

	Stay in the United Methodist Church (UMC, our current denomination)	Leave the UMC and become independent, networked with other former UM churches	Leave the UMC and join the Global Methodist Church (GMC)	Leave the UMC and join the Free Methodist Church (FMC)
Will our core beliefs change?	Not likely. The legal requirements to change these beliefs are very high. However, they are not consistently lived out in the UMC, so we are concerned that the beliefs will remain but will not be upheld effectively.	No change to our core beliefs, and they will be consistently upheld. We will only consider networks of churches that hold biblical Methodist beliefs.	No change to our core beliefs, and they will be consistently upheld.	No change to our core beliefs, and they will be consistently upheld.
What will our mission be?	We exist to glorify God and produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who transform the world.	We exist to glorify God and produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who transform the world.	We exist to glorify God and produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who transform the world.	We exist to glorify God and produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who transform the world.
What are the financial implications?	<p>No upfront cost.</p> <p>We would pay our \$250,000 per year of apportionments. The apportionment formula is based on the needs of the denomination, so we have no control over future increases.</p> <p>Ten years total cost: \$2,500,000 plus any apportionment increases.</p>	<p>The upfront cost for Anderson Hills to leave the UMC would be around \$995,000. These funds cover our portion of the long-term liability related to the UMC pastor pension system, one extra year of apportionments, and repayment of UMC grants we've received. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we can pay this without incurring any debt or reducing budgets.</p> <p>We would no longer pay apportionments, so we could voluntarily set aside more money for missions and church planting.</p> <p>Ten year total cost: \$995,000</p>	<p>The upfront cost for Anderson Hills to leave the UMC would be around \$995,000. These funds cover our portion of the long-term liability related to the UMC pastor pension system, one extra year of apportionments, and repayment of UMC grants we've received. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we can pay this without incurring any debt or reducing budgets.</p> <p>We would pay \$20,000 per year of apportionments for the first two years, then \$135,000 per year. Apportionments are a percentage of church income, so they only increase if our giving increases.</p> <p>Ten year total cost: \$2,115,000</p>	<p>The upfront cost for Anderson Hills to leave the UMC would be around \$995,000. These funds cover our portion of the long-term liability related to the UMC pastor pension system, one extra year of apportionments, and repayment of UMC grants we've received. Thanks to our congregation's generosity, we can pay this without incurring any debt or reducing budgets.</p> <p>We would pay \$145,000 per year of apportionments. Apportionments are a percentage of church income, so they only increase if our giving increases.</p> <p>Ten year total cost: \$2,445,000</p>

