

Is there anything else you want the church council to know or consider in the discernment process?

Stay where we're at and go with changing the language in the book of discipline or just taking out the lines that were added about homosexuality.

Nothing

Please read Jeremiah's 27 and 28. I think there are many "Prophets (pastors)" who say that they believe in God. But they lie to people. God is love. However, God is also righteous. If ones do not turn away from their sins, God will bring every deed into judgment. I believe the church council members are faithful. Please do not make people fall into the pit of untruthfulness. I hope these video clips help. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CM2NFCdtCY4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK-nFypiiWA>

Many wonderful FUMC members would leave by choice or force if we were to join the Global church. I think it's wrong, and extremely hypocritical to change, and the Global church goes against my personal and religious values. Churches should be a safe space for everyone to go and worship, not exclusive and hateful towards those who aren't like the majority. Politics shouldn't be associated with religion either because they're two separate belief systems.

I think it is important to consider the long term future of the church. In order to stay relevant and serve others long term, a church must be attracting young people. I feel most members of the millennial and gen z age groups would definitely align themselves with the United Methodist doctrine and even a more progressive United Methodist church which may be evolving in years to come. When I read the doctrine put forward by the Global Methodists, it did not seem inclusive and would alienate many

I would not want to be associated with a Global Methodist Church, where bigotry is the primary motive for its existence.

Unfortunately, the violators are forcing all members to go through this hardship of leaving the FUMC, organization.. We should pick the side of the bible, not society. It is your job to make the tough decisions and represent the church doctrine, to uphold the truth ,so we can be stronger going forward. thanks

I think the church as it is organized now in the Discipline has set up a process for determining rules and regulations for churches to use as they seek new members. All members can be led to become true Disciples of Jesus Christ and learn to be instruments of God's grace and mercy in the world around them. They learn by teaching and learning from the leaders and one another what it means to live as God's children so that God's love is spread throughout the world.

It seems like having the General Counsel of the UMC establish a process for determining rules and regulations for our church organization is a good way to establish some rules and regulations so that we truly can be a congregation that brings people to Jesus Christ and provide ways to truly live as Disciples of Jesus Christ. The church can help us make disciples so that the world can be a place of peace and love for all people.

I would like the following: We're having discussion, communication, we'll be transparent, we'll have a vote & in this timeline. I don't think that's an unreasonable request. I feel like this is being slow played for the benefit of some & not for the greater good. I want to vote & if we don't it will concern me greatly & disappoint me to the point of considering my/our membership & financial support. Please note I said vote and not how I how I want the vote to go. A vote is enough for me.

The pastors have to educate our members themselves and then vote. A pastors personal stance is secondary

Please remain United Methodist Church

Love to have our leadership choose what is best based on where we have been

A lack of a vote is a vote!!!

Hope we remain with The United Methodist Church

They need to know that should their be a vote, that I would not vote to disaffiliate. If the vote occurs and the majority of our congregation votes to disaffiliate then I will find another church that more aligns with my view.

Would hope there is at least one good, large UMC left in the United Methodist Church to serve Lubbock and the surrounding area. This can be that church.

I will pray with you but did not have a say directly to put people on the council so why should I proxy my opinion to someone else

Knowing the membership of the Church Council, I have full faith and trust in their ability to weigh the matter fairly and lead us forward.

Possibility of lawsuits over civil-rights and tax fee status of church property and income?

An issue of this magnitude deserves to be given adequate thought and prayer by ALL members of the church.

The most important aspect of this change (if it comes to that) is the ability of the Church to continue to prosper and reach those in need. FUMC Lubbock is a beacon of hope to many within the city, and regardless of the decision the Church as a whole makes, should continue to be that beacon, as this is congruent to the teachings of Christ. The Church does not exist to exact policy; it exists to be a ray of sunshine to those in need, to be a source of hope and faith.

See above response

More church wide information should be done for a better informed vote

I would like to stay as FUMC.

I feel like this topic has been forced upon our congregation because of outside forces and our reluctant refusal to project the Biblical principles of holy living in ALL things. Even since the last General Conference (when the issue was supposed to be decided), we have seen a dramatic increase in human depravity in America-one that the UMC has impotently neglected to reject through Christian love.

Our church has always been accepting of everyone and I don't see the need to change it.

