



MESSSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE

206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796

SEPTEMBER 2022

Is The UMC really...? (Part 2)

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-2>

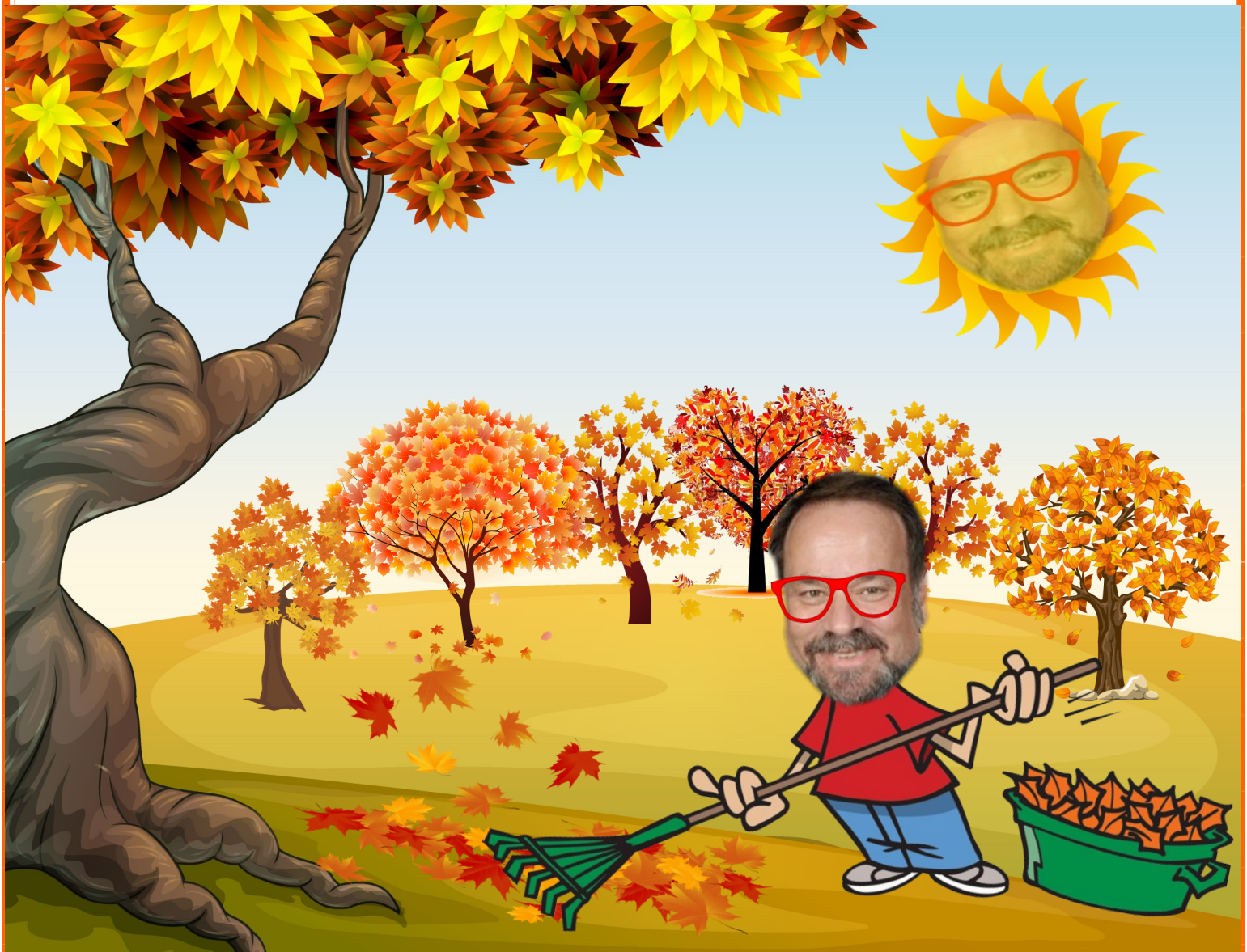
With some congregations considering leaving The United Methodist Church or just wondering about its future, Ask The UMC offers a series of questions and answers to help clear up some common misperceptions or misinformation around disaffiliation.

At Ask The UMC, we have been answering an increasing number of questions from congregations

wondering about the future of The United Methodist Church and whether they should consider disaffiliating from it. Among these have been some recurrent questions that reflect misperceptions or misinformation that some congregations are receiving as they are discerning their next steps.

