

Parts 1 & 2/Voting Part 1 I've been asked a lot recently as to whether or not I was relieved after our church voted a few weeks ago. My response has been two fold. Yes, in the sense that one task is down as we navigate uncharted waters. Also No, in the sense that many more tasks lay ahead that need attention sooner rather than later. Since then we have been talking with different groups about work that needs to be done, discussing next steps with lawyers that will help us through this process, and listening as much as we can to the congregation so that we can best serve you as well. Right now we have two important parts to cover as a congregation that will help us move forward and both require your voice and attention. Part 1 is we need to decide on an appropriate denomination. What we have heard from you is that affiliating with a new denomination is extremely important for a multitude of reasons. We want to maintain a connection with like minded churches, we need help with benefits for any pastoral family we may have and calling that family should the need arise, we want to make sure there is accountability for ourselves and pastor, and finally we want to be able to maintain our properties while making decisions we believe are in the best interest of our local church. The Administrative Council heard your voice and narrowed the search to two different groups, the Congregational Methodist Church, and the Association of Independent Methodist. Both denominations provide a suitable landing space for us as a congregation and both share some of the same benefits as well but as with anything, there are also differences. The main emphasis for us is that we will be able to maintain our property, pastor, choose the amount of funds we give, and if we see a need to change again in the future we can leave to do so with no further obligation. After hearing from both in separate meetings we would like for you to read through some of their bullet points below and compare the two so that you can make an informed decision. Please see below: WHY CONSIDER THE CMC? The most important role of the CMC in each church is to enable the individual churches to remain (or become) completely focused on what God would have them be for their communities. We do this through encouragement and support through denominational leadership along with a fellowship of like-minded churches; all the while respecting each church's autonomy by not placing any direct outside influence on the churches. Our collective goal is the building of the Kingdom of God - and each church knows how to best accomplish this for their own fellowship and the community to which they serve! Here is a summary of what makes up the Congregational Methodist denomination: > ESTABLISHED IN 1852 > FULLY WESLEYAN DOCTRINE > SCRIPTURALLY FAITHFUL > EACH CHURCH OWNS THEIR PROPERTY > EACH CHURCH CALLS THEIR OWN PASTOR (WITH ASSISTANCE AS REQUESTED) > CONSERVATIVE & EVANGELICAL > WIDE RANGE OF CHURCH SIZES - FROM 10-10,000 > LOCATED FROM TEXAS TO FLORIDA (PLUS NEW JERSEY AND MORE COMING!) > WORSHIP STYLES FROM TRADITIONAL TO CONTEMPORARY > 150+ CHURCHES STRONG (PLUS MEXICO) > FINANCIALLY SECURE AND ACCOUNTABLE > NO HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE > PRESIDENT AND DIVISION DIRECTORS SUPPORT COLLECTIVE CHURCH EFFORTS > DENOMINATION SUPPORT STAFF > REGIONAL YOUTH (AND SOME ADULT) CAMPS > IN-HOUSE SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE (AS DESIRED BY CHURCH) > TITHE TO THE DENOMINATION IS DETERMINED BY EACH CHURCH > STRONG MISSIONS DIVISION IN MANY COUNTRIES > MULTIPLE NON-PROFIT SUPPORT BY THE CMC > BOOK OF DISCIPLINE (CENTERED AROUND DOCTRINE) > STRONG WOMEN'S GROUPS INCLUDING DENOMINATION-WIDE > LOCAL MEN'S GROUPS AND DISASTER RECOVERY TEAMS "Welcoming all to experience, connect, grow and share the love and hope of Christ." Vision Statement, Adopted 1/17/17 > ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND GENERAL CONFERENCE > CHURCH DELEGATES TO CONFERENCES ASSIGNED BY LOCAL CHURCH Association of Independent Methodists 1. AIM is an Association and not a Denomination. AIM is 57 years old and has a proven track record of standing on the Word of God. All our Churches are Independent, Born Again, Bible believing,

