



RIVERCHASE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AGENDA

- **RUMC & Conference Overview**
- **General Conference & Timeline**
- **Financial Overview**
- **Discernment Process/Schedule**
- **Questions**

A GLOBAL DENOMINATION
131 ANNUAL CONFERENCES/~12,413,462 PEOPLE

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
15 ANNUAL CONFERENCES/~1,621,425 PEOPLE

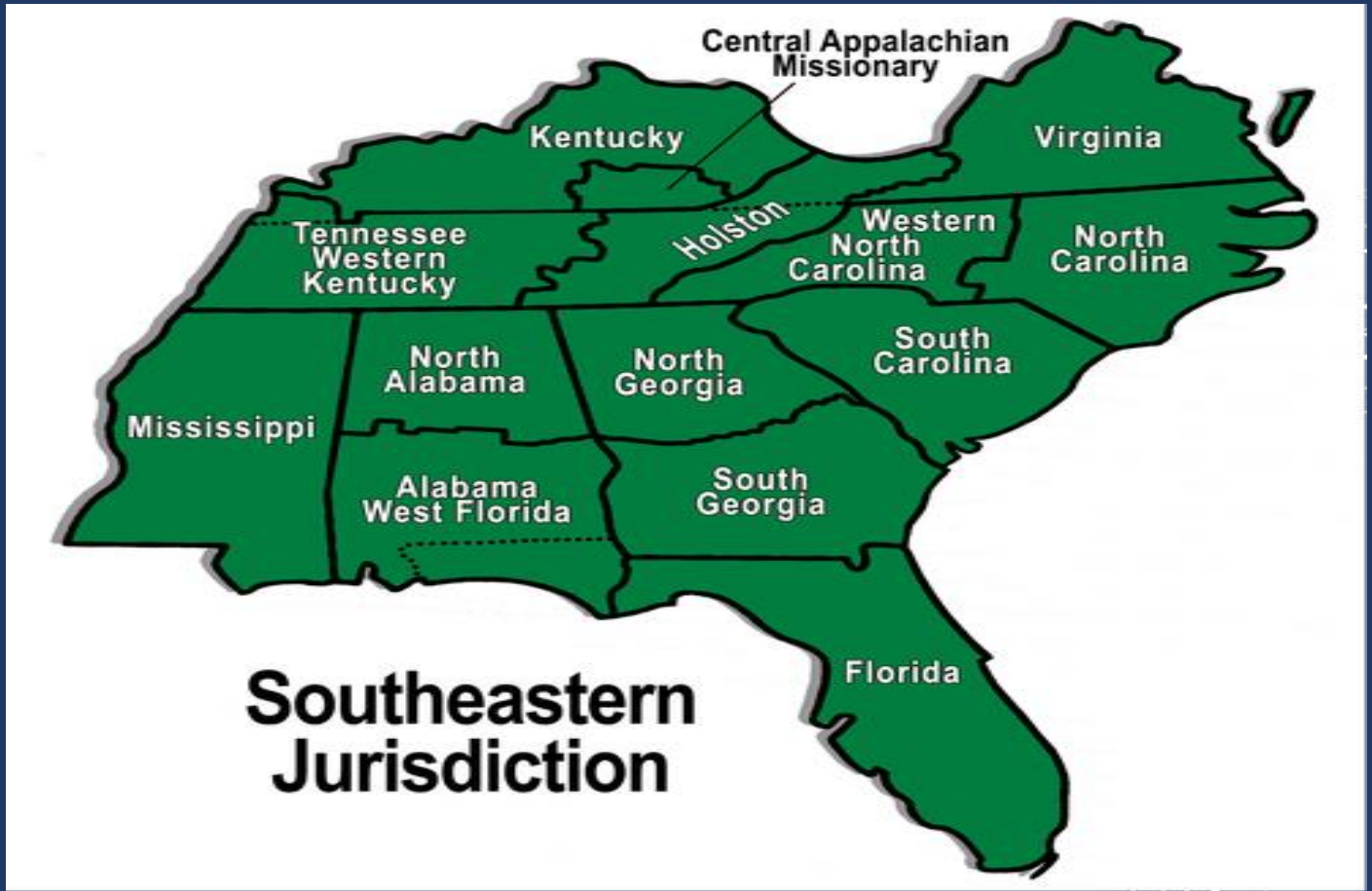
NORTH ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
~669 CHURCHES/~115,929 PEOPLE

