



Lake Country District

Oklahoma United Methodist Church
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January 23, 2023

Stigler United Methodist Church
Rev. Jim Hill
PO Box 249
Stigler OK 74462

RE: A special session of the Church Conference of Stigler United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving information from the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

Greetings in the name and power of Jesus Christ!

The leadership of Stigler United Methodist Church has communicated a desire to consider the possibility of disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church (“UMC”). Such a serious decision requires prayerful and careful preparation. To provide the membership of your church with information from the OK Annual Conference of the UMC addressing many important implications of disaffiliation and to respond to your questions, I am calling a special session of the Church Conference on **Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.** Church Conferences are called to have broad participation of the members of the congregation and every effort should be taken to provide proper notice of this church conference to all professing members and to the retired clergy who hold their charge conference at Stigler United Methodist Church, in accordance with ¶ 246.8 and ¶ 248 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016*.

Receiving information from various sources is part of the discernment process. I will officiate the Church Conference and have invited Rev. Tish Malloy, Director of Transitional Ministries for the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the UMC, to make a presentation. A vote on disaffiliation will not be taken at this meeting.

The Agenda is:

Welcome, Introductions, and Prayer	Rev. Jim Hill
Purpose of the Church Conference	Rev. Dr. John Breon
Nomination and Election of the Secretary	Rev. Breon
Presentation from the Office of Transitional Ministries	Rev. Tish Malloy
Responses to Written Questions	Rev. Tish Malloy & Rev. Breon
Closing Comments and Prayer	Rev. Breon

As stated above, the purpose of this meeting is to receive information from representatives of the OK Annual Conference. There will not be an open mic for questions, but we will respond to all written questions submitted on the form provided at the Church Conference. I trust that the

members of Stigler United Methodist Church will come to this Church Conference with open hearts and minds to receive information for prayerful consideration and trust they will reflect Christian love, grace and respect during this time together. This will not be a time to make speeches or argue for or against disaffiliation.

Following this Informational Church Conference and the church's further discernment, if the Church Council determines that the church should vote on whether to disaffiliate or not, the Church Council will study the requirements of the "Disaffiliation Agreement" (available at www.okumc.org/transitionalministry) and determine the appropriate language required for the vote under that agreement (see page 1 of the August 2022 Disaffiliation Agreement). The Council Chair and the pastor will then request in writing that the District Superintendent hold a Church Conference for a vote on disaffiliation, for one or more of the reasons of conscience (stating that reason using the exact language provided in the Disaffiliation Agreement). If a written request as described above is submitted by the Council Chair and the pastor, I will issue a written letter to call and set the Church Conference for a vote and to describe the requirements and expectations for the Church Conference.

In order to be considered for ratification at the April 22, 2023 Special Session of the OK Annual Conference, all Church Conferences to vote on disaffiliation must be held on or before March 19, 2023. In order to be considered for ratification at the October 13, 2023 Special Session of the OK Annual Conference, all Church Conferences to vote on disaffiliation must be held on or before September 6, 2023. If a church votes to disaffiliate and fulfills all the requirements of the Disaffiliation Agreement, their request will be on the agenda of the April 22, 2023, or October 13, 2023 meeting of the OK Annual Conference for a vote on ratification.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this process.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Breon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Breon
Lake Country District Superintendent
Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church