

Are all United Methodist churches considering disaffiliation? If not, how was ORUMC identified as considering that step? **No. ORUMC notified the District Superintendent that we were entering into a period of discernment.**

I would like to see 2 lists: Disaffiliated Church vs Remaining UMC  
Topics for comparing / contrasting would be Financial and Physical Assets.  
**Briefly: in either case, ORUMC keeps its physical assets. There is a substantial financial liability due when disaffiliating. Currently, there are 38 churches in our conference who are suing to reduce the liability and requirements of disaffiliation. ORUMC is not a party to that lawsuit.**

What happens if our church decides to disaffiliate, but doesn't meet the deadlines? **Our petition for disaffiliation will not be filed, it will not be voted on at the WNCC Annual Conference in June 2023, and we would remain in the UMC.**

What happens to our endowment funds? **We keep them.**

What if the church does not pay the \$560,000? How long do you have to pay that? **If the church does not pay the "defined benefit liabilities" calculated by the WNCC then our petition to disaffiliate will be void. According to paragraph 2553, payments are due "prior to the effective date of departure" which would be after the WNCC Annual Conference vote.**

If we vote in a Church Conference, will we know the results of the vote the night of the Church Conference? **Yes.**

If a church chooses to disaffiliate now, but 2024 brings changes, could that church re-affiliate? **There is currently no avenue to reaffiliate.**

What are our options after General Conference 2024 if changes are made to the Book of Discipline? **That is unknown at this time.**

It seems to me that we are being asked to make this decision without having all of the information from the General Conference (2024). The language "may or may not" change? **We have no way of knowing what will pass.**

What do you say to those who argue disaffiliation isn't about human sexuality? **At the 2016 General Conference, discussions about policies on human sexuality became so disruptive, they were tabled until a Special General Conference could be scheduled. The Special General Conference was held in 2019, and resulted in upholding and strengthening the Book of Discipline's stance on homosexuality (that it is incompatible with scripture) by a vote of 53% to 47%.**

After the 2019 Special General Conference, it became clear a split of the UMC would occur, and a new paragraph was added to the Book of Discipline (paragraph 2553) that created a general path for disaffiliation from the UMC. This path was temporary and expires on 12/31/23.

However, instead of disaffiliation, some leaders came out against portions of the Book of Discipline, or delayed taking action against those that did, until after the 2024 General Conference, in the event rules change.

These actions, as well as concerns over previous statements made by some UMC leaders, that traditionalists say challenges the authority of scripture, divinity of Christ, and goes against basic Christian doctrines, have caused more traditional congregations to disaffiliate from the UMC. Many of these traditional churches have stated they welcome the LGBTQ+ community with open arms, and their decision to disaffiliate has nothing to do with human sexuality.

What, if any changes do you (Rev Copley) see happening in the UMC moving forward? For those who stay? We have sent an email to Rev. Copley for her to answer. We will update when we receive a response.

How are pastors held accountable for not following the Book of Discipline? Are they being held accountable? The Book of Discipline (BOD) defines the procedure, in paragraph 362 for pastors and 413 for Bishops. Since the Bishops administer the process in both cases, it is up to the Bishop hearing a particular case to decide whether to administer discipline or not. They can dismiss the charges or choose not to act.

Why are there currently churches / pastors who are not abiding by the current BOD and there is no accountability for these pastors / churches?

Following the passing of the Traditional Plan at the 2019 General Conference, many Bishops declared they would no longer follow the BOD nor enforce its standards. Since the Bishops administer the process they decide whether to hold pastors and fellow Bishops accountable or not.

If the current Bishops say they will follow the BOD, why are they not doing so now? How can I trust what they say? Trust is an issue. Some Bishops do follow the BOD, some don't. Most all of them are pretty clear as to where they stand, following the BOD or not. Each should be judged by what they say and do.

Why do different Bishops have different policies / procedures to disaffiliate? There seems to be as disconnect among them. Each Bishop leading an annual conference determines the specific disaffiliation procedures required of churches in that conference. Paragraph 2553 does not contain details, just general

requirements. So the details will vary from conference to conference.

If the UMC has a policy against ordaining openly gay bishops, why isn't it being followed? How will this be handled in the future? See above. The Bishops administer the accountability/discipline process so they control who gets ordained or selected as bishop. The BOD would need to be changed to assure accountability of Bishops, such as term limits and an independent body to hear complaints.

Per paragraph 2553, provisions for disaffiliation expire on 12/31/2023. On the WNCC website, there is a bullet point that states, "There is no hurry or need to rush the process of discernment if your church is considering disaffiliation." Considering the steps involved to disaffiliate, and now it is November 2022, is there now an urgency? Until the 2024 General Conference meets, we have no way of knowing what, if any, changes to the BOD will occur; or what, if any, other path to disaffiliation will be approved. The District Superintendent says we must vote by early February, submit paperwork by April 1, and the conference will vote in June 2023 if we are to be allowed to disaffiliate under the current terms that expire December 31, 2023.

\*\*\*There were other cards turned in, but they were statements rather than questions. We carefully considered each one as we put together these FAQ's and appreciate each person's time in expressing their opinions.