



Oklahoma Conference
of The United Methodist Church

The Crossroads District

Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Powers, Superintendent

July 7, 2023

Dear Church of the Servant:

It was never my intention for Church of the Servant's request for another vote for disaffiliation to end up in a lawsuit. As I stated on June 22, we are currently in consultation as outlined in the Disaffiliation Agreement from the Oklahoma Conference Board of Trustees. A part of that consultation was receiving questions from the congregation that evening. These were submitted anonymously on 3x5 index cards and are reproduced as we received them (without correction to spelling or punctuation).

Many of the questions are clearly for the Oklahoma Conference and many of the questions were for Church of the Servant's Board of Governance. Some of the questions would have opinions from both entities.

On June 22, it was apparent that we would be unable to answer the volume of questions we had received. In my verbal agreement with acting chairman, Jim Farris, that evening, we each stated that we would answer the questions addressed to us and to release the answers to one another and to the congregation.

Including the sub-questions, we had over 200 to process, and so it has taken some time as we wanted to make sure our Conference Chancellor looked them over as we had already been threatened with legal action.

On Monday, July 3, we were notified that Church of the Servant was taking us to court. As we have just now received the answers to the questions directed to the Board of Governance, the answers from the Oklahoma Conference do not reflect anything the Board of Governance may have written.

From the questions received, it is quite apparent that Church of the Servant is not of one mind on the direction of the church's future.

I continue to pray for God's peace to rest upon Church of the Servant and our process.

In Christ,

Sam Powers

Crossroads District Superintendent

QUESTIONS FROM 06/22/2023 CONSULTATION

Questions for the Oklahoma Annual Conference

1. Is Dr. Mitchell on “leave”, “sabbatical”, “resigned as minister”, explain please.

Dr. Mitchell had asked and received a voluntary leave of absence from the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church. This was set for July 1 at his request, when a normal appointment change in our conference occurs.

During a voluntary leave of absence, a minister would receive no compensation from the church and has no right under The Book of Discipline to receive compensation from the church under this designation.

On June 15, he withdrew from ordained office in The United Methodist Church, thus terminating his relationship with The United Methodist Church and effectively removing him from the need to go under leave of absence.

- a. When effective?

His withdrawal from Church of the Servant officially started June 15.

- b. If he has left UMC, what compensations is he entitled?

He is not entitled to any compensation from The United Methodist Church or Church of the Servant beyond his effective date of withdrawal or June 15. He retains all of the pension that he has earned throughout his ministerial career.

2. Can D.S. Powers assure our church board that if we meet all stated requirements for disaffiliation, including a 2/3 vote, that he will recommend disaffiliation to the conference meeting voting to approve or disapprove disaffiliation?

The process of disaffiliation is complex and requires cooperation from the church leadership. The Board of Trustees, not the District Superintendent, submits its report for Annual Conference action. If the conditions above were in place, I cannot unequivocally state what I would recommend until the process was complete. The technicalities can be achieved but how a church gets there often varies wildly. One of the main things I would seek to know would be whether the Fruits of the Spirit have been on display during the process. And while critique is an important piece of discernment, I would seek to find if the positives of remaining United Methodist were also lifted up to the congregation by leadership.

3. If we do not disaffiliate, will drag queens be allowed to perform in our church and teach our children their views on sex in Sunday School?

No. The drag queen reference may refer to the person self-named Penny Cost who is in another conference and is not credentialed clergy.

4. Is the UMC proposing changes to the Book of Discipline to allow same sex marriages & pastors of the LGBTQ+ community?

Individuals in The United Methodist Church have submitted legislation seeking for these changes as they have in the past 50 years. Any United Methodist member may submit legislation to the General Conference. While all submissions of legislation are addressed by the General Conference, most legislation submitted is either amended or does not pass. Whether or not our current stance that is restrictive will be loosened in 2024 remains to be seen.