Not right for the church council to deny members of church right to vote

Church council and clergy need to get out of the way and let the members vote

Council is creating division within membership by refusing to do anything about disaffiliation

Start the process - tired of the waiting

Stop the games and let your members decide what path the church needs to go

I feel that a vote in favor of disaffiliation is a vote for fear of what may happen in the future. These fears may not come to fruition. I choose to vote based on what I know now - not what may or may not happen in the future.

Not taking a vote is that part of the congregation that simply doesn't want change. They do not understand the what ramifications of the LGBTQA+ movement will be They will PUSH. And PUSH. And PUSH. Our church will never be what it was. Waiting on a vote will do nothing but postpone the inevitable. Our church will split up.

My husband and I do not want to vote on voting or not voting. We do not want FUMC to even consider the idea of leaving the national church. We DO NOT want FUMC of Lubbock to leave the national United Methodist Church.

I want them to tell the church members what is happening behind the scenes and stop waiting to do something.

There has not been a discernment process

Be open, be honest and let's face this issue head on. Quit being passive on this important issue. It is not going away and it is time to make sure 100% of the congregation hears unbiased information.

I need more information...

I feel love and inclusion is the best way to serve God.

I do not want us to vote. My prayer is we will remain the best Methodist Church ever.

This is going to be tough. People are going to get opinionated. I respect those who are on the committee for our church. It would be a difficult task. The hard stuff needs to be done. Feelings will be hurt. We need a vote SOONER THAN LATER!

I wish to remain as a United Methodist church. I think welcoming all people is more Christ-like.

Israel trying to get it right for thousands of years...and we are still working also: where is God's grace?

The Church Council hasn't been able to have any input including on having this survey. Todd wrote an email that said on behalf of the Church Council well this survey was Stan's idea and he is not the Church Council. Unfortunately he is the chair perhaps he should resign and let someone with a backbone that is fair minded take over. Let's please do this right. Get information out there as best we can have Todd stop telling people he doesn't trust GMC and let the people decide.

No matter what FUMC does I will stay always this is my home church & I love it

HOLD PRAYER AND INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR MEMBERSHIP

COUNCIL HAS MISSED FOREST FOR TREES AND IS CREATING DIVISION WITHIN MEMBERSHIP DUE TO LACK OF LEADERSHIP- INCORRECT TO TELL MEMBERSHIP NOTHING WILL CHANGE, CHAIR OF COUNCIL HAS REFUSED TO SET MEETINGS TO EXPLAIN ALL ISSUES HAS LET TODD MAKE SOLE DECISION FOR CHURCH, SECTION 2553 MANDATES ONLY MEMBERSHIP IS TO VOTE FOR DISAFFILIATION OR NOT DISAFFILIATION

This church WILL be affected by all the changes to the UMC. This vote is not necessarily about right now. It's about the future and if this church will follow UMC down the wrong path. It's NOT just about human sexuality!

There was not enough space to answer this question. I put my answer in the second box of question #1

I'd like to hear both sides from the clergy, because they have watched the issues unfold & develop over the past.

Your lack of action and refusal to educate the congregation is killing this church

I don't know enough about both sides of the issue. I am concerned about our church being perceived as approving the ordination of gay clergy if we do not go in a different direction

Not that it's helpful but I just think this whole situation is ridiculous. This shouldn't be what the church is about

On a personal level, I would prefer to stay as part of the United Methodist Church.

Pitting people against each other who now have long-time relationship is a terrible idea and could destroy FUMC. If a huge number of people leave due to a divisive vote, how will we pay to maintain the physical plant. Who will be left to attend services? People will be discouraged, negative, and down on the future of the church. It could even drive them from God.

FUMC-LBK is a very educated and relatively sophisticated congregation. Our workplaces (universities, medical systems, government employment, etc.) have been legislatively made to have broad inclusive workforces. Gender orientation is a non-issue to us and our children raised since the 1980's when these laws were put in place. I also view the Bible as a path to Christian discipleship, but not literally word for word. This movement appears insane to me.

There is nothing wrong with our church the way it is. Why do we have to change for others? I'm tired of doing that.

I would like for them to convey to the leaders how confused and mad we are about this nonsense.

I would like to know how our pastors are thinking about this upcoming decision. I feel like we don't have any leaders. It seems to be a taboo subject.

