



September 29, 2022

Journey Family,

We have spent the past several months in a congregational discernment process to help us answer two essential questions: 1. Is it time for Journey Community Church to disaffiliate (ie. Exit) from the United Methodist Church? and 2. If we exit the UMC, what denominational alignment fits best with the mission, vision, theology and values of Journey Community Church? After two months of prayerful dialogue and discernment, our District Superintendent has called a Church Conference for the purpose of voting on these questions.

**When will we vote?** Our Church Conference will be on **October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Journey Community Church.**

**Who will vote?** The decision to disaffiliate from the UMC requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of members present and voting at a duly called Church Conference. Please confirm your membership status BEFORE the church conference date on a Sunday morning or by contacting Janet Noble at 614-873-4513 or [jnoble@discoverjourneycc.com](mailto:jnoble@discoverjourneycc.com).

**How can you prepare?** If you have participated in the four congregational discernment meetings, you are well-prepared to make this important decision. If you have not, you can email [jnoble@discoverjourneycc.com](mailto:jnoble@discoverjourneycc.com) to receive links to the video recordings of each congregational meeting. You can also review most of the information shared throughout this process and find links to additional articles, websites and videos at [www.discoverjourneycc.com](http://www.discoverjourneycc.com) under the tab "Our Future." We will also host one final congregational discernment meeting on **Tuesday October 18 @ 6:30pm**. This family gathering will seek to address any lingering questions as we move toward a Church Conference vote. Most importantly, let's continue praying that we "*may be able to discern what is best.*"

**What can you expect?** Members will check-in at the entrance to our main gathering space with Janet Noble and a member of our District staff of the UMC. You will receive two paper ballots. (Per the requirement by our West Ohio Conference, only members will be allowed to be present in the main gathering space where we will be voting. Others can be in the building praying and waiting.) Our District Superintendent will preside over the Church Conference with the first order of business being a vote on Disaffiliation. A "YES" vote will be to disaffiliate from the UMC, and a "NO" will be to stay in the UMC. Votes will be counted immediately after the vote. If the vote to disaffiliate receives the required two-thirds to prevail, a second vote will be taken to authorize the chair of our Trustees to represent Journey Community Church in the legal matters necessary to complete the disaffiliation process. After these two votes, our District Superintendent will likely exit the meeting. The Church Conference will continue with Pastor Blaine presiding and we will vote on the matter of aligning with the Global Methodist Church (contingent upon the completion of the disaffiliation process), which will require a simple majority of members present and voting.

**What will happen after the Church Conference vote?** If we do not vote to disaffiliate, Journey Community Church will continue to be a United Methodist congregation. We will likely need to be prepared for the possibility of membership and leadership changes as people discern their best next steps. If we vote to disaffiliate, the decision will be communicated to our Journey family and every member/attendee will be invited to discern one of these next steps: remain with Journey and join the GMC, remain with Journey without being a member of the GMC, remain in the UMC and connect with a new UMC Congregation, withdraw your membership from the UMC and prayerfully discern next steps. The Leadership Team will continue executing the necessary steps to finalize the disaffiliation process, contingent upon the approval of the West Ohio Annual Conference session on November 19, 2022.

May our "*love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that [we] may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God*" (Philippians 1:11-9).

Praying with you,

Pastor Blaine