

Did You Know?

<p>➤ The 2024 General Conference will review recommendations to split the UMC. There are multiple recommendations that vary on how to split – In the New Expressions Plan the split is based on theological perspective (traditional, moderates, progressives, and liberationists). In another, The Christmas Covenant Plan, the split is based on geographical region. Regardless, all plans recommend splitting the United Methodist Church into two or more distinct groups. In other words, the UMC likely will not remain intact as one entity.</p>	<p>➤ All US Jurisdictions and delegates voted overwhelmingly to send resolutions to the 2024 General Conference to relax prohibitions on same sex marriages and gay clergy. The same delegates will be voting again at the 2024 General Conference.</p>
<p>➤ Paragraph 2553 ends 12/21/23. This is the process that most churches are using to disaffiliate from the UMC outside of SC.</p>	<p>➤ To date, over 7,000 Churches have separated from the UMC</p> <p>➤ To date, over 115 SC Churches have separated from the UMC</p> <p>➤ Paragraph 2549 is the process by which SC and WV churches separate from the UMC. While this does not have an expiration date, the availability to use this is at the discretion of the Bishop. SC's Bishop will be retiring in September 2024 and there is no guarantee that a new Bishop would support the use of this process.</p>

<p>➤ Our PEEPS childcare programs can be continued even if we separate from the UMC.</p>	<p>➤ Many programs PUMC supports are not exclusive to the UMC. Programs such as Salkehatchie, MAGI, and Trunk or Treat are all outreach programs that we can continue even if we leave the UMC.</p>
<p>➤ On January 21, 2024 our Church will vote to decide if we want to separate from the UMC.</p>	<p>➤ Several Jurisdictions in the US are marrying same sex couples and allowing openly gay clergy and Bishops, even though it is not allowed in the UMC's Book of Discipline</p>
<p>➤ There are currently three primary perspectives in the UMC, regarding the Book of Discipline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Traditionalists want to keep the Book of Discipline intact; 2. The Progressives want to completely overhaul the Book of Discipline; and 3. The Centrists are in the middle and just want the UMC to stay intact and are unwilling to take either side. However, by not taking a side they are unwittingly agreeing to the "Big Tent Philosophy" that does allow same sex marriage, Gay Clergy and Bishops. 	<p>➤ If PUMC continues to stay in the UMC all our assets are "held in trust" (owned) by the UMC. If we separate now, we will pay the separation fees and then all our assets will be turned over to our Church (church buildings, property, financial accounts, etc.). If we choose to separate later, we may or may not have an option to leave with our assets.</p>