5. In our churchwide charge conference Sam stated that the Chapel service at Duke and the Drag Queen Ms. PennyCost were “extreme” examples, not relevant to our “region”. 2 ½ weeks following that charge conf. the OCU Chapel Service was entitled “Queer Theology”. Is it still your stance Rev. Powers that this liberal theology is not present in our region?

Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe, a United Church of Christ pastor and professor at Oklahoma City University preached in a regular University Worship service on Thursday, September 22, 2022. The service was entitled University Worship. However, Dr. Wolfe’s sermon title was, “Exile, Lament and Queer Biblical Interpretation.” Between the worship service held at the Duke Chapel and the one held at the OCU Chapel, the Duke service was more extreme in its interpretation. More liberal theology can be found in Oklahoma but the expressions vary. Dr. Wolfe’s sermon basically sought for more inclusion in the church regarding LGBTQ persons. This continues to be debated in the UMC but Dr. Wolfe’s UCC tradition is more inclusive.

6. The Methodist Church divided over the issue of slavery because it failed to focus on scripture v Wesley’s focus on holiness. Why has the UMC chosen to repeat history by focusing on human sexuality instead of a call to prayer, seeking God and sanctification which is our journey of shaping our lives to look like Christ not culture.

Within the United States, The United Methodist Church is made up largely of American citizens. Within the denomination, issues that we deal with as a country are often dealt with inside the church as well.

7. Doesn’t the focus on human sexuality unfairly single out a group over all other struggles within the nature of mankind?
 - a. Shouldn’t we be debating Scripture instead?

No matter how one decides over the issue of human sexuality, Christians with differing perspectives on human sexuality are able to unite under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Married couples disagree on this issue and somehow remain married.

8. Why did UMC choose to pose the disaffiliation question about human sexuality instead of the real question – who do we believe Jesus to be?

This was the legislation offered at the 2019 General Conference. It passed by a slim margin meaning that there was a large opposition to it. Nevertheless, as it is now part of our polity, human sexuality is the only issue by which a congregation may disaffiliate.

9. What is the reason church's are disaffiliating?

The reason allowable by the Book of Discipline for disaffiliating is around a dissatisfaction with the denomination's stance on homosexuality. Originally, this was for progressive churches that wanted to be more inclusive regarding weddings and ordinations of LGBTQ persons. However, the Judicial Council also ruled that reasons of conscience from churches need not be addressed which has opened the door to churches leaving who may agree with the current stance of the Discipline which is prohibitive of said weddings and ordinations.

10. With disaffiliation what happens to the church property and building and what are the financial issues?

When a church disaffiliates, they retain their property and most assets. They must pay their portion of the unfunded pension and health liabilities as well as up to three years of apportionments. This is dependent upon how much of the 2022 and 2023 apportionments they have or have not paid.

11. Subject: Disaffiliation vote: If a second vote is approved, will there potentially be two votes again if someone makes a motion for a re-vote

There is the possibility of a vote for reconsideration after the first ballot. The motion for reconsideration must be made by someone who voted with the prevailing side. In other words, if first ballot fails to meet the required 2/3 threshold for disaffiliation, someone who voted to remain United Methodist could make the motion for reconsideration. If the first ballot passes, someone who voted to disaffiliate could make the motion for reconsideration. Church of the Servant is the only church in Oklahoma out of those voting for disaffiliation that had a second ballot due to reconsideration.

- a. There is info that the at the Sept 11 vote, the person that made the motion was Jessica Kings mother who lives in Bartlesville, came here just to vote, and had been a COS member for less than 2 days true?

In our record of the meeting, the person who made the motion for reconsideration was Kathy Cain who joined the church on 8/21/22, three weeks prior to the vote.

12. Can COS remain a Methodist church just not UMC if we disaffiliate?

Yes, there are other Methodist denominations that Church of the Servant can join if they choose to disaffiliate. However, remaining independent and declaring the church to be Methodist doesn't reflect the deeply connectional nature of the Methodist movement.

