

August 15, 2022

Dear Journey Family,

The leadership team of Journey Community Church voted unanimously on August 8, 2022 to re-engage in our discernment process regarding our connection to the United Methodist Church. This discernment process began in Fall of 2019 when our leadership team spent months prayerfully discerning our position on human sexuality and our future relationship to the UMC. The statement below was shared with our Journey family in January 2020, followed by months of congregational dialogue. This current season of discernment will continue that process by providing information and opportunities for dialogue 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? The decision to disaffiliate from the UMC and align with another denomination are matters that require a congregational vote. The Pastor and Leadership Team will facilitate the discernment process, but the members of Journey will ultimately make these decisions. A two-thirds vote of members present and voting at a duly called Church Conference is required to disaffiliate from the UMC.

We invite you to prayerfully engage in this discernment process in the months ahead. We will be holding a series of congregational meetings at Journey on the dates listed below. Reminders with times (or revisions to these dates) will be provided through our weekly Traveler's Guide email. If you do not receive email updates, you can sign up at our website or contact the church office for additional info. There will be three gatherings with important content shared by the pastor and leadership team followed by extended times for Q & A dialogue. There will also be two meetings with our District Superintendent (or his designee) to clarify the process and share reasons to stay in the UMC.

**TBD = Informational meeting with District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias**

**Aug 28th, 2022 @ 11:30 AM = Congregational Meeting #1:** Why consider disaffiliation from the UMC? What are the Biblical and Theological Issues at stake?

**TBD = Informational meeting with DS or Designee:** Why stay in the UMC?

**Sept 11th, 2022 @ 12:30 PM = Congregational Meeting #2:**What are the "Nuts and Bolts" of Disaffiliation? Why Align with the Global Methodist Church?

**Sept 18th, 2022 @ 11:30 AM = Congregational Meeting #3:** What are the detailed next steps to consider?

These are significant decisions with many variables to consider. In the weeks ahead, we will attempt provide information at a pace that allows for prayerful reflection, dialogue and discernment. If you would anticipate being part of a potential vote to disaffiliate from the UMC or to stay in the UMC, we would expect you to be fully engaged in the discernment process so you have an informed understanding of the complex issues involved in these decisions. If a church conference date for the purpose of voting on disaffiliation is set, all members of Journey Community Church will be notified of this meeting.

We look forward to partnering with you in this season of prayerful discernment. We trust that the best is yet to come for Journey Community Church as we continue pursuing our mission to connect imperfect people on a journey to be, love and serve like Jesus...and to multiply by helping others do the same.

Praying with you,

Jeff Wheelbarger, Leadership Team Chairperson

Blaine Keene, Pastor