



Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Dear Conference Chair / SCJ Committee Member:

As you know, due to the impact of COVID-19, the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference has been postponed until November 10-12, 2021. Because of the long delay, this has created a good deal of discussion regarding how assignments, retirements, and elections of bishops will be handled. The *2016 Book of Discipline* does not specifically address a process for this type of interruption to quadrennial cycle.

The Council of Bishops has affirmed the actions of the Jurisdictional Colleges regarding coverage in each episcopal area considering the anticipated retirements.

1. The following SCJ bishops who plan to retire will continue to serve in their current episcopal area until the postponed SCJ Conference in November 2021:
 - a. Bishop Bledsoe – New Mexico & Northwest Texas Conferences
 - b. Bishop McKee – North Texas Conference
 - c. Bishop Lowry – Central Texas Conference
2. All other residential bishops will remain in their assigned area locations through the jurisdictional conference, until the conference makes new assignments (based upon the recommendation of the SCJ Episcopacy Committee).
3. Election of any new bishops will only occur at the jurisdictional conference.

Please share this information with your conference episcopacy committee members and the head of your 2020 conference delegation.

Thank you for your leadership in these challenging times as we continue to trust in God. If you have any questions, please contact me or Brian Hammons.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Farr".

Bishop Robert Farr
SCJ College of Bishops, President

Brian Hammons
SCJ Episcopacy Committee Chair