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St. Luke's UMC and The...



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THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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May 25, 2021

Dear Texas Annual Conference Clergy,

This morning, I sent the letter below to the congregation of St. Luke's and The Story in Houston. I have been in dialogue with both churches over the last 18 months about launching The Story as a new congregation and chartering them as a separate congregation. They will be relocating their main worship center on or before January 2022.

If questions arise, please feel free to share the attached letter or contact your District Superintendent.

Grace & Peace,

Bishop Scott J. Jones

Dear Friends,

The Story Church has thrived for seven years as part of the St. Luke's United Methodist Church family of ministries, pursuing its stated mission to inspire non-religious people to follow Jesus. Over the years, The Story has matured and developed a culture of its own, with its own children's ministry, student ministry, leadership structure and other elements of an independent congregation. I have been in dialogue for the last 18 months with the leadership of both St. Luke's and The Story about whether and how best to launch The Story as a separate congregation. I have decided that this year is the time for that step to be taken for the good of both congregations and their missions, and the St. Luke's Church Council has affirmed that decision.

Thus, The Story will charter as a separate congregation and relocate its main worship center on or before January 1, 2022. The Texas Annual Conference has successfully launched multiple new faith communities and the Conference will support this congregation as it launches. With this transition, St. Luke's will continue its long history of birthing new ministries in order to reach new people for Christ.

I am grateful to the leadership of St. Luke's and The Story for all that has been accomplished so far and anticipate a bright future for both going forward.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Scott J. Jones

