

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a recap and update of the encouraging actions taking place in the life of Wisner Christian Community Church (WCCC). We give God thanks for all the faithful members and friends of our church community and are confident the actions taking place represent God's will for our church. These steps build on the foundation of WCCC as a Bible based, Christ centered church with a heart for serving our community with a love for God and others.

As you may be aware, WCCC has chosen to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination (UMC) and join the Global Methodist Church (GMC). A summary of the related actions and reasoning are listed in chronological order below:

- **During 2021 and 2022** several church wide communication meetings took place to discuss issues surrounding the core beliefs of our church and differences with the UMC. While the issue is often framed in the secular context of human sexuality, the core concerns and reasons for disaffiliating relate to fundamental differences with the UMC regarding the authority and role of the Bible, the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, and the primary purpose of the Church.
- **November 2, 2022** – Special all church meeting was held and was facilitated by DS Rev John Kasper from the UMC. Our church officially votes to disaffiliate from the UMC (55 votes in favor, 4 against), to be effective July 1, 2023. The meeting and voting followed all the requirements of the UMC under ¶12553 of the Book of Discipline.
- **November 14, 2022** - Church council votes unanimously to rename the church to Wisner Christian Community Church (WCCC). The new name centers on Christ as our focus while also recognizing the importance of serving and being an important part of the broader Wisner community.
- **November 28, 2022** - Church wide letter is sent to friends and family of WCCC providing an update on status of actions and launching a fundraising drive with a target to raise \$150,000 to help pay for cost of disaffiliation. Total cost charged by the UMC to disaffiliate is ~\$222,000 and must be paid by July 1, 2023.
- **January 22, 2023** - Church wide meeting held and WCCC votes unanimously to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church effective July 1, 2023. The decision is based on alignment of WCCC core beliefs with the GMC, the fact that GMC does not require a trust clause (i.e. the church building will now be owned by WCCC), the GMC provides denominational support in the form of finding a pastor if needed, health care administration, etc. which helps ensure the longevity of WCCC (vs. being independent). Also, Pastor Oh plans to affiliate with GMC so the switch is seamless for WCCC and affiliating with GMC gives us an identity beyond the local church.
- **February to April 2023** – WCCC submits official application to join the GMC. In April 2023 the GMC informs us we are officially accepted effective July 1, 2023. Pastor Oh is also officially accepted as Pastor by the GMC.
- **April 2023** - The finance team provided an update on the fundraising drive and reported that as of March 31, 2023 total pledges are \$173,000 and gifts received for disaffiliation (including memorial money designated for this cause) totaled \$119,000 at end of March. Praise the Lord! We ask that any outstanding pledges be paid by June 15, 2023 (thank you!).
- **June 2023** – Annual Conference will meet and officially accept the disaffiliation of our church from the UMC. WCCC will remit payment of ~\$222,000 to UMC as cost of disaffiliation.
- **July 1, 2023** - WCCC will be officially disaffiliated from UMC and join the GMC the same day. This will cap a successful end of this particular journey in the life of our church. **Amen!**

On behalf of the WCCC Church Council and SPRC, we want to thank all of you for your patience, thoughtful insights and prayers, discernment, and financial gifts as we worked through this important phase of our

church. While these actions were necessary, none of it will matter unless we have a vibrant, growing, welcoming and service-oriented church body that is growing in Christ together. Therefore, we welcome everyone to join us at Wisner Christian Community Church to worship, serve, pray, and love one another with Christ as our focus. Thanks and God's blessing to you!