- a. We voted on Sept 11, 2022 – conference is Oct 13-14 – seems like we squeeze in for a 2nd vote on 2nd option. Yes?

In order for churches requesting disaffiliation and the Conference Board of Trustees to complete all of the preliminary requirements for disaffiliation prior to one of three Special Sessions of the Annual Conference to consider ratification of these requests deadlines have been and are

necessary. According to the disaffiliation process outlined by the Conference Board of Trustees, all church conference votes for disaffiliation must be completed by September 6, 2023 in preparation for the upcoming Special Session to be held October 13-14, 2023. The Disaffiliation Agreement of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church states: *“In the event the vote to disaffiliate fails to obtain the necessary two-thirds (2/3) support in the vote, then the Local Church cannot again request such a conference and vote without the approval of and consultation with the District Superintendent.”*

13. Who all decides if we get another vote?

- a. When will decision be made?
- b. Is there an appeal process?

As in the previous question, the district superintendent will decide after consultation if another vote will occur. The decision will be made when the consultation has concluded of which answering these questions is a part. There is not an appeal process for this decision.

14. Are we getting another vote?

We are still in the consultation phase as outlined in the disaffiliation process. Once this phase is finished, an announcement from the district superintendent as to another vote will be shared. Also see the response to Question 12a.

15. Why won't the UMC, (Sam & Bishop Nunn) allow Church of the Servant a vote? Very Simple.

A decision has not been announced as we are still in the consultation process. If it is not allowed, rationale will be provided. Also see the response to Question 12a.

16. Will there be a second vote in 2023?

See the response to Question 12a.

17. The question at hand are we having a revote?

See the response to Question 12a.

18. Can we vote?

See the response to Question 12a.

19. So will be allowed to have vote after Sept 11 (?) and the result go to the conference in October.

See the response to Question 12a.

20. Will the Conference approve a date when it will approve us having a second vote.

See the response to Question 12a.

21. Why is the UMC so fearful of allowing another vote. It would remove my hostility of the UMC regardless of the outcome.

Our first General Rule from John Wesley is to do no harm. It doesn't appear that the first vote helped Church of the Servant grow spiritually, missionally or numerically.

22. You say a vote can divide the church. So, is your suggestion that those with strong opinions just stay quiet and deal with situations that go against their beliefs?

People of faith disagree over all kinds of issues without walking away from one another. The Lordship of Jesus Christ allows us to overcome our differences.

23. I've heard that Church of the Servant is not going to actually be eligible to have another vote this year?

a. Is that true?

b. What is the reason?

The timeline for a disaffiliation vote for eligibility at the special conference in October is September 6. This is not within a year of the failed disaffiliation attempt in 2022. According to the disaffiliation process, if a church seeks permission inside the initial anniversary of the first vote, it must request consultation with the district superintendent of which this is a part and then may or may not be granted permission by the district superintendent to vote prior to the first anniversary of the first vote.

24. I think Sam questioned why Servant had not sought counsel to vote again in Nov. 2022. He seemed to imply that because we weren't ready to discuss just a few weeks after the September vote, we couldn't talk about it anymore. Lots of things have changed – deadlines, meeting dates etc. Why can't we ask for a second vote in alignment with new deadlines?

Church of the Servant does have the right to pursue disaffiliation through the request of the district superintendent for another vote. The November charge conference was over two months after the vote in September and was brought up to show that there had been no indication until recently that they sought to vote again. As the conference has received communication from the members of Church of the Servant, it seems as if much of the congregation were surprised at this intent as well.

25. Why would the conference deny our request for another vote?

a. What harm would it be to let us vote?

b. Makes no sense & only adds to the discourse.

If Church of the Servant has become an inhospitable environment to those seeking to remain United Methodist, it may be that the congregation is smaller than it was at the last vote. This does not seem to fulfill the mission of the church.

Many of those who voted to remain in the denomination and have remained faithful would be harmed if another vote were allowed because it would seem as if the conference had abandoned them.