A decision needs to be made soon.

I find this decision, to divide our church is really going to affect everyone from this day forward. Do we have to do anything? I am very sad over this all!!

I think there could be many members of FUMC who are supportive of remaining in the United Methodist Church but would not be present at a meeting where the vote would take place. Somehow those members should be included as voting for FUMC to remain United Methodist. The church council should consider this possibility.

I commend the church council for their diligence and impartiality. We need to pray fully consider what we are trying to accomplish and that change to the discipline is a serious matter.

I joined FUMC because I felt it welcomed all believers in Christ. I would like it to continue.

I feel that the Church Council is not necessarily the best broad spectrum of representation of the whole church but does cover some of the important areas. An example that shows a lacking area is a representative who speaks, as a whole, from the Sunday School classes, in toto. As someone who has previously served on the council, I've always noted some lack of representation. And to show my age, I feel that the use of an Administrative Board was more representative.

See above. I see three choices, stay, leave, or go independent. Can we go independent for now and chose later once we see what happens?

Follow God's truth.

I feel that rushing the process would be unwise. There are still issues which must be worked out by the conference before we can decide on our course of action.

Set a date for the vote as soon as possible

Please don't hurry. Please don't vote.

The church council has less information than I do on the matter. I contacted 5 members of the council to obtain their opinions and realized they were either misinformed or did not have much information. FUMC needs to spend the next several months providing as much information to the members as they can and then let us vote.

If the church council does hold a vote I hope they make every effort to give everyone present enough information to make a very informed vote without swaying the vote either way. I feel there has been plenty of info/data but afraid quite a lot have not taken the opportunity to understand the issue. I would hope they would not show up to vote not knowing all the issues and ramification of their vote. "Notvoting" does not take our church/congregation down uncharted territory, or split the church.

My mom goes to Polk Street in Amarello, and they have followed a very different path. I feel fortunate to have had information from both FUMC and Polk Street. I have also done my own research.

I feel like instead of focusing on particular sins, we should do a Jesus did an reach for the humans. Embrace them and allow them to grow. I wish we could view others as: what if that was my son? daughter? aunt? uncle? child? What would I want for them and how others should treat them. There are plenty of things we tend to be divisive about and that is not what Jesus came to do.

I'm praying for you all as this process moves forward.

I think many churches have acted hastily... Even if the council decides to hold a vote, I would hope it would be as late as possible... As we will have time to see some of the possible downfalls of disassociation by some of the other churches that opted out early in the process.

For me, it's important that members know what's at stake if we stay United Methodist after January 1, 2024, and predictions come to pass that FUMC members do not feel we can support. Then, the choice to leave could be a devastating cost.

Choosing to vote or not vote will likely result in strong opinions on both sides. While it may seem like a lose-lose situation, my hope is that Christ's love for all of us prevails and that we demonstrate kindness towards one another in the midst of our human struggles.

Let's continue to take our time, NOT rushing to a vote, if at all. This dilemma is a serious one that will affect future generation, as well as our own legacy, but it has helped us as a community of faith to learn and discern without hating the other side.

Don't listen to the extremist.

I thought you were just wasting time. Now you're wasting money, too.

FUMC has provided excellent leadership throughout the community for many, many years and has always been open to varied viewpoints. I hope the church council will uphold this tradition and the rich history of FUMC.

I hope the church council will keep in mind the long, rich history of FUMC which has always been accepting of varied views and has provided leadership within the community.

The FUMC church council must consider that the connection system makes possible the best outcome for all areas of ministry.

I would ask the council members to remain strong in the faith. The connection system of the United Methodist Church strengthens all aspects of caring for all areas of ministry.

We need to earnestly and seriously seek God's will and obey His Word above all personal opinions, preferences and feelings.

Again, my concern over time has been as I stated above concerning pastors ordained by the UMC but trained in seminaries that are anti LGBTQ rigid and are destroying the United Methodist Church.

I understand there is a concern about "splitting the church again" like what happened during the Jay Horton era, but by not even having discussions about it (let alone voting) you by inaction are effectively all though unintentionally already splitting the church. If you allow information from outside (correct or misinformation) to be the only way our congregation becomes informed on the issue and we as a body don't have an opportunity to discuss it, then members are going to leave anyway.

