

What Are the Benefits?

Benefits of Staying United Methodist	Benefits of Disaffiliation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pastors are appointed by the Bishop (we don't have to look for one independently). This allows for a (mostly) seamless transition without gaps between pastors. ● The UMC does good work through UMCOR, universities, children's homes and our general agencies, which are funded by our apportionments. ● Our apportionments (10% of income to the annual conference and 1.5% to the district) fund a large and supportive network of persons who can assist our churches in doing effective ministry ● For those who affirm same-sex marriage as a God-honoring institution, the discipline will likely be changed within the UMC to <i>allow</i> for same-sex weddings and the ordination of LGBTQ+ pastors, whether or not they are celibate. ● Staying costs nothing. We would not have to pay the annual conference to disaffiliate, a cost of approximately \$197,000. ● The UMC is a "big tent" church, meaning its members and clergy have the freedom to hold diverging views on a variety of doctrinal and theological issues. ● Because the UMC is the largest mainline denomination, there is a strong and robust sense of connectionalism, with global reach, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will have more say in who our pastor will be, and may have longer tenures with a pastor. ● Greater certainty that our pastor aligns with us theologically and missionally. ● Local churches can continue to make financial gifts to entities like UMCOR, UM Children's home, etc. ● An independent church uses all their income however they see fit, without any apportionments. ● A church that affiliates with the GMC would pay 50% less in apportionments to support a much leaner denominational structure. ● If independent, YUMC would could follow their convictions on a biblical, Christian sexual ethic. ● If YUMC joins another Wesleyan/Methodist denomination, the doctrine around human sexuality would be unchanged, and their pastor- regardless of sexual orientation or attraction- will be expected to abide by the standard of faithfulness in heterosexual marriage or celibacy in singleness. ● Unlike many United Methodist Churches, Yorktown UMC does not need to take out a loan in order to disaffiliate. ● The trust clause would no longer apply, meaning we would own our property and assets outright. Currently, the annual conference ultimately holds all property rights. ● We would not need denominational approval to buy/sell/alter/mortgage our properties. ● We can align with a denomination that holds firmly to historic Christian teaching and orthodox theology. ● YUMC could join with another denomination with similar connectional values, and a Wesleyan heritage (Free Methodist, Wesleyan, Global

and name recognition amidst the larger public.

- Since many neighboring churches are choosing to disaffiliate from the UMC, remaining may distinguish us from our closest Methodist neighbors, and we could be a prophetic witness within the denomination.
- The UMC has a strong commitment to social justice. The General Board of Church and Society, the church's advocacy agency for issues of justice, equality and peace, has offices on Capitol Hill in Washington and at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.
- In the short term, very little will change in the life of our church. We don't have to change the name, the signage, or adjust to the polity of a new denomination. We would also be spared from making a second decision about which (if any) denomination we would align with.
- No vote is needed to remain in the UMC, eliminating a measure of anxiety from the congregation.
- We will continue to have the episcopal leadership of Bishops, and a robust credentialing process for our clergy. Independent churches have no outside source of support or accountability. The local church doesn't have to administer any of this.
- The UMC currently guarantees full-time appointments for ordained elders, with minimum salaries, benefits and housing. For elders, this is a tremendous benefit and incentive to be part of the UMC.

Methodist, Nazarene, etc.)

- Since many of our neighboring churches have (or will) disaffiliate, there is already a network of like minded Methodists who we can partner with, and encourage one another.
- Other Methodist expressions are less politically-minded, and our apportionment dollars would be directed towards on-the-ground ministry.
- The UMC is already a church in flux. Restructuring and changes to the doctrine and organization are in process. Disaffiliating gives us greater control our future. If we join the GMC (a new denomination), we would have a voice and vote in shaping it.
- The top-heavy structure of the UMC is financially unsustainable, and the financial stressors (already significant) will only increase- with an unknown impact to local churches.
- We could align with a denomination that also provides support and accountability through bishops, superintendents, and credentialing processes for clergy.
- There is no guaranteed appointment in other Wesleyan/Methodist denominations, which means ineffective pastors would not continue to be cycled through churches. Like other jobs, pastors would have to be effective in their work.