

## WHY OR WHY NOT

Let a committee take survey responses and make the decision.

I believe the majority do not want to dissociate and feel our church will not survive the conflict of a vote.

The congregation is the church and as such, should determine the future of the church.

I think everyone's voice needs to be heard.

It's not the "leaders" church but every members and it is their decision.

If the reason for disaffiliating from the UMC is because the UMC does not follow the Truth of the Bible and compromises the earthly values, Churches should go as the Bible says, not as people's opinions.

I think the church should remain in the United Methodist Church, and I don't believe that the vote is necessary. As a young person, I think voting to join the Global Methodist Church is discriminatory and would exclude many people and potential members. Young people, especially, would be even less likely to join our church. The main issues regarding the vote should not be associated with religion, as these are political issues. If the members who want to go Global are fine with women speaking in church, members having tattoos, and breaking other commandments in the Bible, LGBTQ+ members should be allowed, welcomed, and loved too.

I fear that voting will make things more divisive and could damage long standing relationships within the church. I feel if we do not vote and people wanted a different outcome then they will just choose to go elsewhere and things will be less controversial.

We love the traditional church and want it to continue like it is!!

We should wait for the process to play out a bit longer and have as much information as possible before making a decision. There is still plenty of time before any deadlines.

Even though the Methodist Church has rules regarding homosexuality now, the bishops and authorities are not policing the violators now, much less in the future. I feel that I don't want to be part of a church that doesn't practice what they stand for. FUMC needs to vote to hopefully approve leaving the current First United Methodist Church. I do believe that the violators should be the ones should t be asked or to leave not the other way around thanks.

Because I want the church to continue as the United Methodist Church established by John Wesley and those who followed his lead.

No one is forced to be a member of First united Methodist so there is no need to do away with the church as it now is. It seems to have a good strong membership. I have chosen to belong to FUMC and will continue to be a members as long as I can.

It's important to determine what the majority of the church would like to do.

I believe it is important to allow the congregation to voice 5eir opinion and then stand in so,idity.

I think we as a congregation should have a say in this historic matter. Especially since we are being asked to change or accept core values at will. This is a decision of massive consequences and we should have open discussion and communication. I believe this has not taken place and this issue(s) aren't going away. I think

we should have the opportunity to vote and let the will of the people determine the future of our church much like we do in any common election. I don't believe its necessary to have a vote to have a vote. Lets communicate, discuss and vote. The future of our church is at risk and not voting because some feel its disruptive will only cause more disruption.

Its not necessary. All it would do is divide the church.

Not having a vote is voting to stay UMC. Every member should be able to participate and have a voice in the future of our church.

Taking into account the extreme changes that are being made in the united methodist church, I feel that every voting member needs to have the choice of staying or going and it our pastors responsibility to educate our members on what their vote would mean

We want things to remain as they are. We want to continue to be part of the United Methodist Church. We were very impressed with Adan's video.

I believe it is important to get every person a say in the direction of our church

I wish to remain UMC and believe a vote would be divisive to our church while yielding the same result that most of us want to remain UMC.

We genuinely beleive that the UMC as we have known it is no longer best for our church

Everyone should be able to voice their opinion.

It would help the members of the church get involved.

It is CRITICAL that the congregation gets the right to decide the future of the church.

Not sure how to answer this

It will be too divisive

Because I don't see the need to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. So I see no need for a vote.

I prefer to be in a "big tent" church where we share a common trust in God thru Jesus Christ, and allow for differences of opinion on many other things. I feel that the disaffiliation/Global Methodist Church movement is a "purifying" movement that will narrow acceptable beliefs to a stricter orthodoxy, and I am not for that.

Only fair way. Christ church stewarded by the whole, not one individual or group of individuals.

Don't want to take any action that further divides the church.

The mere act of calling a vote will, I think, contribute to creating an open conflict that will repeat what we experienced 13-14 years ago (not sure of the year). We barely survived that event and lost a fairly large number of our members. We've never fully recovered.

failure to bring it to a vote is a DeFacto vote to stay. I think the congregation should, at the very least, have a voice in the matter. A decision to bring it to a vote is not the same thing as a decision to disaffiliate.

I do not wish to vote.

Everyone should have a voice,

Comfortable with United Methodist Church and do not want to contribute to division in church.

I feel good with our Church community as it is, which has always been inclusive, compassionate, and caring, at least in mind. I don't see the need for change.

I want to stay like we are

Important to allow all to participate in that decision.

I see no advantage to voting now. Let's wait until the last minutes and maybe a better option will show up.

N/A

I believe we need to allow the congregation to voice their opinion on this matter via a vote. A vote is a fair way for everyone to share their wishes for their church going forward.

The future of the Church should be in the hands of the members as it is important for the stability of the Church as a whole to be united in one voice

Because I think we all should take part in this final decision that could affect the future of our church.

There is going to be a change coming to the United Methodist Church. This is uncomfortable and we all wish that we didn't have to do this process, but it is imperative that we open this up so that people can have their voice heard. If we choose not to even vote, there will be a large portion of the congregation that will choose to leave. People want and need to be heard.

Decision on what to do should be made in a timely manner

I feel people do not have enough information to make an accurate decision.

I feel like every member should have a say in the future of the church. A vote is the only way to know the true opinions of the congregation.

Because no vote is proof of a decision already made.....what foolish tree cuts down it's own roots?

It seems like a fair way to decide what the majority want

I feel the majority is happy with the way things are.

I feel like this is the least disruptive action and where we can best serve others.

Based on a history of "progressive" insubordination or naive ignorance, we cannot trust the General Conference or Bishops to uphold any Discipline endorsed by those who practice the philosophy of the progressive movement. At a time in history when the world desperately needs the church to bring God's light on holiness and human sexuality, the UMC wants to respond by removing Biblically-based authoritative teachings that currently seem too controversial to endorse

against one particular worldview in our society. We should not trust that those who remain will not continue to deny or remove other parts of our Discipline in the future, when it will be more difficult to express disagreement and disaffiliate.