This is the second of a series of articles we will present to offer accurate responses to such misperceptions or misinformation. This article focuses on matters relating to human sexuality. The [first article](#) in this series focuses on matters relating to theology and

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pensions.

We welcome your questions, and invite you to contribute to future articles in this series by sharing what you are hearing about the process of disaffiliation or the future of The United Methodist Church. Write to AskTheUMC@umc.org.

Is The UMC really...?

6. Immediately dropping all prohibitions related to human sexuality, now that the Global Methodist Church has been officially started?

No. The creation of the Global Methodist Church has no bearing on the existing policies of The United Methodist Church. The policies of The United Methodist Church are set by its General Conference. The General Conference is the only body that can change them. The General Conference is scheduled to meet next in 2024 at a time and venue to be announced.

7. Going to drop all prohibitions related to human sexuality at its next General Conference in 2024?

Probably not. The 2024 General Conference will certainly consider legislative proposals that would drop several existing prohibitions. There are items that could authorize clergy who choose to do so to preside at same-sex weddings or union ceremonies. There are several proposals to drop the statement “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” Some proposals would remove the current policy that forbids committees and boards of ordained ministry and clergy sessions to approve and bishops to license, commission, ordain, or appoint self-avowed, practicing homosexuals as clergy. Another would drop the prohibition on annual conferences and general agencies to provide any funding for any activity or publication that promotes “the acceptance of homosexuality.”

The key words are “consider” and “proposal.” The General Conference must consider all legislative items it receives. All legislative items before a General Conference are proposals only. They have no force unless a General Conference approves them.

All of these kinds of proposals have come before General Conferences in the past. And all have been defeated, every time.

At present, there do not appear to be enough shifts in the makeup of the delegations to the General Conference in 2024 to conclude that any of these proposals will pass.

8. Going to require its clergy and clergy candidates to agree to offer same-sex weddings as a condition of candidacy, status, or appointment?

No. There are no proposals before the next General Conference to do so, nor have there ever been such proposals.

As noted above, proposals to permit clergy who choose to do so to preside at such ceremonies have come before previous General Conferences and will come before the 2024 General Conference. All such proposals have been defeated in the past. And there is no basis, considering the makeup of the delegations, to conclude this will change in 2024.

9. Ordaining drag queens and supporting worship of a “Queer God?”

No and no.

Both of these allegations are based on things that actually happened. But both of those things have been seriously misrepresented.

No United Methodist bishop has ever ordained, commissioned, or licensed a drag queen.

So what is that allegation based on?

The Vermillion River District of The Illinois Great Rivers Conference voted unanimously [to approve the certification](#) of Mr. Isaac Simmons as a candidate for ordained ministry in 2021. The Book of Discipline prohibits “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals” from being certified as candidates for ordination. Mr. Simmons identifies as a gay man, but not as a practicing homosexual. He also performs under the drag name, Penny Cost, for the purposes of evangelism in audiences made up of people of many sexual and gender identities. Nothing in the Book of Discipline disqualifies persons who are gay but not practicing or who perform in drag from consideration or certification as a candidate.

The vote by a district committee to certify a candidate is one of the earliest steps in a process toward ordination. The process typically takes 5-8 years to complete.

Being approved by a district committee for candidacy is not being named clergy in The United Methodist Church. That can occur only after substantial work toward the completion of seminary educational requirements, ongoing supervision over a period of years, and ultimately, approval for commissioning by a 3/4 vote of the clergy session of the annual conference. Until that

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July 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.

Income

Total Income:	\$32,202
<u>Monthly Budgeted Goal:</u>	<u>\$39,459</u>
<i>Income Under Goal:</i>	<i>\$7,257</i>

Expenses

Church Programs:	\$70
Finance:	\$664
Church Administration:	\$1857
Facility Maintenance:	\$12,143
Personnel:	\$21,987
<u>Conference Apportionments:</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	<i>\$36,721</i>

Income under Expenses: \$4,519

The budget for 2022 is **\$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!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 JD Daniel	12 Larry Gilreath	23 Mary MacPherson
4 Janice Korintus	13 Floyd Lee	25 Vivian Johnson
6 John Bradford	17 Helen Beeker	26 Patsy Gadapee
7 Jan Kikta	17 Sandi Ahrens	28 Dan Everling
7 Pat Cutter	19 George Nolan	28 Sharen Talbert
8 Bill Baldwin	20 Nancy Burgess	
10 Jutta Yarber	22 Margaret Coveney	

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 Henry & Eva Jenkins	18 Hal & Pinky Yount
15 Mike & Kay Mustard	26 Bernie & Margaret Coveney

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time, if assigned by a district superintendent to serve a local church, candidates cannot preside at sacraments or at weddings.