26. Very simply put, why would the Church of the Servant not be granted another vote to ascertain what the congregation wants to do. Not voting because of a technicality is very counterproductive and smacks of disingenuousness.

See the response to Question 25.

27. Why won't you let us vote? It is obvious from the amount of people here that we want to vote. Our board who represents us wants us to vote. It is our church not yours.

We are in the process of consultation and the possibility of another vote has yet to be determined.

28. So do we miss the year deadline or not – to have a 2nd vote.

Yes, the deadline is not available for Church of the Servant to automatically vote again. In order to vote again, consultation with and the approval of an additional vote by the district superintendent is required. Responding to these questions by the Oklahoma Conference and the Board of Governance is a part of that process.

29. Please start at the beginning – is the problem? We voted in Sept – we have to wait 1 year to request to revote (think this is where I'm wrong) So if we wait a year it is Sept 2023 & then we don't have the 30 days required to turn in paperwork before Oct conference. I'm lost somewhere!

Yes, that is accurate. See the response to Question 28.

30. Why were we not able to have a second vote before we lost our pastoral staff?

We only recently became aware of Church of the Servant's interest in another vote. A vote was not requested before Dr. Mitchell requested leave of absence. Mr. Shrauner withdrew from ordained credentials within The United Methodist Church at the same time that the conference was notified of a request to seek another vote on disaffiliation.

31. Why weren't we offered a vote earlier before Matthew decided to leave?
c. Should we trust this next vote to be done properly?

See Question 30. If allowed to vote again, the rules of the annual conference as detailed in the response to Question 12a will be followed.

32. They are skipping the page where we asked the Chancellor about the possibility of a note & were told no.

There was an inquiry from the Board of Governance to the Chancellor on May 17 to outline the possibilities of another vote. The Chancellor related the disaffiliation process which only allows for another vote in consultation and with the approval of the district superintendent. These were only questions about the possibility of another vote and there was no formal request made to the district superintendent in the communication.

33. Please explain what we are voting for

- a. What happens if we disaffiliate?
- b. What happens if we stay?

The vote requested is for the Church of the Servant to take another ballot to determine if they would remain United Methodist or not.

If the church disaffiliates, it would self-govern with no supervision unless it later determines that it will join another denomination. If the church disaffiliates it would also lose the protection of the denomination on legal issues such as the recent Boy Scout settlement

If the church stays United Methodist, we will put disaffiliation behind us as an option and seek to move forward in ministry together.

34. How can we avoid the chaos of the votes and ensure a fair and comprehensive vote?

We follow the current rules of the annual conference with regards to a vote which include balancing 3 speeches for and 3 against the motion. The ballots are only given out to registered voters. In the September vote, the conference had requested a visitor's section which was agreed upon. Unfortunately, on the day of the vote, no such section was established and so we had the chaos of re-registering after the initial ballot. In any future votes, there would be a visitor section established which would help avoid the need to re-register. All votes were counted and verified by members of the conference and an equal number of members of Church of the Servant.

35. Why won't you allow updating the member rolls so PAST member can't dictate the direction of our church! It is completely wrong.

Membership rolls are updated at every charge conference. There are special directions for removing members from the rolls that must be followed under paragraph 228.

36. If/when we have another vote what list of eligible voters be taken from.

- a. And when will we know how many voters there will be?

If another vote is allowed, the eligible voters are taken from the official membership records of the church. These change each year at charge conference which happens in the fall. They also change as people join the church, transfer to other churches and pass away. There is a process to exit non-active members under paragraph 228 but Church of the Servant did not begin this process at last year's charge conference. The church must submit their final membership list for approval from the district superintendent at least ten days prior to the date of the vote.

- b. Is the consensus of the board to disaffiliate or not?

The majority of the Board of Governance voted to request another vote prior to the anniversary of the last vote so that it may be considered at the Oklahoma Conference special meeting in October.

