



First Methodist Church Maumelle

A message from Elected Lay Leaders & Church Members

On Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm, we will be voting on a decision that we cannot avoid. A decision made necessary by a changing UMC culture and the way it conflicts with our views of the Bible, our theology, and even how we perceive the nature of our savior, Jesus Christ.

One of our Church Board Members summed it up well when he said in a board meeting, that *“it’s not about our people, it’s all about the denomination ... the UMC”*. The future direction is absolutely clear ... the Progressive UMC ship has sailed and is never coming back and we will not be protected from that direction just by virtue of being in Arkansas. These votes are the only opportunity we will ever have to get off the ship and continue to keep our church the way it is now. We will continue to be Methodist, just not *United* Methodist. What your vote will ensure is that we continue to get traditional ministers who will be committed to Biblical authority and traditional Methodist theology.

What are our reasons for Disaffiliation? We encourage you to ask yourself the following questions and prayerfully consider your response.

- Can I continue in a denomination in which UMC leaders are allowed to believe, teach, and preach that the Bible is not the actual Word of God? Many say it is irrelevant, mere stories, and it should change with our culture. Bishop Joseph Sprague, 12 years retired and still drawing a UMC pension, wrote that Jesus was not born of a Virgin, did not die for the sins of the World on the Cross, and was not resurrected. Professor Miguel de la Torre, the Social Justice and Latinx professor, right in time for Easter published an article questioning whether the Cross really is Salvific? All the while both teaching our future ministers at Iliff School of Theology, a UMC funded Methodist Seminary. Reverend Ackerman in Iowa said that we don’t go back to the Bible for the last word in anything. Reverend John Fellers in Houston, said that the Church created the Bible so we could recreate it. Reverend Tom Griffin from Arizona wrote an article stating that he and many other UMC pastors have moved beyond the idea that the Bible is normative and authoritative for our faith.
- Can I continue to send my child or grandchild to Camp Tanako, an affiliated Arkansas UMC camp where young children were asked to announce their pronouns to the group. The camp clearly states in its website that issues of gender identity and expression are very important. “Allowing space for campers to share their own identity rather than label them is crucial to supporting their personal growth and spiritual journey.” Is this where you want to send your children to church camp?
- Can I continue in a denomination where Bishop Oliveto of Colorado accused Jesus of having bigotries and prejudices and said that He was just a “hunk of clay” forming and reforming himself and we “should not make an idol of Him”.

The above examples are just a small sampling of what is being taught basically undisciplined by UMC leadership. Our local apportionment money contributes to most of it. We feel the UMC has stopped living up to its role as a denomination. Denominations, among other things, should provide a clear theology and ensure those of the denomination adhere to it. Many UMC leaders in Arkansas and at a national level no longer adhere to the beliefs that make the UMC a denomination and refuse to even ensure that the official views and policies of the denomination are followed.

Clearly, we are not leaving the United Methodist Church....

... the United Methodist Church has left us!

After much thought, study, and prayer.... the majority of the elected lay leadership of the church and long-term members feel it is in the best interest of the church body to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

We are recommending a transition to an independent Methodist church status where the Bible is our guide, Jesus is our Leader, and actions are the visible measure of our beliefs. Those signed below encourage you to vote in favor of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church.

Elected Lay Leadership

Administrative Board Members



Stan Williams

Administrative Board Chairman



Steve Leverett

Administrative Board



Ed Buerkle

Administrative Board



Rene Lawrence

Administrative Board



Alan Forest

Administrative Board



Scott Wheeler

Administrative Board



Jack Barr

Administrative Board



Darrell Stewart

Administrative Board

Church Chicks & Other Members follow:

Church Chicks!



Judy Brady

Judy Brady

Bea Watson

Bea Watson

Linda Greddes

Linda Greddes

Deborah Germany

Deborah Germany

Jan Price

Jan Price

Shirley Cooper

Shirley Cooper

Nancy Weir

Nancy Weir

Kelly & Robert Thompson

Kelly & Robert Thompson

Susan Howard

Susan Howard

Sara & Jerry Jordan

Sara & Jerry Jordan

Chris Haley

Chris Haley

Rubben & Peggy Deere

Peggy & Ruben Deere

Other Long-Term Members in Support of Disaffiliation

Wade Mock

Wade Mock

Jim Brady

Jim Brady

Bill Jacobs

Bill Jacobs

Elizabeth Brown

Elizabeth Brown

Karen Jacobs

Karen Jacobs

Larry Brown

Larry Brown

Doug Ladner

Doug Ladner

Rosemary and Darrell Stewart

Rosemary & Darrell Stewart

Stuart Harris

Stuart Harris

Dianna Short

Dianna Short

More Members in Support of Disaffiliation

Sharon Buerkle

Sharon & Ed Buerkle

Carol Williams

Carol & Stan Williams

Karen Leverett

Karen & Steve Leverett

Joyce Sanders

Joyce Sanders

Dallas Quast

Dallas Quast

Melissa Pruitt

Melissa Pruitt

Darrell Carter

Darrell Carter

Bill Schlatterer

Bill Schlatterer

Daniel Wheeler

Daniel Wheeler

William Millard

William Millard

David Green

David Green

Bob Fotioo

Bob Fotioo

Dan & Sherri Taylor

Dan & Sherri Taylor

Ralph Shull

Ralph Shull

Charleen Akins

Charleen Akins

Kenny & Renee Lawrence Wooley

Kenny & Renee Lawrence Wooley

Gary & Nancy Weir

Gary & Nancy Weir

Todd Pruitt

Todd Pruitt

JoAnn Milton

JoAnn Milton

JoBeth Schlatterer

JoBeth Schlatterer

Kathy Wheeler

Kathy Wheeler

Kristi Millard

Kristi Millard

Dion Green

Dion Green

Debbie Fotioo

Debbie Fotioo