

Administrative Council Update

Hello Church Family,

We are so thankful for you as a member of the body and for participating in the work of the church. I would like to give my thanks to the Administrative Council for their tireless effort in our discernment process regarding disaffiliation. This group of leaders has not taken the task lightly and have been in prayer for the better part of a year now trying to discern the heart of God and listen the voice of the church. Either task is difficult and always a goal of the Administrative Council, but deliberating decisions of this magnitude can be challenging. Your Admin Council members have worked diligently to hear you and have done an incredible job in the process. I would ask that you share your gratitude with them whenever you have the opportunity.

The conclusion reached by the Administrative Council by a majority vote was to pursue two different opportunities. First, they felt it was in our best interest as a church to pursue disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church at next years called Annual Conference in May. After prayerfully considering the future of the UMC, political climate within the denomination, financial obligations, property arrangements, and leadership challenges we face as a denomination they believe we no longer align with the holistic beliefs of the UMC. While we are and always will be a Wesleyan church they felt we may no longer be aligned with the beliefs of the UMC.

Secondly, we heard from the congregation that no matter what we choose to do we wanted to be a connectional church with the oversight of a denomination. We heard through the survey two core challenges: Apportionments and Itineracy. Your Administrative Council researched a multitude of denominations and quickly narrowed the search to 5. We designated teams to research these and decide as a Council which ones had glaring issues, we would not be able to work with as a church. After discussion and more research, the list was narrowed down to 2 denominations they believed would be in our best interest: The Congregational Methodist Church and the Association of Independent Methodist. Over the next few months, the Council will meet with some of their key leaders, visit churches, and inform you of their progress as we try to discern which will provide the best opportunity to meet the needs of the church and encourage success as well as growth for CUMC. Each of these provides an apportionment that will be much lower than our current rate (of which we decide), we maintain our property, and we maintain our current senior pastoral leadership. While they do not have an itinerate process, both provide systems to help our church call, assess, and hire a new minister should the need to arise. We ask that you keep in mind that there is no perfect system or denomination. However, we believe these are in the best interest of our local body and that there will be ample opportunity for success with whichever we choose.

Finally, no decisions have been made by any party. The Administrative Council members are only making recommendations based on prayer, careful research, and discussions among the Council as to what the future of our local church will look like as we face these new opportunities. Before any decision will be made you as a church member will be able to voice your thoughts and vote on these decisions. What we, and I, ask of you is that no matter the decisions made we make them together. We will not all agree, no vote will satisfy all our needs, and no denomination will be perfect. However, we can grow together towards perfection as we place our trust in His will and not our own. What we ask of you at this point is that you continue to pray for our church and for the Administrative Council. We also ask that you attend our Town Halls, read all updates, and most importantly ask questions. If you have any concerns or

questions, please reach out to the church office and someone will respond as soon as possible. Please know we are thankful for you and all you do for the body of Christ. Every member is vital to our success, and we are thankful that you are a part of who we are in this journey.

Keep The Faith, The Administrative Council and Pastor Tommy