

**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S MOTION TO
THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR FORMAL CLOSURE OF
SPRINGHEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
PLANT CITY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, after numerous discussions with the leadership of SPRINGHEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (“Springhead UMC”), and extensive study and evaluation of the past, present and potential ministry and financial condition of Springhead UMC, Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, then District Superintendent of the Gulf Central District of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church (“Gulf Central District”), found that Springhead 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. Lewis reported her finding to a duly called church conference of Springhead UMC held on December 10, 2020 (the “Church Conference”), and recommended to the Church Conference that Springhead UMC be voluntarily closed and discontinued as a United Methodist Church congregation; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of Springhead UMC in attendance at the Church Conference voted to (i) approve the closure and discontinuance of Springhead UMC as of December 10, 2020 and (ii) voluntarily transfer title to all real, personal, tangible and intangible property and assets of Springhead UMC , however titled, including without limitation, in the name SPRINGHEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 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. Sharon Austin, Interim Co-District Superintendent of the Gulf Central District, move that (i) Springhead 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 Springhead UMC be transferred to such other United Methodist congregations as the members may select.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, Interim Co-District Superintendent