

The logo for St. Asbury LEM is a stylized three-pointed star. The left point is red, the top point is blue, and the right point is a lighter blue. A white cross is centered within the star.

S^t Asbury LEM *Church Merger*

March 7, 2021 Informational Webinar

Why are we Merging?

- Sociologic and demographic shifts in inner city churches result in shrinking and aging congregations
- Salem leadership decided that a merger would provide a better opportunity to continue to serve their mission
- Salem leadership first approached Pastor Eric last year to propose a merger

What's the Process?

- Merger has already been approved by our Bishop, DS and the Church Councils of both churches
- Formal ratification will occur at Annual Conference in May 20-22, 2021
- Unofficial effective date will be March 31, 2021
- Asbury and Salem will both have their own Charge Conferences on March 18, 2021

Salem Congregation Merger Details

- Priority Initiative is to welcome the Salem members and integrate them into life at Asbury
- 45 Salem members transferred to Asbury, some are already worshipping with us
- Judy Ehninger is the point person on welcome activities
- Will likely have a welcoming event after Annual Conference in May – COVID permitting

Sale of Salem buildings

- Salem leadership is currently working on the sale of their church and parsonage to the Pentecostal congregation that currently worships there
- Proceeds of sale would go into a fund to be used for ongoing inner-city missions
- Asbury leadership not currently involved in process but could become involved if sale is not consummated with Pentecostals

Salem Assets

- Salem has substantial assets that will merge in with Asbury assets
- Newly contemplated Endowment/Investment fund oversight model in development at Asbury
- Will clearly separate Endowment Funds from Investment Funds
- Will also oversee merge of Salem assets
- Members of Salem will be welcomed and encouraged to participate in oversight/mgmt

Arrearages on Apportionments

- Asbury was able to pay overdue apportionment from 2020
- We still have significant balances from 2019 and prior that Church Council just voted to make a substantial payment against
- Thanks to Israel and Vendel for their continuing work on reconciling past due amounts

Legal Issues

- Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and associated governing documents for both Asbury and Salem being reviewed to address any possible restrictions or conflicts
- Salem liabilities would become Asbury liabilities – none reported to exist

Questions ?

Thank you !
Let's be a Welcoming
Congregation !