

Timestamp	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5
5/24/2023 16:47:34	Will homosexuals be able to be married in the sanctuary?				
5/24/2023 17:09:26	Do you anticipate disaffiliation to eventually result in a collection of mini-Methodist denominations similar to the PC USA, PC in America, and ARP lineup among our Presbyterian friends, or a bunch of independent churches?	What do you anticipate the fallout to be from the overwhelming vote from Mt. Horeb in Lexington to disaffiliate? Will that cause more or fewer churches to take that step?	If Bethel votes to disaffiliate, what would the time frame of such a disaffiliation look like?	Considering our location in the deep South, do we anticipate enough churches leaving the denomination in the state to negatively affect the SC Conference's ability to meet its financial obligations?	
5/24/2023 20:53:39	I understand the voting process requires a 2/3 majority " of members present" to disaffiliate. Please confirm that an abstaining person counts as a "no" for disaffiliation. Do we have an option to just have a Yes or No on our ballot?	Will we have a better understanding of the cost to disaffiliate early in this process?	Will the small groups be mixed or random?		
5/28/2023 13:37:53	From information I have accumulated below is apparently the direction of the Methodist church if we don't disaffiliate. How much of this is correct or is this just political information to persuade congregations to vote for disaffiliating. Topics in the next question	Progressive Church Culturally Driven Canon is open to accept new revelations Define your own truth Jesus is A way No need for temperance Sins liberally defined Political action for change Marriage is between two persons God created an infinite number of genders	I won't be able to attend the Church meeting at 4 p.m. on June 11th. Will this be streamed on You Tube.	What is the cost of disaffiliation?	
5/28/2023 16:28:12	Our question regarding this matter is twofold. The first question relates to the United Methodist Church's view of homosexuality. Does the church no longer view a homosexual lifestyle as a sin? If the answer to that question is "yes", then how can the church biblically justify the recognition of same-sex marriage ceremonies and openly gay clergy within the church?	If the answer to the aforementioned question is "no" (meaning the church no longer sees the homosexual lifestyle as a sin), then on the basis of what new biblical interpretation did the UMC change its doctrine regarding this subject?	I'm sorry if these questions come across as pointed or confrontational, because that is truly not our intention. Our concern in this matter is that we want to know that our church hasn't changed its stance on a major issue purely for the sake of being politically correct. As stated earlier, we would simply like to know that this change has some biblical basis, and if this is (hopefully) the case, we would like to have that biblical basis explained during the June 11th meeting.		

5/28/2023 17:59:36	Why has the UMC decided to ignore scriptural authority regarding marriage and human sexuality? Wesley insisted scripture is the first authority and contains the only measure whereby all other truth is tested. The Book of Discipline states "grounded in Scripture, informed by Christian tradition, enlivened in experience, and tested by reason". Scripture is the foundation for all else. So why is the UMC going against scripture? Marriage - blessed by GOD, since the beginning of time has been between a Man and a Woman.				
6/1/2023 17:11:21	Is there a deadline by this December, or you can't get out?	Why is it that the ones that don't want to follow the Book of Discipline are forcing the churches that follow the BoD out of UMC? Instead of leaving themselves?			
6/2/2023 13:53:16	I have heard it said that Bethel cannot financially afford to disassociate from the United Methodist Church due to the value of the church buildings and property. Is there any truth to this?				
6/2/2023 15:45:41	What are the key theological issues that is causing this schism in the United Methodist Church?	Shouldn't Bethel form a committee or task force this year of Bethel members to study and coordinate the education and information to Bethel members on this important issue? If not, then why not?	When will there be not just verbal information, but written information presented to the members of Bethel in a clear format about the various points of view on both sides on this important issue? If there are currently no plans to do this, then why not or will this be done later this year?	In addition to the Presbyterian ministers scheduled to address Bethel later this year, are there any plans to have a Methodist minister or maybe even some key lay persons from another SC UMC that went thru the disaffiliation process this year come and talk at Bethel this year too? If not, then why not?	Why are we only having one Methodist pastor come and talk about the scripture or biblical background to Bethel? Why not more, maybe have two or three presentations maybe on different days by different pastors presenting different points of view on this issue?
6/2/2023 21:45:38	I've read articles written by the pastor who will speak on Aug 20 at Bethel. Since this pastor leans progressive, could we also have a speaker from a more traditional Methodist viewpoint such as Rev Jeff Kersey from Mt. Horeb?	It seems odd that those churches who agree with the Discipline are the churches who have to disaffiliate. Shouldn't those churches who disagree with the current discipline be the ones who must disaffiliate?	Obviously some churches and UMC conferences have disregarded requirements of the Discipline. Why has that been allowed to take place without penalty?	Why is the financial cost of disaffiliation so extreme, especially while some churches have disregarded directives from the Discipline without any cost?	