The reference to supporting the worship of “Queer God” comes from a chapel service at Duke Divinity School sponsored by an LGBTQ+ student group. Duke Divinity School serves students of many denominations, not just United Methodists. And students of many denominations make up the LGBTQ group that sponsored the service in question, as that service has been described [in some publications](#). Exactly one of the students named is identified as United Methodist, and that student is, at this point, a candidate, not yet clergy in The UMC. Further, such “group sponsored” services represent the views of their sponsoring organization, not the Divinity School, nor its faculty. Such services are not a basis for making any statements about the beliefs or views of The United Methodist Church. General Conference establishes the official statements of The United Methodist Church and its ritual. Chapel services in a seminary do not.

10. Ignoring or refusing to implement the Discipline's statements, restrictions, and requirements regarding practicing homosexuals and same sex weddings?

In the majority of conferences, no. In some conferences, it may appear so. In those placing these matters "in abeyance," also no.

Ignoring the Discipline?

The bishops of the Western Jurisdiction have [publicly stated](#) that they will not "withhold or challenge ordination based on a candidate's gender identity or sexual orientation."

The Discipline nowhere states that gender identity or sexual orientation is a basis for withholding or challenging ordination. The Discipline does prohibit district committees on ordination from certifying as candidates and bishops from licensing, commissioning, ordaining, or appointing as clergy persons who are "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals." Stating one is homosexual is not disqualifying. What is disqualifying is being or being proven to a jury of peers in a church trial to be a self-avowed, practicing homosexual. So this statement of the Western Jurisdiction bishops does not ignore the Discipline.

The statement by the bishops of the Western Jurisdiction also says, "We are unwilling to punish clergy who celebrate the marriage of two adults of any gender or sexual orientation seeking the blessing of God and the Church for their covenanted life together." Bishops do not apply "punishments" as part of the complaint process. Rather, bishops oversee the process to its

conclusion. If a church trial is necessary, bishops preside at the church trial. If guilt is found in a church trial, it is not the bishop who imposes a "sentence." It is the jury of peers who both reach a verdict and set a sentence. The Discipline names a mandatory minimum sentence the jury must apply to those found guilty of having conducted a same-sex marriage or union ceremony: one year suspension without pay. No other offense has a mandatory minimum sentence. See ¶2711.3 of the [2019 revision](#) to the Book of Discipline. Since bishops do not "punish" in the complaint process, this statement does not ignore the requirements of the Discipline. Instead, it expresses the intent of the bishops not to be punitive.

The [district superintendents in the Iowa Conference](#) have announced they will "grant contextual permission" for clergy of the conference to preside at same-sex weddings in Iowa effective in January 2022.

Examples such as this, in which some provisions of the current Discipline may be over-ridden through contextual permission by a district superintendent, are a rare exception. No other conference has stated this kind of policy to date.

Abeyance: Refusing to Implement the Discipline?

While there are few examples that come close to "ignoring the Discipline," a number of bishops and some cabinets have indicated their commitment, in the words of the [Minnesota Conference extended cabinet](#), to hold in abeyance all...administrative and judicial complaint processes addressing restrictions in the Book of Discipline regarding gay and lesbian clergy and/or same-sex weddings until after General Conference meets and action related to the separation of the denomination can be considered."

What is abeyance, and where did this idea come from?

The term "abeyance" means "delay." It does not mean a refusal to implement the Discipline. It means delaying further action on certain kinds of charges for a limited period of time and for particular reasons. Bishops who have announced they are placing such charges in abeyance are not refusing to implement the Discipline. They are indicating they will process such charges in light of actions that take place at a later time.

This approach to dealing with such charges began with the development of the so-called [Protocol legislation](#), announced in January 2020.

While the Protocol legislation has no effect unless or until a General Conference approves it, the process of developing it included a [commitment by all of its signers](#), including key leaders of traditionalist

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organizations and eight United Methodist bishops from across the connection. Article V of the agreement states, "As one expression of reconciliation and grace through separation, the undersigned agree that all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in the Book of Discipline related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings shall be held in abeyance beginning January 1, 2020 through the adjournment of the first conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. Clergy shall continue to remain in good standing while such complaints are held in abeyance."

