



First United Methodist Church

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Dear Members of First UMC, Morehead City,

The Church Conference of First UMC, Morehead City, will be held this coming Sunday, September 18th, in the Sanctuary. The meeting will be called to order at 4pm by the District Superintendent Jon Strother.

Registration will begin at 3pm. It is recommended that you register early to be ready to begin promptly at 4pm. The Superintendent has expressed his intent to allow late arrivers to register prior to the vote. There will be tables in the narthex and in the atrium for registration.

ONLY full professing members are allowed to vote. Space does not permit accommodation of those not members of the Church Conference. If needed, overflow will move into the Fellowship Hall with the meeting livestreamed.

The Motion to Disaffiliate must pass by a 2/3 majority vote of those members present and voting.

The ballot – as dictated by the required use of Paragraph 2553 of the 2019 Book of Discipline – will be worded as along the lines of – “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues” - do you wish to Disaffiliate Yes or No?

Though the language only refers to one presenting issue, many faithful Bishops, pastors, and United Methodists understand that this vote is a matter of conscience related to much broader issues. The outcome is the same: Disaffiliate Yes or No?

To Disaffiliate would mean:

- We would no longer be a part of the United Methodist Denomination,
- We would not condone or participate in the present violations of our doctrines and discipline or support the proposed changes in matters of morality and accountability,
- This congregation would own its own campus and buildings,
- We would have greater say in pastoral appointments,
- We would stand in continuity with the historical teachings and principles of the Bible and the Methodist way,
- We would become First Methodist Church (which we were prior to 1968).

In short, I believe the path of Disaffiliation provides the greatest option of Continuity and Momentum with all that God is doing with this congregation in Morehead City, Carteret County, and the world.

To Vote No would mean:

This congregation remains a member of the United Methodist denomination with all its obligations and connections,
The denomination would continue to own the campus and property,
This congregation would be subject to all the proposed and possible changes suggested by progressive Bishops, Annual Conferences, and caucuses.

I also believe Not Disaffiliating would result in the greatest negative impact and division of this congregation.

We are brothers and sisters in Christ even though some of us disagree with one another mightily on the matter of Disaffiliation.

If you come Sunday afternoon, please come having prayed fervently for God's direction and will. Pray for the blessing of this church regardless of the outcome. As your pastor, I pray that the Holy Spirit will speak clearly to each of you and that you will freely vote your conscience.

The District Superintendent will count the votes Sunday and announce the results prior to adjourning the Church Conference. Those results will be posted online to the congregation soon thereafter.

Peace,



Powell Osteen
Senior Pastor