

Weekly Update: Mid-Texas Conference of the Global Methodist Church July 30, 2022

Welcome!

Featured Link: [“Granbury First United Methodist Church Denominational Q&A - July 31, 2022”](#)

We had a bit of a break this past week in disaffiliation votes. Only Six churches voted last Sunday, with no other votes occurring due to CTC scheduling. So far 26 churches have voted to leave the United Methodist Church. This action will be approved by a special called disaffiliation conference to be held at Arborlawn United Methodist Church on September 17th. The following churches have completed the voting process to affiliate with the GMC:

Voted to Go Global at Disaffiliation Conference

- Bethesda Methodist Church
- Alliance Methodist Church
- Perry Methodist Church
- Godley Methodist Church
- Dawson Methodist Church
- Line Street Methodist Church
- Chatfield Methodist Church
- Bosqueville Methodist Church
- Newcastle Methodist Church
- Salem Crestview Methodist Church
- Lorena Methodist Church
- Mart Methodist Church
- Emhouse Methodist Church
- Moody First Methodist Church
- Moody Leon Methodist Church
- St Luke Methodist Church
- Mart Methodist Church
- Mood Methodist Church
- Moody Leon Church
- Emhouse Methodist Church
- St. Luke’s Methodist Church

Voted to Disaffiliate and Affiliate at a Second Meeting

- LifePoint
- Community Church of Ellis County (Formerly Bethel UMC)
- Center City Church
- Star Methodist Church
- Evant Methodist Church
- New Gate Methodist Church
- Tonk Valley Methodist Church

- Murray Methodist Church
- Moshiem Methodist Church

Voted Other Affiliation

- Lighthouse Fellowship, Free Methodist

This week 16 more congregations are holding their disaffiliation votes. Please hold these congregations in prayer.

ZERO Pension Liability in the Central Texas Conference

We celebrate the Announcement on Friday July 29th from the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Mid-Texas GMC leadership is very grateful to the faithful negotiating partners we had with conference leadership. After a quarterly valuation of pension liability and adjustments made by Wespath, along with the annual conference action to utilize reserves to offset costs, the Pension liability was reduced to \$0... To God be the Glory! There will still be exit costs to the local church. You must pay last year's apportionments and this year's apportionments in full along with other legal expenses. Join us as we give God praise and thank our Brothers and Sisters in the Central Texas Conference.

Disaffiliation Conferences are Being Handled very Christ-Like!

Breathe Deep Jesus is Lord! We are incredibly thankful to the DSs and the Presiding Elders of the CTC for their Christ-like leadership in facilitating these Disaffiliation Conferences. Once a system was developed for how to have congregations affiliate apart from the Disaffiliation Conference but at the same gathering, things have gone very smoothly. If you are needing answers to last minute questions, please reach out to your Disaffiliation Coach or to

ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com

New Middle Texas Conference of the Global Methodist Church

The work of establishing the Mid-Texas Conference of the GMC continues. We will be ready to receive churches on November 1st with resources in place for local congregations. Currently the Board of Ministry is forming to receive those seeking to go into ministry, church planters, and those making the move. If you are a first wave church and are laity who would like to serve in these important area, please contact us at ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com.

If there are other areas you are interested in serving in conference leadership and your church is part of the first wave of churches exiting the UMC and affiliating with the GMC, we have lay and clergy opportunities for 2023. Please email your interest to ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com. If your church intends to come to the GMC in the second or third wave, don't worry we will have an ongoing need for a growing leadership team. We will have a place for your gifts and graces.

Granbury Townhall Scheduled – July 31, 2022 @ 4:PM

Dr. Danny Tenney, UMC North District Superintendent has graciously agreed to do another townhall with Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, GMC Organizer. The town hall will take place at First United Methodist Granbury located at 301 NE Loop 567 in Granbury, Texas 76048. This is an

opportunity to see two colleagues who have known each other for years, to come and to speak from different perspectives on the future of Methodism. The event will be livestreamed and the recording will be available after the event. Watch the live streamed event at <https://youtu.be/OldKTs88saY>.

Connect Clergy Retreat - Open to All Clergy moving to the GMC

Save the Date! October 10-12, 2022

Clergy of North Texas and Central Texas Conferences moving towards the Global Methodist Church, you are invited to a special retreat at Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center which is situated on 270-acres of beautiful natural landscaping between historic downtown Waxahachie and Maypearl, less than an hour south of most DFW metroplex locations. Our goal is to make a vital connection to Jesus, each another, and His creation. We hope this retreat helps create a healthy culture of connection, encouragement, and accountability as we are led by the Holy Spirit forward into the new church God is building. We will enjoy times of worship, prayer, fellowship, and many recreational opportunities will be offered. Special guests will be joining us as well. Please mark your calendars and look for registration and pricing information coming soon!

Pension and Health Insurance WILL BE AVAILABLE through Wespath for Clergy and Lay Staff

The Global Methodist Church is happy to announce it has finalized negotiations with Wespath. The latter will administer the pension, and health, life, and disability insurance plans for the new denomination. GM Church clergy who are appointed at least half-time or more to serve local churches are already making contributions to the denomination's Covenant Retirement Plan.

