

## Comparison of Traditional v. Progressive Church

This is a snapshot of the points involved within the discussion of disaffiliation from the UMC

On August 28, 2022, 109 professing members of Royle City First United Methodist church joined together for a straw poll to discuss the possibility of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. The vote passed at 77% with 84 voting to disaffiliate and 25 voting not to disaffiliate.

<b>Both groups believe their view is true to the gospel</b>		
	<b>TRADITIONAL</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE</b>
What are the Two Major Perspectives	<p>Historic interpretation of the Bible.</p> <p>Does not believe in culturally redefining the Bible.</p> <p>Beliefs align with the current UMC Book of Discipline.</p>	<p>Includes a wide range of interpretations and theological ideas (may believe, in few, many, or all views listed, not all views are shared but all are accepted)</p> <p>Range from moderate to strongly progressive</p>
Human Sexuality	Language related to human sexuality should remain the same. Marriage in the church is between a man and a woman	All language to human sexuality should be removed. Allows for same sex marriage and ordination of practicing LGBTQ+ persons
Theology - Scripture	<p>Word of God</p> <p>Biblical revelation is complete</p> <p>Bible is true and authoritative</p> <p>Experience is subject to scripture</p>	<p>Contains word of God</p> <p>New revelation takes precedence over old</p> <p>Parts of Bible are true; portions can be dismissed as not authoritative; not relative to today</p> <p>Experience supersedes scripture</p>

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	<b>TRADITIONAL</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE</b>
Theology - Nature and role of Jesus	Incarnate (full human and fully divine) Virgin Birth Physical death Bodily Resurrection	May or may not believe in all of the tenets of the Apostle's Creed
Theology - Nature and role of Sin	Personal, separate us from God Requires atonement Forgiveness comes from faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus	Societal from external forces No original sin (man is inherently good) It is possible for sin to be corrected through works of justice and mercy Jesus' death on the cross is not necessary for atonement
Theology - Salvation	Precious gift received in response to God's grace Only comes through faith in Jesus	Universal salvation, all receive salvation regardless of belief More than one path to salvation

## Other Topics to Consider

Wide Range of progressive beliefs	
<i>- Not all beliefs are shared, but all beliefs are accepted</i>	<p>Hold traditional view of scripture, but support same sex marriage in the church and ordination of practicing LGBTQ+ persons</p> <p>No virgin birth.</p> <p>Jesus' death on the cross is not necessary as atonement for sin</p> <p>Does not believe in bodily resurrection of Jesus</p> <p>Believe in Universal Salvation (Jesus is not the only way)</p> <p>Not all parts of the Bible are relevant in today's culture</p> <p>Bible is a metaphor</p>

### What does the current book of discipline say?

Inclusiveness - ¶ 4 & 104 and Eligibility ¶ 214

"...all persons are of sacred worth created in the image of God"

"...all persons may attend its worship services participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection."

Human sexuality - ¶ 161.G

"...does not condone the practices of homosexuality and considered this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Marriage - ¶ 161.G

"...whether or not they are married, sexual relations are confirmed only with the covenant of monogamous heterosexual marriage."

Ordination of Ministers ¶ 304 & 2702

"...self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be considered as candidates ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church."

### Current state of UMC Governance

Human sexuality language has been voted on and kept in the Book of Discipline by a majority vote at General Conference for 50 years

Book of Discipline is not followed in many churches and conferences

Book of Discipline is not enforced by current leadership

No accountability for violations of the Book of Discipline

### Causing Harm

Conflict is hurting our witness to others

Causing fear and confusion in the body of Christ

Disrupting the mission and ministries of the church

Distracting focus of the church

<b>Differences of Opinion</b>
<p>The wide range of disagreements about theology, human sexuality, and the interpretation of scripture illustrates how deep our divide has become. Both sides believe their understanding of the Bible is correct.</p> <p>The purpose of this information is not to persuade, but rather present the issues confronting our denomination today.</p> <p>Your church's future will be decided by the professing members of the church.</p>
<b>What if some of my beliefs are in both views?</b>
<p>Prayerfully consider how important each belief is in your faith walk</p> <p>Read scripture related to the belief/topic</p> <p>Ask Pastor Chris, Pastor Frances or a spiritual mentor questions</p>
<b>Pray</b>
<p>This is so important to the life of our church. Please above all spend time in prayer asking God for direction. He will answer.</p> <p>Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.</p>

**What is next -**

1. A discussion will occur with leaders from the church and our DS and Assistant to the Bishop.
2. We will perform a cost-analysis to see the cost associated with disaffiliation and joining another denomination.
3. We will research to see which denomination best fits our congregation and our reach into our community and world.
4. Hold an official charge conference vote to approve disaffiliation and another vote to affiliate with another Methodist/Wesleyan denomination.

**What does voting yes mean** - We will be leaving the United Methodist Church. After completing the disaffiliation process, we will have total ownership of our property. We will then join with another Methodist/Wesleyan denomination and be in connection with them. Their polity would become our polity. You can begin your research looking at [www.globalmethodist.org](http://www.globalmethodist.org), <https://fmcusa.org/>, or <https://www.wesleyan.org/>

Please continue to be in prayer for our congregation as we move forward together in the name of Jesus Christ.