

DISAFFILIATION DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Overview:

The BWC Trustees adopted an activities-based discernment process in May 2022 to identify the common tasks a congregation must complete before a church conference vote can be taken. The process also identifies shared resources that should be made available to the congregation. The ownership for completing these items will be shared between the local church leaders and their district superintendent.

Local Church activity-based discernment items:

1. A viewing of Stay or Go: Real Talk for United Methodists Exploring Their Future
2. Study, *Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church*, (Abingdon Press, 2017). This is a four-week small group study with an impartial approach to the matter at hand.
3. An open forum where safe space is created for questions and answers that have arisen after the aforementioned steps. The forum will include the District Superintendent.
4. The District Superintendent will assist congregants who are interested in transferring their membership to another UMC congregation if their church conference decides to disaffiliate.
5. The general terms and conditions from the Conference Board of Trustees and the calculation of the church's withdrawal liability payment from the Conference Board of Pensions should be shared with all professing members of the congregation.

Local Church shared resources:

6. Disaffiliation Under Paragraph 2553, Book of Discipline (BWC News and Views)
<https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/book-of-discipline-paragraph-2553-provides-information-on-disaffiliation/>
7. Wespath website, video, and FAQs on Disaffiliation and the Unfunded Withdrawal Liability
https://www.wespath.org/about-wespath/wayforwardwespathfaq?mkt_tok=MDc4LUpYUS02NDMAAAGFmFX31aaieM_dJYGHRb_pFA0VMlfnlDrWiucN7EsTg4mbloz0JjsbcpdsetjzluVZ-6FnPHpAOji4CTMbMtxwK03LFjDY2M2HqueGnNyVZu8_9RA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKUjiah8qIM&t=5685s>
<https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5857.pdf>
<https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5857.pdf>
8. Wespath guide to Clergy Withdrawals – Impact on Benefits when Surrendering Credentials
<https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5861.pdf>

