

**A Time of Discernment**  
**Tomball United Methodist Church**  
**Timeline adopted by TUMC Board of Stewards**

**NOTE:** The Annual Conference has set a minimum period of 40 days for the Time of Discernment in a local church. The Annual Conference has also set November 10<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for churches that want to disaffiliate before the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Called Session of the Annual Conference. We also see value in allowing the greatest time possible for our Church Members to engage in active prayer, study, learning, and engagement before the Board of Stewards determines whether a vote to disaffiliate is warranted. For these reasons, the Board of Stewards has adopted the timeline below as the maximum amount of time available to us. The Board of Stewards, however, reserves the right to shorten this timeline should the congregation's interest in these events be satisfied earlier, as long as the total period is not less than 40 days.

**March 22, 2022** – Pastor made first presentation of information to the TUMC Board of Stewards.

**May 24** – Board of Stewards approves Pastor notifying the District Superintendent that we are entering a time of Discernment and requesting from the Conference our financial obligations regarding apportionments and our share of the Unfunded Pension Liability. Board of Stewards also set a date (June 26) for Town Hall # 1.

**June 9** – Received Apportionment and Unfunded Pension Liability information from the District Superintendent.

**June 12, 19 & 26** – Bulletin and service announcements for Town Hall # 1, June 26

**June 20** – Pastor sent reminder through Mailchimp email to the congregation about the upcoming Town Hall meeting on June 26

**June 26** – Town Hall # 1 – 100 people attending, informational – Call to Daily prayer throughout process, history, what discernment entails, options, Q&A, where to find further information

**June 27** – Launch of [ihaveaquestion@tomballumc.org](mailto:ihaveaquestion@tomballumc.org), for congregation to use to ask questions of the Pastor and the Board of Stewards

**June 27** – Board of Stewards meets to set process for the time of Discernment

**June 28** – Communicate Time of Discernment timeline to congregation via Mailchimp email

**Weekly**...Mailchimp Newsletter with Scripture/Prayer focus for the week, updates to the process and answers to questions that have arisen during the previous week.

**July 10-16** – Cottage Meeting

**July 17 – 23** – Cottage Meeting

**July 24 – 30** – Cottage Meeting

**July 26 – Board of Stewards** – part of the agenda will be for the BoS members to share with each other the communications and feelings each have heard from the congregation.

**July 31** – Town Hall # 2

**August 7 – 13** – Cottage Meeting

**August 13** – 10:00 – 11:30 am - Future Discernment Task Force presentation at Faith UMC, Spring

**August 14 – 20** – Cottage Meeting

**August 21** – Sunday School classes

**August 23 – Board of Stewards** – part of the agenda will be for the BoS members to share with each other the communications and feelings each have heard from the congregation.

**August 28** – Sunday School classes

**September 4** – Sunday School classes

**September 11 – 17** – Final cottage meeting, if needed

**September 18** – Town Hall #3

**September 27** – Board of Stewards – determine if there is to be a vote to be held and, if so, what is the recommended disposition of the church's alignment. If a vote is to be held...the following dates would apply.

**September 28** – Seek date for Church Conference from the District Superintendent

**October 2** - Notification of members for Called Church Conference begins

**October 12 – November 10** – Called Church Conference