

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Maintaining our Methodist Heritage



PRESENTATION TONIGHT

**Please hold questions to the end (paper
and pen provided)**

**The Vote to continue the process to
disaffiliate will be at the end of the
presentation**

Water available

FOUNDATION

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

**By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves, it is the gift of God**

Ephesians 2:8

**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in
righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate,
equipped for every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

WHO AM I?



I am not a Democrat

I am not a Republican

First and Foremost, I am a Christian

I am not liberal

I am not conservative

First and Foremost, I am Biblical



GEORGE “MERLE” COX A FRIEND, MENTOR AND BROTHER IN JESUS

Merle loved and served Jesus with all his heart. I was an alcoholic new believer struggling with my addiction when I met Merle. He loved and walked with me as the Lord delivered me. Thank you, Merle! Thank you, Jesus, for bringing Merle into my life.

That is what it means to be a Church!

TRINITY CONGREGATION
Our standard is the Royal Law

**A Pharisaic lawyer, asked Jesus a question, testing Him,
“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”**

Jesus responded quoting the Shema

**“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR
HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR
MIND.”**

This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it,

“YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

**On these two commandments hang all the Torah (the Law) and the
Prophets.” Matthew 22:35-40**

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Bible

The Book of Discipline

Conversations with...

The Rev. Allen Black (DS)

A retired Tennessee DS

Regional Director of the Wesleyan Covenant Association

Larry Davis - Treasurer of the TWKUMC

Pastor of Church that disaffiliated with TWKUMC last year

Alabama Pastor beginning process of disaffiliation

A leader of Traditionalist Group at Franklin First

Pastor Ricky Lee (impartial)

Why are we here tonight?

COUNCIL MEETING TO RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING PETITION

Petition for a Church Vote to Begin the Process of Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church

We the undersigned call for a special Trinity Administrative Council meeting (in person and virtual) for the purpose of discussing and voting on a resolution to begin the process of disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church and affiliation with the Global Methodist Church. We request that this meeting take place in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 23rd.

Petitioners

Renita Hartsock - Lay Leader

Donnie Hartsock - Chair Administrative Council

Candace Saunders - Treasurer

Sam Clarke - Chair SPRC

G.L. Jones

Wanda Folds

Charles Wilson

Cheryl Wilson

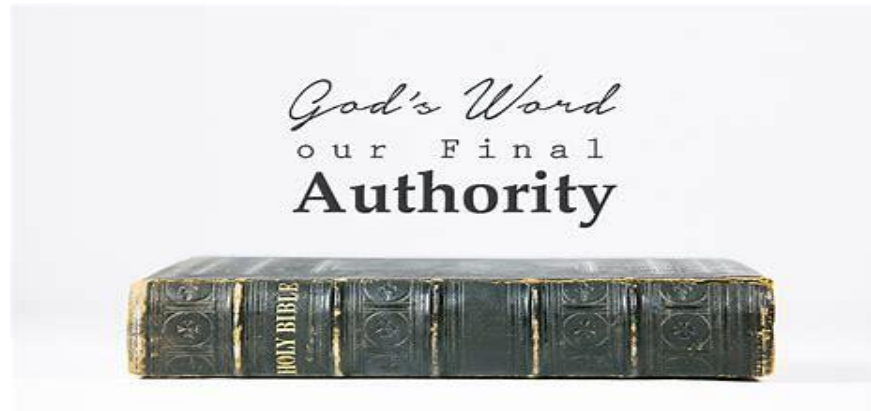
Russell Saunders

Dennis Beck

Cynthia Beck

Marianne Herbert Clarke

Why?



CRISIS IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

What is the root?

The final authority of the Scripture in the Church for faith and practice

The authority of the Book of Discipline as it aligns with Scripture

The crisis relates to human sexual behavior that challenges this authority

COUNTERFEITING AND THE SECRET SERVICE

THE WORD OF ALMIGHTY GOD ON SEX

“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **Genesis 2:24-25**

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Hebrews 13:4

Jesus... “If you look on a woman in lust = committed adultery”

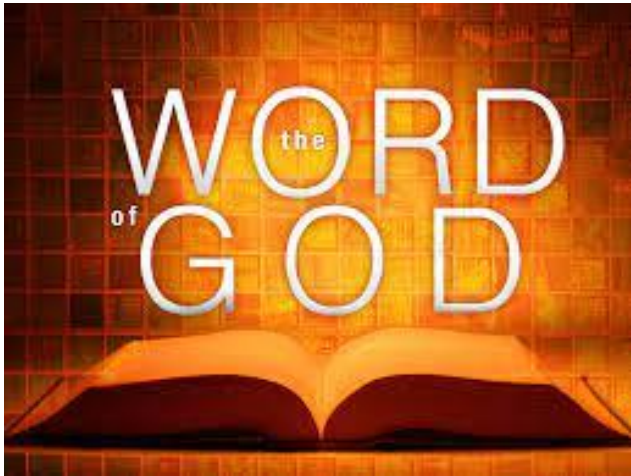
All other sexual relations are contrary to the will of Almighty and therefore sin

WORLDVIEW

Church

“Do not love the world nor
the things in the world.”

