



Nov 19, 2022

The Leb Discern team recommends remaining Methodist and joining the [Global Methodist Church](#) immediately upon disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

Why?

Overview

 <p>Recommended</p>	 <p>Current</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unifying churches in a new Methodist denomination of faithful Methodism rooted in Scriptural authority • Founded by faithful Methodist leaders in May 2022 after years of discernment and preparation • Matches the United Methodist denomination we all joined and that our predecessors at Leb maintained • <u>Ensures doctrines on paper match practice</u> • <u>True to Leb’s roots in Methodism and Biblical standards</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividing over breakdowns in discipline and leadership direction • Prioritizing unity on any standard over unity on God’s word • Cutting traditionalists out of leadership roles and silencing voices of concern • <u>Departing from Methodist roots and historic Christian faith</u> on sexuality, Jesus, and Scriptural authority • <u>Practices no longer match doctrine on paper</u>

Sexuality

<p>Global Methodist</p>	<p>United Methodist</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human sexuality is a gift of God, affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman • <u>Welcomes all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus</u> and committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives • <u>Required adherence to doctrine for leaders and teaching</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's gift to all persons; affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage • <u>Doctrine above is not upheld in practice</u> • <u>False teaching encouraged</u> that misleads those who are young or just learning the faith • Bishops and leaders have <u>promised to change this doctrine</u> in the post-separation UMC to non-Biblical standards

Vital Statistics

<p>Global Methodist</p>	<p>United Methodist</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~1,000 local churches in the US have affiliated thus far • Main destination of United Methodists who are disaffiliating • Strong international, national, and local church presence - including some near Leb • Church plants anticipated for churches that are unsuccessful in disaffiliating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000+ churches have disaffiliated • 3,000-5,000 total disaffiliations possible • Brand confusion and media coverage of the split is increasing • Traditionalists are realizing they must depart the denomination, leaving with or without their church

Annual Cost

Global Methodist	United Methodist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5% (estimated at \$24,000/yr) • Apportionments locked at 6.5% max • Calculates the funding they will collect from the churches and limit their budget to that income • Seeks minimal administrative structure to maintain focus on local church ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently at ~12% (estimated at \$34,500/yr) • The UMC sets their budget then pushes costs down to the local churches through apportionments. • Apportionments vary from year to year and the calculations are not known to the local church • <i>Apportionments are likely to increase due to the number of churches leaving the denomination</i> • Top heavy admin and leadership structure

Initial Cost

Global Methodist	United Methodist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No financial cost to join Global denomination • Cost to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church estimated at \$299,000 • Praise God for his blessings! Funds are available from recent sale of parsonage to cover these exit costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No financial costs to remain United Methodist • Concerns about lost membership and funding

Safeguards

Points of Concern

Global Methodist	United Methodist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No trust clause on property – local churches are sole owners of all assets ✓ Bishops do not have lifetime appointment ✓ Appointments for clergy are not guaranteed and may end if their ministry is no longer fruitful ✓ Local church still receives a pastor sent by denomination, with increased consultation before being appointed ✓ No costs to disaffiliate if needed in future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Trust clause means denomination controls local church property – but does not fund it × Bishops appointed for life; judicial branch has no authority over bishops × Clergy have guaranteed appointments/salary × Unable to exit in future (special legislation allowing departure expires in 2023)

Additional Options

The below options were considered but are not recommended based on initial review.

Free Methodist Denomination (founded 1860)	Become an Independent Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller denomination – 865 <u>total</u> churches • Predominantly rural setting & small churches • No churches near Leb for joint ministry • FM bishops' letter in 2020 to United Methodists depicts lack of understanding of our plight. Requires discernment period by the FMC prior to accepting affiliation of a local church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departs from Lebanon's history of Methodism • John Wesley encouraged accountability groups with fellow believers • No support for finding theologically sound clergy, discerning their call to ministry, or training them to serve

If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in this flyer, please reach out to one of the Leb Discern contacts or contact us at LebDiscern22@gmail.com