Under the Covenant Retirement Plan, local churches contribute five percent of the pastor's compensation (i.e., salary plus housing allowance or the benefit of a provided parsonage). In addition, the clergyperson can make a personal contribution up to the IRS maximum for 403(b) plans in any given year. In 2022, the maximum amount is \$20,500. Local churches will match up to an additional five percent of a clergy person's contributions on a percentage for percentage basis. Lay employees of local GM churches may also participate in the Covenant Retirement Plan. However, the amounts a local church and a lay employee contribute may be different from the retirement benefit provided for clergy depending on the plan options chosen by the local church. Full details on the Covenant Retirement Plan will be published on the GM Church's website in the near future.

The Global Methodist Church's health insurance plan will be available to all full- and three-quarter-time clergy under appointment to Global Methodist local churches beginning January 1, 2023. Lay employees will also be eligible to be covered by the denomination's health insurance program under certain conditions specified by the plan. Details on life and disability insurance benefits available to clergy under appointment will also be shared in the coming weeks.

For additional questions about the benefits provided by the Global Methodist Church, please contact the GM Church's Benefits Officer, the Rev. Rick Van Giesen, at rvangiesen@globalmethodist.org or at 217-685-6223.

What about Gap Healthcare Coverage From November to January?

The effective date of Disaffiliation is November 1st and the health coverage for the GMC does not begin until January 1st. This has left some people asking about GAP Coverage for Clergy and Lay Staff. Information Directly from the Wespath website helps alleviate the fears of being without coverage. For more information about remaining on the CTCUMC plan for November and December, reach out to your Benefits Administrator or directly to Wespath.

From Wespath's website: If a local church participates in the HealthFlex Plan through its annual conference and the local church separates/disaffiliates from the UMC, what happens to the HealthFlex coverage for clergy and lay employees of the local church? The local church's participation in HealthFlex will cease on the effective date of the separation/disaffiliation because, at that point, the church is no longer affiliated with a HealthFlex plan sponsor, i.e., its annual conference. Clergy members who remain with the separated/disaffiliated church and lay employees of the church will lose active coverage on the last day of the month in which the separation/disaffiliation is effective. Those individuals and their covered family members will be eligible for 18 months of continuation coverage. The clergy member or lay employee, as applicable, would be required to pay 100% of the cost of continuation coverage.

How Clergy Transfer into the Global Methodist Church

Once your church has had their disaffiliation conference with the District Superintendent or Presiding Elder, you may submit your paperwork to the Global Methodist Church. Note this should be BEFORE you submit anything formal to your District Superintendent or the Central Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This is the link to the instructions on how become recognized as Clergy in the Global Methodist church. <https://globalmethodist.org/how-clergy-align-with-the.../>

Once you have completed your application, you may email it to apleasants@globalmethodist.org or to info@globalmethodist.org. In your cover letter, please explain that your church will officially be released from the Central Texas Conference effective November 1, 2022 and that you are seeking to have your credentials recognized on that date in the Global Methodist Church. If you have questions, please contact ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com.

How Churches Affiliate with the Global Methodist Church?

Once your church has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church formally with the United Methodist District Superintendent or Presiding Elder present, you may have the vote to approve the motion to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. This vote should be chaired

by the Administrative/Council Chair of the Congregation, after the departure of the UMC DS or Presiding Elder. It is a vote outside of the official Disaffiliation Conference.

The suggested motion provided by the Global Methodist Church is:

“I move that _____ Church become a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church, that it affirms and endorses the doctrinal standards (Part One), Social Witness (Part Two), and church governance of the Global Methodist Church as set forth in its Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and agrees to be accountable to such standards, witness, and governance. Our leadership and trustees are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this motion.”

*This is a standing vote of professing members with a majority vote.

<https://globalmethodist.org/the-process-for.../>

Once the vote has occurred, please email the minutes from the meeting to apleasants@globalmethodist.org or info@globalmethodist.org In the cover letter, request that your congregation be recognized as of November 1, 2022.

Disaffiliation Coaches are Available

If your congregation would like a GMC disaffiliation coach to help them with the process, please email ctcgoesglobal@gmail.com. Every church that we know is in the disaffiliation process has a coach already assigned to them to help answer questions or to be present for your church conference. We want to help you in this often confusing process.

Connectional Funding in the Global Methodist Church Set at 2% in Transitional Time

The Transitional Leadership Council (TLC) established the percentage of local church annual operating income that will be used in calculating connectional funding contributions for general church and annual conference operations. A recent article, Connectional Funding in the Global Methodist Church, provided important information about this topic. While paragraph 349.4 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline establishes ceilings above which connectional funding percentages cannot go, the TLC had not set those percentages until now. Local churches are being asked to contribute one percent of their annual operating income for general church connectional funding, 33 percent less than the ceiling of 1.5 percent. In addition, local churches are asked to contribute one percent of their annual operating income for annual conference connectional funding, substantially less than the five percent ceiling set by the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Annual operating income is determined by the local church treasurer and ¶ 349.1-3 defines that process. As the TLC has previously announced, local churches may apply for relief from these connectional funding percentages during the period prior to the convening General Conference. The Council is mindful of the burden many local churches are bearing as they pay significant disaffiliation fees to the UM Church in order to align with the Global Methodist Church. The TLC plans to grant such applications liberally and permit local churches to decide the amount they are able to contribute for connectional funding.

Save the Date: Convening Mid-Tex Annual Conference January 20-21st

Don't miss this very special event Preaching, Teaching, Youth Winter Event and Bishop Mike Lowry presiding over the Ordination Service.

Resources

Searchable Doctrines and Disciples of the GMC - <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

Updates from around the UMC regarding Disaffiliation - <https://peopleneedjesus.net/.../12/um-fallout-a-compendium/>