Evangelicals who are Methodist in Doctrine. We are looking for like-minded Churches to take the Word of God to a lost and dying world. 2. Guiding Principles: The Bible our Rules of Discipline, Articles of Belief and Constitution. 3. Current Benefits of being a part of AIM. As we grow all of these will increase. 4. Currently we run 2 fantastic Youth Camps each summer. One in Mississippi and one in Georgia. About 400 Young People. 5. We support 6 AIM Missionaries families. Bob & Rosa Wood in Honduras (2 AIM Church plants and a Christian School), Brandon & Heather Watson in Mexico, Jeff & Terri Rains in Ecuador, Daniel & Brandi McIntyre in Guatemala, Holly Muehleisen in Japan, and John & Beth Muehleisen with World Gospel Missions (they were in Africa 30 years). 6. One successful Church Plant in Brandon, MS. 7. We offer scholarship support 2 Christian Colleges & 1 Seminary: KMBC & the College at WBS and Wesley Biblical Seminary. 8. Currently we have 1 successful Church Plant growing in Brandon, MS. 9. We have 4 Men & 3 Women retreats each year (GA, AL & MS). 10. We send out Quarterly updates to our churches, sharing what's going on with in AIM. 11. We have 6 Military Chaplains serving around the USA and 4 Hospice Chaplains serving in Hospitals. 12. We offer professional Pastor Training. Currently we have a total 21 Pastors involved in 2 different Trainings. One is called ("God Dreams" and the other is "Mobilizing Disciple Makers"). 13. We offer Credentials for Pastors 14. Currently we have 8 young people who have been called Preach! Pastor Hal Daigre, our President is teaching a weekly Zoom class for the called Preaching 101. 15. 2022/2023 Budget. We're in the black. Almost all funds are invested into Pastor training, Education, Missionaries, Church Planting, Retreats, Youth Camps, other meetings, and activities. We have 1 employee, Mrs. Pam Thornton who runs the AIM office in Jackson, MS. 16. AIM does not have Assessments or Apportionments. However, we do expect each member Church to support AIM Financially on a regular basis. We believe that it's the churches role to pray as to what God lays on their hearts to give. We believe that they will be generous in supporting our Ministries. 17. We have AIM Membership Covenant. Part 2 The second doesn't require as much information but is vitally important, our name. In order for us to move forward we need to choose a new name that represents us as a congregation. We formed a focus group of church members who represent our congregation across the spectrum of age and gender as well as other factors. We asked them to discuss potential names for a period of time and narrow that down to three that we felt best represented our congregation now but also who we desire to be in the future. We have discussed some of those names with various groups also to gauge interest and to discover what we felt best represented who we are as a new congregation in the near future. The names are listed below, again, for your voice and attention. Please read the list below, on the day of the vote we will have graphics to give you a better indication of what the name will look like on signage. 1. The Well of Centerville 2. Legacy Church of Centerville 3. Heritage Church of Centerville Voting Sunday March 19th we will not have Sunday School at 9:30 but will meet in the sanctuary to discuss and vote on both the new denomination and the name. All in attendance and in good standing with the church (a member or regularly attending constituent) will be able to vote for each by separate paper ballot. While we recognize this is an abnormal time we also have heard from you that attending another afternoon meeting is not feasible. Meeting at this time allows as many people as possible to attend while they are already at the church. This same article will go out this week as well as next to give you adequate time to form your opinion and help us make decisions effectively. Finally I'm proud of you and love you. I've heard from other pastors and churches around south Georgia and beyond about their disaffiliation process. You have done well!! I am so thankful to serve a church full of loving people who care so much for the body of Christ and desire to see even greater works done in our community. Yes, I'm relieved. But I'm relieved to have the opportunity to serve you through this process. We will be moving forward with a new denomination and a new name

but the core of who we are will remain; that's you. I called a member to check on them this past week and they discussed how thankful they are to be a part of such a wonderful church. My response to them was; "it's because of people like you and other members that make the church what it is today, not me". I believe it; to the very core of who I am. You are the church, not the denomination/not the name, and for that I am grateful. We are excited about the future of our church and know that what's in store is going to be better than we could ever imagine. Keep the Faith, Pastor Tommy United Methodist Men
The United Methodist Men are cook