

University United Methodist Church Presenting Issues for Discernment

As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the people of University United Methodist Church seek to faithfully serve Him in our homes, our church, our neighborhoods, our community, and our world.

We believe:

- Scripture is God's Word given to guide us now and in the future.
- Jesus Christ is God's Son, sent to save our broken, sin-filled world.
- Every person is created in the image of God, equally broken by sin and equally worthy of our love and God's love, mercy, and grace.
- We have been called by God to build bridges to Christ, Community and Compassion by seeking to live more like Jesus every day.

We have entered a discernment process because the following issues and conflicts have distracted us from the mission and ministry of Jesus to which we have been called, therefore, making us less effective witnesses:

Current Theology of the United Methodist Church (UMC) (FAQ: 2, 6, 12)

- Inconsistent teachings within the UMC about the authority of the Bible
- Inconsistent teachings within the UMC about the divinity of Jesus Christ
- Inconsistent teachings at seminaries supported by the UMC
- Inconsistent teachings within the UMC about human sexuality, same sex marriage and ordination of clergy in same sex relationships

Current Structure, Administration and Operation of the United Methodist Church (UMC) (FAQ: 2,3,7)

- Inconsistent adherence to the current UMC Book of Discipline and lack of accountability for addressing violations
- Inconsistent and unpredictable decisions made by Bishops in different Annual Conferences without accountability and oversight
- Lack of full transparency and inefficient use of financial resources that come from apportionments paid by individual churches
- Ineffective consultative process for addressing issues related to clergy appointments

Future Concerns (FAQ: 1d, 4, 16)

- Lack of clarity concerning how clergy appointments will be made consistent with the values, vision, and mission of individual congregations
- Lack of clarity about whether clergy will be allowed to minister and perform services based on their own values and beliefs
- Lack of clarity about future changes to the UMC Book of Discipline and future requirements to abide by the Book of Discipline
- Lack of clarity about future financial investments in organizations and seminaries with values and/or teachings that are not consistent with the current UMC Book of Discipline
- Uncertainty about issues, disputes and politics that will cause future division and infighting, especially given there is no clear/effective way to resolve disputes within the UMC structure.

We pray for God's guidance and for hearts open to His leading throughout this discernment period.