

Comparing Our Options at Church of the Hill

Considerations	Remain Independent	Association of Independent Methodists (AIM)
What are the qualifications and education requirements for clergy? What is the ordination process? How are clergy appointed?	Clergy qualifications and required education is determined by the local Church. We would have to search and call our own Pastor, vet their credentials, determine our own ordination standards and ordain them.	AIM does not appoint Pastors. It assists member churches with the writing of a job description, educational requirements, the pastoral search, and the interviewing of potential candidates. AIM can conduct background checks and recommends only candidates that meet AIM's guidelines for credentialling, and if needed, will credential ministers. If asked, AIM will recommend a course of study depending upon the educational goals of the minister or Church. Scholarships are available. AIM encourages people to answer God's call to ministry and then encourages them to prepare through the best training available.
What is the organizational structure and system of governance? Do they have Bishops or District Superintendents? What are their governing documents? How are local Churches organized for governance? What is the organizational structure and system of governance? Do they have Bishops or District Superintendents? What are their governing documents? How are local Churches organized for governance?	Local Church governance structure is determined by the local Church.	AIM is an "Association," not a Denomination. Local Church governance is determined by the local Church. AIM does expect member churches of the Association to abide by the Association's Articles of Belief and The Rules of Discipline. AIM is governed by its Annual Meeting; each church has one vote. Leaders are unpaid volunteers. AIM has four officers elected to 3-year terms (can serve no more than 2 terms). There are also 3 committee chair elected annually. There are no Bishops, Superintendents, or Conferences.

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Are there additional denominational costs or considerations? • Do they require the payment of apportionments? If so, how much? • Are Churches required to remit apportionment payments? • Are there additional personnel costs or considerations? - Pension costs? - Health Insurance costs? - Minimum salaries? - Housing / parsonage requirements?	All costs are determined by the local Church	AIM has no apportionments or required giving percentages for member churches. AIM is supported by voluntary donations from both congregations and individuals. 10% of monies sent to the General Funds goes to missions. There is no requirement for churches to submit financial reports to AIM. AIM offers Guidestone benefits (retirement, insurance, and medical coverage) but churches are not required to participate. All budgetary costs are determined by the local Church
Would an individual, who self-identifies as LGBTQ, feel welcomed to join the membership of the Church?	It is up to the local Church to develop and adopt its own policies.	It is up to the local Church to develop and adopt its own policies.

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Denominational Size & Address:	Not Applicable	Around 112 Churches 26 Churches in Georgia Church locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia
Link to Web Interviews	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq9izzScE9M	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd_krxMI1Pk
Denomination Website:	https://churchofthehill.com/	https://aim2020.com/
Notes:	Not Applicable	No Trust Clause

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Application Process:	Not Applicable	A church must vote to join AIM and complete an application for membership. By signing the application, the church affirms that it believes that their congregation is in doctrinal agreement with the AIM Articles of Belief and Rules of Discipline, and that their congregation believes that the Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. The church also makes a commitment to both participate in the life of and support the ministry of AIM. The church submits the membership application along with the minutes of the meeting when the church voted to join AIM. Once the paperwork has been returned to the AIM it is reviewed by the Executive Committee. If a member of the Executive Committee or one of its representatives has not visited the prospective member church, an onsite visit is then arranged prior to the Executive Committee voting on the church's application. Once approved by the Executive Committee the church is officially recognized as a member church. There is no fee to join AIM.