6/4/2023 14:06:57	Do you believe that the current practices within the General Conference are being shaped by political pressure from social justice groups?	In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Is this thinking being challenged through current Methodism?			
6/4/2023 15:24:51	Since James Griffeth is a very progressive speaker, who will be a more traditional speaker to offer a balanced perspective? Could we please ask the minister from Mt Horeb to come and speak???	Will there be a handout of ALL questions and answers after the meeting on June 11? There should be to show transparency and to address all questions since I am sure there will not be time to do so. Ok, obviously, to group very similar questions.	Given the lack of leadership provided by the UMC Bishops on enforcing the current discipline, what changes will be made to control adherence to the discipline going forward? It appears that they have no control; therefore, the church is out of control - I see NO discussion on gaining any control.	How are you holding up to all of these questions? I want you to know how much I appreciate and love your guidance and willingness to seek information from all and respond. I offer my help if needed to assist.	
6/4/2023 15:45:01	My understanding is if we remain a UMC the Book of Discipline will be changed to allow Methodist ministers who are homosexuals to serve our church as pastors. Also, if we remain in the UMC homosexuals will be allowed to marry in our church and be married by our Methodist minister. If we choose to disaffiliate, the Book of Discipline will remain as it is now and no homosexual ministers will serve as pastors nor will homosexuals be allowed to married by our minister in our sanctuary. Is my understanding of the choice we have to make as members of Bethel correct? Thanks for you answer.				
6/4/2023 17:32:23	Has any UMC church in the SC Conference challenged the Trust Clause in court?	Bethel existed for 112 years before the UMC was formed. In that time the members of the congregation paid for the property, built all previous and current sanctuaries and educational buildings and paid for all operating costs, maintenance, insurance, etc. Despite the Trust Clause, how can the UMC justify taking our property if the majority decide to disaffiliate? Technical legality doesn't make it right.	Are those present at a disaffiliation vote who abstain counted as part of the number present?	Can Bethel take an anonymous straw poll asking members to identify as Traditional, Centrist or Progressive?	It is clear in scripture that God designed marriage, not society nor government. Scripture tells us that marriage is between one man and one woman. How can anyone justify any other definition of marriage as being blessed by God?