37. How do we keep the “non-attending” members from voting again?

Under the rules of the disaffiliation process, we are not allowed to distinguish between active and inactive members. With so many participating online after the onset of COVID, it is difficult to determine the precise participation of a church’s membership.

38. How will the vote be accurate for the congregation if we have people coming in that has not been coming for more than a year.

See the response to Questions 36a and 37.

39. How can people who no longer attend our church vote? Recruitment of people should not be allowed.

See the response to Questions 36a and 37.

40. We know many people left after 1st vote – the total congregation was not represented due to that.

There were less people that participated on ballot 2 than on ballot 1 on September 11 last year. However, the threshold needed to disaffiliate was not met on either ballot and so Church of the Servant remained United Methodist. So even though less people were represented in the second ballot, the congregation reached the same decision which actually confirms the first ballot.

41. Question? Why not have a second vote since many voters left after the the second vote last time. With a close vote this seem essential

See the response to Question 40.

42. If a ballot is left blank is that ballot recorded as a yes or no, rather than being dismissed as a no vote & not counted either way.

a. If considered a vote, why was that never addressed to any of the church members prior to the previous vote?

b. If it is considered and counted which section is the bylaws is that stated?

At the vote in September, the district superintendent did point out that because paragraph 2553 reads that 2/3 of the ballots must be in favor of disaffiliation, abstentions practically function as “no” votes. At Church of the Servant’s vote, the count did not include or record blank ballots either way. We are bound to follow this process from the Book of Discipline and have followed it.

43. What effect did your allowing voters to leave between the votes have on the outcome.

We cannot hold voters present if they desire to leave. The second ballot actually confirmed the first result even though there were less voters present.

44. When we voted, you told us we could vote one year and one day later, why did you change that?

Because of the lateness of its vote in 2022, COS is in the same position as local churches who conducted their first disaffiliation vote in 2023. The deadlines for the October 2023 special annual conference were established well before COS gave any indication to the DS or annual conference leadership that it was seeking a second church conference to vote on disaffiliation, and in fact its clergy leadership indicated that they would not be seeking such a second vote. See answer to Question 64.

45. The questions on the ballot were hard to understand – yes/no was not clearly spelled out. (Especially by older people!)

The district superintendent sought to be clear that a yes vote was to affirm the motion to disaffiliate and leave The United Methodist Church. A no vote was to remain United Methodist.

46. Has the 2nd vote granted to other UMC set a legal precedence for another vote at Servant?

No.

47. Why did the conference announce Randy being moved without consulting our Board and our Congregation to see what we wanted?

The conference did consult with Church of the Servant and had multiple interviews with Mr. Shrauner prior to making the decision to offer him an appointment in a different church which he initially accepted.

48. I know folks in favor of disaffiliation because they believe restrictions based on Human Sexuality are not enforced. Others in favor because of those restrictions. Isn't this phenomenon problematic? Likewise problem of votes against disaffiliation suffer same impact.

The actual reasons people have for disaffiliation and for remaining United Methodist are myriad. There are many families who disagree with each other around human sexuality. It is complex.

49. Why would the UMC want to keep Church of the Servant if a majority want to leave? It is really about money in my opinion not human sexuality.

We believe there are many within Church of the Servant who desire to remain as United Methodists and the conference is supportive of those with this position. Church of the Servant fits well within the Oklahoma Conference's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in the Oklahoma City area.

50. If a church disaffiliates & is ratified like St. Luke's – what procedure is required as to church ownership? Building, land, etc.?

If ratified, the disaffiliation process as outlined on the conference website at <https://www.okumc.org/disaffiliation> contains all the information on the transfer of building and land.

51. What & Who will own Church of Servant building & property in the event of disaffiliation?

If the church determines to be an independent church in the event of disaffiliation, it will own the property. If the church determines to join another denomination it may be subject to a Trust Clause which is very common. How that is set up depends upon the governance that is adopted by the church. Most governance boards continue with the same people in leadership following disaffiliation.

