

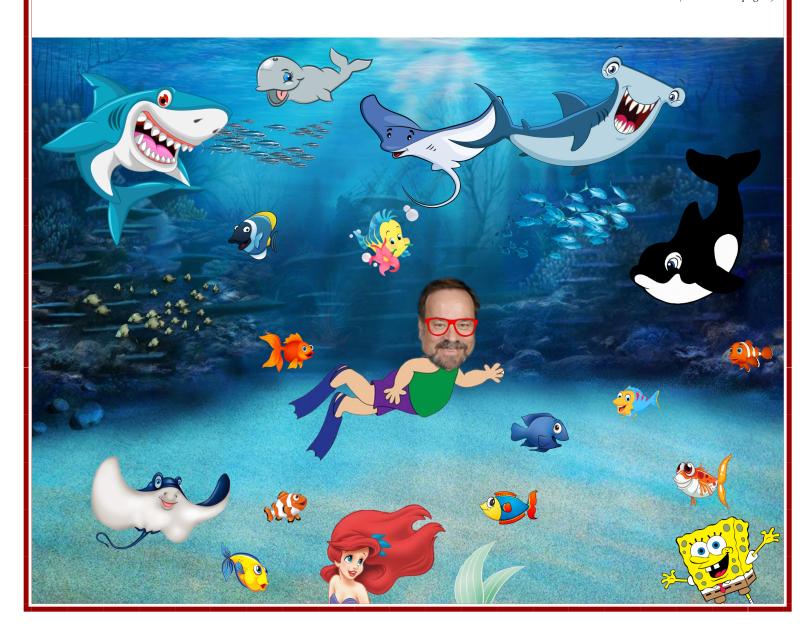
# What happens when a new denomination launches?

By Heather Hahn April 28, 2022 | <u>UM News</u>

# **Key Points:**

- The Global Methodist Church, a theologically conservative breakaway denomination, has set May 1 as its official start date.
- However, it will take time for any potential separation from The United Methodist Church to take place.
- Don't expect The United Methodist Church to look much different come May 2.

(Continued on page 5)





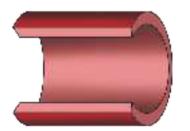
# Keep doing the things you love.

# Catch health problems before they go too far.

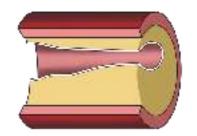
Life Line Screening offers a 5-screening package to provide peace of mind or early detection for risks of stroke and cardiovascular disease.

The combination of these tests helps detect problems—before you have symptoms and while you and your doctor can still take action...so you can keep doing the things you love.

# Plaque buildup can lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and aneurysms.



A normal artery allows blood to flow through easily.



Plaque buildup in the arteries reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.



# Register now to check the health of your arteries

5 Important Screenings for Only \$149 (Special Package Pricing)

- Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)
- Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
- Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

Join the **10 million people** who have been screened. We are coming to your neighborhood.

When: Thursday June 2, 2022

Where: First United Methodist Church

206 S Hopkins Ave Titusville FL 32796

To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call toll-free 877-754-9648 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HS

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.



# **April Budget Spending Summary**

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.

<u>Income</u>

Total Income: \$72,608 Monthly Budgeted Goal: \$39,459 Income Over Goal: \$33,149

**Expenses** 

Church Programs: \$481

Finance: \$174

Church Administration: \$1640 Facility Maintenance: \$12,520

Personnel: \$31,378

Conference Apportionments: \$3,598

Total Expenses: \$49,792

**Income under Expenses: \$22,816** 

The budget for 2022 is \$\frac{\\$473,502}{\}\$ which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$39,459 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year. Although we have begun trying to cut expenses where we reasonably can, we are still feeling the financial pinch from the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are able to still contribute during these lean times, please help us to maintain our regular operating costs as you find you are able. Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the current storm we are in.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating!

