



St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

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Dear SAUMC Family and Friends,

Over the last two days, many of you may have seen reports from different media outlets regarding the future of The United Methodist Church. Some have announced that the denomination is splitting. Friends, this is not true. What is true is that a group of key leaders within The United Methodist Church has put forward a proposal, "The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation" that will be considered at our General Conference in May 2020. While the Protocol will receive careful and prayerful consideration when the General Conference meets, nothing is yet final. There is still much work to be done.

In the days and weeks ahead, I encourage you to read the information from official United Methodist News agencies. Here are links from which you can receive accurate information concerning the recent statements.

- Click

here<https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/13134946?fbclid=IwAR0BVfvcvL6_0SFO7zQWd_CmlsczVRwfvp2ZmnYr2GpxjRnjXO9ocUlymEdc> for a response from the WNCCUMC Bishop Paul Leeland.

- Click here<<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/united-methodist-traditionalists-centrists-progressives-bishops-sign-agreement-aimed-at-separation-13133654>> for a press release from our Council of Bishops.

- Click

here<<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf>> for the actual text of the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.

- Click here<<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-united-methodist-mediation-team-13133711>> for a list of frequently asked questions and answers about the UMC mediation team provided by The Council of Bishops.

And here is what I would encourage you to take away from these statements:

- Nothing has changed at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. These proposals will not even be considered until May of this year, and whatever is decided will take several years to go into effect.

- SAUMC's leadership will seek to keep you informed as to all of these developments as they continue to unfold.

- I am available to meet to discuss these matters with you. Any member or friend of the church may call the church office to set up an appointment to meet with me in person. If it becomes apparent that a church wide information session is needed, we will make arrangements for one.

- Please continue to pray for your pastors and other leaders of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, as well as our conference representatives to General Conference. We will need to support, encourage, and love one another over the coming days, weeks, months, and years.

- In my time serving St. Andrew's, I have found it to be a church that welcomes all people to participate in its ministries, and we will continue to be the light and life of Jesus Christ in, through and to our community. Our mission as a church remains the same: We are called to be and to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Let this continue to be our call and focus.

Peace,

Pastor Sherri