

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Church Council met on November 28th to vote on the best path forward for our church. The meeting started with 45 minutes of discussion that was followed by the vote. The vote was taken by ballot and the Church Council voted 33-3 in favor of having a congregational vote to decide if FUMC Albany will disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination. The Church Council has notified the District Superintendent Reverend Doreen Smalls of our intent to have a congregational vote on disaffiliation and Rev. Smalls will set a date likely in February of 2023 for the church conference to vote. The Church Council will inform the congregation of the date and time as soon as we are notified.

The Church Council has spent many hours over the last several weeks and months prayerfully discerning the information we have been provided with the goal of seeking God's will and making the best decision for the future of our church. Ultimately the Church Council arrived at the decision to have a congregational vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist denomination for the following reasons:

1. Concerns over the erosion of the traditional view on issues within the United Methodist denomination.
2. The results of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference did not give an indication there will be any improvements in the dysfunction in the denomination.
3. There is a decreased chance that accountability for violations of the Book of Discipline will be addressed by General Conference 2024.
4. We believe the best path forward is to allow the congregation to vote on disaffiliation.

The Discernment Committee has done an outstanding job researching and providing the information needed to decide the best path forward for our church. The Church Council and Discernment Committee will begin work to prepare the congregation for the vote in February. There will be a comprehensive plan to communicate and deliver all the information needed to the congregation prior to the congregational vote; however, the Church Council believes now is the time for our church to focus on advent and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Even though the Church Council and Discernment Committee will be working behind the scenes to prepare we will pause all church wide meetings and communication on potential disaffiliation from the United Methodist denomination until January.

We all should be proud and grateful that we belong to a church that has been and continues to be a place that loves others, is accepting of others and serves others regardless of their views or background. We are a welcoming, inclusive church, and as members, we believe that our mission is to seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. There may be individual disagreements within our church on the issues within the United Methodist denomination; however, we can choose to move forward with love and respect for one other and invite all who wish to worship and serve God to join us. The congregation will be notified of the date and time of our congregational vote as soon as we receive it and the information sharing process with the congregation will continue in January.

Please continue to pray for our church and if you have any questions please contact:

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