It only makes sense to do so. Shouldn't be left up to a certain group of people to decide.

I feel that voting will really divide our church. We are thriving and I hate to see that destroyed by a voting.

It is the member's decision so need a vote

Because doing nothing means any member of the church accepts gay marriage and perhaps gay pastors by default. I believe everyone must take a stand. You either believe what the Bible says or you don't.

Only members should decide to disaffiliate or not, decision should not be made by clergy or church council

Our church needs to move forward, delay is creating division.

Members should decide whether to disaffiliate

Stop the games and let your members make their own decision

Don't need survey in order to give members vote that is required

so every member has input

I feel going to a vote would prove to be very divisive to our Church.

I fear a church wide vote would split our congregation beyond repair.

I feel we need to have the option to vote and see where the majority of our members stand.

I do not want a church wide vote because I want to remain a part of the United Methodist Church.

I am concerned that either way we are bound to lose members, but if we vote, maybe people will be more accepting because they at least we're able to register their opinions. And, if the way a member votes is not the same as the majority, the decision was made by fellow members, rather than a council or group of leaders, the outcome may be more readily accepted. I am also concerned that if there is no vote, membership on both sides of the issues will be angry and leave.

I do not feel there is an issue with our church. I love the FUMC just the way it is.

It's either a vote or we'll move to another church.

To vote to have a vote borders on redundancy and elementary. What nonsense!

Due to UMC not enforcing Book of Discipline, each church member needs to decide if the member wants our church to remain with UMC.

I want FUMC to stay traditional according to the bible.

I want our church to remain the same

I don't like the direction that the Bishops are taking our church.

Decision should not be made by senior pastor

Every member should be allowed to have a voice

I wish to have a church-wide vote in this matter because it is my right as a member of this church.

It should be an open process, and everyone should be allowed to vote.

I believe that everyone's voice should be heard.

Because I don't think we should be splitting and would vote that way.

I think it should be up to the congregation....

Having a vote will be divisive

Shouldn't need a vote. Make the right decision.

I believe all member's voices should be heard.

I would like more information on this issue before we have a church wide vote. I do not fully understand all the implications of this decision yet.

I am not informed on the issue

It is the members church

I prefer to stay as we are, United Methodist. Our church has always embraced difference and diversity and we have never all been forced to agree on every issue. Questioning and discussion have been a principal of the United Methodist church.

I love our Church the way it is.

I feel like the church is made up of many members. As in lots of things, the loudest voices are not always the majority. This is a critical time in the Methodist church. I WANT to know what the opinion of our church is so that I know what I want to do in the future. I want to be in a church that upholds Biblical traditions. If we choose to NOT vote I feel that we are choosing TO agree with the non traditional. I feel that is a choice to ignore what the congregation wants and only do what leaders and committee chairs choose.

I think voting would be divisive.

I want the opportunity to voice my concerns

We are happy as a church to go along together as it is, so why try to divide us. Lest continue just as we are!!!

I feel that it is only fair for all the members to have a voice in the church they serve and worship in.

I feel it will drive the wedge even deeper. Our minds are carved on our hearts and only our hearts are known to God.

I do not think as United Methodist that we should discriminate based on homosexuality.

It's important that membership decides their future in spite of Todd and Stan Cribbs efforts to keep us UMC. If this survey is used to circumvent a vote so Todd and Stan can steal our Church there will be a lot of people angry at each other but especially with them.

Every one counts

Not necessary

ONLY FAIR THE MEMBERSHIP NOT SENIOR MINISTER OR COUNCIL CHAIR MAKES DECISION TO DISAFFILIATE OR NOT

Do we let the Congress decide on who's going to be president? No. We vote!! The people deserve to make this decision. Not the arbitrarily assigned leaders.

Because its only fair!

The Northwest Texas conference is the most conservative conference in the America and FUMC is one of its largest churches. I am a confirmed member of FUMC with full voting rights and I deserve the opportunity to vote on the most important decision in the history of the UMC denomination. Why are we debating about voting? Comments that a vote will divide FUMC are wrong. The denomination already accomplished that. To reference a church division similar to the Jay Horton situation is a fear tactic that preys on member's emotions instead of offering facts and letting the members make an informed decision. If FUMC is unique with traditional and progressive members, not voting is denying an entire portion of the congregation an opportunity to have a say in the future of the church and that is what will divide FUMC. Sadly, the UMC set up voting so that traditionalists have to beg for the opportunity to have a voice. Because FUMC members are not educated on ALL the issues, it now appears traditionalist are homophobic for wanting a vote and are intimidated to stay silent. FROM THE UMC NEWS 10/14/22 St Andrew in Plano TX left the UMC by a church council vote, not a congregational vote. (Bishop Michel) McKee said the North Texas Conference expects clergy and churches to uphold the Book of Discipline, including following Paragraph 2553 for disaffiliation. "The process by which St. Andrew made this decision is unique in the history of our Wesleyan tradition, which requires congregational votes on major decisions," McKee told UM News. "I mourn the fact (that) the members of St. Andrew were denied both voice and vote on the most consequential decision their church has ever made." "I find it alarming that they made this decision without a congregational vote," said the Rev. Don Underwood, pastor emeritus of Christ United Methodist Church, another large congregation in Plano. "The protection for church members that is provided by open meetings, dissenting voices and congregational votes is a cherished Methodist tradition, and it is required by the Discipline." While McKee expressed deep concern about St. Andrew's approach to disaffiliation, he did not respond to UM News' request to know whether the North Texas Conference will go to court to challenge St. Andrew's actions.

I am content as we are

That's the only way you will know what the congregation wants. Too many people are upset that we are not acknowledging this issue.

Because I am unfamiliar w/ the issue causing the discussions.

