

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S MOTION TO THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR FORMAL CLOSURE  
OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN**

WHEREAS, after numerous discussions with the leadership of the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN formerly known as First Methodist Church of Bowling Green (“First UMC of Bowling Green”) and extensive study and evaluation of the past, present and potential ministry and financial condition of First UMC of Bowling Green, the undersigned, Rev. Rinaldo D. Hernandez, District Superintendent of the South West District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (“South West District”), found that First UMC of Bowling Green 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 his findings to a duly called church conference of First UMC Bowling Green held on October 22, 2017 (the “Church Conference”), and recommended to the Church Conference that First UMC of Bowling Green be voluntarily closed and discontinued as a United Methodist Church congregation; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members in attendance at the Church Conference voted against the voluntary closure and discontinuance of First UMC of Bowling Green; however, in accordance with Section 2549.3.a. of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (“The Book of Discipline”) voluntarily transferred title to all of the real, personal, tangible and intangible property and assets of First UMC of Bowling Green, however titled, including but not limited to in the name of First UMC of Bowling Green, the Trustees of First UMC of Bowling Green, or its corporate entity, First United Methodist Church of Bowling Green, Inc., a not for profit corporation (collectively, the “Assets”) to The Board of Trustees of The Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation (“Conference Board of Trustees”); and the officers and trustees of First UMC of Bowling Green executed and delivered documentation necessary to transfer and vest title to the Assets in the Conference Board of Trustees.

THEREFORE, the undersigned, Rev. Rinaldo D. Hernandez, District Superintendent of the South West District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, moves that (i) First UMC of Bowling Green be declared formally closed and discontinued pursuant to Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline*, and (ii) the memberships of First UMC of Bowling Green be transferred to such other United Methodist congregations as the members may select.

Dated the June 5, 2018.

Submitted by:

Rev. Rinaldo D. Hernandez, District Superintendent