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
~41 CHURCHES/~23,564 PEOPLE

RIVERCHASE UMC
~2,622 MEMBERS

United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America





SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
15 ANNUAL CONFERENCES
~1,621,425 MEMBERS



NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE
BISHOP DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT
~669 CHURCHES
~115,929 PEOPLE



SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

~41 CHURCHES/ ~23,564 PEOPLE

RICK OWEN, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



RIVERCHASE UMC
~2,622 MEMBERS

GENERAL CONFERENCE

The **BOOK** *of*
DISCIPLINE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2016

Meets every 4 years (normally)

**The only group that can speak
for the denomination**

Responsible for the Book of Discipline

600-1000 Delegates, half clergy/laity

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDINATION

304.3 While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

UNAUTHORIZED CONDUCT

341.6 Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

PARAGRAPH 2553 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

- Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.
- Provision will expire December 31, 2023*

*The Trustees of the North Alabama Conference have extended the provisions of Paragraph 2553 until after the General Conference in 2024 to allow churches to make fully informed decisions.

TRUST CLAUSE

- Originated in 1750 with John Wesley and was a founding principle of the Methodist Episcopal Church formed in 1796 under the leadership of Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury.
- The Trust Clause, found in the charters of every UMC congregation, states that the local Church owns the property “in trust” for the annual conference. If the property ceases to be used as a United Methodist Church, then it reverts to the annual conference of which that Church is a part.

GENERAL CONFERENCE TIMELINE

2019: Special Session of the General Conference endorses the Traditional Plan by voting 438-384, which enforces new penalties for clergy who perform same-sex weddings

- Paragraph 2553 also passes, to create an exit path for Churches before December 31, 2023

2020: A proposal called the Protocol for Grace and Reconciliation is announced and will be voted on at the 2020 General Conference.

- The 2020 session was postponed to 2022, which was also postponed until the 2024 General Conference due to COVID.

TIMELINE - Continued

December 10, 2022: First of 3 sessions for Churches to disaffiliate from UMC (Specific to North Alabama Conference)

- 198 or 31% of the Churches disaffiliated
- Represents 35% of membership
- Represents 34% of apportionments

May 11, 2023: Second Disaffiliation Session-Estimated that 135 Churches will exit

September 12, 2023: Third Disaffiliation Session

December 31, 2023: Provisions of 2553 Expire (Trustees have extended this deadline for Churches until after the 2024 General Conference).

April 24, 2024: General Conference-Charlotte, NC

FINANCIAL

- The cost of disaffiliation as of April 30, 2023 was \$512,379. This figure is based on our apportionments for the current year and RUMC's portion of the pension liability. This amount varies due to the market changes with the pension liability.
- RUMC gives approximately 10% of annual tithes (Apportionments) to the North Alabama Conference. Over the past 3 years, the amount has ranged between \$250,000 and \$275,000 annually. In addition, RUMC also has monthly pension liability and miscellaneous NAC payments. All of these amounts contribute to RUMC's apportionment.
- Our current apportionment for 2023 is \$275,000. It is set each year based on our prior year's budget.
- Apportionments are paid to the North Alabama Conference and are used to support the global missions of the United Methodist Church.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS

- On January 22, 2023, the Board of Stewards voted to enter the Discernment process.
- The Discernment Committee is made up 11 individuals
 - Terry Bagwell
 - Susan Camp
 - Susan Clopton
 - Lynn Coffey
 - Rebecca Horn
 - James Jockisch, Board of Stewards Chair
 - Bruce Larson, SPRC Chair
 - Jennifer Patton, Lay Leader
 - Brad Snuggs, Chair
 - Craig Tolbert, Finance Chair
 - Jeff Wallace
- Discernment Committee will make a recommendation (Stay, Leave, Wait) to the Board of Stewards.
- Board of Stewards will vote by simple majority to enter a Church Conference.
- If the Board of Stewards vote to move forward with a Church Conference, then the congregation will vote. All members have a vote. No quorum is required, but 2/3 or 66% is required to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE – Guest Speakers

- Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, UMC: May 10, Sanctuary
- Lyle Holland, Global Methodist Church: May 24, Gym
- Bryan Collier, The Orchard Church (Foundry Network): June 7, Gym

Q & A