



4:00 PM, 6/23/24

# Town Hall Meeting #2

## *Purpose, Ground Rules & Agenda*

### **PURPOSE:**

Open, honest conversation to allow church council to hear the thoughts of the congregation on the issues facing Bethany UMC. We now have a clear picture of the future of the UMC following the 2024 General Conference vote to revise the 2016 BOD and endorse potential regionalization.

The purpose of the Town Hall is for members of the congregation to speak directly to Church Council members concerning the Council's upcoming vote on June 26th to (1) ending Holy Discernment & remain UMC or (2) continuing to a vote of the entire congregation to separate from UMC or not. Once that vote occurs, there will be ample time for questions specifically related to those issues moving forward and are not a part of the purpose of tonight's meeting.

Church Council members are seated up front in order to hear your concerns and opinions clearly.

We will have time for some submitted questions that may arise during this meeting concerning the current status of the UMC. Please write down your questions on notecards on each pew rack - to be addressed at the end of tonight's meeting.

-Of utmost importance are these 3 attitudes:

1. Participate with intention. Listen carefully to information and other speakers. When it is your turn to speak, do so in a constructive manner. Speak from your heart.
2. Appreciate the diversity of perspectives. All perspectives are valid. When someone says something that challenges your thinking, listen to understand why they think as they do.
3. Maintain a respect for this sacred space. That means we all need to treat each other with kindness and respect. It also means that we all need to avoid distractions.

### **GROUND RULES:**

-The moderator will ensure that all ground rules are followed.

-Meeting will last 1.5 hours.

- Please silence all cell phones/ mobile devices. No recording, texting, etc. during the meeting.
- Two microphones are provided up front. Use the microphone of your choice.
- There is a 3-minute time limit for each speaker.
- A timekeeper will announce when time is up, as well as a 30 second warning.
- Speakers must be Professing Members of Bethany UMC.

- Speakers must be recognized by the moderator prior to speaking. No one should interrupt or speak unless recognized by the Moderator.
- The moderator will allow 10 speakers in Favor and 10 speakers Opposed to separating from UMC. We'll alternate speakers for balance.
- No one may speak a second time until/unless there are no additional speakers wishing to speak and there is allocated meeting time remaining.
- The moderator has the authority to call out anyone that ignores the ground rules.
- Negative personal comments and/or profanity will not be tolerated.
- Verbal outbursts and/ or applause is not allowed.
- The moderator can terminate the meeting, if deemed necessary.
- Regarding questions
  - Index cards are available to submit questions. Pass them to the end of the aisle so they can be collected.

## **AGENDA:**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

### **SUMMARY OF GENERAL CONFERENCE**

### **MICROPHONE TIME**

### **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**