A vote is not divisive. Not letting this church vote is divisive. Your actions are divisive.

To know the congregation's wishes

I don't know enough about what might happen to our church if we voted to disaffiliate. I can't answer that question without knowing the pros and cons of disaffiliating.

I feel like every member of the church should have a "say".

I believe that the church as a whole would be best served by taking a vote.

FUMC is operating well at the moment. Members are attending and there is feeling that many things are going right after some negative years. Just taking a vote on leaving the UMC will set people against each other. No matter which way the vote goes, people will leave, relationships that go back decades will be shattered, tribalism will begin, and FUMC might not survive. People are at church now. Why in the world would we want to invoke a disaster? I beg you not to destroy our church!

Until we have more clarity as to the total picture of the consequences of leaving the existing United Methodist Church organization, I think it is premature to have a formal vote to do so. This is no longer a vote about gender identity among our members and clergy. That would be simpler. But rather about rebelling against the corporate organization of our denomination. Many of those decisions have yet to be made.

We completed this survey from an email that was forwarded to us. We did not receive this email. We would appreciate being added to the mailing list. Carol Suit. suitcarol@gmail.com Larry (Tuck) Suit. Itsuit253062@gmail.com

Every member of the church NEEDS to have a say in this matter.

I think it could divide the church even more

It's the democratic way.

I want to remain United Methodist. I do not want the Church to split.

I do not want FUMC to leave United Methodists. Let the liberal, LGBTQ crowd leave if they must

Every present member should be able to have a voice in the decision concerning FUMC.

Each one is a member who has an opinion.

We are all part of this decision.

Other large United Methodist churches in Lubbock have voted to disaffiliate. A vote would show that the congregation either agrees or disagrees and it would not be up to the church council. How a vote would be conducted is another question.

I would not rather vote in group setting even though it will be secret ballot.

I wish it would just go away. I DO NOT LIKE irreconcilable differences in the brother hood of Christian believers. If we must vote I will do so.

I sense our church has worshipped more as a group of compatibilists which I prefer. So personally I do not feel a vote is necessary.

I don't want to regress on ideas that move us forward in welcoming ALL into our church.

Every member should have a say in this.

It would create ill feelings.

To not vote seems like an attempt to ignore the issue hoping it will go away. It won't go away. It also means that by not voting we have in effect agreed to stay in the UMC

No, because I believe the majority of our members want to stay in the UMC and having a vote will create a very divisive response from those who are wanting to leave the UMC. Those individuals will be upset either way we choose to have, or not have, the actual vote.

choosing to abstain from voting is actually a NO vote, because it does not allow the Motion/ Topic / Issue being voted on to gain a vote. By asking this question, worded this way, you will be able to predict the vote of the people who reply NO.

Our voice needs to have input.

I feel it would be difficult to administer to the whole membership.

Members need to have a voice in this decision

As a group of people with diverse opinions and understanding of the scripture, I believe we can continue to worship and learn from each other. Welcoming all.

I've learned much, done research and feel an amazing peace over my "no vote" convictions. I've been aghast at the speed of some churches and am grateful FUMC has not joined that path of disinformation and persuasion.

I feel as though a vote will inevitably split the church. Right now, we are all United Methodists and have enough division within the different worship styles. I don't think that FUMC can afford to lose half of its membership or to divide the congregation further. The church is going well right now. Let's not mess with it!

I feel it might split the church...some will not get what they voted for and could feel their voice/vote did not matter and bring others down or leave upset. I still feel some do not fully understand what they would be voting for or be confused on the issues.

I think each person should have the opportunity for an official recording of their perspective. I'm concerned that without that, it would cause more turmoil.

I feel like leadership should make the decision and families will decide where to go based on that. What if leadership disagrees with the majority vote? What if there is a tie? What if there isn't an adequate representation of the clergy?

I want to remain UMC.

I think the issue will never be put to rest until there is a vote and the members of the church feel like they have had a say in the matter.

A "vote" will likely be damaging to the church and encourage a split in the congregation... If the survey does not approach 60% or more in favor of a vote, we should not hold a vote.

I feel it's a fair way for all members to express their choice for the way forward for FUMC.



I am satisfied with the course of the church as it follows its own natural development and progression. The dissension within the church body simply reflects the imperfection of humankind and the political and social turmoil within today's society.

Not voting means the church will stay United Methodist, hence NOT switching to Global

We are good like we are.

Did we really pay someone for these incredibly simple questions?

I feel like there are big decisions to be made that will impact our church for many years to come. These decisions should not be taken lightly and need to be thoroughly thought about, discussed openly and prayed deeply about.

i think everyone should vote

Too early

I think a vote will cause a split in the church. I want FUMC to remain in the United Methodist Church. The world is a "big tent", and I have always been reassured that the United Methodist Church has maintained a similar view.

Through all this I have come to realize that I am Methodist to the core. I just want to get this all behind us so that we can move forward. I'm tired the topic of disaffiliation entering into every conversation I have with fellow church members. I'm also tired of wondering how many friends I will lose in the event of a vote. I don't believe we can function properly as Christ's ambassadors if we can't even figure out how to love those who sit beside us in the pews on Sunday mornings.

I don't really want it but it soils sells the question of what percentage of the congregation wants to disallowed.

I want FUMC to remain in the United Methodist church which has a big tent view of Methodism. I think voting will split the church.

A vote for any reason will destruct unity of FUMC. We are just healing from the split in church caused by two previous ministers.

Will merely divide congregation

I know many people want to voice their opinion, but personally I feel it is not necessary to know the ultimate outcome.

The issues facing the Church today need to be openly confronted and discussed.

Good to know where people stand on this. I would vote not to disaffiliate. My concern has been pastors trained at non-United Methodist seminaries are giving undue influence and hatefulness to LGBTQ persons to the detriment of the church.

