

1. Why are we considering separation?

- Members who feel they can no longer trust the leadership of the UMC are considering separation in order to honor their belief in The Bible and the UMC Book of Discipline. Practicing homosexuals have been ordained as clergy (also two Bishops), and clergy are marrying couples of the same sex. This blatant disregard for our heritage and our belief has caused many churches to separate from the UMC as they have not seen any action taken to stop these violations. Bishops and clergy take a vow when ordained that they will abide by the Book of Discipline and Bishops are responsible for making sure that is done.

**References:**

-Cokesbury – Book of Discipline and Resolutions (<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>)

-Who We Are and What We Believe – UMC.org - <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/what-we-believe>

-UM News - Complaint filed against gay bishop's consecration By Heather Hahn Nov. 17, 2022 | UM News <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/complaint-filed-against-gay-bishops-consecration>

-NPR - Openly Gay Bishop At Center Of Controversy In United Methodist Church May 7, 2017 <https://www.npr.org/2017/05/07/527250431/openly-gay-bishop-at-center-of-controversy-in-united-methodist-church>

- Three of the main areas of concern seem to be: The Bible, Salvation and Human Sexuality.
- Due to the number of individuals who are no longer holding fast to each of these beliefs, we now have two opposing perspectives – the Traditional Perspective and the Progressive (Liberal) Perspective with a majority of United Methodists falling somewhere in between.
- Examples of other rules being broken include a movement away from basic truth (theology): Scripture as open to interpretation rather than the infallible Word of God; good works can get us into Heaven as opposed to the necessity of Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross to atone for our sins; and Jesus as “one way” to Heaven rather than the “only way”. Not all of these beliefs are shared by the more liberal or progressive United Methodists; however they do exist among our denomination and are being allowed to continue.
- The next 4 statements are from this website: [www.standingonscripture.org](http://www.standingonscripture.org)
- Disagreements on the authority of the Bible, interpretation of the Bible, and the interpretation of scripture illustrate how deep the divide in the UMC has become. Both sides (traditionalists and progressives) believe their understanding of the Bible is correct.
- Methodists from Trinity on the Hill in Georgia said, “separating into two expressions of faith is both a beginning and an end for both traditionalists and non-traditionalists – an end to conflict and uncertainty, and the beginning of vibrant denominations that can focus time and resources on missions and ministries instead of focusing on the conflicts that divide us.”
- It is counterintuitive that the traditionalists are “leaving” the United Methodist Church when they believe in the current Book of Discipline. Traditionalists feel they aren’t leaving, but rather the church is leaving them. Methodism is our expression of Christian faith, but we are no longer “united.” The goal was never about winning or taking over the UMC.

- The traditionalists' goal has always been to create a vibrant evangelical Wesleyan church that is fully focused on mission and ministry, and not a church mired in a bureaucracy, dysfunction, and divisiveness. Trusting God's grace and committing to doing his will leads to a faithful and fruitful future.
- A.W.Tozer said, "The difficulty we modern Christians face is not misunderstanding the Bible, but persuading our untamed hearts to accept its plan instructions."

2. What will change if PUMC leaves the UMC?

- We will be required to satisfy all financial obligations to the Conference as established by Bishop Holston (apportionments, pension obligations, transfer of debts).
- If we wish to keep our church and property, we will have to transfer any remaining debt to a new entity prior to disaffiliation.
- We will enter a new discernment period to determine our future (join another Methodist Conference such as the Global Methodist Church, the Free Methodist Church, a non-denominational conference, or become independent).
- We will have to secure our own pastor or be assigned one if we join another Conference.
- We will no longer pay the apportionments currently going to the UMC; however, if we join another Conference, we should expect to pay theirs.
- PEEPS will have to be re-established under the new entity.
- Regardless of which way we vote, we will likely lose members.

3. The Process for Disaffiliation: see The Decision Tree on the PUMC website ([https://www.pendletonumc.com/images/doc/Decision\\_Tree.pdf](https://www.pendletonumc.com/images/doc/Decision_Tree.pdf))

For more information on perspectives within the denomination, please review the following websites:

- The United Methodist Church Split (2023) – Ready to Harvest - <https://youtu.be/VjydUH-lfDo>
- Dan Dalton - Should a local church wait until the UMC General Conference in 2024 to see if they can disaffiliate? - <https://youtu.be/yc-YPzuDX60>
- Jeffrey Rickman – Plain Spoken - Addressing Claims of Misinformation by Institutionalists - <https://youtu.be/jdQjfgR-Mc>
- “The United Methodist Church is Divided and Dividing” Rob Renfrow-Good News <https://youtu.be/5g48onYSqg0>
- “A Future With Hope” | Rev. Adam Hamilton | Church of the Resurrection” <https://youtu.be/bo7dH72sR28>
- Way Forward Task Force of Buncombe Street UMC - <https://www.buncombestreetumc.org/about/way-forward-task-force>