



Bellefontaine First UMC
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Bellefontaine, OH 43311
www.bellefontainefirstumc.org

June 07, 2023

Grace & peace to you all,

Your Administrative Council continues to work on your behalf to establish a vision for our church. We reached out to you last month to update you on the work we have been doing on determining whether or not to remain a United Methodist Church. As we noted in our last letter to you, some churches are disaffiliating from the church through paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline which expires on December 31, 2023.

In review, the following steps have been undertaken:

- Following the 2019 UMC General Conference, we were made aware that our church may need to make a decision regarding disaffiliating by December 31, 2023.
- We held several opportunities to gather and share information with you as things became clearer.
- Your Administrative Council has been discussing this regularly at our meetings for the past year including a review of The United Methodist's Church's Articles of Religion.
- We have been encouraging congregational input on a regular basis throughout this process.

Our delegates at last week's Annual Conference, shared that if our church were to consider starting the discernment process according to paragraph 2553 in the Book of Discipline we would need to start that process this summer. **We are perceiving that the congregation prefers to remain United Methodist. However, anyone that has a differing point of view should communicate that to an Ad Council member by July 1st.**

The Administrative Council is ready to put this period behind us and turn our attention to conversations about what God is calling us to do as a church. We will be meeting in early July to make a decision about our church's affiliation.

Please continue to pray for understanding of the plans God has for us. If you have comments to share with us on remaining United Methodist, please let us know by July 1, 2023.

Yours in Christ,

Your Administrative Council

Nancy Evans-Donley, Chair Joe Antram, Vice

Susan Givler	Bill Verbsky
Robin Harrington	Ron Perry
Janice Miller	Barb Trowbridge
Ashley Reser	Raph Guenther
Mike Angle	Nic George
Bert Schwaderer	