

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S MOTION TO THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR FORMAL CLOSURE OF
MANHATTAM AVENUE UMC OF TAMPA, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, after numerous discussions with the leadership of MANHATTAN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, OF TAMPA, FLORIDA (“Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa”) and extensive study and evaluation of the past, present and potential ministry and financial condition of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa, the undersigned, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, District Superintendent of the Gulf Central District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, found that Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa was no longer a vital, viable or self-sustaining congregation able to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and no longer served the purpose for which it was organized; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned reported her findings to a duly called church conference of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa held on May 23, 2018 (the “Church Conference”), and recommended to the Church Conference that Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa be voluntarily closed and discontinued as a United Methodist Church congregation for the purpose of merging with Horizon Church, Tampa Bay, a new United Methodist Church start; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa in attendance at the Church Conference voted to (i) approve the closure and discontinuance of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa as of June 30, 2018 and (ii) to merge with Horizon Church and (iii) voluntarily transfer title to all of the property and assets of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa, however titled, including without limitation, in the name of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa, the Trustees of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa, or its corporate entity, MANHATTAN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TAMPA, FLORIDA, INCORPORATED, a Florida not for profit corporation (collectively, the “Assets”), to The Florida Conference United Methodist Church Committee on New Church Development, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation (“NCD”); and the trustees of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa executed and delivered documentation necessary to transfer and vest title to the Assets in the The Florida Conference United Methodist Church Committee on New Church Development, Inc., pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (“The Book of Discipline”).

THEREFORE, the undersigned, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, District Superintendent of the Gulf Central District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, moves that (i) Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa be declared formally closed and discontinued pursuant to Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline* and (ii) the memberships of Manhattan Ave UMC, Tampa be transferred to such other United Methodist congregations as the members may select.

Dated June 5, 2018.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, District Superintendent