1 John 2:15



WHY WOULD WE CONSIDER DISAFFILIATION?

Most of you are probably aware of disagreements within the United Methodist Church that have persisted without resolution for a number of years.

The conflict is rooted in a disagreement regarding **the application and interpretation of biblical authority and the Book of Discipline as they relate to certain traditional moral standards particularly human sexual behavior (the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals).**

Numerous efforts have been made to reach some sort of agreement, but it became apparent that these differences are irreconcilable and that the only way to move forward was to separate and form expressions of Methodism that reflect their understanding of the faith.

Other denominations have gone through this same process often with severe conflict and expensive litigation.

Fortunately, a group of representatives from the various factions (Traditionalists, Centrists, Progressives) within the United Methodist Church came together in an effort to reach an amicable agreement on how to divide without painful conflict and wasteful litigation.

This group worked diligently to reach a proposed agreement now known as...

THE PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION

This agreement was finalized December 17, 2019. It was to be taken up at the 2020 General Conference.

As a result of COVID, the 2020 and 2021 Conferences were postponed. In addition, this year's Conference was postponed and rescheduled for 2024. Therefore, the vote on the Protocol will have been delayed at least four years.



The decision to cancel this year's Conference and delay the next Conference two years has not been well received by many looking forward to resolving their differences through the Protocol agreement.

THE REV. ROB RENFROE

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER OF GOOD NEWS



THE REV. JOSEPH F. DIPAOLO

**Lead Pastor at Lancaster First United Methodist Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania
The United Methodist Church's Commission on General Conference (COGC)**

“I am grieved and heartbroken over what I have experienced in the last two months as a member of the Commission, and on Monday (March 7), I resigned from that body in protest over the decision to postpone again. I cited as a primary reason for resigning that I had lost trust in the integrity of the process.”

**The Rev. DiPaolo explains in detail why he resigned from the
COGC.**

He concludes the article writing...

“Because of this unwise and unnecessary decision to postpone, the highest governing body of the UM Church will not be able to meet to address the crisis that is fracturing our denomination or deliberate on the various plans which were proposed to address it. I fear we will shortly see renewed and intensified internal conflict across our connection. The experience of other mainline denominations that have divided without an amicable plan of separation suggests that many millions of dollars will now be wasted in legal battles over property.”

WHY NOT WAIT UNTIL 2024?

IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE AMICABLE WAY TO SEPARATE?



2019 SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

PARAGRAPH 2553

During the special General Conference held in 2019, a new paragraph (2553) was added to the Book of Discipline which allows for United Methodist Churches to disaffiliate from the denomination based on their disagreement with the church's stance on human sexuality. The provision of this paragraph is in effect until December 31, 2023

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH 2553

Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality

Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.

HOW DOES THIS PROVISION WORK?

Trinity Process for Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church (UMC) and Affiliation with the Global Methodist Church (GMC)

1. Leadership considers disaffiliation according to 2553
2. Call a meeting of the Administrative Council to vote on initiating the disaffiliation process
3. Contact the District Superintendent (DS) to initiate the request
4. DS calls a Church Conference to hold a vote on disaffiliation from UMC. This requires a 2/3 majority of “Professing Members.” DS chairs the conference

If the Church votes to disaffiliate...

- 4. The Conference and Trinity will reach a mutually agreed upon settlement according to the guidelines outlined in paragraph 2553**
- 5. The Annual Conference with vote on our petition (a simple majority is required to pass) - June 15 - 17, 2022 Brentwood United Methodist Church**
- 6. Trinity fulfills obligations according to the settlement and proceeds with GMC affiliation**

What is a “Professing Member”

DEFINITION OF PROFESSING MEMBER
BOOK OF DISCIPLINE: PARAGRAPH 217

When persons unite as professing members with a local United Methodist church, they profess their faith in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; in Jesus Christ his only Son; and in the Holy Spirit. Thus, they make known their desire to live their daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. They covenant together with God and with the members of the local church to keep the vows which are a part of the order of confirmation and reception into the Church:

- 1. To renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of their sin;**
- 2. To accept the freedom and power God gives them to resist evil, injustice, and oppression;**
- 3. To confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put their whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as their Lord;**
- 4. To remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world;**
- 5. To be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church and do all in their power to strengthen its ministries;**
- 6. To faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness;**
- 7. To receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.**

**HAVE ANY OTHER TWKUMC CONFERENCE CHURCHES
DISAFFILIATED?**

2021

Salem UMC

Simpkins Chapel UMC

Cainsville UMC

Fountain Grove UMC

Lascassas UMC

Mt. Carmel UMC

2022

**The Rev Allen Black advised me that he was meeting with
several churches going through the process now**

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE UMC?

The leadership of Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, a Marietta-based congregation with approximately 10,000 members, voted in April 2021 to begin the process of disaffiliation.

