



## ROAD TO HOLY DISCERNMENT

Doing God's will....finding common ground.

November 2023

Issue 1

### REGIONALIZATION LEGISLATION PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

*September 19, 2023*

*Submitted by the Current Status of UMC Committee*

CHICAGO—Proposals surrounding regionalization efforts within The United Methodist Church reached a new milestone. During an Aug. 19 meeting, The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters unanimously approved a worldwide regionalism legislation for submission to General Conference.

Conference Matters unanimously approved a worldwide regionalism legislation for submission to General Conference. This legislation was also supported for submission by the *Connectional Table* (see NOTE) at its July 13 meeting. The regionalization legislation aims to provide equity throughout the regions of The United Methodist Church with the intention of decentralizing the influence of the United States on General Conference.

To read more: <https://advocatesc.org/articles/regionalization-legis>

NOTE: *The purpose of the **Connectional Table** is to discern and articulate the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops.*

*The Connectional Table objectives are to:*

- 1. Provide a forum for vision and implementation;*
- 2. Enable flow of information and communication;*
- 3. Coordinate program life of the global church;*
- 4. Evaluate the missional effectiveness of agencies;*
- 5. Recommend changes for agency effectiveness;*
- 6. Provide leadership in planning and research; and*
- 7. Collaborate with Finance and Administration (GCFA) to develop the budget.*



## United Methodists really are better together

July 27, 2023

Submitted by the Current Status of the UMC Committee

LaGrange, GA – A Methodist member from LaGrange comments on the tough times his congregation has experienced while considering disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. After being initially scared to voice their opinions publicly, church members are talking about their feelings that “we really are better together.” They also reject the arguments that they don’t believe in Jesus Christ’s divinity or the resurrection or virgin birth, just because they choose to stay United Methodist

**Read More:** <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/united-methodists-really-are-better-together>

## Is The UMC really? Part 12: Where are we now?

October 7, 2023

Submitted by the Current Status of the UMC Committee

For the past two years, *Ask The UMC* has received and answered over 2,000 questions from congregations wondering about the future of The United Methodist Church.

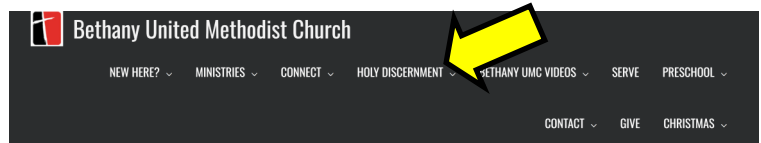
The legislation authorizing disaffiliation for local churches wishing to leave the denomination expires at the conclusion of 2023. In this lull between the regular U.S. annual conference sessions and a series of special sessions focused solely on disaffiliation (August 5-December 9), it is a good time to take stock of where the process of disaffiliation is to date and what might be expected in the months to come.

**Read More:** <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-12%20>

### *Ephesians 4:13 NIV*

*13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

[http://www.bethany-umc.com//?page\\_id=11310](http://www.bethany-umc.com//?page_id=11310)



## ROAD TO HOLY DISCERNMENT

The Discernment Site on the BUMC website is open for business! The Holy Discernment tab gives you access to each committee and its members. On the Resources page, you can find the entire Path Forward Presentation (<http://www.bethany-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Path-Forward-Presentation-Whole-6-29-23.pdf>) and the Path Forward Questions and Answers document (<http://www.bethany-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PF-FAQs.pdf>). The Path Forward Committee Report can be found there as well (<http://www.bethany-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Path-Forward-Committee-CC-Report-8-17-23.pdf>)

We will work to keep it updated and current.

# Our **WHY?** .....

With each publication of our newsletter, the Discernment Committee will be transparent about our WHY to insure we are working with God's Purpose for Bethany as our focus.

## *Romans 12:4-5*

*4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,*

*5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

## **AS A REMINDER.....**



This newsletter is the result of information gathered by various committees working through areas of the discernment process. Its purpose is to ensure that Bethany members have up to date information on the discernment process as well as the many topics affecting the current schism within the United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about the information provided or if you have questions/comments about any other topic related to our discernment process, please send an email to: [discernment@bethany-umc.com](mailto:discernment@bethany-umc.com).



**Conversation Sundays with the Discernment Committee**

**4:00 in room 127 every Sunday in November**

**Open conversation**

**A time to listen and be heard respectfully!**