

Disaffiliation Discernment Meetings Reasons to Go

C1

People have many reasons why they want to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Which of the following stands out to you?

Liberalized Human Sexuality

The UMC has already elected two married gay bishops. All the jurisdictional conferences, composed of the leaders of all the conferences in the USA, voted overwhelmingly to stop punitive charges against LGBTQ+ clergy and pastors who officiate gay weddings. UMC seminaries offer elective degrees focusing on LGBTQ+ inclusion, and some require classes affirming liberalized sexuality.

The Trust Clause

Legally, local churches do not own their property or assets. By law, the UMC conference owns all property. Disaffiliating before December 31, 2023 allows a local church to legally keep and own all its property and assets.

Apportionments

The UMC requires the local church to pay between 10% and 15% of its annual budget to support the ministries of the denomination. Research shows this percentage to be higher than other denominations.

Theology

UMC leaders who hold to traditional theology are rarer and rarer. In the recent election of 13 bishops, not one was supported by groups supporting traditional theology. UMC seminaries denounce traditional theology on the lordship of Jesus Christ, exclusive salvation through faith in Christ, substitutionary atonement, heaven & hell, and inerrancy of the Bible.

Bishop Power

UMC Bishops are elected for life and indued with too much power. Bishops have ignored The Book of Discipline's clear stance on homosexuality, supported the inclusion of LGBTQ+ clergy, and protected UMC pastors that officiate gay weddings.

Community Witness

Local churches are concerned their witness is tarnished by their association with the UMC. Our community no longer thinks the UMC holds traditional and Biblical theology.

Fresh Start

Local churches are ready to leave behind the fighting in the UMC and start fresh with other like-minded churches who are ready to emphasize the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Disaffiliation Discernment Meetings

Reasons to Stay

C2

People have many reasons why they want to stay in the United Methodist Church. Which of the following stands out to you?

We Are Better Together

It's good to be part of the United Methodist denomination. The worldwide alignment of millions of United Methodists and their resources allows us to have a significant ministry impact and great social influence. It's not perfect, but together we can do greater good.

Methodist Freedom

United Methodists understand that there are many ways of thinking about scripture and theology. We want unity on the essentials but freedom to explore differences of opinions concerning non-essentials. We want to give people the intellectual space to explore different viewpoints and interpretations.

Officially Nothing Has Changed

The traditional view of human sexuality, especially homosexuality, is still the official position of the United Methodist Church. Yes, some people would like that view to change, but historically the traditional view has been reaffirmed by the actions of the General Conference. There is no way to know if this view will change at the 2024 General Conference.

Why Should We Leave

Traditionalists should not let anyone run them out of their church. Traditionalists should stay and fight for God's truth within the UMC and let the progressives leave.

Why The Rush?

Those leaving the UMC claim churches need to disaffiliate now. Disaffiliation under Book of Discipline paragraph 2553 will indeed end 12-31-23, but a new disaffiliation paragraph will likely be added at General Conference 2024. Why not wait and see what will happen at General Conference 2024 before rushing into something we might regret?

United Methodist Structure And Support

While the United Methodist structure could use tweaking, it is a stable structure that has worked for over 50 years. Why rush to leave a structure that works to join a denomination with an untested structure still under construction? Can another denomination provide the overall support and resources that the UMC provides?

Community Witness

Local churches are concerned their Christian witness will be harmed while leaving the UMC over LGBTQ+ issues. No matter how loving a church might be, that church will be viewed as intolerant if they insist homosexuality is sinful. That church will be perceived as opposing LGBTQ+ rights. Will LGBTQ+ people want to try our church or worship our God if we disaffiliate?