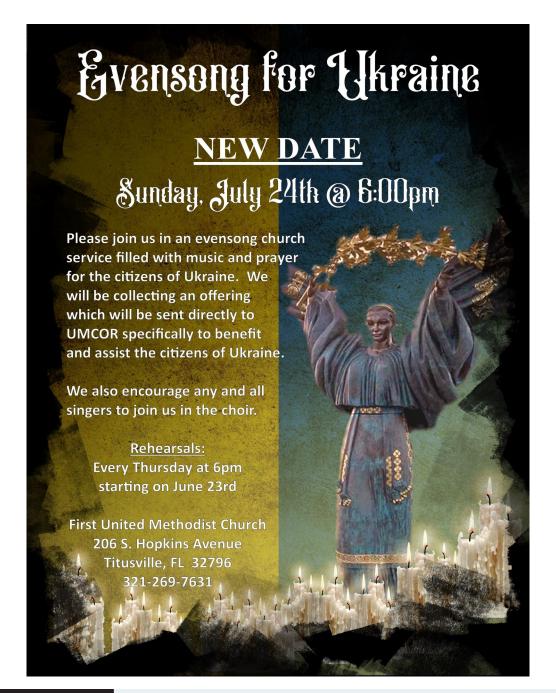


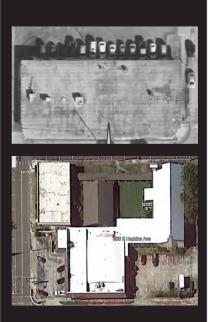
- 3 Ingrid Patterson
- 9 Michael Evans
- 10 Fred Henn
- 12 W.O. Brown
- 15 Ed Grimes

- 16 David Stephens
- 18 Lois Garnett
- 20 Jennifer Evans
- 21 Fran Nolan
- 23 Reba Howington
- 26 Enis Nathaniel
- 29 Laurilee Thompson
- 29 Libby Cook

# ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Frank & Linda Russell
- 16 Wayne & Janet Cook
- 21 Truman & Barbara Scarborough
- 23 Mike & Judy Brooks
- 26 Jan & Fay Kikta
- 30 Jake & Debbie Huether





# 2nd Mile Giving Re-Roofing Campaign May 1st - May 31st RE-ROOFING UPDATE FUNDRAISED \$32,645.00

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United Methodists will gather for worship, attend Bible studies and join in ministries such as housing the homeless and feeding the hungry on May 1 as they do most Sundays.

That same day, organizers of the Global Methodist Church plan to mark the official launch of their new, theologically conservative breakaway denomination. But don't expect things in the 13-million member, international United Methodist Church to look much different come Monday morning.

Both United Methodist and Global Methodist leaders agree that any separations from The United Methodist Church will take time to sort out.

After all, Methodism's founder John Wesley <u>instructed</u>: "Do not rashly tear asunder the sacred ties which unite you to any Christian society."

The United Methodist Church by design makes breaking up — and especially taking church property — hard to do. Wesley himself established the forerunner of the United Methodist trust clause, which states that all church property is held in trust for the entire denomination. That means congregations can't just leave and take church buildings with them.

However, the requirements of gaining release from the trust clause have become a source of contention and confusion as churches plan for the future.

Here is a look at some frequently asked questions on where things stand.

#### Wasn't a separation plan already in the works?

After decades of intensifying debate over same-sex marriage and gay ordination and a <u>tumultuous special</u> General Conference in 2019, the coming General Conference — The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly — faces multiple proposals to divide.

The most endorsed of these is the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, negotiated by a professional mediator with a theologically diverse group of United Methodist bishops and advocacy group leaders. The proposal offers a series of steps that would enable churches and conferences that support restrictions on gay marriage and ordination to leave with church property and \$25 million in United Methodist funds to form a new traditionalist denomination.

However, the protocol has yet to receive a General Conference vote. Complications from the COVID-19

pandemic have led to three postponements of the international legislative assembly, from May 2020 to now 2024.

Bottom line: The protocol is not currently part of United Methodist church law, and it is not operative.

### What is happening now?

After the third postponement, Global Methodist Church organizers announced they were no longer waiting for General Conference to act <u>and instead moving up their new traditionalist denomination's launch date to May 1</u>. However, the organizers are doing so without the formal separation plan they hoped the protocol would provide.

The Wesleyan Covenant Association, a theologically conservative unofficial advocacy group in The United Methodist Church, has served as the main organizing force behind the new denomination. The WCA plans to mark the new denomination's launch at a legislative assembly May 6 and a global gathering May 7 near Indianapolis.

The Rev. Keith Boyette, WCA president and chairman of the new denomination's Transitional Leadership Council, has served as the designated spokesman for both groups but declined to be interviewed for this article.