The decision whether or not to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church will directly impact my decision whether or not to remain a member of FUMC

Because if we aren't allowed to make a decision for ourselves as a church then the decision is already made for us. In this particular case Inaction is an Action in itself.

Voting will publicly divide the congregation. It seems like a stiff price to pay when the UMC has not yet made any specific decisions. It has taken years for FUMC to heal from the Jay Horton issue.

My hope is that our church will remain United Methodist. I feel that a vote will lead to hurt feelings and we will lose more members than we would if we do not vote. Our church is made up of wonderful & diverse members with a wide variety of backgrounds & opinions but we work together for the good of our church & to spread God's love & serve others. My hope is that we will all continue to work & grow together in God's love and support each other through needed changes that may come.

Seems a private personal decision.

If you are afraid a vote may split the church, I would contend that not having a vote would be more damaging. People need to feel they are being heard.

I don't want to disaffiliate; voting for it makes it a possibility which I don't think we should pursue

UMC has drastically changed and is abandoning the Bible in order to conform to our woke society.

Everyone needs the opportunity to participate in this decision - voting is the only fair way for this to happen

Everyone should have a voice. It is the people's church.

Voting would possibly, or more likely probably, create a rift among the church members. The membership has previously experienced a rift, and I feel we need to avoid any such possibility.

I believe that whether or not a vote is taken, we are going to lose church members as a result of these circumstances and there is going to be acrimony within the congregation, regardless. In the interest of transparency and in the interest of allowing all members to weigh in on this controversy, a vote should be taken. Avoiding a vote will not prevent division within the congregation. The decision to leave or stay must be made by the congregation and not by church council.

every member needs to be able to voice their opinion yes or no. Absent a vote by all a wider split is going to happen

Can't stand the conflict and friend against friend

Voting is a divisive experience for people who then take sides, with a I'm right you're wrong mindset. This is not the right mindset for a church that has as its focus: Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

I know there will be different opinions on the above subject but I truly believe the church-wide vote is the best.

I am not meaning for and what's going on in the church I don't think it's should separate. I think it is to stay part of the right and do what's right and do what it has done in the past. I shouldn't drive people away with this church is a very good at driving people away as I did me..

I believe a vote is called for because it is the only way to insure all members' voices are heard.

The church's tent should cover all of us.

Church members may not be totally informed on the subject. In addition, church members may be biased because of their own personal beliefs or situations.

I do not want to leave the United Methodist church

I feel it will divide the church even more.

Our mission is to come together in Christ to spread His good news. I believe a vote would only bring to the forefront those things that divide us as a congregation, and diminish our ability to accomplish this mission

In my opinion, we need to disaffiliate and I think that the only way to do that is to vote.

That vote speaks for the majority. The losers can leave.

If we don't vote, we will be essentially voting to stay in the UMC. We need to vote to have the option to leave.

I do not want a church split or to see conflict in our congregation/church family. Nor do I want to see church members campaigning to get people on their side.

It is my opinion, that having a vote will only create more division within the church, would create a winner and loser scenario. As a church body, we have always had different opinions, varying degrees of beliefs and backgrounds, but have together come one body to do outreach, worship and mission work. While we may lose some members, if we don't have a vote, I think we'll lose many more members if we do have a vote. Either way, we are also likely to gain members from other churches.

A church-wide vote would generate animosity between factions.

This is a serious decision and I feel that everyone should be given the opportunity to vote.

It's important for each member to have a voice in making a decision on an issue such as this.

John Wesley said, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike." I want to attend a church with open doors, open minds, open doors. I think it's sad that so much focus has been placed on one issue; honestly, I feel ramrodded by a very organized group of people who began with one issue that, over time, expanded to include telling others that the UMC wanted to alter our doctrine on the virgin birth, and other things like that. I think a vote would be extremely divisive.

I think a vote would be the best way to fully represent the entire congregation membership.

Because we need one

The congregation deserves a vote

No need to split the church

"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it" -John Lewis If what you really want is to keep peace, a vote is the most fair way to do it with the least amount of conflict. If you don't want a vote don't pretend it's for my sake. It's because you want your way and the best way to get that is to put the decision in your hands and take it out of mine

Too important not to make the voices of the congregation heard

The United Methodist Church is the Church I joined & that is what I desire to continue

To divisive.

I believe we need to allow all voices to be heard.

I can't stand to have friends against friends.

It's the way to move forward

God states "I am the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." God never changes. His word is the same. His Church should be too. But it doesn't seem to be. It wants to "change with the times". Not hurt peoples feelings and allow society to influence what it should accept as right and wrong instead of the other way around. That being homosexuality and the fact that it is a sin.

I believe that everyone should have a vote to make a decision.

So every person has a say.

If enough members wish to have a vote due to a possibility of the super majority to disaffiliate, then yes.

I strongly disagree with the direction in which the United Methodist Church is choosing to go.

Due to the wide demographic of our church, a church-wide vote has the potential to further divide the church, regardless of outcome. Our church has successfully operated in the current capacity for many years and I am confident that we will continue to remain true to the roots of sharing the gospel and seeking Christ in all areas of discipleship.

I would like to remain as we are.

As I understand no vote means we remain United. I absolutely want 1st to remain United

I have zero interest in seeing FUMC-Lubbock leave the United Methodist Church and do not believe a vote is necessary

The building should always remain FUMC

I believe that we should vote as a congregation whether or not to disaffiliate from UMC as I do not feel that the leadership of UMC shares the values of our existing book of discipline.

I trust the Council and ministers have deeply studied and researched these issue's facing our church and that they will make the right decision for FUMC

I do not believe that the majority of members are in favor of disassociating. A vote would be divisive causing a we-they situation.

I have no interest in this Global Methodist church. My beliefs are in sync with THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. I believe that God loves us all equally and does not discriminate, so why should we??

