

October 23, 2023

Bishop Jimmy Nunn
Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church
1401 Avenue M
Lubbock, TX 79401

RE: CONSIDERATION OF THE SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS DRAFT OF THE LUBBOCK
METHODIST HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Dear Bishop Nunn and Members of the Northwest Texas Conference,

On behalf of the Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board of Directors (the “Board”), we submit the attached proposed Bylaws for consideration. The background for these changes stem from the recent transition of membership within the Northwest Texas Conference and the United Methodist Church (the “Conference”). With fewer UMC churches remaining in our area, (1) our Board membership is now out of compliance with the requirements in Section 3 of our Bylaws and (2) the increased limitations on recruiting Methodist members to our Board due to the decreased number of UMC churches in our area.

For reference, the language the Board wishes to revise found in Article III, Section 3 reads as follows:

At all times, at least three-fifths of the Directors shall be members of the United Methodist Church.

We understand this mirrors the language in *The Book of Discipline*, Section 2552. Therefore, we submit the following:

1. Attached proposed Bylaws change 1 to amend the three-fifths requirement found in Article III, Section 3.
2. A request for consideration/input from the Conference: If the Conference does not approve our proposed Bylaws change, to please consider *providing feedback* so that we may revise our proposed Bylaws request appropriately to be attractive to the Conference for change. Our wish is that if you don't agree with our proposed amendment, please do not just decline it- please provide us meaningful feedback/direction on how to amend our Bylaws or allow for leeway in our membership selection to reflect the status of the UMC in our area.

Therefore, in consideration of the above, we would request the following change in language to Section 3 of our Bylaws, as shown in the attached proposed Sixth Amended and Restate Bylaws:

*At all times, not less than a majority of the Directors shall be professing members of a **local Methodist Church**, with the majority of these members belonging to the United Methodist Church. If and when the Directors learn the Board does not comply with the majority requirement, the Board shall have a grace period of at least twelve (12) months or to a time by which the Board of Directors is able to meet compliance to resolve the non-compliance.*

Further, we would request the following change to Article III, Section 3, paragraph six to read as follows:

*In addition to all the foregoing, **two representatives from** the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church shall serve as ex-officio voting members of the Board of Directors by virtue of their positions. Because they are voting members they will be considered a Board member for purposes of the maximum number of the Board of Directors.*

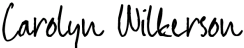
This edit removes the specific positions of District Superintendent and the Deploy Team Appointee, as those two positions no longer exist, and replaces the specific positions with the generic “two representatives” to allow for flexibility in the Conference to appoint appropriate individuals to serve.

It is our true desire to reflect the love and understanding found within the UMC faith, and we believe this is best exemplified by (1) being able to continue with our current Board membership, regardless of whether a member’s church disaffiliated from the UMC and (2) by continuing to seek the best individuals within our community for service to the UMC and to LMHS by opening up the Methodist membership requirement in our bylaws to individuals who are professing members of a Methodist Church of any affiliation.

In addition to the above, the Board knows that future consideration will also need to be made to the references to the Conference, as changes to the name and/or conference may change over the next year or two due to restructuring. We will wait to broach such changes until we know more information.

The UMC is facing an unprecedented time of change and evolution. We humbly look to your guidance and insight into what options LMHS may have available to us within *The Book of Discipline* language, our Northwest Conference, and our community.

Thank you for your help and consideration,

DocuSigned by:

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Carolyn Wilkerson

Chairman

Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board of Directors

Attachments: Proposed Sixth Amended and Restated Bylaws Draft

ATTACHMENT A:

PROPOSED SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS
OF LUBBOCK METHODIST HOSPITAL SYSTEM