



First United Methodist Church

900 ARENDELL STREET
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28557

(252) 726-7102
fumcmhc@gmail.com
www.fumcmhc.org

July 11th, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church Morehead City:

We are at an incredible Change moment. I believe this Change is a great moment of Continuity and Opportunity for our congregation – a Future Forward with Hope and Purpose.

For most, Change is a scary word – a word of disruption and crisis.

The Methodist Movement has experienced Change since its beginning. We were part of the great Change in the 1500's when Protestants separated to observe a firmer understanding of grace and the authority of scripture. We Changed when the Methodists left (or were thrown out depending on your perspective) from the Church of England when Wesley argued for grace and discipline in following Jesus. The Methodist movement Changed (divided) several times over issues ranging from slavery to pentecostalism to the authority of bishops. We only became United Methodists in 1968 when several denominations combined (and some would say decline began – we've shrunk by millions in membership and participation since then).

In September, those who are members of FUMC will have the opportunity to vote – for Change – to decide whether to remain a congregation within the United Methodist denomination or to leave (disaffiliate) and move into a new expression of Methodism called the Global Methodist Church.

Change is happening. If the decision is to remain within United Methodism that path will lead to greater changes as the leadership of this denomination moves in new directions, theologically, morally, and organizationally. If the decision is to disaffiliate and then move into the new Global Methodist movement, change comes too. Our name would change to First Methodist Church (what we were for decades prior to adding the word United). Some organizational things would change – incredibly good things – like the congregation owning its own campus, less organizational weight and thus fewer costs, greater emphasis on the local congregation as the primary missional force of the Church, more accountability for bishops.

The decision to disaffiliate and then move into the Global Methodist Church would be decisions to continue moving strongly forward in the theological, moral, and organizational traditions of Methodism. We would stand most firmly on the Scripture as inspired and authoritative. We would hold fast to the revealed nature and saving work of Jesus – the Way, the Truth, the Life.

If we decide to disaffiliate, we would continue to be who we are – a church with momentum in ministry – where all are welcomed to join us in receiving the saving and transforming love of Jesus – where we can have confidence that our bishops and pastors stand accountable to the scriptures and Church – where we will be challenged to see the local church as the primary center of ministry reaching out beyond our doors to the community and world Jesus loves and seeks – where we will remain in true connection with Christians and fellow Methodists around the globe.

In other words, a decision to Change by disaffiliating and connecting to the Global Methodist Church is a decision for continuity and opportunity – for a future forward with hope and purpose. As your Senior Pastor, I do believe this is the best choice for this congregation and for me as a servant of Christ.

Over the next several months, I will be communicating with you via letters and congregational meetings following services in The Rise and on Sunday afternoons in the Sanctuary. You will receive access to a set of 6 short videos providing more information needed to make a wise and faithful decision. I am available for group meetings and individual conversations. Contact me with interest.

In my next letter I will address several questions about what has been happening in the United Methodist denomination that precipitates this need to Change and address costs/benefits. If you have specific questions you'd like addressed, please send them to me at posteen@nccumc.org.

Change is never easy. It can be frightening or overwhelming. Change is also growth and life. This is God's Church and we can trust God's guiding hand and control. I invite you to join me in serious prayer and weekly fasting every Tuesday (or choose a day best for you).

Blessings in Christ,



Powell Osteen
Senior Pastor