



GARY E. MUELLER  
RESIDENT BISHOP

## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

December 1, 2016

Dear Pastors and Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee Chairs:

Greetings in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have attached the Consultation Forms for 2017 appointments and a document outlining the appointment process.

Please remember two important things as you fill them out. First, the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee is asked to refer to the Assessment Form you prepared this past summer as you make your recommendation. Second, and more importantly, both pastors and committees should prayerfully reflect on the Arkansas Conference Trajectory, *creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.*

Please note that these forms, which are an important part of an ongoing consultation process and provide vital information to the Cabinet, are advisory in nature. Both pastors and Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committees should turn in your completed form to the district office no later than January 13, 2017.

The pastor and the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee should discuss the Committee's form together, although the Committee can make its recommendation without the pastor present. The result of the Committee's discussion is confidential.

The Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee elected at the 2016 Charge Conference is responsible for making the recommendation. If the Committee wishes, members who rotate off December 31, 2016 may be included in the discussion. However, they must leave prior to the Committee actually deliberating and voting about its recommendation.

Between January 13 and February 6, the District Superintendent will meet with pastors and Committees who might be involved in a move. The Cabinet will begin the appointive process with a retreat February 7-10.

**Please follow these directions for completing the forms.**

- Please read all instructions and materials thoroughly and carefully.
- Fill out the documents completely.
- Once you have the documents completed, you may attach them to an email and send them to your district administrator. Please do this no later than January 13, 2017.

Please join us in prayer as we seek the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit to make the most faithful, effective, and bold appointments possible.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller