



Dated: July 3, 2022

For many years The United Methodist Church has felt the tension of disagreements around the issue of homosexuality.

During a special session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 2019, a Traditional Plan was passed. This means our current statements about homosexuality have not changed. Consequently, a split within the denomination regarding human sexuality is likely.

Local Churches who are proponents of traditional policies have established their own denomination called, The Global Methodist Church. A disaffiliation plan, sometimes called an "exit plan," was also passed for those who desire to leave The United Methodist Church regarding issues of human sexuality. They may exit before December 31, 2023. This plan furnishes the suspension of the denomination's trust clause (allowing the local church to retain all property and financial resources) in exchange for a local church's payment of 2 years of apportionments, a share of the conference pension liability, a share of retiree health benefits, and repayment of any loans issued from the Annual Conference to the local church.

The Peninsula Delaware Conference Board of Trustees has reviewed their disaffiliation plan and voted to add an assessment of 50% of the property value of the local congregation. This is set to take effect on July 1, 2022. Local Churches who wish to leave The United Methodist Church must move expeditiously.

Our Church has formed a Commission Moving Forward Committee that includes volunteers from our church focus areas, the Trustee, Finance, and Staff Parish Relations committees, as well as a Lay Leader.

The Kent Island United Methodist Church Commission has had two meetings: April 28, 2022, and June 23, 2022. To meet the deadline of July 1, 2022, the Kent Island Commission Moving Forward Committee invited the Servant Leadership Team to pray, discuss, and vote on starting the process to disaffiliate. The vote was unanimous to begin the process. Note, this was a vote to begin the process of disaffiliation. This was not a vote to disaffiliate.

With hope for the future, our Church, in good conscience, has begun to pray, gather information, educate, and seriously reflect on our future moving forward. This process will take about a year. We will conduct Commission meetings, town hall gatherings, and eventually a Church Conference. The Church Conference will allow members (professing members only) of our Church to vote in favor or against disaffiliation.

The Kent Island Commission Moving Forward next meeting is July 28, 2022. Cares, concerns, correspondence, and most importantly prayer are welcomed. During this meeting, the first town hall

gathering will be scheduled for late Summer or early Fall.

For your convenience, a tab has been created on our website. This tab will serve to inform you about updated information, allow you to check for new developments, and see who is represented on the Kent Island Commission Moving Forward. If you have questions, feel free to use this new email address: commission@kiumc.org. One of the Commission members will respond in a timely manner.

In March 2022, The United Methodist Church decided to postpone its General Conference for the third time. The next General Conference is possibly taking place in 2024. We are asking for fervent prayers and discernment for the future.

We are encouraging everyone to keep their eyes on Jesus. Let us press forward to fulfill our mission by growing in Christ, transforming families, and changing the world passionately and boldly.

Thank You,
The Kent Island Commission Moving Forward