

## Why the rush to disaffiliate churches from the Texas Annual Conference (TAC)?

<p><b>You may have heard...</b> If you are progressive, remain UMC. If you are traditionalist, join the GMC.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> The UMC will continue to be a denomination with traditionalists, centrists, and progressives. Its position on human sexuality remains under the traditionalist plan passed at General Conference 2019 and cannot be modified until GC 2024. Even then, it is unclear what our policies will allow. Diversity of theological perspective remains a thriving aspect of our life together as United Methodists.</p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> The UMC will abandon its doctrine.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> Our Articles of Religion and our Doctrinal Standards that have been in place since Methodism began will remain unchanged in the United Methodist Church. The UMC can never revoke or alter its Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith. You can find these in the Book of Discipline, along with our Doctrinal History and Standards, in paragraphs 102–105. If anyone infers that these aspects of our church will change, they are incorrect.</p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> It will be easier for churches in our conference to disaffiliate before Bishop Jones retires.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> TAC disaffiliation policy is set by the conference's Board of Trustees, not by the bishop. A new bishop would not have the unilateral ability to change the terms of disaffiliation.</p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> This will settle it. Churches are weary of uncertainty and ready to move on.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> Some amount of uncertainty and waiting will be inevitable as the Global Methodist Church (GMC) takes shape. Having launched May 1, 2022, the GMC does not have a final book of rules and structure. The existing documents represent a "transitional period of 12 to 18 months until its convening conference" (<a href="http://globalmethodist.org">globalmethodist.org</a>).</p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> Churches seeking to disaffiliate must pay an "exit fee" to leave the denomination.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> Standard financial responsibilities must be met by a disaffiliating church according to ¶2553 and conference policy. As part of the connectional system of the UMC, every church is responsible for its share of apportionments and ensuring clergy pensions are funded. Active elders and deacons withdrawing from the UMC per ¶360 will have their CRSP Defined Benefit (life annuity) converted to an account balance and moved to UMPIP. Wespath provides more financial considerations and details in their disaffiliation FAQs: <a href="http://wespath.org">wespath.org</a></p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> Local churches can disaffiliate from the UMC using ¶2548.2, requiring a 50% + 1 vote.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> ¶2548.2 is not about disaffiliation. This paragraph sets guidelines for a defunct church to deed its unused property to a different denomination. The Judicial Council further clarified that ¶2548.2 cannot be used for church disaffiliations in Decision 1449 on August 22, 2022. The only lawful way for a church to disaffiliate is under the provisions of ¶2553. Any attempt by a local church to disaffiliate without a two-thirds majority of the congregation should be shared immediately with your District Superintendent and the Assistant to the Bishop.</p>
<p><b>You may have heard...</b> Churches can't afford to take their time to enter a discernment process.</p>	<p><b>You should know...</b> Each church's timing with an agreed-upon process should be honored. A false urgency to decide quickly is guided by fear and will only cause disruption and division at the local church level.</p>