelines of our Disaffiliation Policy.
- 15 B. If the AC desires to join the GMC, churches desiring to join the UMC shall:
 - 16 a. Have a church conference vote after the manner of the Disaffiliation policy
 - 17 b. Retain their pension liability
 - 18 c. Pay the pastor’s salary and benefits through the end of the appointment
 - 19 d. Pay the remainder of the year’s apportionments
 - 20 e. Follow the UMC process to transfer to another annual conference.
- 21

22 Jay Hanson Derek McAleer Jim Cowart Lee Smith
23 Jimmy Towson David Thompson Jennifer Cowart