

BISHOP JONES INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE
“HOLY CONVERSATIONS/
TOUGH ISSUES” LIVE STREAM
FEBRUARY
25th
10: AM
txcumc.org/bishoplive video

You're invited to join a live streamed presentation in which Bishop Scott Jones will provide insights on upcoming action by the Judicial Council, the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, and updated information on the called General Conference which will be held in early 2019. He will also discuss the meaning of holy conversation and explain the importance of respectful dialogue in the life of the United Methodist Church. He will then be joined by Rev. Nathan Bledsoe and Rev. Jim Leggett who will model a holy conversation on the subject of human sexuality and the Church. You may view the presentation on February 25th by going to www.txcumc.org/bishoplivevideo. Be sure to test your setup in advance by following the instructions posted there.

The Core Leadership Team of the Texas Conference was charged with the task of fulfilling a resolution which was passed unanimously to “continue to address issues that are sensitive and divisive, including but not limited to human sexuality, by fostering regular, intentional opportunities for learning, conversation, and fellowship.” This event is designed to equip pastors and leaders with information they may need to lead their churches effectively during this period of discernment. Questions and comments may be sent to communications@txcumc.org following the event. They will be addressed on Facebook Live on March 16th at 7 p.m.

Bishop Jones invites churches to host gatherings of members to view the presentation and then practice their own holy conversations on topics of importance. Bishop Jones stated, “We are offering this event as a way of proactively equipping our pastors and leaders to respond to questions that may arise in the coming days. We trust our pastors to know how best to promote and utilize this event to help them in their own ministry setting toward that end.”

For more information about Holy Conversations/Tough Issues contact your district superintendent or Paula Arnold, Director of Communications at 713-521-9383 or parnold@txcumc.org

Note: The stream will begin at 10:00am and should last approximately an hour to allow groups who are meeting a chance to discuss the information presented.



“HOLY CONVERSATIONS/ TOUGH ISSUES” LIVE STREAM

LEADER’S GUIDE

Thanks for being a part of this very unique live event and for facilitating the conversation in your own church. Our time together will be divided into four parts. The first three will be the live streaming. It will start at 10:05. If everyone gathers at 10:00, this will give you about 5 minutes to get everyone seated and perhaps to do some introductions. Once the live streaming begins, part one will be an update by our Bishop on the work of the Commission on the Way Forward, possible action by the Judicial Council later this spring, and information on the called 2019 General Conference. Part two will be a presentation by our Bishop on principles of Holy Conversations. Part three will be a conversation between Rev. Jim Leggett (Pastor, Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy) and Rev. Nathan Bledsoe (Associate Pastor, St. Peter’s UMC also in Katy). Following that conversation, the webcast is ended.

Part four will be a time of discussion for those attending your event. Our assumption is that you will have people sitting in small groups. We also assume not everyone in each group will know each other. After introductions, we suggest inviting small group discussion on the following questions:

1. What is the most significant thing you have heard today?
2. What have you learned that gives you comfort or encouragement about the future of the ministry of the United Methodist Church?
3. What have you learned that causes concern about the future of the ministry of the United Methodist Church?
4. What would you say are those areas of common ground that we share as United Methodist Christians?
5. What are the areas of disagreement? As brothers and sisters in Christ, how can we build bridges of mutual understanding about these areas?
6. In light of what has been shared today, what specific steps do you feel called to take to strengthen the witness of your own church?

Once the small group discussion has been concluded, you might invite the small groups to share the main points of their discussion. It would be helpful to make note of what is said and pass it along to your district superintendent.

Before thanking everyone for coming and closing with prayer, remind everyone about how to offer feedback/ask questions at communications@txcumc.org and then to watch the Facebook Live event on the Texas Annual Conference Facebook page on March 16, 2017 at 7 p.m.