Taking time to see what really develops over the course of the year seems like a prudent action. Rushing into the unknown doesn't really solve anything and may, in fact, cause more harm than good.

Just consider what the Bible tells us as Christians. In both old and New Testaments. This is our guide for personal life. Man marries a woman. Be fruitful and multiply. Please consider those who are serious Christians and want to follow Christ. Thanks.

I do not think our church is looking enough at how the future generations of our church will be affected by our voting decision. In honor of our founding fathers, we need to think about what values and beliefs our church was founded on. This whole situation is heart breaking ,but we have to do our due diligence and then make a decision. We must be proactive.

We need to stop seeing the church as it is now. I hear many people say they love this church/Sunday school and don't want it to change. We need to start thinking generationally. Not what is good for us now, but what will be good three generations from now or longer. UMC may be unrecognizable in 20 years

Disaffiliation is not a good thing in my mind

If we do not vote, you are telling the members of the church that we do not matter. This is our church, you shouldn't be able to sleep at night if we don't vote.

We have been told a lot about the process but not about the matter at hand. Open, time limited discussions should be held weekly and none has been offered.

God bless the leaders, ministers and members.

Who will be harmed if there is no vote? The Church does not belong to individuals or a group. The Church belongs to God, created through Jesus' sacrifice and blood..

This decision to leave or stay with the UMC is a decision for the congregation as a whole and should not be made by church council "on the congregation's behalf". A vote should be taken regardless and let the chips fall where they may. Acrimony and contention cannot be avoided by avoiding a churchwide vote.

The hard left turn at the Jurisdictional recently will make it impossible for moderates or centrists to remain in the UMC

Make your decision on what the Bible says.

We know that people have been talking about homosexuality for 50 years and whether or not to allow for it in the ordained clergy. That decision was made years ago, and we have lived with that decision just fine. It became an issue for some people to have an excuse to be angry at the denomination and demand a change of position. It is part of the divisive political atmosphere of the country. The church of Jesus needs to stand above divisiveness when it is for the wrong reasons, as this one is

10 years ago when I needed help going through my divorce in my wife and I both went to this church. I asked for help in guidance on some stuff. My wife told y'all a bunch of stuff and I was knocked out and was not able to do anything with the youth our Christmas when I was in the hospital they never return a call to see how I was doing this church unless you donate a lot of

What happens to the current ministers and staff?

I want to thank our church, our pastors, and our members for being as transparent as they could in trying to do what is best for all of us.

Please know that you are appreciated individually and as a Council for your service to our church, especially in regard to the decisions relating to this issue. The pragmatic approach to this very large decision is greatly appreciated.

I don't think the UMC will hold the same line in the future that we have held in the past. I have always thought that the UMC has been a rare combination of tradition and growth/change. I feel that the UMC will skew far away from tradition and conform more and more to worldly values. My preference would have been for there not to be a split in the first place which would allow for two forces to continue to balance each other out, but it is too late for that.

Can we just be the First Methodist Church?

The Church is supposed to be salt and light to the world. We are not supposed to conform to the world like UMC is doing.

This subject has the potential to be very polarizing, and probably already has. But we don't need to let it get to the boiling point like current day politics (left vs right, liberal vs conservatives) where there is no working together, and no compromising. I truly believe our church body is made up of 80-90% reasonable level headed, accepting members, with 5-10% either either extreme (ultra progressive/conservative).

No. I think our members need to know the possible ramifications of choosing to stay with the UMC. In particular, if we stay it is almost a certainty the Book of Discipline is going to change. Given the language used in resolution #3 from the recent South Central Jurisdictional conference, it appears there are hostile

feelings for those who have traditional values. Having respect for and loving others who are different is what Christ taught us, but it seems that's not good enough for some.

I appreciate Dr. Todd Salzwedel. Very little information was shared when Dr. Curry was our minister and that was fine with me. However, when Dr. Salzwedel came, this fell into his lap. He has handled this with such grace and calmness, listening to anyone who wanted to talk to him. We are blessed to have him and his family at our church.

Stop making this solely about sexuality. Tell the congregation about UMC pastors doubting or denying the resurrection, virgin birth, and divine INSPIRATION of the Bible. And, being allowed to preach those doubts!

