

## Church Conference Minutes

**Church Name:** Ebenezer UMC

**Date and Time:** 1 September 2022, 6 pm

The District Superintendent, Dr. Debora Bishop, called the meeting to order and had the opening prayer.

Members present is at Appendix A.

Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 is at Appendix B.

The resolution is at Appendix C.

A copy of the written ballot is at Appendix D.

The resolution was submitted by Becky Griffith, seconded by Emory Mesley and the District Superintendent read the Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 Limited Right of Disaffiliation and there was discussion.

*No questions or discussion.*

The vote was called for and written ballots were distributed to members. The ballots were collected and counted.

Yes 10  
No 0  
Abstain 0

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the District Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

Printed Name of Secretary Becky Griffith Signature Becky Griffith

Printed Name of DS Deborah K Bishop Signature Deborah K Bishop

# Ebenezer Church Conf Attendees

## Appendix A

June Flowers

Ramona Flowers

Becky Griffith

Virginia Henderson

Alan Keith

Marcia Keith

Emory Moseley

Margaret Fritchett

Buddy Wheat

Hilda Young

**Church Conference Minutes**  
**Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 Limited Right of Disaffiliation**  
**Appendix B**

Church Name: Ebenezer UMC  
Date and Time: 1 Sept 2022 / 6 pm

**Eligibility for Exercising the ¶ 2553 Limited Right of Disaffiliation**

A local church is allowed to exercise the limited right established in ¶ 2553 of the *Book of Discipline* to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church only for reasons of conscience under the conditions stated in ¶ 2553.1 which reads: “Basis – 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.”

The following changes in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline relating to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals were resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference:

(1) **Amendment to ¶ 304.3:** In particular, footnote 1 of ¶ 304.3 was amended to broaden the scope of relationships or activities that were encompassed in the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” who, under ¶ 304.3, are “not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.”

(2) **Amendment to ¶ 304.5:** Prohibitions have been added against approvals and recommendations by the district committee on ordained ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry of persons who did not meet the qualifications in ¶ 304, including ¶ 304.3 (*see above*), and specified added instructions for the clergy session presiding bishops to rule that the unqualified candidate to be out of order and ineligible for the appointment.

(3) **Amendment to ¶ 415.6:** Amended to prohibit bishops from consecrating bishops, from commissioning persons on the deacon or elders track, and from ordaining deacons or elders if any of them are self-avowed practicing homosexuals.

(4) **Amendment to ¶ 2702.1(b):** Amendment to footnote 1 of ¶ 304.3 (*see above*) affects the usage of the term “self-avowed practicing homosexual” in the list of chargeable offenses related to clergy (*viz.*, “being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies . . . .”)

**Church Conference Resolution  
Appendix C**

**Church Name:** Ebenezer UMC

**Date and Time:** 1 September 2022

**Whereas** the local church has held a town hall meeting with the District Superintendent; and

**Whereas** the local church members have spent a period of time in discernment; and

**Whereas** the local church members have read and understand the eligibility for exercising the ¶2553 limited right of disaffiliation;

**Therefore, be it resolved that:**

Ebenezer UMC begin the disaffiliation process from the United Methodist Church, under the terms of ¶2553 of the current Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church which reads:

*“Basis – 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;”*

**Be it further resolved that:**

Trustees of Ebenezer United Methodist Church work with the Trustees of the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference to establish a Disaffiliation Agreement to that effect, to be enacted subsequent to ratification by the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, and to complete all necessary steps to fulfill said agreement to include the formation a new non-profit corporation and the payment of all required financial obligations as outlined in the Disaffiliation Agreement.

Ballot

Proposing that Ebenezer UMC of Wagerville, AL begin the disaffiliation process from the United Methodist Church, under the terms of ¶12553 of the current Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church which reads:

*“Basis – 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;”*

and to authorize the Trustees of Ebenezer UMC of Wagerville, AL to work with the Trustees of the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference to establish a Disaffiliation Agreement to that effect, to be enacted subsequent to ratification by the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, and to complete all necessary steps to fulfill said agreement.

As a professing member of Ebenezer UMC of Wagerville, AL present at this duly called Church Conference, I hereby vote:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (In favor of disaffiliation from the UMC)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (In favor of remaining a part of the UMC)

Ebenezer  
Appendix D