<p>Who owns our building?</p>	<p>The denomination. As part of the UMC our building and assets are held in trust for the denomination. That means officially they own our property and have final say on any sale, etc.</p>	<p>We do. As part of the exit agreement the UMC waives the trust clause. There is no trust clause for independent churches, including those who network with other former UM churches. If there is a future problem with the network, Anderson Hills could exit without any penalty.</p>	<p>We do. As part of the exit agreement the UMC waives the trust clause. There is no trust clause in the GMC so the local church owns its own property. If there is a future problem with the GMC, Anderson Hills could exit without any penalty.</p>	<p>We do, for our current properties. As part of the exit agreement the UMC waives the trust clause. There is a trust clause in the FMC, but they waive it for churches who exit the UMC. However, future properties that we acquire could be under the FMC trust clause, so there is some uncertainty about how that would work if there is a future problem with the FMC.</p>
<p>Do we get to keep our buildings and assets?</p>	<p>Yes. However, the UMC will continue to own them.</p>	<p>Yes. A provision in the UMC rules allows churches to exit and keep their buildings and assets. This provision expires in 2023.</p>	<p>Yes. A provision in the UMC rules allows churches to exit and keep their buildings and assets. This provision expires in 2023.</p>	<p>Yes. A provision in the UMC rules allows churches to exit and keep their buildings and assets. This provision expires in 2023.</p>
<p>Are LGBTQ+ people welcome at Anderson Hills?</p>	<p>Yes! We love and welcome all people who come here seeking to find Jesus and worship God. That will not change. We understand that this is an issue where not all people at Anderson Hills will see eye-to-eye.</p> <p>Though there has been much debate over whether a UMC can host same-sex marriages and ordain LGBTQ+ persons, the official position in the UMC Book of Discipline has not changed on this matter and these are still prohibited.</p>	<p>Yes! We love and welcome all people who come here seeking to find Jesus and worship God. That will not change. We understand that this is an issue where not all people at Anderson Hills will see eye-to-eye.</p> <p>We will continue to embrace the same beliefs and practices regarding human sexuality that we have throughout our 200 year history as a church. We align with Jesus' words that Christian marriage is between a man and a woman, and sex is a gift of God to be enjoyed exclusively within a married relationship. Thus we do not ordain LGBTQ+ persons or host same-sex marriages. Being independent and networked with others would represent no change in this regard for Anderson Hills.</p>	<p>Yes! We love and welcome all people who come here seeking to find Jesus and worship God. That will not change. We understand that this is an issue where not all people at Anderson Hills will see eye-to-eye.</p> <p>The GMC embraces the same beliefs and practices regarding human sexuality that we have throughout our 200 year history as a church. We align with Jesus' words that Christian marriage is between a man and a woman, and sex is a gift of God to be enjoyed exclusively within a married relationship. Thus we do not ordain LGBTQ+ persons or host same-sex marriages. Being part of the GMC would represent no change in this regard for Anderson Hills.</p>	<p>Yes! We love and welcome all people who come here seeking to find Jesus and worship God. That will not change. We understand that this is an issue where not all people at Anderson Hills will see eye-to-eye.</p> <p>The FMC embraces the same beliefs and practices regarding human sexuality that we have throughout our 200 year history as a church. We align with Jesus' words that Christian marriage is between a man and a woman, and sex is a gift of God to be enjoyed exclusively within a married relationship. Thus we do not ordain LGBTQ+ persons or host same-sex marriages. Being part of the FMC would represent no change in this regard for Anderson Hills.</p>

Will there be any impact on our current mission partnerships?	No.	No. The lack of apportionments will lead to an increase in missions giving, so our missional partnerships will grow.	No. Lower apportionments could lead to an increase in missions giving.	No. Lower apportionments could lead to an increase in missions giving.
Will we keep the same pastors, assuming that they wish to stay?	Yes. All of our pastors will continue to be appointed on an annual basis.	Yes. All of our pastors can be ordained by our local church.	Yes. All of our pastors can transfer their credentials to the GMC.	Yes. All of our pastors can transfer their credentials to the FMC.
How are pastors selected?	The Bishop appoints pastors in partnership with the local church and District Superintendent.	The Church Council and Pastor Parish Relations Committee oversee the hiring of pastors, just like they currently do for other church staff.	The Bishop appoints pastors in partnership with the local church and District Superintendent (aka Presiding Elder). However, the process includes much more input by the local church than the UMC system.	The Bishop appoints pastors in partnership with the local church and District Superintendent. However, the process includes much more input by the local church than the UMC system.
Will pastors be routinely reassigned by the Conference?	Yes, the Bishop decides when and where a pastor is needed. The Bishop then determines who the replacement pastor will be.	No. The church and pastor have full control.	Not likely. Pastoral appointments are not expected to change until the church or the pastor requests a change. However, the Bishop still has ultimate authority in appointments.	Not likely. Pastoral appointments are not expected to change until the church or the pastor requests a change. However, the Bishop still has ultimate authority in appointments.

Glossary of Terms

- **Conference** – geographic regions that are similar to states within the U.S. Our UMC Conference is called West Ohio, and it has approximately 1000 UMC churches in it.
- **Appointment** - the sending of a pastor to a church by the Bishop. A pastor is not hired locally, but appointed by the Bishop.
- **Apportionment** - money a church is required to pay to the denomination to support the overall structure and projects of that denomination.
- **Church Conference** - official gathering, authorized by the District Superintendent, where members can vote on church business.
- **Disaffiliation** - a congregation leaving the UMC denomination.
- **District Superintendent** - the organizational leader for the UMC over a local region, usually including between 125-200 churches. There are eight District Superintendents in our West Ohio Conference that report to the Bishop, although that number will decrease to six in the near future to save costs. Those eight plus the Bishop form the cabinet which oversee all appointment making for our Conference.
- **Trust Clause** – the legal language added to the deed of a church which keeps the churches property attached to a denomination. Consequently, Anderson Hills cannot just leave and keep our building and assets without some legal agreement from the denomination that allows them to do so.