## Question

If a local UMC chooses to disaffiliate, and then joins the GMC, what would happen to a person's church membership?

#### **Answer**

If JCUMC would vote to maintain its UMC affiliation, memberships remain as they have been, and new members will always be welcomed.

If the local church becomes GMC, one's membership can move to the GMC, and again, new members will be welcomed.

If the local church becomes GMC and someone wants to remain a UMC member and wishes to attend a UMC church, the local church, in cooperation with the WOC, will assist the member in finding a UMC church and transferring membership, if that is desired. But, again, no one HAS to leave.

What Are Your Thoughts? An email address has been created for you to ask questions and to share your thoughts. You, the author of your email, will be kept confidential. You may authorize us to use your identity if you wish. Your question and the response may be used in future communications of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Please submit your question(s) to: discernment@jcumcoh.org

**Discernment/Disaffiliation Team:** Emily Allison, Daleen Braun, Wendy Carter, Brent Kerns, Todd Lotz, Marion Sions, Cameron Sions, Warren Sprague, Jr., Jack Toomey, Eric Voress, Brad Wren

For more information, please visit www.jcumc.org and click on About Us, then select UMC Process.

## **Discernment Insert #4**

#### **UMC Current Local Church**

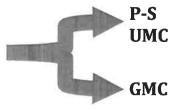
VS.

## **Post-Separation UMC and Global Methodist Church**

#### **Local Church Structure**

#### **Current UMC**

Charge Conference, Church Council, Nominations, SPR, Finance, Trustees, Others as desired.



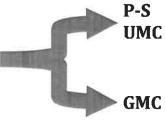
Same as current UMC.

Charge Conference, Church Council, Flexible structure for the remainder.

#### **Church Property**

#### **Current UMC**

Held in trust for the denomination.



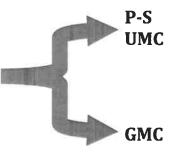
Same as current UMC.

Owned by local church. Pension liabilities owed where applicable, secured by lien on the property.

## **Apportionments**

#### **Current UMC**

Annual Conference calculates local apportionment by formula. Generally, 7-15% of the local budget.



Same as current UMC.

1.5% of local operating income for the general church operations. 5-10% of local operating income for annual conference operation, not to exceed 10%.

#### Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, Def. of Chalcedon

## Current UMC

Referenced, but no doctrinal standard.



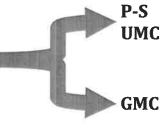
Referenced, but no doctrinal standard.

Foundational Documents expressing orthodox Christian teaching.

#### **Scripture**

## **Current UMC**

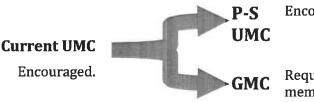
"Primary source & criterion for Christian doctrine" one of 4 parts of the quadrilateral.



Same as current UMC.

Primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured.

## **Accountable Discipleship**



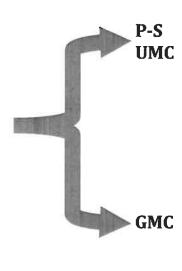
Encouraged.

Required for members.

#### **Sexuality**

#### **Current UMC**

God's gift to all persons; affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. Affirms sacred worth of all God's grace available to all. Does not condone practice of homosexuality; considers the practice incompatible with Christian teaching. (Likely to be changed.)



Same as current UMC but is likely to move to acceptance of same-sex marriage.

Human sexuality is a gift of God, affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.

# Why is Jackson Center United Methodist Church voting on disaffiliation? Not all UMCs are in a discernment process. Why?

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is not requiring any local church to disaffiliate or even consider disaffiliation. However, neither is the UMC prohibiting any local UMC from considering the process of separation. It is up to the leadership of each local church. Our church has realized the turmoil that has been evident at each General Conference and, to a lesser extent, at each West Ohio Conference (WOC) Annual Conference. The idea of an amicable separation was discussed, and a Protocol was developed. However, the UMC closed the consideration of the Protocol, and then the Global Methodist Church (GMC) launched, the GMC offered an avenue to consider for affiliation going forward.

There are a multitude of reasons as to why churches are not in a discernment process or considering disaffiliation. Some of those are: the local pastor has not informed the congregation and/or there are no laity that have adequate knowledge; the cost is prohibitive; the laity is not concerned with the ongoing disputes within the UMC; the church is observing the first adopters and kicking the can down the road; or the local church simply does not have the skills or resources to even start the process. Additionally, some Annual Conference Bishops are uncooperative in setting a disaffiliation process. (Note: The WOC Bishop has been gracious.)