

Statement of Necessity

Pursuant to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic and specifically the higher risk due to low vaccination rates for Montgomery County, Montgomery First Church has experienced two extended closures bringing the normal functioning of the church organization to practically a standstill. Only within the last two months have we cautiously attempted to conduct Adult Sabbath School and Divine worship services (in person). In reality, Montgomery First Church is not in an isolated predicament when trying to maintain minimal church functionality. Not only are other churches in Gulf States facing the same set of challenges, the conferences office, conferences throughout the Southern Union and the Southern Union Office itself have had to make unprecedented decisions to maintain a functioning entity to address the ongoing needs of members while maintaining the mission of the church.

It is understood, oversight of the church board is key to maintaining our local church organization. The composition of the church board is primarily elected church officers. The normal period for engaging in the nomination and election process for officers commences February or March in anticipation of completion by the new church year beginning July first. The Covid pandemic killed any hopes of a normal nominating process last year and this year. Last year officers were asked to remain in place for July 20-June 21 year. This year the board is generally making the same recommendation that where possible and if willing, officers remain in place for the year July 21 – June 22. There also will be new nominations to help maintain various officer functions. July has started and we are operating unofficially. The actions of the board tonight and its recommendation of officers need to cover the period beginning July 1, 2021.

Suggested Process: The process should involve the church board making the recommendation to the church for officers for the church year July 1, 2021 -June 30, 2022. The recommendation should have two presentations. The first presentation provides a handout list. Individuals should be invited to make any concerns known to the board prior to the second session. The second presentation should be designated as the church in business session for official adoption of the final list of officers.

Hopefully, this will get us back on track for a completely normal nominating process in the spring of 2022.

(Note: The Statement of Necessity was approved by the church board at their July 8, 2021 meeting.)