

Plan of Intent Related to Episcopal Elections in the SEJ

1. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy recommends that the Southeastern Jurisdiction hold elections at the regularly scheduled conference in July 2020 and elect up to 5 bishops. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy will make its final recommendation for the number of bishops to be elected following the 2020 General Conference and will consider information collected at the completion of each Annual Conference meeting. This recommendation will be presented to the delegates of the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference at its meeting on July 15, 2020.

Criteria for the recommendation will include:

- a. The unique geographies and demographics of the Southeastern Jurisdiction
 - b. The capacity to lead episcopal areas toward growth, mission and vitality
 - c. The leadership needs of annual conferences
 - d. The number of congregations and clergy under supervision, including whether there is a minimum threshold of United Methodist churches per episcopal area
2. At the 2020 Southeastern Jurisdiction Conference, the retirements of 5 bishops will be celebrated and episcopal assignments will be made. Any recommended adjustments to episcopal areas will be determined in consultation with the College of Bishops.
 3. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy recommends a study committee be formed with joint membership from the Committee on the Episcopacy and College of Bishops to consider a potential recommendation for realignment of conference boundaries and episcopal areas. The committee will also consider the need for a called jurisdictional conference if additional episcopal leaders are required beyond those elected at the 2020 jurisdictional conference. The committee will report to the College of Bishops and Committee on the Episcopacy no later than August 1, 2021 regarding the possibility of calling a special session of the jurisdictional conference.