52. How can we retain Skyler & Heather regardless of whether we have a progressive pastor?

Staffing issues are usually addressed by the senior pastor appointed to the congregation in consultation with the Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Committee of the church.

53. When can the new ministers decide to abolish the Board of Governance?

The members of Board of Governance is set by the Charge Conference each fall. We have returned to a separate nominations committee as the nominating body for the members of this board.

54. Mr. Nunn obviously disregarded the wishes of the board, and therefore the membership of the church saying, "I think this is best for this church.", by what reason did he do this? If he did this without trying to see why the board wanted to continue with our present minister, why would he want to give the congregation an opportunity to express their opinion on not being affiliated with an organization that won't allow the churches wishes. If Mr. Nunn wouldn't listen to our church's wishes for Randy, why do we think he would want to listen to us about disaffiliation?

Bishop Nunn prayerfully considered this decision after he and his cabinet had multiple interviews with Mr. Shrauner as well as listening to the wishes of the Staff & Pastor Parish Relations arm of the Board of Governance. It was determined that the wisest course toward Church of the Servant's healing and remaining solidly United Methodist would be under new leadership.

55. Is it the conference position that the superintendent has complete authority to determine what is in the best interest of the Church of the Servant? What factors is he to consider? Are the factors listed anywhere? – Judge Richard Kirby, Ret. (sp?)

The Book of Discipline gives the supervisory role to the district superintendent who serves on behalf of the bishop assigned to that particular conference. The district superintendent must operate within the guidelines of The Book of Discipline which is adjusted by the General Conference every four years. Factors that the Crossroads District Superintendent would consider are:

How is the church reaching the neighborhoods around it?

Are they reaching younger families?

Has the worship attendance been increasing or decreasing?

Have there been baptisms and professions of faith each year?

What are the mission opportunities offered at this church?

Is leadership for the wider church being lifted up?

Is the church connectional? In other words, does it support the other ministries of United Methodism?

What kind of Christian education opportunities are being offered by the staff?

Do I see the church supporting our camps and our campus ministries?

56. What are the reasons the conference wants the Servant to remain UMC other than financial? Trust has been compromised between the Servant and the board. How can we trust the vote question and ratification process?

Church of the Servant has historically been a vibrant congregation in a growing area of Oklahoma City. My hope is that Church of the Servant will become more connectional in its ministries as a United Methodist Church, offering leadership in areas of mission, camps, worship and evangelism. Church of the Servant has the capacity to be a hub to smaller churches which would widen the Servant's reach into other communities. Church of the Servant should be regularly sending people into leadership in ministry – as lay and clergy across our conference.

The vote in September was carefully monitored with volunteers from both the church and the conference counting votes and certifying the results. The whole re-registration process, while a pain for those in attendance, signified our commitment to a fair process where we would know that only registered members of the church were voting.

57. With the disaffiliation of the state's largest congregations, isn't the conference's reluctance to allowing us to have another vote more about their own survival and less about what our congregation wants.

The Oklahoma Annual Conference will survive with or without Church of the Servant. However, we prefer to continue into the future with Church of the Servant as a valuable partner. We believe that we also offer tangible benefits to Church of the Servant. Primarily, being a part of a connectional church allows for greater mission opportunities.

58. Explain what & why disaffiliation means

- a. Who pays salary if disaffiliated & bills
- b. Why is it necessary?

Disaffiliation means that a church leaves the denomination – specifically in our case, The United Methodist Church. The local church now oversees its own bills and finances and would continue to do that. In this instance, disaffiliation is allowable over the issue of the denomination's position on homosexuality. Currently, some churches are disaffiliating because they want the denomination to allow gay weddings and ordinations. Of the 84 (out of 465) churches in Oklahoma that have disaffiliated, 83 have claimed that they wished to sever ties with The United Methodist Church because they believe that The United Methodist Church is moving to allow these things in the future. Whether this happens or not remains to be seen. For more than 50 years, changes made to our church law have been more, rather than less restrictive.

