

Total Number of Pages: 3
Suggested Title: Surrender of Charter and Disaffiliation
Discipline Paragraph: New ¶2549
General Church Budget Implications: None
Global Implications: Yes

Add new paragraph

¶ 2549. *Surrender of Charter of Local Church and Disaffiliation* -- A local church may surrender its charter from The United Methodist Church and disaffiliate based upon the local church's declaration that it is in irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the doctrine or moral teachings and requirements of The United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, or with the way in which such requirements are being enforced, or with the resolution of those matters adopted by the 2019 General Conference, upon completion of the following steps:

- a) A minimum of 30 days of study and discernment by the congregation; and
- b) The affirmative vote for disaffiliation of fifty-five percent (55%) of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called church conference or two-thirds (66.7%) of the members present and voting at a duly called charge conference.

Upon such surrender and disaffiliation, the local church shall be released from the provisions of ¶ 2503 and shall retain full rights to its property and funds, provided that any debts upon such property and any other debts payable by that local church are assumed by that local church. In such event, the local church shall pay to the annual conference in which it is located the local church's proportionate share (determined in the same manner as its apportionment has been determined in the most recent annual

conference year) of the net unfunded pension liability of the annual conference in which the local church is located as of June 30 of the preceding conference year. Such sum shall be deposited by the annual conference with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to be invested and held to satisfy the annual conference's unfunded pension liability. The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits shall determine the annual conference's unfunded pension liability as of June 30 of the preceding conference year and then shall deduct from such sum the annual conference's proportionate share of the unrestricted reserves of the boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church (General Church Unrestricted Reserves) and any unrestricted reserves held by such annual conference (Annual Conference Unrestricted Reserves) to arrive at the net unfunded pension liability of the annual conference. A sum equal to the amount by which the local church's proportionate share of the annual conference's unfunded pension liability is reduced shall be deposited by the General Council on Finance and Administration from General Church Unrestricted Reserves and the treasurer of the annual conference from Annual Conference Unrestricted Reserves with The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to be held and invested on behalf of the annual conference to be used to satisfy any unfunded pension liability of that annual conference.

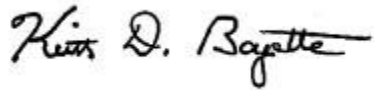
In the event of such proposed action, the bishop, district superintendent, annual conference board of trustees, and other appropriate individuals of The United Methodist Church shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process, including holding such church or charge conference within 120 days of the date on which the local church's pastor or church council requests such action, and executing such legal documents as are necessary to provide such local church or its successor with a deed not

subject to any trust in favor of The United Methodist Church or the annual conference in which the local church is located.

Renumber following paragraphs from existing ¶¶ 2549-2552.

Date: July 3, 2018

Signature of the Petitioner: Keith Boyette

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith D. Boyette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "K".

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