

Discussion Points to Consider in regard to Affiliation

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Pros

- Kent Island been a Methodist church -- maintains historic Methodist tradition
- A denomination traditional leadership team that we know and trust
- An organizational structure that we know
- A Doctrine & Discipline that we know and believe (Wesleyan doctrine and theology based on Scripture)
- Leaner, more effective denominational structure (less apportionments)
- More resources for local ministries & prioritizing the work of the local church
- No Trust Clause- church owns property
- Accountability at all levels to include Bishops
- Biblical stances on social issues – however, denominational statements will require greater consensus (75% agreement rather than 51%)
- Local involvement in pastoral appointments
- Connectional partnerships with denominational partners on local, national and global scene
- Shorter route to ordination for clergy
- Opportunity to build a new denomination
- Disaffiliation from GMC is quick, simple and without cost

Con

- New Denomination with uncertainty; under transitional leadership and doctrine until first General Conference in 2024
- Some denominational control within church law and structure
- Bishop and Cabinet still have input and direction for pastoral selection

NON-DENOMINATIONAL INDEPENDENT

Pro

- No Trust Clause – church owns property
- No conference apportionment
- No interference from denominational leaders
- Free to create our own identity
- Give us time to determine our long-term affiliation options
- Gives time to GMC to congeal, aiding in better evaluation
- Church will be congregational polity rather than episcopal (bishop-led) polity

Con

- Must develop our own statement of beliefs (our own theology) prior to selecting our own pastor
- Must find and vet our own pastor and provide insurance, pension and housing
- Must develop our own governance structure and develop our own membership requirements
- Must develop our own accountability policy and structure
- Must create our own connections to other like-minded churches
- Need strong, consistent, biblically grounded lay leadership to keep the church from drifting
- No outside support from a denomination
- Without proper oversight deviation from the teachings of the bible may mislead members
- Unfamiliar territory for our church
- Organizational & theological uncertainty for a much longer period
- Internal conflicts lead to confusion with no outside support
- Will require a substantial investment of resources (time & money)
- Mistakes in developing all the above will be made

Choices for Affiliation

ISSUE	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	Independent
Name of Church	Need to drop UMC	Need to drop UMC
astor	Vetted, certified/ordained and appointed by GMC with local input and conversation	Will need to find a pastor certified with an independent church entity
Apportionments	Percentage of operating expenses estimated no more that 1.5% for Global church and ≤5% for local conference	None
Church Leadership	<p>LOCALLY: Will stay the same unless changed in future by church-wide vote</p> <p>DENOMINATIONALLY: Structure similar to current UMC but more stream lined and less top heavy with fewer apportionment funded agencies and boards (bishop over jurisdictions, district superintendents serve as administrators over districts in addition to local church duties</p>	LOCALLY: Church will decide is governing body and any future role of laity
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishops with term limits instead of lifetime appointment • Annual conference made up of local districts for support of local church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bishops or district relationship/ support • Accountability guidelines for church leadership including pastor would need to be established
Church Property/ Trust Clause	Church owns property, no trust clause	Church owns property, no trust clause
Theology and understanding of scripture	Wesleyan theology of grace that has been a part of Kent Island ; scripture primary and informed by tradition, experience, and reason	Would need to adopt a guiding theology and establish guidelines for interpretation of scripture
Global Connections	Established and emerging global connections for ministry and mission in place through the denomination	Global connections for ministry and mission would need to be individually established

Choices for Affiliation

Role of Lay Leadership	Laity key in leadership, same council structure we have now	Role of laity (in regard to serving on committees, voting, and leadership) would need to be determined by the church's decision on structure of governing body
ISSUE	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	Independent
Basic Doctrinal Beliefs	<p>All stay the same as noted in the 2016 UMC Book of Discipline in regard to following doctrines concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) • Jesus Christ • Holy Spirit • The Holy Bible <p><i>We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation, It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church – Body of Christ • The Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism • Sin and free will • Reconciliation Through Christ • Justification and Regeneration (New Birth) • Good works • Sanctification and Christian Perfection • Judgement 	Would need to establish basic doctrinal beliefs for all areas of religious practice and make available for all members and any serving as clergy to the church
Social Issues	Outflow of our witness and theology grounded in scripture Denominational statements will require 75% agreement rather than UMC current 51%	Guiding practices and theology around social issues would need to be established by the church

Choices for Affiliation

Human Sexuality	Matches 2016 UMC Book of Discipline with statement that “all people are of sacred worth; fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness; clergy cannot conduct same-sex marriage and LGBTQIA+ cannot be ordained, <u>however</u> self-avowed non-practicing homosexuals can be ordained as clergy	Guiding practices and theology around issues of human sexuality would need to be established by the church
Future disaffiliation options	Quick, simple, and without cost	Not an issue since an independent church is not affiliated with a denomination