

Disaffiliate to “Remain the Same”

Prayer for Restoration

“But LORD, you **remain the same** forever! Your throne continues from generation to generation.”
(Lamentations 5:19 NLT)

Dear FUMC friends,

The month of September represents a significant direction in the life of the ministry of FUMC. We are in a time of preparation as we prayerfully seek to know the future of this church’s ministry. Do we continue to follow the direction provided by the Book of Discipline? Or do we allow current thinking to push the Book of Discipline aside, as is happening today?

Many in the UMC believe our thinking and ministries are outdated, that we should adapt our church culture to be more “modern.” Such thinking says the church is evolving along with the culture, thereby allowing for fewer rules and an open-minded style of worship. We disagree.

On September 18, 2022, our church in Morehead City is facing the most significant decision in its history.

That decision is:

Vote “**YES: Disaffiliate**” in order to remain as the traditional Methodist Church (“remain the same”);

OR

Vote “**NO: Do NOT Disaffiliate**” in order to stay part of the “post-separation” UNITED Methodist Church.

Please read the following points and vote to allow us to continue our current ministries; vote “YES” to “DISAFFILIATE”.

1. Thomas Lambrecht, VP and General Manager of Good News - A Forum for Scriptural Christianity (www.goodnewsmag.org) says, “the real question is whether the traditional theological voice and presence will be respected and heard” in the ‘post-separation’ United Methodist Church. He adds, “what we do know is the traditional voice is not respected or heard in certain parts of the **United** Methodist Church now.”
2. “So, the issue is not whether our doctrines (of the current UMC) will change on paper. The issue is whether our doctrines will change in practice, and whether clergy are held to our doctrinal standards.” (Lambrecht).
3. These not-so-subtle changes are working their way across the American **United** Methodist Church because Bishops and District Superintendents are *not* enforcing the Book of Discipline. These ordained clergy have *violated* the vow they took to follow the Book of Discipline when they were ordained.
4. To remain the local Methodist Church we know and love, we must vote to “**Disaffiliate**” from the **United** Methodist Church. “Disaffiliate” is a term that seems upside down. In order to remain who we are and where we are, we have to vote to separate from the **United** Methodist Church organization. Even in “disaffiliation,” our local church will continue to welcome everyone, as we always have.
5. There are many positives if we vote to disaffiliate. We will have a new Book of Discipline, theologically like our current Book of Discipline. Bishops will not be appointed for life. We will own our local church property (which is now owned by the North Carolina Conference of UMC). We will not have to worry about additional changes likely to be proposed for the “post separation” UMC Book of Discipline.

6. First United Methodist Morehead City is as strong as it has been in the last fifty years. Our Rise service averages around 175 attendees. There are around 150 in the Youth Program. Around 220 children attended Vacation Bible school this summer. There are many ministries, missions and charities, both local and global, supported by our local church. Much of the credit for this goes to our current pastoral leadership team and the number of volunteers who support them. If our church votes to **Stay** with the “post- separation” **United** Methodist Church, then our leadership team will change. Not only will they leave, but so will a good number of laity. We should ask ourselves: “What happens to all those wonderful programs should that occur?”
7. As you consider your vote, ask yourself the following question: “Do I like our local church the way it is now? If you answer “yes,” you should vote to “DISAFFILIATE”.
8. The vote is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. To vote you **must be present** and a church member. Those presiding will confirm church membership. The sanctuary doors will likely be locked at 4:00. Plan to **arrive an hour early** in order to have your membership confirmed and to be seated.
9. To “DISAFFILIATE” and keep the church we love requires at least 67% of those in attendance on Sept 18th to vote “YES.” Every vote counts. **Please VOTE “YES” to DISAFFILIATE (to remain the same)!**

Prayerfully written and sent in love,

Claire Adams	Ted Collins	Rodney Kemp	Dianne Phillips
Wes Adams	Darley Collins	Brenda Ketchum	Jack Phillips
Buddy Baily	Wes Collins	Jason Ketchum	Fletcher Poulk
Dykeman Baily	Sue Cosby	Glenda Kinney	Ken Putman
Loretta Baily	Spence Cosby	Mike Kinney	Chuck Rhodes
Dyckman Baily	Carlyn Cottrell	Buddy Kittrell	Judy Rhodes
Laura Ball	Scott Cottrell	Jean Kittrell	Mike Saleeby
Ray Ball	Pollyanna Cox	Roy Kittrell	Kathryn Scannell
Sherry Barnes	John Craver	Sarah Kittrell	Butch Simmons
Claudia Beamon	Pat Davis	Wesley Kittrell	Kitty Simmons
Pat Bell	Mary Day	Becky Lail	Ed Stack
Brandy Bell	Travis Day	Dega Lancaster	Bryan Starling
Waylon Bell	Butch Gentry	Bobby Lawrence	Dana Starling
Nancy Bissette	Gail Gentry	Deborah Lawrence	David Starling
Janit Black	Skipper Gentry	Denny Lawrence	Holly Starling
David Bradley	Susan Griffith	Sarah Lawrence	Kay Starling
Myra Bradley	Stanley Harrell	Anne Lawton	Larry Starling
Deborah Brown	Beth Henry	Beth Mason	Darlene Torbert
Varina Brown	Keith Henry	Kim McConkey	Mike Turnage
Kenny Brown	Lugean Hogan	Kim McCoury	Susan Turnage
Debbie Brown	Mary Ann Holland	Bradley McIntosh	Angie Varner
Arlene Burns	Patricia Howland	Sandra McIntosh	Danny Varner
Pepper Burns	Larry Hughes	Randy Miller	Dan Wade
Becky Caughman	Clark Jenkins	Parker Morris	Doris Wade
Buff Chalk	Frank Jolly	Whitney Morris	Earle Wade
Margaret Ann Chalk	Linda Spencer Jolly	Anne Munden	Margaret Wade
Skinner Chalk	Donald Jones, Sr.	Emily M. Nobles	Ann Webster
David Chappell	Donny Jones, Dr.	Sandra Norris	Mac Wells
Lisa Chappell	Jessica Jones	Ginger Oates	Joy Whitlow
Mo Chevalier	Karan Jones	Brian Parker	Phyllis Williams
Frances Civils	Gwen Joyner	Catherine Parker	Nancy Willis
John Civils	George Joyner	Janie Margaret Perrine	Jeanette Youngblood
Alice Faye Clayburn	Pauline Juhle	Rick Perrine	Vicki Zettl