Since it is apparent that our church is almost evenly divided between the 'liberals' and the 'conservatives,' and it would take a two-thirds majority to go either way, I feel that a vote would only serve to divide the church and create hard feelings among the congregation. I feel that we, as a congregation, should recognize that we do not all think the same way, and we should accept our differences and treat each other with the love that Jesus tried to teach us.

everyone needs to express his or her opinion not to vote is still a vote kind of a backdoor way to do it

I feel informed and hope to remain UMC.

The church has a right to decide. It'd be wrong for leadership to put their wishes above the church members.

Absolutely. The United Methodist Church is changing in ways I find unacceptable. The problem is from a leadership level. There are Bishops, District Superintendents, Schools of Divinity and clergy moving towards a progressive interpretation of The Bible and our shared theology in ways I no longer find Christian. A few years ago these incidents were isolated. They have increased, and are increasing as evidenced by new Bishop appointments. The tolerance of disobedience towards sacred vows taken by clergy (and bishops) display a lack of respect for the Book of Discipline. What message does this send laity? A church-wide vote of an educated congregation is the only fair way to represent all points of view. One person, one vote. The question at hand is binary, disaffiliate from the UMC or not. But failing to vote results in remaining in the UMC by default. It prevents ALL voices from being heard and counted by denying the opportunity to vote. This should be unacceptable to any democratic organization.

We owe it to the members to allow them to cast a vote. A "no vote" is a vote in itself.

I think it's important that we take a stand. We don't need to be lukewarm and linger in uncertainty.

I think we should continue as we have been doing

I believe that a vote that in all likelihood would be close would only cause discourse in the church body.

As a parent of a gay child, I am devastated that our beloved church would split on this issue. I understand that there are other "issues" but this one is certainly the "last straw" in the minds of many traditionalists. This issue will resolve itself with time as the younger and more tolerant generations replaces ours, so let time take it's course. After all, we are a church that is moved by Jesus , loves people and serves all. Or are we????

I believe the situation will organically take care of itself.

I think it is divisive, and we don't need more division over this issue

We are already so divided - it breaks my heart :(

Who desires to leave should leave. Problem solved.

To make sure everyone has a voice.

All current members knowingly joined First Church under the rules of the most recent Book of Discipline. It is my opinion that members are free to leave if they do not want to abide by those rules. Therefore, First Church does not need to take a vote.

Because there are many members and all have an opinion which should be heard..

Don't want further division in the church or its members.

Creates divisiveness

Because a decision of this magnitude needs to be voted on by the congregation.

I do not think we should disaffiliate.

I feel the congregation's opinion matters

We are a UMC Church and should remain a UMC church. A vote will undoubtedly decide our church family.

No vote. No vote to take a vote. I believe any vote in and of itself is a tool to create a further schism within the church and sow discord. It is not an information issue. In my opinion, it is not even a Religion/Christianity/Methodist issue. It is an issue of a power struggle between people who have lost their calling. If individuals want to leave or stay, it should be done on an individual basis, not a corporate basis as we are First United Methodist Lubbock. -Will Boyles

Continue discernment and focus on our FUMC outreach to others.

Everyone should have a chance to express their opinion on this important matter. There are several options to be considered, and simply "vote or don't vote" ignores the issues that will be involved with even that simple question, much less what each option ultimately entails.

Personally I prefer no vote which would result in First remaining UMC. My fear is that a vote will further divide our church. I've heard from someone in a church in another city planning to vote soon that the issue is "tearing their church apart". My prayer is that whether the council makes the decision to vote or not and regardless of the outcome if there is a vote, we will somehow be able to remember who we are as Christians. I will support the council if the decision is to hold a vote.

I love this Church as is. I do not have an issue accepting anyone who believes into our congregation.

I believe every member should have the opportunity to have a voice and a vote on the future of the UMC. I am, at least, the fifth generation UMC member, as was my late husband. My family and I have been faithful members of the UMC thru many decades...Sunday school teachers, choir members, youth sponsors, members of boards and committees, volunteers in many areas. Our children were also dedicated as infants, later confirmed and married in the UMC. I want to VOTE on the future!!!!

The entire congregation must have an opportunity to express their opinion. If we don't vote we are voting to stay in UMC and I don't believe all of the congregation understands the potential ramifications.

Not needed. The universal Gospel of Christ is that of love and respect for others. In that vein, we are called to accept all of our neighbors, not just those with whom we agree or those whose lives are similar to our own. Christ comes to us, telling us, in essence, that the Ten Commandments can be simplified, boiled down to just one: Love one another. We are one Church. There is no need to look further or seek an alternate Gospel.

Everyone should have the opportunity to vote!

Don't want the church to lose members because of a vote.

I think having a vote would create a lot of division in the church over an issue that only seems important to a small group of members.

Is a vote necessary? If we do not vote what happens??

I think offering a church-wide vote could create an environment that fosters tension, bitterness and the possibility to further divide our congregation.

The UMC as we have known it has gone a direction that is not consistent with scripture and their own discipline. In addition we need better more efficient structure with Bishops who are held accountable.

Although I think the bureaucracy of the Church is overblown, I do not think that jumping headfirst into the Global is the answer either.

I believe all members should have the opportunity to express their preference on this issue, and a vote is the only fair way to do that.

The decision affects the entire church so the entire church should vote.

No vote would mean that our church would not disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

I am good with our current ( & long time ) situation.

Should be a Church wide decision

As a member of this church, I want my voice to be heard. I believe if we don't vote, that is a vote to keep the status quo. By not giving us a chance to vote also makes me feel like the church isn't interested in knowing the feelings of its membership...like we know better than you what needs to happen.

We are not sure what the United Methodist Church is going to do for certain. It is all speculation and rumor--whatever they may do, must be approved by all conferences. I would hate to leave my life-long church because of uncertainty,

My preference is to stay UMC

not needed

I believe there are a variety of perspectives within the church congregation and everyone should have the opportunity to express their viewpoint via a vote.