Did I miss the meeting that was called specifically to pray as a congregation about God's will for our church?

Psalm 127:1 Unless the lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. Don't let your will be put above what is best for the church. His spirit lives in us, and his church is his people. Therefore, give the decision over to God and let the church vote. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

There is no good reason to not have a vote. If someone is asking not to vote, what are they afraid of?

Jesus Accepted all, no matter what kind of life they were living.

Reminder of what we are voting on Marriage between man and woman Who can/cannot be ordained We are an open church about membership to anyone

I think we should put God's word in our discussions. I am a Christian first. Methodist is my denomination

I feel the longer this process takes, the more misinformation is going to be spread which will definitely split our Church. We have leadership who should be able to guide us through this process. That is why we support our pastors.

I believe that we should be acceptable to all people regardless of their beliefs. I believe that clergy should also be allowed to serve no matter what sex or sexual orientation. I believe that God loves ALL of us and that we were created just as God wanted us to be.

The issues facing the United Methodist Church are of utmost significance. I cannot imagine First UMC not allowing the church to take a vote on such matters. Members need to be allowed to vote so their voice is heard and next steps can be made fairly.

I am thankful for the church council's discernment process through this situation. I appreciate each of your willingness to seek out the next steps for our church and will continue to pray for the future of our church.

I appreciate the way we have been given information in a way that has been unbiased so that each of us can draw our own conclusions and make our own decisions.

I am in favor of disaffiliating from UMC and joining GMC at this time. I also do not like that we are having to make this decision with our church, but I feel that we should protect the current discipline as it is written and should be enforced.

Continue to pray for the correct decision



Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves and warned us not to judge. The issues that prompt a vote to disassociate are not in accordance with His teaching.

I think it's been handled very gently, sensibly, and fairly.

I only hope the council will try to lead the church in a godly path, treating everyone with the love that Jesus taught us and not try to shove any single attitude in our faces to overwhelm another train of thought.

Not really. I hope they take this process very carefully which they are doing.

We need to hear arguments for each side without trying to tiptoe around it. I also want church leadership to be more forthcoming in their opinions, as it has created a distrust and is hard not to read in to certain sermons. Additionally, I will be very upset if the church silences me and many others who feel the same simply because the leadership wants to pretend that there isn't a problem. This is happening. Change will happen no matter what we do. Let us decide what that change will be.

Todd spoke about not allowing fear to influence our actions. I realize now how timely that message was. Please do not allow fear of this process to prevent action in our church congregation. Let us prayerfully seek God's wisdom & guidance in this discernment & seek that His will be done. If we fear dividing our church in this process we have allowed fear to paralyze our actions & show distrust in God's guidance. A church-wide vote is necessary to allow all voices to be heard & honored.

Our church history is based on inclusiveness with LGBTQ people serving in ministry. This should not change

I would like for the videos that are available to be distributed to Sunday School classes and made available to all interested members so that they understand what the options are and why not voting is a viable option.

What would Jesus do?

I would just like us to hold steady on our traditions and values that are based on the bible. Everyone is certainly welcome to our church, but the outside political pressure to change who we are and what we do should not have an influence on how we operate.

I want us to stay FUMC - NOT global!!! If that means we have to be "independent" in order to make everyone happy, then so be it!

Exclusion is not the mission of Christianity

First Methodist Church of Lubbock should remain affiliated with the United Methodist Church for one reason: Jesus turned no one away. He spoke to large masses of people including sinners and saints. He dined with sinners. In Mark 2:17 Jesus states, "...I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." How can we live our mission, "...to create a grace-filled environment in which Christ transforms lives" if we start excluding people who need Christ the most?

I want our church to be true to the Scriptures inspired by God rather than blending with the culture of the world.

Splitting us, or even having the vote, would lead us to discontentment with our members. We need people to attend.

I think a vote only allows the loudest voices more volume. We do not need to make corporate body decisions based on membership votes. The institution is inherently not democratic, but "compassionately" authoritarian, otherwise it fails because of votes. Sowing discord sets up a barrier between us and God. We need to spend more time with God, not voting. Let people leave or stay individually, they can vote with their feet -Will Boyles

We need clear, understandable, unbiased information that is disseminated to the ENTIRE membership, not just those that attend Sunday School, small groups, or the rare meeting of the church council. MANY members have no idea what is happening or what each option will mean to our church. It's not possible to do proper discernment without proper COMPLETE information and I feel that this information is being withheld from the congregation.