One of United Methodism's largest megachurches, Frazer UMC in Montgomery, Ala., announced Feb. 1, 2022, that it will seek disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church to join the Free Methodist Church.

The Missouri Conference is working with multiple congregations considering disaffiliation.

A United Methodist News review of U.S. annual conference reports and publicly available journals found that annual conferences — church regional bodies — approved about 100 disaffiliations in 2021. That's up from the 32 U.S. disaffiliations recorded in 2020...many more are expected following the decision to postpone this years GC



CHRIST HARBOR
— CHURCH —



Northport, Alabama



CHRIST HARBOR
— CHURCH —

Christ Harbor began with 4-5 families in the fall of 1998 in the pastor's living room. In January of 2000, Christ Harbor officially chartered. They built their building in 2015. Today they hold two Sunday services averaging 350 in attendance and have 20 small groups.

The Pastor is the Rev. Dr. John Kearns

Marianne's cousin

John's Great-Grandparents help found Trinity

Christ Harbor entered the process of Disaffiliation this month

DISAFFILIATION SETTLEMENT

Connectional Commitment due 12 months prior to June 30

\$17,365.00

Connectional Commitment paid 12 months to Date

-\$11,616.00

Net Correctional Commitment to date

\$5749.00 (paid by end of June)

Additional Year Connectional Commitment

\$17,246.00

Unfunded Pension Liability

\$77,416.00

Total Due upon Disaffiliation

\$100,411.00 - \$5749 =

\$94,662.00

+ *Other Expenses (sign, transfer of assets, etc)*

HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH OTHER CONFERENCES?



Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church

- 1. The local church would also pay an additional 12 months of mission shares beyond the disaffiliation date.**
- 2. The local church will additionally pay the church's Fair Share of the unfunded pension liability**
- 3. The local church would pay 50 percent of the assessed value of that property (ouch!)**

CAN WE AFFORD TO PAY THE SETTLEMENT?

Pinnacle Bank:

Operating Acct	\$42,914.96
Memorial Acct	\$ 7,732.12
Capital Acct	\$ 2,455.88
Total:	\$53,102.96

UMC Development Funds

Total Memorial Fund	\$93,761.84
Net Total:	<u>\$146,864.80</u>

Settlement: **\$94,662.00**

Post Settlement Balance: **\$52,202.80**

Nanette Fund **\$98,513.93** (designated for children)

CAN THESE FUNDS BE RECUPERIATED?



UMC Apportionment (Past 10 yrs)

\$288,547.00

GMC Apportionment (Est 10 yrs)

\$144,274.00

Difference

\$144,273.00

WHY NOT WAIT UNTIL 2024 AND PROTOCOL VOTE?

1. Will there be a General Conference in 2024?
2. Will the Protocol pass as is or could it be amended?
3. The offer outlined in paragraph 2553 expires the end of next year (2023) before the 2024 conference
4. Will the Conference amend the current 2553 agreement to include paying for property?
5. ??????

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON TRINITY IF WE DISAFFILIATE?

- 1. The Service (worship and liturgy) = None**
- 2. Clergy – Pastor Ricky already planned on leaving the end of June so we will receive a new pastor = None**
- 3. Loss of members? Gain of members?**
- 4. Cost of disaffiliation – painful but no debt and we have full title to the church, parsonage and land plus a significant amount in our savings**
- 5. What will be our identity? Conservative or liberal? No! A Methodist fellowship where people can meet Jesus and encounter the presence of the Holy Spirit.**

WHY AFFILIATE WITH THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH?

- 1. Traditional Methodist faith and practice**
- 2. Global ministry**
- 3. Network of affiliated churches (joint ministry and fellowship)**
- 4. Connect with a unified Methodist denomination**
- 5. Home for traditional Methodists**
- 6. Clergy screening and supply**
- 7. Episcopal support**
- 8. Pooling resources to support worldwide mission network**
- 9. Tax exemption umbrella**
- 10. NO TRUST CLAUSE**



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Our Witness to the World

“We believe that all persons irrespective of their station or circumstances in life have been made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity, justice, and respect. We denounce as sin racism, sexism, and other expressions that unjustly discriminate against any person (Genesis 1-2, Deuteronomy 16:19-20, Luke 11:42, 19:9, Colossians 3:11).”

VISION

Our Vision is to join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of Christ.

The Global Methodist Church is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth and grace to all people.

Our witness to the world is marked by mutual love, concern, sharing, and a focus on those who are most vulnerable. We watch over one another in love and bear witness to the transforming power of the Good News as we humbly, but boldly, strive to serve others as ambassadors of Christ!



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

Global Methodist Church

Questions?



OTHER QUESTIONS?

If I can't answer them, I will get the answer.

TONIGHT'S VOTE

Vote is to continue the process of disaffiliation by contacting the District Superintendent (the Rev. Allen Black) requesting that he oversee the next step in the process.

A vote to continue the process is not a vote to disaffiliate and you are under no obligation to vote in favor of disaffiliation if we proceed.