I don't feel a vote is needed.

I believe the members of FUMC should have a say (vote) in the direction of their Church. As with other votes (city referendums, political) the individual's vote may not be among the winning decision but then people get behind the decision and see it as the majority's decision. Autocratic decisions are based on their own beliefs and do not involve others.

Such a big decision should require the opportunity of the whole body to have a vote.

I don't think we need to leave and this creates more division.

Thank should be a leadership decision.

Because it would most likely cause division.

too soon in the process.

only proper to poll all members

My initial thought about a vote was that it would create a division in the church, but I believe now that the division already exists. We might as well go ahead with a vote and settle the direction of FUMC. I would not like to see a forum for folks to appeal to church members to join a side. This would add bad feelings to the existing division with no gain in my opinion. There is enough information available for us to make an educated decision without an emotional appeal.

A church-wide vote is divisive and would cause harm among our community. We should put our energy and time toward making disciples of Christ rather than arguing about whom is or is not welcome to participate and lead in our church.

Let's get it over with and move on...

I feel a vote would cause unwanted division within our church, and I prefer to remain UMC as is.

I feel like our church operates peacefully and without much conflict. I believe that a vote would create division where there is not a need.

I realize this is risky, but everyone should have the opportunity to state their choice.

I believe each member should be represented to disaffiliate since it is such a personal and final decision

I prefer to remain UMC, and if we vote I feel the vote would cause unwanted division in our church regardless of the outcome.

We're a Church Family and shouldn't the whole Family have an opportunity to express their viewpoints?

I do not think we need to vote at all. I do not want to disaffiliate because everything is working great currently.

A vote now would be premature; too many unknowns and the deadline to vote is still a year away. Nothing yet says disaffiliation is a good choice.

Members have a right to be heard and show their point of view

I feel like having a church-wide vote would cause great division among our congregation.

Splits the church for no reason

It is hard to understand why this is an issue. Why would we not want to know how members feel.

I do not believe we should vote until after we see what the General Conf actually does.

I see no reason to leave the UMC. I believe a vote has the potential to weaken the church. If we do have a vote, we must find a way to do so carefully

Because no vote means no disaffiliation.

Because it's unavoidable. Not voting is a vote to stay in a denomination that is refusing to follow our biblical principles.

I feel like this is a decision that the leaders of the church should make. Members can then choose where to have their house of worship from that.

So that every one can feel like their voice is heard regardless of which way they choose to vote

Let everyone have a say on the future of the church.



I feel it would divide the church.

Required by the rules set forth by the Northwest Texas Conference. Discernment forever is a dishonest

Voting provides an opportunity for all voices to be heard.

Divisive

It would take away from our mission as a Church!

It is important for all church members to feel like they have a voice in this important decision.

Why would we NOT vote on such an important issue?

The only way to make progress is to start with information from the body of our church, whatever that is.

I don't feel it is necessary - First United Methodist Church has had differences before and will have differences in the future.

I fear it would be divisive.

I think it would be divisive and not productive since I don't believe there are enough votes to disaffiliate.

I believe that the church family needs to be able to voice their decisions.

I believe a vote would cause more division within our community. We say we are a "grace filled environment". Let's put that into further action.

I'm not in favor of changing and I think inactive people would show up to vote and make a statement.

Chance for all to voice their opinion

I do not believe the majority of the members of FUMC wish to split from the United Methodist Church. I believe a vote would be divisive & unnecessary.

To not vote is a decision . Everyone should have input to what they hoped or this great church.

What other choice is there?

We must have clarity.

Don't want to leave United Methodist Church.

There is no need for a vote until after general conference.

I think it gives everyone an opportunity to express themselves.

Don't want to disaffiliate -- thus no need for a vote

I feel that a vote would bring about irreversible divisiveness between the members and do irreparable damage to FUMC as a whole.

The church wide members should have a voice in the church they wish to attend

I believe unity is more important for our church at this time.

It is my belief that we best serve God and show His grace as a United Methodist Church, as we are currently.

everyone needs for their opinion to be heard.

We feel like a vote would divide the church.

I think the congregations should have a say in the future of our church.

Putting this up for a vote would cause a divide in the church. I think the council should take a firm direction on yes/no.

Because I don't want to jeopardize losing our church pastors. I am sure they feel that gay marriage would make them participate in a ritual not a Christian process.

Everyone should have a say.

Worried it will do more harm than good.

It gives everyone the right to express their opinion.

I think it would be divisive for our church. I think we should remain the same as we are and let who we are evolve through the Book of Discipline.

Everyone needs a voice.

EVERY MEMBERS VOICE SHOULD BE HEARD.

It is critical and the only appropriate option that members have a voice in the affiliations and public doctrinal stances of our denomination.

I believe it will be too divisive.

The church needs to voice direction on the issues

This issue is too important not to let the congregation decide.

Il think that our church should continue to accept everyone for who they are. Jesus reached out to all people.

We can be the same church we've always been whether we vote or not.

It's too painful to watch the church be pulled apart. We watched the Lutheran church go through all this

I do not think it is necessary. I believe members of FUMC are interested in remaining United Methodists

It is the only way to allow people to voice their preference.

I do not wish to give a reason,

I think a no vote would be the least damaging to our church.

So everyone has input

I think at this point most folks expect it & there would be a large # of people upset (personally not me) if it didn't happen.

I'm not prepared to make the decision at this time. My faith tells me that the answer will come in due time...and this is not the time.

Leadership believes it will divide the church. I agree.

If the survey has a majority or (even better) 60% or 70% no vote, I think it's time to put this issue to rest. Disunity might fester and grow..

Voting is always best, because it gives everyone, not just a council input.

But NOT to disaffiliate I believe every one should have the opportunity for their voice to be heard. I am MOST prayerful that FUMC will remain United

How else will we know what the majority wants?