I am concerned about the fact that so many in our Conference are choosing to disaffiliate. I understand that our area is uniquely conservative and apparently there are issues from the past but I don't fully understand why our numbers are so out of line with the rest of the country. The council and First leadership have pointed us to multiple reliable resources to help in the discernment process but with so many voices out there it can be easy to be misled.

Yes. Please educate everyone, including the council. The first question is a loaded question if you just want everything to stay the same. Everything will not stay the same either way

I am praying for you and so are a lot of other members in the church. Stay strong and be at peace.

I think there are many members that do not completely understand the consequences associated with a potential vote.

It is the responsibility of the church council to GUIDE our congregation not just ask what do you think.

Yes. We need to know the consequences of a decision to stay or disaffiliate. Will the Book of Discipline change if we stay? Will we keep our property if we disaffiliate? How do we decide a next step if we disaffiliate? It's a big decision and we need to understand the consequence of a vote either way.

I want the council to make their decisions considering the long term and not the short term. The people that organized and built this church were very deliberate in their determination to look down the road generationally. I feel we need to stand tall just as they did. The right choices are not always easy.

We are all praying for you in this difficult time. If this kind of threat can happen to UMC, is it not a matter of time before The Global Church, or any other, is not facing the same threat? Nothing is going to be safe.

Consider membership rolls out validity

I believe the discernment decision should reflect one that is best for OUR congregation and should not be influenced by decisions made other other similar/regional churches.

Thank you for all you have been doing to help navigate us through this process!

The church is made of people. Denying the membership a say (vote) in this important matter is not divisive but an understood and valued process in our country. People can choose not to vote....but that is their choice. Don't deny someone's right to vote because someone else doesn't want to vote.

I suppose I would want more detail on why anyone would be considering this process. It appears to me that is a very dangerous decision that could very well affect the long- term viability of the church

During these highly divisive times in our country, FUMC's current staff is setting a perfect example of Methodism: Do no harm. Do Good. Stay in love with God. Their leadership has made me proud to be a Methodist.

First United Methodist Church, Lubbock has a rich history and tradition in the United Methodist tradition. We should continue that strong tradition and be a church where all are welcome.

I wish to remain UMC. I feel the GMC and other options are full of unknowns.

I think there's a lot of bad information out there and I would like to see our church send information that refutes or at least works to manage that.

Whichever way this process turns out, I will continue to be a member of this church. Thank you for patience and service to us all.

This is a heartbreaking decision for our Methodist Church. Praying for God's guidance.

I prefer to remain UMC. I'm not confident that disaffiliating is the best thing for our church. GMC is unproven and very speculative in my opinion.

I think the Church Council needs to seek the opinions of all of FUMC Members.

I do not care if a gay individual is hired or involved in our church administration. If they are doing a good job, then I'm fine with it.

A vote now would pit faction vs. faction within FUMC and create ongoing harm to our congregation as a whole.

DO THE LEAST DAMAGE!!!!

I believe the "independent" option should be investigated. It seems to me it would be a much better choice if we vote to leave.

I do not wish our church to disaffiliate. I personally think disaffiliation would sow more discord within our church and congregation.

The Global Methodist Church wants to uphold the values that Wesley established when he started Methodism, and that is what I want in a church!

No. I feel like they will decide what they would like to do. This is not a new situation in the world, however it is something that seems to divide.

Not at this time

I think that discrimination of anyone by the church is not Christ-like.

We appreciate their efforts to do what is the best for our church, our pastors, and our members.

End the discernment process, start church meetings to have discussion about the direction of the church. Explore all three options

Nothing further at this time

The Loud Members do not represent my family or me!

Praying

Our church needs and deserves information on both sides and a vote

Consequences of our choice(s)

I think the GMC is acting from a desire for power & \$, not desire to do God's will. It doesn't align with anything I learned in Bible or about Wesley.

General discussion with rules of conduct to discuss the differing opinions.

FUMC has been at the forefront of missions within our community and a congregation of caring and accepting people. Why change that legacy?

