

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S MOTION TO
THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR FORMAL CLOSURE OF
MOUNT BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, after numerous discussions with the leadership of MOUNT BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (“Mt. Bethel UMC”), and extensive study and evaluation of the past, present and potential ministry and financial condition of Mt. Bethel UMC, Rev. Durwood Foshee, then District Superintendent of the North West District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (“North West District”), found that Mt. Bethel UMC had struggled financially for some time and was no longer a vital, viable or self-sustaining congregation able to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the purposes for which it was organized; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Foshee reported his finding to a duly called church conference of Mt. Bethel UMC held on September 25, 2016 (the “Church Conference”), and recommended to the Church Conference that Mt. Bethel UMC be voluntarily closed and discontinued as a United Methodist Church congregation; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of Mt. Bethel UMC in attendance at the Church Conference voted to (i) approve the closure and discontinuance of Mt. Bethel UMC as of September 25, 2016 and (ii) voluntarily transfer title to all real, personal, tangible and intangible property and assets of Mt. Bethel UMC , however titled, including without limitation, in the name MOUNT BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA, INC., a Florida 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”) pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (“The Book of Discipline”); and

WHEREAS, deeds and other documentation necessary to transfer and vest title to the Assets of the Conference Board of Trustees were executed and delivered to the Conference Board of Trustees.

THEREFORE, I, Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt, District Superintendent of the North West District, move that (i) Mt. Bethel UMC be declared formally closed and discontinued pursuant to Section ¶2549.3.a) of *The Book of Discipline*, whereupon title to any Assets not previously conveyed shall vest in the Conference Board of Trustees and (ii) the memberships of Mt. Bethel UMC be transferred to such other United Methodist congregations as the members may select.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Wayne Wiatt, District Superintendent