No

To take a stand on the Biblical principles, God's Word, on human sexuality

I WANT THE CHURCH TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING AS IT IS WITH GOSPEL TEACHINGS AND GOSPEL-BASED SERMONS IN THE PULPIT. THERE IS NO REASON TO CHANGE

We as church members have a right to vote for the direction or church goes in. It would be wrong for the church leadership to decide for us.

All the churches leaving must know something

Don't think a vote is needed

I do not want to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church.

UMC has abandoned the Book of Discipline and even more importantly, has abandoned the Bible as God's word.

Each of us should have a voice in this decision.

The members need to have a voice in the decision

This is a very personal decision. Even with extensive prayer, we are unable to come to a positive decision.

I think the members need to feel that their voice has been heard.

A vote needs to be done for members to express themselves.

Those who wish to leave should do so. No action by those who wish to stay with UMC is, therefore necessary and is, in fact, unnecessarily disruptive

The "progressive" trends in the UMC are not consistent with biblical teaching, and FUMC Lubbock needs to vote to leave UMC.

I believe it's critical that the congregation have a voice in this process because taking no action is a vote in itself to remain with the UMC.

This is a huge issue. The congregation should get a say.

I know if there is a vote we will lose too many members no matter the results.

People of the church should have a say in what happens

Any vote, even in Church Council, only serves to divide our congregation. We mustn't make this a "winners, losers" issue.

I do not want to disaffiliate. I want things to stay as they are.

We need to be sensitive to what the majority of members of the church believe is the best way forward, in accordance with God's plan/direction

I want the church building, regardless of what the members do, to remain a Methodist church

Leaving such a critical decision up to a vote of the membership will only lead to an even more heightened level of divisiveness within our membership

I don't want to further divide our congregation.

I believe we need to hear everyone's voice. Once we have a vote, one way or the other, we can move on without wondering what if.

I do not wish to consider disaffiliation, particularly because it is difficult finding members, driving an open split to further divide our members.

My wish is for FUMC to remain UMC. I fear that a vote will further split our church but I will support the council's decision if a vote is called.

I feel a vote church wide is the best way to see where the majority of opinions to stay or leave

I believe the majority do not want to dissociate and feel our church will not survive the conflict of a vote.

The congregation is the church and as such, should determine the future of the church.

I think everyone's voice needs to be heard.

I feel like members should be the ones to make the decision.

If the reason for disaffiliating from the UMC is because the UMC does not follow the Truth of the Bible and compromises the earthly values, Churches should go as the Bible says, not as people's opinions.

Every church member doesn't follow each commandment or suggestion in the Bible and United Methodist Doctrine. It's not fair, and is discriminatory, to exclude certain members who don't follow one rule when countless others are broken daily. I believe it is morally wrong to tell people they can't know Jesus and join in fellowship with other Christians. I've grown up in this church, and based on what I've learned here, joining the Global Methodist Church is not Christ-like,

and I would have to leave the church I've called home all my life. Many already believe Christianity is becoming more and more hateful and discriminatory, and going Global would further promote that idea. So many people would miss out on having a relationship with Christ because other people would decide they aren't worthy of one. That is completely against the teachings of the Bible. Jesus welcomed and loved everyone, especially those who the members that want to go Global despise for reasons that aren't their business. If FUMC wants to remain a staple in the Lubbock community and grow, we should remain United Methodist.

I honestly would also hate to see the church I have attended since I was baptized as an infant vote to leave the United Methodist denomination that I love deeply. I would definitely have to leave if they voted to become a Global Methodist Church, and that would be extremely upsetting. This entire situation is very distressing and is already dividing my extended family and causing a great deal of ugliness I fear. I have seen FUMC church members arguing at the Habitat for Humanity jobsite over this and it is truly sparking some ugly conversations. There are people I have always respected saying things out loud that I don't want to hear them say about various groups and topics. What I always loved about our church was that even though I knew we had differences, we always focused on the common wonderful ideas we shared, like how to spread the love of Jesus Christ and do great things in the community to bring God's Kingdom on Earth. None of this new controversy seems to fall in line with the teachings of John Wesley or even the teachings of Christ in my humble opinion. I am getting a bit embarrassed about what is happening to the denomination right now and I am just praying that God will guide FUMC through this turbulent time. Prayers also for all of our amazing staff and church council members. I cannot imagine how challenging this must be for everybody.

We do not want the church to change any or the biblical teachings! I believe all people should be able to attend the church! But pastors or bishops should follow all the discipline and bible!

I would hate to see the church leave the United Methodist Church for the Global Methodist Church. I believe the decision would be solely based on the question of homosexuality. For something that is so rarely mentioned in the Bible, it is not logical to separate from the United Methodist Church over that issue. There are many things mentioned in the Bible that we do not follow today as society has evolved - polygamy, slavery, women not allowed to speak in church.

Even though the Methodist Church has rules regarding homosexuality now, the bishops and authorities are not policing the violators now, much less in the future. I feel that I don't want to be part of a church that doesn't practice what they stand for. FUMC needs to vote to hopefully approve leaving the current First United Methodist Church. I do believe that the violators should be the ones should t be asked or to leave not the other way around thanks.

I do not know what this required response if referring to since I answered question NO 1. I have no interest in becoming a member of some other denomination.

see above response

i do not want to see the church divided

I'm not sure what this is in response to? As there isn't a question above.

I do feel a vote is important

Its the American process to vote. Plain and simple. This is the United States of America and this is what we do.

None

A vote is not needed.

Not having a vote is a vote to remain UMC. Every member should have a voice regarding the future of our church

Please remain United Methodist Church

I believe a vote of disaffiliation to be divisive and would result in hard feelings of some members. The Church Counsel has the means to use the various feedback from phone calls, emails and this survey to make a good decision regarding a vote. I will definitely participate in a vote if the Counsel decides to have a vote.

