

PERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

Dear Perry United Methodist Church Members:

Your Administrative Board and Finance Committee, along with the Denominational Future Committee (DFC) have worked diligently to prepare our church for the future. The Administrative Board requested that the DFC review all options available to us given anticipated changes to the UMC doctrine. They were also asked, if a recommendation to depart the UMC were made, which Wesleyan/Methodist denomination would align with our beliefs and values. The DFC recommended that we move forward with a vote. The committee further recommended If we choose to depart from the UMC, we should join the Global Methodist Church. Our Administrative Board approved these recommendations and has worked closely with our committees to provide you with all the information you need to make an informed decision.

The Administrative Board and Finance Committee are now seeking your support for a ONE TIME PLEDGE to prepare our church for a departure fee required by the South Georgia Conference should we vote to depart. If the church votes to depart from the UMC we will have a very short window of time to raise the required funds for departure. In order to plan intelligently, we are asking for your pledge at this time. Please review the following summary prepared for you regarding the cost of our contemplated departure.

The cost to the Church for departure/disaffiliation is:

1. The remainder of the current years' apportionments plus one more year, and
2. Unfunded pastors' pension liability

These break down as follows:

1. **2024 APPORTIONMENTS** = \$118,000. Apportionments include what the church pays the conference for missions and outreach programs, etc. We currently pay this monthly at \$9,850/mo. Assuming a successful vote to depart (Vote in July, date to be determined), we will have paid \$69,000. There will be \$49,500 more to be paid for 2024 plus an additional \$118,000 (approximately).
2. **UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITY** – Unfunded pension liability is the funding of retirement costs for pastors. This figure is based on fluctuations in the bond market (interest rates). The Conference will update this amount in June 2024. Prior estimates range from \$650,000 (3/20 – when rates were extremely low) to \$153,000 in September 2022 (rates had risen). We are estimating \$300,000 for this.
3. There will be other costs as well – legal fees, changing of signs, office supplies, etc.

Based on “best guess estimates,” the total cost, if the church votes to depart from the UMC will be approximately \$500,000. This includes 2024 apportions to date. We will have a very short window in which to raise this money.

If we choose to stay with United Methodist Church, there will no departure costs. The cost of a future departure are unknown and can be as much as the current market value of the church property. Note that it is estimated that our property and buildings are currently valued in the range of \$6-\$8 million dollars.

DEPARTURE TIMELINE	
FALL 2023	Fall 2023 – DFC formed, tasked with exploring the ‘WHY’ and options – stay or go –If go –where?
FEBRUARY 2024	DFC recommends departure – join Global MC
THROUGHOUT SPRING 2024	Educate, Educate, Educate
MAY 2024	Announce “Commitment Campaign”
JUNE 18, 2024	Meet with UMC District Superintendent
JUNE 30, 2024	Pledge Cards are due
JULY 2024 Exact Date to be Determined	Church membership votes – stay or depart. If approved, a separate simultaneous vote to join Global.
IF DEPARTURE IS APPROVED	
AUGUST 17 2024	South GA conference approves departure
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024	Pledged Contributions are due
SEPTEMBER 17 2024	“Departure Fee” is due to Conference (plus a host of other paperwork required)

Our Finance Committee has always taken its role very seriously. Apart from the Family Life Center, our church is **DEBT FREE**. We continue to be good stewards of our finances.

This **COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN** is **NOT a multiyear campaign**, we are NOT asking for money to be paid before the vote. If the vote to depart is approved, we will need to have a plan as to how to pay the required fees. All pledges are welcome and encouraged – no matter what amount you can afford. We realize that many are currently in a pledge campaign with our church, and we appreciate your support! This pledge, no matter what amount you can afford – is a **ONE TIME PLEDGE**. If our church votes to depart – we will have a small window in which to raise the funds. Your timely pledge will make a difference in us meeting that deadline. Every pledge matters.

Given that we don’t know how much departure would cost, we believe it’s best to have an open ended campaign. All monies raised in excess of the departure costs will specifically be allocated to PUMC for much needed **building improvements**, i.e., air conditioner and roof improvements.

You will be **given a breakdown on the monies assigned** for each building improvement project.

All pledges make a difference - no matter the amount. Below is a pledge card, please fill out and mail this card to PO Box 73, Perry, Ga 31069 or place in the offering plate. You may also make a pledge online at www.perryumc.org/give. **Pledge cards are due by June 30, 2024.**

We fully understand the financial constraints that affect many of our members. The Administrative Board and Finance Committee want you to be reminded that our **financial secretary is the only one that knows what is donated by individual members. All pledged contributions are due no later than September 1, 2024.**

Thank you for your commitment to our church family! Respectfully,

Perry United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Finance Committee

Rob Tuggle, Administrative Board Chair

Kelly Hillis, Finance Committee Chair