

November 3, 2017

Today I am leaving to attend the Council of Bishops meeting at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The Council will meet November 5-8 and then the active bishops will engage in a learning retreat November 8-10. During our meeting, we will receive and discuss an interim report from the Commission on a Way Forward. The moderators of the Commission have indicated that they want feedback from the Council to help shape their work during the winter and spring. The Commission will meet three times between November and April.

The Council of Bishops spring meeting is April 29-May 4, 2018. I expect that the Commission's final report will be presented to the Council at that time. The Council will act upon it and decide what will be sent to the special session of General Conference as its main order of business. It is not yet known if the Council will approve, amend or reject the Commission's report.

The Texas Annual Conference will be organizing a prayer campaign as part of "Praying Our Way Forward" February 25-March 3. All of us are invited to pray regularly for those involved in the Commission and the Council of Bishops.

The deadline for material to be submitted to the General Conference is July 8, 2018. It is not yet clear if additional petitions will be accepted or not.

The regular session of the General Conference will be held May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Grace and Peace,
Scott J. Jones