It is CRITICAL for the congregation to decide the future - not the church council.

We Just want to stay a part of The United Methodist Church.

A vote would be too divisive.

Too much at stake to not have a direct say.

Don't want to divide the church

Related to the above, whichever "side" prevails will alienate those who chose otherwise and will lead to membership loss.

failure to bring it to a vote is a DeFacto vote to stay. I think the congregation should, at the very least, have a voice in the matter.

I just don't want to go through the process.

Everyone should have a voice,

Comfortable with United Methodist church

I feel good with our Church community as it is, which has always been inclusive, compassionate, and caring, at least in mind. I don't see the need for change.

I don't want to divide our church

I also do not want the discipline to delete the prohibition of gay clergy or same sex marriages

There is going to be a change coming to the United Methodist Church. This is uncomfortable and we all wish that we didn't have to do this process, but it is imperative that we open this up so that people can have their voice heard. If we choose not to even vote, there will be a large portion of the congregation that will choose to leave. People want and need to be heard.

Decision should be made in a timely manner

Bishops to uphold any Discipline endorsed by those who practice the philosophy of the progressive movement. At a time in history when the world desperately needs the church to bring God's light on holiness and human sexuality, the UMC wants to respond by removing Biblically-based authoritative teachings that currently seem too controversial to endorse against one particular worldview in our society. We should not trust that those who remain will not continue to deny or remove other parts of our Discipline in the future, when it will be more difficult to express disagreement and disaffiliate.

It only makes sense to do so. Shouldn't be left up to a certain group of people to decide.

I also feel that down the road the church discipline will not change and then we have divided ourselves for no reason.

Church council should not make decision, should allow members to vote

Don't need a survey to give members a vote

So every member has input

I feel a Church wide vote would be very divisive to our Church.

I fear a church wide vote will split our congregation.

If I understand correctly, if we don't say yes to vote our church will remain a UMC without knowing what our congregation has to say

I do not feel there is an issue at our church. I love the FUMC just the way it is now.

Yes I would like the church to vote

I want our church to remain as it is.

I want our church to be Traditional and not have gay leaders or gay marriage present in our church.

Decision should not be made by senior minister

Every Member should be allowed to vote

I wish to have a Church-wide vote in this matter because it is my right as a member of this church.

If the leadership doesn't want to hear the voice of the congregation, then I have heard my answer.

Because I don't think we should be splitting and would vote that wa

Shouldn't need a vote. Make the right decision.

I believe all member's voices should be heard.

FUMC should have a MEMBER ONLY vote to determine the future of the church.

I answered this question on the previous statement

I do not have enough information

Yes sufficient info has been given

Creating division in church by NOT ALLOWING a vote - this should be decided by membership not clergy

I wish to remain as we are.

I did answer. I do not not want a vote to be taken.

Without a vote. How does the committee really know where the church stands?

Because not allowing us to make our own choice is by default a choice in itself.

So everone can participate

I'm afraid that putting it to a vote will further divide our church family.

I think voting would be even more divisive. I think just remaining as a United Methodist church is the way to go.

I don't want the church I was raised in to be destroyed by such progressive crazy ideas

There was not enough space in the last text box, so I am answering this question here. Is there anything else you want the church council to know or consider in the discernment process? The congregation is unaware of many important facts about the status of the UMC. The weekend of November 5th, 2022, the UMC voted on new members to the Council of Bishops and no traditional bishops were elected. Traditionalist views are no longer represented or wanted in the UMC "big tent". Todd stated at the July church council meeting and to Sunday school classes that the UMC Articles of Religion can not be changed. However, that does not stop pastors and bishops from breaking their vows to the UMC and to God by doing what they want with no repercussions from the governing bodies of the UMC. Bishop C. Joseph Sprague stated a speech on January 28, 2002, "I cannot believe that His resurrection involved the resuscitation of his physical body". New Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai is quoted from her September 2022 delegation interview. "No, it is not important that we agree on who Christ is." There are many more examples of how pastors, bishops and seminary professors are abandoning the Articles of Religion. Even if the Articles remain, what difference does it make if the leaders and seminary educators are teaching conflicting doctrine? I disagree that someone who has never darkened the doors of our church can claim to be a professing member and vote. This is disrespectful to the members who have given years/decades of their prayers, presences, gifts and services to the church. If you are using the results of this survey to inform church council, you have used a working copy of the current church roll. It is only fair that that same roll be used for voting. If it needs to be updated there is time to do that before the voting takes place. It would be a disgrace if this survey is used as a reason to not allow members to vote. I hope that staff members will plan to be transparent and share survey results with the congregation.

We have dealing with question of division within the United Methodist Church for ten years.

I strongly think that we need to take a vote regarding the UMC/GMC issue. How else would the church leadership know which direction members think our church should go? Since our pastors have said they do not have a vote, the vote must come from our membership.

Absolutely. The United Methodist Church is changing in ways I find unacceptable. The problem is from a leadership level. There are Bishops, District Superintendents, Schools of Divinity and clergy moving towards a progressive interpretation of The Bible and our shared theology in ways I no longer find Christian. A few years ago these incidents were isolated. They have increased, and are increasing as evidenced by new Bishop appointments. The tolerance of disobedience towards sacred vows taken by clergy (and bishops) display a lack of respect for the Book of Discipline. What message does this send laity? A church-wide vote of an educated congregation is the only fair way to represent all points of view. One person, one vote. The question at hand is binary, disaffiliate from the UMC or not. But failing to vote results in remaining in the UMC by default. It prevents ALL voices from being heard and counted by denying the opportunity to vote. This should be unacceptable to any democratic organization.

I think having a vote would create a lot of division in the church over an issue that only seems important to a small group of members.



I think offering a church-wide vote could create an environment that is fosters tension, bitterness and the possibility to further divide our congregation.