The term "post-separation United Methodist Church" referred originally to the General Conference in 2024, assuming the General Conference meeting in 2020 would have passed the Protocol or other terms of separating the denomination. Since the 2020 General Conference is now delayed to 2024, the first post-separation General Conference would be in 2028. And the term separation involves an action of the General Conference. It does not apply to the decision of the Wesleyan Covenant Association to launch the Global Methodist Church prior to the next General Conference.

The part of the Protocol [agreement](#) calling for abeyance for some period of time, originally signed by eight bishops, has since also been committed to by several other bishops in the United States. Signers of this

statement also included Keith Boyette, formerly leader of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and currently leader of the Global Methodist Church. Boyette has separately [stated his agreement](#) with a practice of abeyance on such charges until a General Conference can meet to decide next steps.

To those on all "sides" who indicated their support for abeyance effective in 2020, abeyance in processing such charges was not seen as a refusal to implement the Discipline. Rather, it represented and represents the hope for a less stressful time of separation leading up to and following the action of a General Conference to create such a separation.

What can we accurately say about the isolated examples noted and the wider practice of abeyance? The Discipline's statements, restrictions, and requirements regarding self-avowed, practicing clergy and same-sex marriages are unevenly enforced in The United Methodist Church at this time. Initiatives by individual conferences or jurisdictions are one source of this unevenness. The practice of abeyance derives from a mutual agreement of United Methodists who identify as progressive, centrist, and traditionalist. Still, the provisions of the Discipline remain in force and are more widely more enforced across the whole denomination, worldwide, than not.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

Annual Church Conference

Monday, October 10, 2022

4:00pm

Our annual church conference will be held on Monday, October 10th at 4pm in our sanctuary.

You are invited to attend. At Church Conference, we will be voting on aspects of our operation that take place at the local church level.

Disaster Recovery

We are at the start of the 2022 hurricane season. If you don't have a plan, email our office at office@fumctitusville.com for assistance in developing your individual or family Plan.

Individual Needs Survey

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Alternate Contact (person or phone): _____

List names and ages of additional members in household:

Do you **only** speak a non-English language? No Yes Language(s): _____

Residence Type: Single Family Mobile Home Apt. If apt., which floor? _____

Name of Residential Complex: _____

Medical Disability:

Are You: Legally Blind Deaf Mute Aphasic

Are you homebound? Yes No

Do you use a wheelchair? Always Most of the Time Sometimes

Do you use a walker/cane? Always Most of the Time Sometimes

Do you require a special diet? Yes No Type: _____

Special Medical Needs (Ex: homeless, severe cardiac, diabetic on insulin)

Do you rely on electricity for home medical treatments? Yes No

Have you registered with the County Emergency Management Department for help in an evacuation? Yes No

Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

(**NOT** living with you)

Do you have any dog(s)? Yes / No How many? _____ Cats? Yes / No How many? _____
(**Note:** Pets are **NOT** allowed in all shelters. Make evacuation-shelter arrangements for them **BEFORE** a disaster.)

Do you have transportation in an emergency? Yes No Maybe

Would you need transportation in an emergency? Yes No Maybe

If yes, what type? Standard vehicle Wheelchair access Ambulance



MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

REDISCOVERING THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE TODAY

BOOK STUDY
STARTING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH
1PM IN THE ADULT STUDIES ROOM

HOSTED BY:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
AND CONNECTION KIDS INC

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
BUSINESSES AT THE

FALL FESTIVAL

VENDORS | PHOTOBOOTHS | GAMES | RAFFLE

NOVEMBER 5TH FROM 10AM - 1PM

CORNER OF S PALM AND BROAD STREET
TITUSVILLE FL 32796

SIGN UP AS A VENDOR AT
FUMCTITUSVILLE.COM/FALL-FESTIVAL

September 2022

First United Methodist Church






Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 11am Ladies Day Out 1-3pm Food Pantry	3 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
4 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	5 Labor Day — OFFICE CLOSED —	6 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	7 9:00am Patchwork Friends 10:00am ADK 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	8 10:30am Retired Teachers Mtg	9 1-3pm Food Pantry	10 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
11 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	12 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	13 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	14 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	15 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	16 9:30am Ladies Day Out 1-3pm Food Pantry	17 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
18 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	19	20 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	21 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	22	23 1-3pm Food Pantry	24 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
25 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	26	27 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	28 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	29	30 1-3pm Food Pantry	

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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 - Family Ministries	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson - Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	
Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus	

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

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Facebook:

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