

Dear Florida Conference Clergy and Lay Leaders:

We learned this week of a document, filed with the state of Florida, to establish a separate Methodist Church apart from The United Methodist Church in Florida. Three cabinet members were listed as officers and signatories.

After respectful conversation, spiritual discernment and deep prayer, the following is the substance of the cabinet response:

Dionne Hammond and Rini Hernandez have removed their names from the document and agreed not to participate in the formation of a separate organization. They will continue as members of the cabinet.

Jay Therrell has decided to conclude his tenure on the cabinet on July 1, 2020. In addition, he will go on renewal leave on April 1, 2020. A new elder from the Florida Conference will be appointed as superintendent of the North East District and coverage will be provided for the district in the interim period.

As your bishop, I wanted to be transparent in the way we seek to have integrity in our leadership. I wish to express my respect for these three beloved colleagues. At the same time, I am called to maintain the unity of the church and to strengthen The Florida Conference as we are on mission together, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Peace of the Lord,  
Bishop Ken Carter