

FAQ FOR COLLIERVILLE UNITED METHODIST DISCERNMENT ROUND 2



DISCLAIMER: The Discernment Team did our best to answer these questions as factually and neutrally as we could, while providing as much helpful information as possible. We recognize this information may not cover everything. Please contact us at discernment@colliervilleumc.org with any additional questions we can assist with.

FAQ FOR CUMC DISCERNMENT ROUND TWO

QUESTION: Does our Bishop enforce our Book of Discipline?

ANSWER: Yes. Bishop Bill McAlilly takes very seriously his vow as a bishop to uphold The Book of Discipline. He has stated to our Senior Pastor that for all of his 10 years as a Bishop he has held every pastor accountable for any and all allegations and that he will continue to do so moving forward.

QUESTION: Why does the “traditional church” have to change names to become Global Methodist (or independent or another denomination), instead of keeping the United?

ANSWER: If you pull out of the denomination, you can't continue to use their name.

QUESTION: Where will the ministers for the Global Methodist Church come from?

ANSWER: Former UMC pastors from disaffiliated churches that are moving over. The GMC will hire local pastors and the Asbury Theological seminary has entered into agreement with the GMC to supply candidates for ordination.

LINK: [Asbury Theological Seminary and the New Global Methodist Church](#)

QUESTION: Is there a timeline after the General Conference of 2024 for carrying out a possible separation? Will it be a matter of days, months, or years?

ANSWER: It is unknown if any language will be proposed or passed at the

2024 General Conference to allow for disaffiliation. The current ¶2553 includes the Trust Clause, allowing a church to disaffiliate with the property, but expires at the end of 2023. It's unknown at this time if that will be extended. Should no new language be passed at the 2024 General Conference for churches to disaffiliate, then a church could still possibly disaffiliate, though it could cost up to the appraised value of the property and all assets. This would have to be negotiated with the Conference.

QUESTION: Were other churches invited to the congregational information session? I saw lots of people I've never seen before.

ANSWER: No, it wasn't published as an open invitation to other churches, but it also was not a closed meeting.

QUESTION: What is the doctrine vs. the current position of the UMC church around the topic of abortion?

ANSWER: The United Methodist Church affirms the sanctity of life in these two statements in the Social Principles (BOD ¶ 161.K)

- Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.
- But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.
- LINK: [United Methodist Position on Abortion](#)

The Council of Bishops issued a statement on June 25, 2022, on the Supreme Court reversal of the Roe v. Wade which does not change the above stated position of The UMC, yet issue concerns over the complexity of the court's reversal and what that will mean for "respecting the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother." The letter does not address the concern of the sanctity of life of the unborn child. Click here to read the full [Council of Bishops statement on Roe v. Wade](#).

QUESTION: Can the survey be completed offline on paper? How are we ensured it's anonymous?

ANSWER: Ideally, the survey will need to be completed online, to ensure each person is limited to a single vote. Also, the survey company is able to compile the data, which will enable the analysis the discernment team needs to do. The discernment team is looking into accommodations to help those do not have internet service, or the technical skills to set up an email account, and don't have a smart device to take the survey. The team will communicate that process closer to time for the survey.

We are planning to use a "Secret Ballot" format through a third-party online survey company. This ensures voter anonymity, meaning a voter's identi-

ty cannot be linked to the choices they have made. While the administrator would see whether a voter has voted to track voter engagement, they would not have access to the voter's individual responses.