



#### LOCAL CHURCH NEXT STEPS FOR DISAFFILIATION OR WITHDRAWAL

1. Pray! We beg you not to start this process without spending time in prayer talking with God. Ask Him for discernment as to the best way forward. This process will be taxing, and at times difficult. You do not want to embark on this journey without continually being covered in prayer. We strongly encourage you to find a way to bring your entire church into a corporate prayer process.
2. Have a meeting with your local church lay leadership to discern the best way to move forward. Likely this should occur with your church council (or whatever your church calls its leadership team). ***Time is of the essence!*** The pastor will decide for her/himself whether s/he will move to the Global Methodist Church. Laity cannot decide that for their pastor. Likewise, the pastor should not interfere with lay leadership who discern their church wants to begin the withdrawal/disaffiliation process.
3. Decide how you wish to depart The United Methodist Church. There are four ways: disaffiliation under ¶2553, withdrawal under ¶2548.2, closure under ¶2549, or leaving and fighting the annual conference (likely through a lawsuit) to challenge the trust clause. The WCA-Florida is happy to give you guidance if you have specific questions.
4. Write a letter informing the Florida Conference that you wish to begin the process under whichever paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* you wish to use. The church lay leadership should sign the letter. If the pastor is choosing to move to the Global Methodist Church s/he should sign the letter as well. If you are joining the WCA-FL's first wave, please email the letter by March 31 to [jay@wcafl.net](mailto:jay@wcafl.net).
5. Decide if you want to handle the disaffiliation/withdrawal process on your own or be represented by legal counsel. If you choose to engage legal counsel, understand this is often not an inexpensive decision. Many local churches have been able to complete this process without legal counsel and obtain the same result as churches that spent large sums on attorneys. The WCA-Florida is happy to give guidance on suggested law firms to use, but you, of course, can choose anyone you like. We receive no remuneration for our suggestions.
6. Inform the representatives of the Global Methodist Church in your area that you are seeking to align with them (clergy and churches). Your WCA-Florida regional chapter can assist you in doing so. They will have simple processes for you to follow parallel with the process to disaffiliate/withdraw.
7. Your district superintendent will provide you with a checklist and timeline of deadlines and tasks that must be completed. ***Be sure to work expeditiously and not miss any deadlines, especially if you are working to get your church disaffiliation/withdrawal approved at the June 2022 Florida Annual Conference meeting.***
8. One of the tasks your local church will need to complete is to obtain property and casualty insurance. This is a new process for almost all Florida Conference churches as all Florida UM churches have been insured together through the Annual Conference

since 1992/1993. The WCA-Florida can recommend specialists to help you. We receive absolutely no remuneration for doing so. You are also welcome to shop for your own.

9. Use this time to reinvigorate your church membership. You are turning a new page to a bright, new future. Look at your church's vision, mission, strategies, and values. Now is a great time to take a new look at them and decide if God is calling you to new ways to make disciples of Jesus. Decide how you will brand yourself. Decide how you will govern your local church in accordance with the provisions laid out in the GMC's Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline.
10. Know that the WCA-Florida is just a phone call, text message, or email away. **You can contact the WCA-Florida President, Jay Therrell, at 904/553.7646 or jay@wcafl.net.**