On its website under launch information, the Global Methodist Church announced that it would be a church in transition as it prepares for its own convening General Conference in 12 to 18 months.

# Is there a way for congregations to leave with property?

With no protocol, congregations that wish to depart The United Methodist Church must do so using <u>already</u> existing measures in the Book of Discipline, the denomination's law book.

In practice, that means annual conferences — church regional bodies — are responsible for handling church disaffiliations. There are 53 annual conferences in the U.S., and 80 spread across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. A bishop presides over each annual conference.

By an overwhelming majority, the United Methodist Council of Bishops has affirmed that conferences should use the Discipline's Paragraph 2553 as the primary paragraph for disaffiliation and separation.

Passed during the special 2019 General Conference, the

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church law allows congregations to exit with property "for reasons of conscience" related to homosexuality.

Paragraph 2553 requires that exiting churches meet certain financial and procedural obligations to be released from the trust clause. It also states that annual conferences "may develop additional standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard form of this paragraph."

Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, has more information on the disaffiliation process.

### Why specifically Paragraph 2553?

Council of Bishops President Cynthia Fierro Harvey said the paragraph is the only part of the United Methodist Book of Discipline that clearly spells out a disaffiliation process.

"This is an important decision that should not be taken lightly and it should carry with it a value proposition," she said. "The future care for the pastors and churches who have given their life to the UMC must be considered."

Global Methodist organizers have been pushing for disaffiliating churches to use another paragraph in the Discipline that allows churches to transfer to another denomination. However, that paragraph assumes there is a comity agreement between The United Methodist Church and the receiving denomination. Harvey said no such comity agreement currently exists with the Global Methodist Church.

Already more than 130 U.S. congregations have used Paragraph 2553 to part ways with The United Methodist Church. However, that is a small fraction of the more than 30,500 United Methodist churches in the U.S.

Most of the congregations that have already departed The United Methodist Church are conservative and could join the Global Methodist Church immediately after launch. However, the new denomination has not shared how many churches plan to join at the outset.

A number of bishops have scheduled special annual conferences for later this year specifically to take up church disaffiliations.

## What does all this mean for clergy pensions?

As part of any disaffiliation, another part of the United Methodist Book of Discipline — Paragraph 1504.23 — requires the departing church to pay a fair share of its

annual conference's unfunded liability for clergy pensions.

Wespath Benefits and Investment manages investments for pensions and other retirement-plan assets for United Methodist clergy and lay employees on behalf of conferences. Conferences are pension plan sponsors and legally responsible for paying benefits.

United Methodist clergy members currently are part of a retirement plan that <u>combines defined-benefit and defined-contribution components</u>. A defined benefit plan provides a monthly pension payment for life, with the plan sponsor (in this case, annual conferences) assuming the investment risk. A defined contribution plan — like the 401(k) plans most corporate employees now have — provides an account balance to use during retirement.

For an exiting church, the biggest cost often will come from paying its share of unfunded clergy pension liability — that is, what conferences will owe retirees. Under Paragraph 1504.23, an annual conference has the final word in determining a local church's share of the conference's unfunded clergy pension liability.

Wespath is in discussions with the Global Methodist Church to provide clergy and lay employee benefit plans for the new denomination after it is formed. However, those discussions are still in progress. Any retirement plan for the Global Methodist Church would be different than and separate from the Clergy Retirement Security Program currently offered to United Methodist clergy.

We spath has submitted legislation to the coming General Conference intended to help ensure pensions are covered in the event of a large-scale separation.

"In the meantime, Paragraph 1504.23 helps assure active and retired clergy pensions stay adequately funded," said Dale Jones, Wespath's managing director of church relations.

"It's important to remember this human aspect — that a disaffiliating local church is leaving full responsibility with the annual conference and its former sibling churches for pension benefits earned by active and retired pastors in years past."

Andy Hendren, the pension agency's top executive, said Wespath seeks to be a calm, bridge-building presence in this time of uncertainty.

"We are committed to supporting the continuing UMC and available to serve all Methodist expressions, including the GMC and other Methodist-rooted

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expressions, organizations and churches," he said. "We are in dialogue with conference leaders and other groups and stand ready to have conversations with others to discuss their unique circumstances."

