



First United Methodist Church

900 ARENDELL STREET
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28557

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

July 26, 2022

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

In my first letter I introduced you to the Change Opportunity available to this congregation (and tens of thousands of like-minded congregations around our country and world). There will be a Church Conference in September where all full members of this congregation who attend will cast votes to determine our course – do we stay within the United Methodist denomination or disaffiliate and move into the new Global Methodist movement.

I never anticipated this day. I haven't been a United Methodist all my life – it only became the UMC in 1968 – but I have served faithfully in the United Methodist denomination for 37 years. It has become apparent to me that the UMC is moving in directions I will not be able to go – into broader/different understandings of who Jesus is and what salvation is all about – into broader/different understandings of morality than is expressed in Holy Scriptures – into broader/different understandings of global connection and accountability than our Book of Discipline currently expresses.

In this letter, I will address a few questions I have been asked:

If we choose to leave, will we lose our name? We will be the same congregation, but we will lose the name “United.” We were “First Methodist” for much longer than we have ever been “First United Methodist.” Most people today are less concerned with denominational names and systems. For some the name “United” is cherished; for others it has become a name of embarrassment as bishops and pastors have failed to teach the classical faith and failed to hold to the accountable discipline of our tradition.

If we choose to leave, will we lose our campus? No! Currently the building and grounds are under a Trust Clause which means it all belongs to the denomination. However, if this congregation chooses to leave, the building and grounds will belong solely to the congregation. The new Global Methodist Church will not have a Trust Clause.

If we choose to leave, will we lose connection with Methodist from around the world. No. In fact, the leadership of the UMC wants to regionalize United Methodism so that each region of the world has independence from one another in certain matters. The Global United Methodist movement will remain globally connected and governed.

If we choose to leave, is all about Homosexuality? Not at all. In fact, we hold fast (as will the Global Methodist Church) to the same historic, biblical definitions and proscriptions that have been basic to Christianity and the Methodist movement since the beginning. Leadership of the United Methodist denomination are on record as intending to change the majority of those guidelines to allow greater permissiveness in personal sexuality and morality. In the Global Methodist Church we will still believe that “all people are of sacred worth,” but that certain practices – whether heterosexual or homosexual – are outside the bounds of God’s revealed will. We will uphold classical Methodist and Biblical truths in matters of sexuality morality and marriage for all whether heterosexual or homosexual.

If we choose to leave, will some people not be welcome at our church? No! As today, all people are welcome because the Gospel welcomes all to experience the forgiving, transforming grace of Jesus. Welcome doesn’t mean approval. Jesus, and we, welcome all to come to Jesus. Even those who personally choose to remain United Methodists will always be welcome in this congregation!

If we choose to leave, will it cost us dearly? There are disaffiliation costs that will be charged us by the North Carolina Annual Conference. The amount is just shy of \$450,000. Your Church Council, in concern over the direction the UMC has been moving, has been escrowing apportionments for the last several years. We have that money already in hand if the decision is made to disaffiliate.

If we choose to leave, will the decision be made by a few leaders? No. The decision will be made by a congregational vote – full members present and voting must approve disaffiliation by 2/3 majority. The NC Annual Conference would then need to approve such action. The disaffiliation would be effective December 31, 2022.

If we choose to leave, why wouldn’t we choose to just stay independent rather than connecting with a new denomination; won’t it bring with it the same potential institutional problems? Independent congregations and denominations face the same challenges of faith and organization. We Methodists have long valued connection and mutual accountability. A Methodist system assists in maintaining the faith, organizing for ministry, and the selection/appointment of pastors. The new Global Methodist movement seeks to learn from our past and improve. This new movement will be a voluntary association.

These are just a few of the questions, I have been asked. I certainly encourage you to review the videos linked on our website. I hope you’ll attend one of the 4 large sessions provided for the whole of our church family. And I hope you will be in touch with me personally if I can answer further questions.

Please continue to fast and pray with me as we seek God’s wisdom and will.

Blessings,



Powell Osteen
Senior Pastor