The great commandment. Love one another, even as I have loved you. Love your neighbor as yourself. Judge not.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbor as ourself. I do not believe the movement to leave the UMC is in accordance with that commandment.

My prayer is that the church will commit to the authority of the Bible as the true word of God and to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Thanks for reaching out to all members and providing resources to help understand the issues.

The vote...the action...will further divide and weaken the church.....already families are considering "voting with their feet."

This seems to be a premature rush to a decision before the general conference has an opportunity to update the wording of the book of discipline.

Attention to church membership rolls

the church council has a tough task ahead

Thank you for your leadership!!! You and our pastors have done what all good leaders do. Allow those led to determine what is best for them.

everyone needs to vote so a decision can be made on the future of our church.

Nothing

We need to know how the vote would be taken.

I think it is very important that our church have diversity of thought. I think the United Methodist Church encompasses that thought.

Personal choices of individual sin should not be forced on any pastor that does not want to participate . Lifestyle can adapt. they have for hundreds of years, including the Vatican.

we have been the Methodist church for many years and I it as continuing to be the Methodist church I grew up in

You all are doing a fine job! I just don't think the congregations of the churches that are leaving understand the future impact of these decisions.

I would like a discernment committee to put together the information and distribute it to every single member.

Many of us have been in this church our entire lives. We are beyond concerned about the Biblical compromises promoted at the highest levels.

Please allow our church to participate in this process. This issue is too important for just the pastor and the council to make a decision for us

All persons should have equal access to the services of the church & not limited to an Old Testament version of a vengeful God.

Let's continue as a congregation to care for all, love all and accept all

My belief is that it is against God's teachings for our pastors to perform marriage between gay couples, more especially in the church.

I do not wish to answer this question.

I feel the Church Council is doing a good job and with God's guidance FUMC will be fine.

Make the best decision for all

I pray that we keep this as non-partisan and objective as possible, with lots of grace extended along the way.

Be patient.

FUMC, a grace-filled environment. Grace, the free unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners, bestowal of blessings. For all??

I think it would be very helpful to inform the congregation the pros/cons of the two sides, like the LWV guide to every election.

I appreciate their difficult task.

Whether we want to be in an organization that doesn't follow the Discipline. Thus, seeming to agree with what they do.

We attended the meeting lead by Michael Shafer, which was very informative.

TO KEEP IN MIND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN HOLY SCRIPTURE AND NOT WOK LEANINGS.

Let us vote. We need to hear arguments from sides that want to stay FUMC and arguments from sides that want to disaffiliate.

I feel the church has been woefully uninformed on these issues.

We NEED to be informed and VOTE!! Our church is being stolen from us! UMC is unhinging and we need to leave!

UMC is not united...too BIG.....we have basic beliefs as (Wesleyan) Methodists & Christians; there is flagrant disregard and defiance of LENGTHY BOD

The vote needs to be done as soon as possible

Consider each individual family's situation.

We need the vote to happen as soon as possible.

Inclusivity and acceptance of all is the reason we go to church. If any elements of society, other than those that obviously hurt others, are exclude

Let the members express themselves through a vote. The vote needs to be done as quickly as possible

We do not need to try to fix something that is not broken

The TRUTH does not change as culture changes; GOD does not change. Biblical principles do not change. Teach the truth in love.

I want them to consider what God says in His Word and decide whether we should override His qualifications for ministry.

I don't feel there has been nearly enough information or discussion about this. Please inform the church about the issues

Do what is best for the church as a whole.

First United Methodist should lead, not follow. Our table has ALWAYS been open. Love one another and serve each other. We do that well.

Disaffiliating will ensure my family and I will no longer attend at FUMC.

We run the risk of information overload, please simplify the decision as much as possible so that everyone understands it.

There are many denominations and places for people to go. I want the church building to remain the iconic building that it is

Prefer to wait & see if the GMC is actually in our church's best interest. Many do not understand the potential negative impacts of leaving the UMC.

I became a United Methodist after a long faith journey through several churches and denominations. I desperately hope not to have to do that again.

what we are asked to consider... Marriage is between a man and a women according to scripture; practicing homosexuals should not be ordained.

We do not need a vote to further divide our congregants.

I think there are multiple issues that we still don't know what effects will result regardless of the decision. Boxes are too small for responses?

What is a list of churches nearest our size and make up and what have they done or not done?