We spath has <u>published documents</u> that address more frequently asked questions related to pensions and disaffiliations.

# Can clergy be part of both denominations in this transition period?

No.

"If a clergy person joins the GMC, they will have to surrender their conference membership and their orders in the UMC," Bishop Harvey said. "You cannot hold membership or be ordained in more than one denomination."

The Judicial Council — The United Methodist Church's top court — <u>ruled in 1993</u> that the Discipline has no provision allowing an ordained United Methodist

minister to hold membership simultaneously in another denomination.

When ordained clergy members surrender their credentials in The United Methodist Church, they keep their accrued pension benefits. However, Wespath is required by the terms of the plan to convert the pension benefit of any active elders or deacons who surrender their credentials into an individual account balance in a defined-contribution plan.

This rule does not apply to active clergy members who are licensed local pastors, provisional members or associate members. In addition, the rule does not apply to retired clergy members who are receiving pension benefits.

# Can United Methodist annual conferences move to the GMC?

The Council of Bishops has asked the Judicial Council to decide if annual conferences can leave The United Methodist Church under the current Discipline.

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# **Note from Debbie Grimes**

Dear Congregation,



A great thank you for your donations to our outreach to Apollo Elementary. From August 2021 our church has provided goodie bags monthly to the entire staff of 90+. Coffee and donuts helped welcome staff back in August. Then each month, several of us gathered to pack items to brighten their days. Kleenex, hot chocolate, water, cookies, chips, etc. were given. Along with a note and a smile, our church gave a needed lift to their days! Thank you all!

**Debbie Grimes** 



(Continued from page 7)

The church court, which is meeting periodically online because of the pandemic, <u>has agreed to take up that</u> question in its current docket.

Earlier this month, the Bulgaria-Romania Provisional Annual Conference voted to leave The United Methodist Church and join the Global Methodist Church. Bishop Patrick Streiff, whose area includes the conference, said conference members took the vote "without legal basis in the Book of Discipline."

Streiff's decision of law also will go to the Judicial Council for review.

### How does all of this affect LGBTQ people?

The United Methodist Book of Discipline commits the church "to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation." However, it also bans clergy from officiating at same-sex unions and prohibits the ordination of "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy. Only General Conference can change the Discipline.

Those denominational bans have faced <u>increasing</u> <u>defiance in recent years</u>, especially as countries including the U.S. have legalized same-sex marriage. Tensions reached a breaking point after the special 2019 General Conference, <u>by a relatively narrow 438-384</u> vote, strengthened the church restrictions, hastening resistance and talk of a denominational divorce.

For the most part, the people who want to eliminate The United Methodist Church's bans are not those planning to leave the denomination.

In this transitional time, a number of United Methodist bishops have decided to hold in abeyance complaints related to church law on homosexuality. Abeyance means these cases will be delayed until a later time, not dismissed.

The Council of Bishops also has published a <u>narrative</u> that casts a vision for an inclusive church. "We cannot be a traditional church or a progressive church or a centrist church. We cannot be a gay or straight church," the bishops' narrative says.

The Global Methodist Church organizers have long championed maintaining the restrictions around homosexuality. The new denomination's <u>Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines</u> says that sexuality only should be expressed in "a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman." The transitional book also defines gender as "a person's immutable biological traits identified by or before birth."

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is silent on the matter of intersex, transgender and non-binary people.

# Does this mean all conservatives are leaving The United Methodist Church?

No. A number of theological conservatives have plans to stay United Methodist for the foreseeable future.

Good News, a longtime unofficial conservative advocacy group, plans to continue advocating for fellow conservatives in the church.

"Our task is to inform churches and pastors about the options available to them in moving to the Global Methodist Church and to advocate for a fair and practical exit path for local churches and annual conferences to make that move," said the Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, the group's vice president and general manager.

He added that Good News and other groups in the Renewal and Reform Coalition "will continue to advocate for the protocol and for other fair withdrawal pathways at General Conference 2024."

### What is the hope for the future?

United Methodist bishops have repeatedly expressed hope that they can serve a big-tent church where conservatives, progressives and those in-between can find a welcoming church home.

Nevertheless, bishops also have acknowledged that some will want to move to the Global Methodist Church.

