

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCTOBER 18, 2024**

RESOLUTION

GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 1966 the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ began operation. At the time, the area that constituted the Southeast Conference included the Florida Panhandle west of the Apalachicola river.

In 2019 the last Southeast Conference congregation located in the Florida panhandle closed. There is one remaining congregation in this area, and that congregation relates to the Florida Conference.

Separating congregations that might be located in that area of Florida that currently is part of the Southeast Conference from other UCC congregations in Florida that makes up the Florida Conference can be isolating to those potential congregations. Such things as disaster response and recovery, and social justice advocacy and organizing are frequently state focused, including the agencies and organizations engaged in the responses or the sources of required action. Additionally, dividing this small section of the state of Florida out into the Southeast conference requires staff attentiveness to such issues and concerns, as well as engagements with the entities, such as VOAD and state legislators, from two conference staff teams (Florida and Southeast conferences), which does not promote good stewardship of either conference's resources.

Whereas, the area of the Florida Conference currently includes the state of Florida excluding the Florida panhandle west of the Apalachicola River, and

Whereas, the Local Churches of the Florida Conference shall be all Local Churches that are within the boundaries of the Florida Conference, and

Whereas, the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ has one congregation in the Florida Panhandle that is currently part of the Southeast Conference, but identifies and participates with the Florida Conference,

Whereas the Florida Conference believes that local congregations who in the future might be developed and minister in the Florida Panhandle west of the Apalachicola River would best be supported and resourced by and in covenant relationship with the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ

Whereas the Southeast Conference voted to adjust the geographic boundaries as stated in this resolution August 17, 2024

Therefore, be it resolved to change the geographic boundaries of the Florida Conference with the agreement of the Southeast Conference and subject to the approval of the General Synod, so the boundaries of the Florida Conference would include the Florida Panhandle west of the Apalachicola River.

Signature: **Lynn Jones**

Date: November 12, 2024

Lynn Jones, Moderator
Florida Conference