Why disaffiliate?

See the response to Question 58.

59. How are COS Board of Governance members elected or appointed? (Not for tonight)

All leadership is elected annually at the Charge Conference that is overseen by the district superintendent. Since last fall, leadership has been nominated by a separate nominations committee. Prior to that, the Board of Governance was self-nominating which is against the Book of Discipline.

60. Tim Travers has been taking cash & checks from members and non-members for prayer session w/out declaring it as income, no SS/Fed/State/workman's comp. Taken out with these payments. Does the UMC approve of this practice. This is a horrible practice.

We asked Rev. Travers about this question and here was his response: "In reading this question, I really don't know what the person is referring to. To my knowledge, no person (member or not) has ever given money to me (whether cash, check, or otherwise) for a "prayer session" as the question references. I never charge someone for pastoral counseling, pastoral visits, bringing Holy Communion, visiting, or praying with them or anything like that. Those duties, as the needs arise, I consider to be an inherent part of my job as an ordained pastor on staff at a church. There has been the rare occasion on which a person wanted to make a donation to the

church because of the pastoral counseling they received from me & the spiritual advice I provided...in which case, I always tell them that I do not charge for such services, but if they really want to give to the church, they can do so with a donation as a check to Church of the Servant. If that ever occurs, I promptly give that donation to the church controller & explain that it is a donation check that the person wanted me to turn in to the church finance office. As is often the case with a funeral or memorial service, a family may want to give an honorarium to the officiating pastor. However, even if that is given in cash, I make sure I report it as income, according to tax rules.”

61. What is the rationale of changing our doctrine after all these years and asking for a 1/3 vote to ratify it? Why not ask for a 2/3 vote? Corporate has created a mess and you want it to be approved by 1/3 of the membership.

So far, our polity has become more conservative rather than progressive at each General Conference. The idea behind the legislation was to allow progressive churches to leave. It was thought that a decision as serious as leaving the denomination should be affirmed by a supermajority of 2/3 of the members of the church. Due to the divisive nature of disaffiliation, my preference would be closer to 90% agreement to disaffiliate which some churches have achieved. However, we are currently bound by the 2/3 ruling.

62. Why did conference move pastors after their vote failed even when they said they would NOT do so. Example: Trevor Smith & Randy Shrauner.

Appointments are normally made annually and each church situation is different. It was never declared that these two clergy would never be moved. It was only after several consultations with Mr. Shrauner that it was decided that it would be less divisive in the long run to offer him another appointment of which he initially accepted.

63. Why did we lose Mathew. We loved him. This is very upsetting.

Dr. Mitchell decided outside of consultation with his district superintendent to take a voluntary leave of absence from the ministry to be effective July 1, 2023. He announced this to the conference in April. On June 15, he decided to forego his leave of absence and simply withdraw from The United Methodist Church by surrendering his credentials. Once again, this was a surprise to the conference.

64. Were Matthew & Randy told their jobs would be in jeopardy if they continued to discuss disaffiliation after the vote?

No, they were not. Both Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Shrauner, independently of one another, voluntarily promised Bishop Nunn, District Superintendent Sam Powers, and Assistant to the Bishop, Joe Harris that they would not lead Church of the Servant to another disaffiliation vote in 2023 because they each thought it would not be in the best interest of Church of the Servant. This was volunteered before Bishop Nunn brought up the subject.

65. Why did Bishop Nunn leave Matthew Mitchell & Randy Shrauner in place at Servant after the failed disaffiliation vote in Sept. 2022?

See the response to Question 64.

66. Did Matthew Mitchell & Randy Shrauner make a promise to the Bishop & the District Superintendent that they wouldn't be pushing for another disaffiliation vote?

See the response to Question 64.

67. Why doesn't the congregation get to choose Randy as the Senior Minister?

a. Why does the Bishop's opinion matter more than the actual church members?