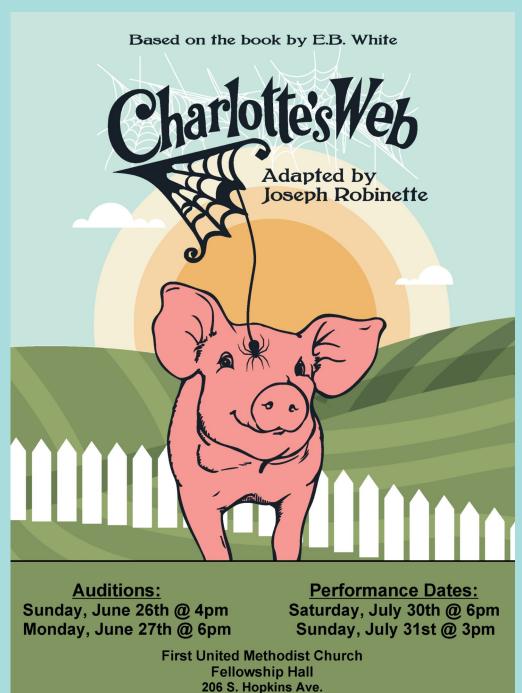
"My prayer still is that we can bless and send and not burn the house down on the way out," said Harvey, Council of Bishops president. "There is clearly a process that needs to be followed that protects the future of the UMC. We are the stewards of the past, the present, and the future UMC. Mutual recognition is critical so we do not disparage one another in this process."

Hahn is assistant news editor for UM News. Contact her at (615) 742-5470 or <a href="mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org">newsdesk@umcom.org</a>. To read more United Methodist news, <a href="mailto:subscribe to the free Daily">subscribe to the free Daily</a> or Friday Digests.

# The Future of the UMC

Wednesday, May 25th @ 6:00pm

You are invited to join us in the sanctuary for a presentation by the District Superintendent of the Atlantic Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dionne Hammond. She will be discussing the future of the UM Church and taking questions from those who are attending.



Titusville, FL 32796 321-269-7631



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# CONNECTION KIDS & FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE

Water slides

Everyone Welcome!

Games

# J U N E 4 T H | 1 0 A M - 2 P M 2 0 6 S H O P K I N S A V E

The days are longer and the weather is warmer!

It's time to celebrate summer!

Join your friends from First United Methodist Church of Titusville and Connection Kids at 206 S Hopkins Ave for a time of fun with food, friends and family!

We will have water slides, music, and games for the whole family!

Bring the whole crew and have a great time with us!

# **June 2022**

# First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir	2 7:00am Life Line Screening	3 11am Ladies Day Out 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	4 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 10:00am Summer Bash
S Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	9	7 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	8 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir	9 7:00am Annual Conference 10:30am Retired Teachers Mtg	10 7:00am Annual Conference 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	11 7:00am Annual Conference 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
12 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	13 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	14 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	15 9:00am ADK 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir	16 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	17 9:30am Ladies Day Out 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	18 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
19 Father's Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Father's Day	20	2.30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	<b>22</b> 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir	23 6:00pm Evensong Rehearsal	24 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	25 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Charlotte's Web Auditions	27 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Auditions	2.30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	29 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir	30 10:00am Conn. Kids Puppet Show 6:00pm Evensong Rehearsal		

Pastor Wayne P. Cook Church Office: 321-269-7631

206 S Hopkins Ave, Titusville, FL 32796

Email: office@fumctitusville.com

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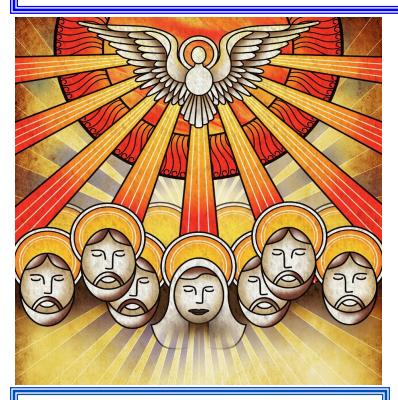
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#### **First United Methodist Church**

206 S. Hopkins Ave Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday

Closed from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

amazonsmi Fax: (321) 269-8359

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com Website: www.fumctitusville.com

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## **FUMC Staff**

Reception Desk	Ext 201
Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lauren Peterson - Student & Adult Min.	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson—Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	

Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus

Steve Rossi - Sound Tech







