

Every individual will have their own reasons for wanting to disaffiliate from or stay with the United Methodist Church. The two lists below are the Discernment Team's attempt to fairly represent both the progressive and traditionalist stances on the issues in as fair a way as possible.

Reasons to Stay

- One of the things that makes Methodists stand out is that we can hold different opinions but continue to work together in creating disciples of Christ.
- Currently, the Book of Discipline has not changed, and says homosexuality is incompatible with Christianity. While there have been, and continue to be, efforts to change that statement, there are no plans at this time to require/force a pastor or congregation to allow an LGBTQ+ marriage or pastor.
- Open to/Welcome the possibility of changes to the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality in the future.
- A group of bishops publicly denounced claims that the UMC will abandon core Christian doctrines such as the Holy Trinity, the bodily resurrection of Christ and the primacy of the Bible. Instead, they call those doctrines the "cornerstone of our faith."
- The Council Bishops released "A Narrative for the Continued United Methodist Church" which says the UMC will continue to be a home for all, including traditionalists, centrists and progressives.
- Instead of focusing on disaffiliation, we want to focus on the mission and ministry of the church.
- Disaffiliation will pose an additional financial challenge.

Reasons to Disaffiliate

- Although the Book of Discipline has not changed, as the UMC leadership appears to be more progressive. Traditionalists feel the church is headed in a direction that does not reflect their beliefs.
- When pastors are ordained they vow to follow and uphold the Book of Discipline. By not doing so, they are breaking that vow.
- Past comments made by some United Methodist leaders are a signal to us that the denomination is moving further to the progressive side, and away from traditionalist views. These concerns include worries that the church could abandon core doctrines including the Holy Trinity, resurrection of Christ and primacy of the Bible.
- There is a lack of trust, and frustration with the bureaucracy of the current United Methodist Church.
- This may be the only/best opportunity to disaffiliate from the denomination according to paragraph 2553 of the current Book of Discipline.
- If we disaffiliate, we have an opportunity to join the lawsuit with other churches in an effort to challenge the path and high cost the UMC Conference has set out for disaffiliating from the denomination.
- We will own our buildings and property.