6/4/2023 17:41:48	Since science cannot tell us when God bestows a soul on a new life, and God has not told us, how can anyone presume to make that decision and declare when a new life is a person? How can the UMC Council of Bishops, including our SC Conference Bishop, denounce the overturning of Roe vs. Wade?	Why is there no action taken by the UMC when a pastor or bishop, who swore an oath to uphold the Book of Discipline, openly violates it or states they will not follow certain sections?	Can we invite a conservative, traditional pastor to speak on what he views the correct understanding of scripture to be?	If a motion is made in Church Council, can the vote to wait until the 2024 GC to start our discernment process be discussed and the vote re-taken?	Why does the Church council get to make that decision for the whole congregation? It should be a congregational decision.
6/4/2023 19:59:12	Please explain the financial implications for disaffiliating at this time.	Please explain the benefits of waiting for the UMC annual conference decision before moving forward.			
6/5/2023 13:14:03	Because the UMC is a connectional denomination, are we, through our apportionments, funding the salaries of LGBTQ clergy?	There have been well-documented examples of UMC clergy throughout the USA clearly not holding to our most fundamental tenets of faith. Although it may currently seem removed from us, isn't it possible that we can experience that same teaching in SC?	Jesus does not use the specific word "homosexual" in his teachings, but when addressing the Pharisees on divorce, he is very clear, referring to Genesis 1:27 about the definition of marriage between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-5). How should we reconcile this answer with inclusive marriage of LGBTQ persons in the UMC?	What is your stance on universal salvation?	
6/5/2023 13:36:36	I've read articles written by James Ellis Griffith, who will speak on Aug 20 at Bethel, leading to my complete opposition to his invitation. Since this pastor leans ultra leftist, could we also have a speaker from a more traditional Methodist viewpoint such as Rev Jeff Kersey from Mt. Horeb?	Shouldn't those churches who disagree with the current book of discipline be the ones who must disaffiliate?	Why have our ministers waited until June of 2023 to begin discussions and discernment, while most other SC UMC congregations began the process last year or before?	Why are we holding informational sessions outside of normal church hours when attendance would be at its highest?	To avoid a conflict of interest with our ministers can we develop a committee of congregants on both sides of the issues, to guide the discernment process?
6/5/2023 14:51:42	Why do churches who vote to disaffiliate have to pay 10% of their assets to the SC annual conference? What will the conference do with this money?	Is human sexuality the only issue causing the schism in the UMC? Are there issues concerning the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God?	Why is there no accountability or enforcement of the Book of Discipline for the election of two openly gay and lesbian bishops in the UMC Western Jurisdiction?	Rev Griffith's interviews and publications are progressive in nature. If he is invited to speak to the Bethel congregation, should not a pastor with conservative views be invited to speak on the same subject? And preferably at the same meeting.	Should not the Bethel Church Council form a "Way Forward Committee" to develop an educational program for members so that they can make decisions on remaining with the UMC or disaffiliating?
6/5/2023 14:55:26	Why is the UMC becoming more and more progressive (liberal)?				
6/5/2023 15:55:10	How will the vote ballot be worded?	Will all the US National ballots be worded the same?			

6/5/2023 17:06:52		Will those discussing and making decisions include relevant representative age groups.? Grandparents, parents of children (formative years - preschoolers, grade schoolers, and of course, teens). Including educators of these youth would also be invaluable. Sadly, these issues have directly affected all of the above age groups.			
6/5/2023 21:05:15	Has anyone accurately calculated the dollar value required for Bethel to disaffiliate? If not, why not? If this has been calculated, what is this dollar amount and what is the breakdown on how it was determined?	If Bethel successfully votes to disaffiliate but is unable to come up with the required dollar amount, what happens then?			
6/5/2023 21:57:06	I'm interested in the financial impact on both sides of the disaffiliation.	What happens to the name "Bethel?"			
6/6/2023 12:28:55	What exactly is the disaffiliation process of the UMC?	What are the major issues or reasons of the UMC that is causing some churches in S.C. to go through the disaffiliation process?	Why has there been such a delay in providing information on disaffiliation to the members of Bethel UMC? We see that many churches in S.C. have completed the process except for the vote by the Conference.	Will the Bethel congregation have the opportunity to hear speakers from both the progressive and traditional views of the issues concerning disaffiliation?	What will be the financial costs for Bethel to disaffiliate from the UMC?
6/6/2023 14:17:45	Is 2/3 majority required to keep the building? And what is there is a tie?				
6/7/2023 6:28:40	From scripture, what is God's view on homosexuality?	To assume everyone knows The conservative side of this issue doesn't treat every congregant fairly. Since Brad said he would not preach about this, Shouldn't we here from a conservative speaker on this issue?			
6/7/2023 12:51:50	How many Methodist churches voted to postpone a vote until 2024? 2025?	Is the UMC going to allow disaffiliation after 2023 when the current plan expires?			
6/7/2023 19:29:08	113 churches were approved for disaffiliation from the UMC at the SCUMC annual conference. How did the Bethel lay delegates and Bethel Pastors vote? (for or against)?				
6/7/2023 21:20:53	If Bethel decides to leave the UMC will it retain the church property?				
6/8/2023 8:30:43	Will both Progressives and Traditionalists be included, equally, in the decision making and the process and throughout the journey?	Will both Progressives and Traditionalists be included, equally, in the decision making and the process and throughout the journey?			

6/8/2023 10:04:27	Be specific. As of now, Describe the two choices. a.If the church stays as it is now, then ..... b. If our congregation votes to leave, it is because.....				
6/9/2023 21:11:10	Will there be an option for our South Carolina conference to make a decision as a conference separate from UMC?				