

RESOLUTION TO MERGE
AND
PLAN OF MERGER
GETHSEMANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND
CANTERBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pursuant to the terms and conditions specified in Paragraph 2545 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (Discipline)* copyright 2000, the charge conferences of Gethsemane United Methodist Church (GUMC) and Canterbury United Methodist Church (CUMC), both located in the Houston Southwest District of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, in order to fulfill their ministries more effectively, do hereby agree to merge and become a single merged church according to the following terms and conditions:

1. GUMC and CUMC agree to the following vision statement:

“Our goal in merging our two churches into one church is to create a stronger and better church which can better build the Kingdom of God by bringing souls to Christ and helping them to grow in Christ, and to meet the spiritual needs of the diverse communities around us.”

2. The name of the merged church shall be Gethsemane United Methodist Church until such time as it can be determined that a significant number of CUMC members will move to the merged church’s location. It is the intention of GUMC and CUMC that if there is a subsequent name change, that it reflects the composition and mission of the merged church. The Merger Committee strongly recommends that the merged church rename the Activities Building of the merged church “Canterbury Hall”.
3. The merged church’s location will be 6856 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, Texas.
4. Following the merger, for the balance of 2004 (or for a one year period following the merger, to be decided by the merged Ad Council following the merger), each of the Committees, Commissions, and Work Areas from both of the merged churches will be merged together. The Chairpersons of each Committee from each of the two churches will alternate conducting the committee meetings with the first regularly scheduled or called meeting of each committee to be conducted by the GUMC Chairperson. Committee Chairpersons and members from committees of each of the merged churches are expected to continue to participate fully in their committee’s activities.
5. The Committees on Lay Personnel from the two merged churches will be similarly merged in order that the nominations for 2005 and beyond will contain appropriate

nominees from each of the merged congregations. It is expected that nominations for all Committees, Commissions, and Work Areas will contain members of each of the merged congregations. It is also expected that members of both the congregations forming the merged church will continue to assume active leadership roles in the merged church.

6. All real estate, other property, bank or savings accounts, and all other assets and liabilities of GUMC and CUMC will become the property and obligations of the merged church effective as of 12:01AM of the day following the day this *Resolution To Merge* is officially approved by the District Superintendent of the Houston Southwest District of the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church in accordance with Paragraph 2545 of the *Discipline* and that will also be the official date of merger of the two churches. All pledges to both GUMC and CUMC shall become obligations to the merged church.
7. The Treasurer of GUMC shall be the Treasurer of the merged church for the remainder of 2004. Authority to sign checks for the merged church shall be those members of GUMC who are currently authorized to sign checks for GUMC until the merged Finance Committee of the merged church can meet and make any changes in check signers deemed appropriate by the merged committee. The merged Finance Committee shall be guided by the stated goal of this *Resolution To Merge* to include members of both merged congregations in responsible roles.
8. If the CUMC assets have not been sold or otherwise disposed of prior to merger, then the (a) real estate located at 12143 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, Texas, and (b) other property not needed by the merged church, shall be placed on the market and sold as soon as practical following the merger. Proceeds from such sale or sales shall be used to repay any CUMC indebtedness or other legal obligations with any excess amounts received after payment of such legal obligations to be placed in a dedicated account or accounts containing the name of Canterbury and administered by the Trustees of the merged church according to the terms and conditions required by the *Discipline*.
9. It is the intention of both GUMC and CUMC to continue to be of service to both the GUMC and CUMC areas. However, the distance between the CUMC area and the facility of the merged church at 6856 Bellaire Boulevard may present problems in this regard. Therefore, shortly after the merger, the merged Ad Council shall meet in a called session whose sole item of business shall be to discuss ways in which the merged church can be in ministry to the Alief area now served by CUMC. All members of the merged congregation will be welcome at this meeting to present their ideas on this subject.
10. Both GUMC and CUMC recognize that operating the “CHERP” (Child Enrichment Program) in the Alief area as an outreach of the merged church has the potential for attracting young families to the merged church. Therefore, the CHERP and Boy Scouts of America programs may continue to function at the CUMC facility for as

long as the merged church decides to keep the CUMC facility open, but only for as long as these programs are self-supporting. Following the merger, GUMC and CUMC agree to discuss ways of keeping CHERP open in the Alief area. Following the merger, the merged church will receive all income from CHERP and the merged church will pay all bills of CHERP.

11. The staffs of both GUMC and CUMC are expected to be retained by the merged church for as long as the merged Staff Parish Committee and the merged Ad Council of the merged church shall determine that is the level of staff required. The merged staffs are expected to be financially supported for one year, in part, by the residue of a CUMC capital improvement fund (\$76,507.94 on 4/30). Both staffs are expected to be retained for at least one year following the merger. The approval of the District Superintendent to permit use of such funds for this purpose has been received conditioned upon the United Methodist Foundation's being willing to release those funds for this purpose; therefore, the permission of the United Methodist Foundation is required.
12. All archives and records of both GUMC and CUMC shall become the responsibility of the successor merged church.

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Church: _____

Date: _____

05/26/2004 7:13 AM