The United Methodist Church is a connectional system with ecclesial authority over appointments. United Methodist pastors are sent to their appointments by a Bishop. Consultation is a part of that process. Congregational systems select their own pastors.

68. What about our church building if we can vote and we choose disaffiliation?

Church of the Servant would retain their building if they voted to disaffiliate and it was ratified by the Oklahoma Conference.

69. What is the status of our property and church on another disaffiliation vote – especially if we decide and have opportunity to close?

The church assets (with the exception of the costs of disaffiliation) and property would remain with Church of the Servant if they achieve the 2/3 supermajority and this was ratified by the Oklahoma Conference in October.

70. It confuses me when you hold up the Book of Discipline for the rules that suit you, but others you don't – moving forward how will we ever be able to trust the enforcement of what the Bk of Discipline says.

The Oklahoma Conference attempts to faithfully follow The Book of Discipline.

71. The Book of Discipline is not being enforced as it is written now. If COS stays UMC what assurance do we have that off a sudden it will carry any authority?

The Oklahoma Conference attempts to faithfully follow The Book of Discipline.

72. Tish Malloy was asked at another church what UMC planned to do with Lev 18&20 and Romans 1:27. Tish said "We've evolved and we understand more now about human development." Do you – any of you – believe we know more than God.

Rev. Dr. Malloy's response:

First, I do not believe that I or anyone else knows "more than God."

Second, I would prefer to respond to the full meeting transcript from which this quote (which I do not recall) was taken but I do not deny that I could have said it in some contexts.

And third, much of our division in the current UMC and the Church Universal since its beginning stems from human being's interpretations of scripture. The Bible is a book of books including, history, poetry, songs, etc. and should be read as such. While Christians believe the many translations of the Bible to be God's Holy Word, we also believe that the Old and New Testaments have much to teach us about the varied understandings of our ancestors in the Judeo-Christian faith and as has been stated that I once said... "we've evolved and we understand more now about human development".

73. How do you suggest churches seek and save the lost if we are being asked to elevate sin instead of walk with each other in our struggle against sin?

Neither The United Methodist Church nor the Oklahoma Conference is asking anyone to elevate sin.

74. What's the procedure for filing charges against D.S. Sam Powers for interference in the ministry of Dr. Matthew Mitchell, as evidenced by Sam Powers behavior at the church conference of 9-11-22 and Sam Powers ongoing collusion with Sr. Minister Emeritus Dr. Norman Neaves.

Information regarding Chargeable Offences for both clergy and laity in the UMC may be found in the 2016 Book of Discipline in paragraph 2702.

75. Sam, do you not believe that your statements before the initial vote that our ministers had lied to us in their presentation on disaffiliation were prejudicial?

The role of the district superintendent is to ensure a fair process. I did not state that ministers from Church of the Servant lied. I did say that I believe they had led the church in recruitment away from the UMC rather than a discernment process. I did state the extreme examples had been shared as normative. As I saw a biased process leading up to the vote, it was my duty to share my observations with the congregation.

76. If we disaffiliate now, what is the status of our property?

If ratified by the Oklahoma Conference, Church of the Servant would keep their property and most assets.

77. Please outline completely and without unnecessary "conference jargon" the steps/documentation/process the "CONGREGATION" needs to undertake to be permitted to take another vote!

We are in the consultation process. Reading and answering these questions is a part of the process. Once the district superintendent receives the answers from the Board of Governance, a decision on the request to vote will be rendered.

78. The UMC website explains how to be a lighthouse church. As I understand it UMC requires 2 things: 1. Open to all individuals who come in. 2. You will never try to disaffiliate in the future. Doesn't #1 assume UMC Churches are not welcoming? Doesn't #2 Create unchecked power for the conference & strip the local church of power.

Some of our members left disaffiliating churches which was painful. They began to attend other United Methodist Churches that then sought to disaffiliate which was even more frustrating. The Lighthouse Church program is largely to advertise that this church is not going to go through disaffiliation. The majority of our churches in the Oklahoma Conference would fall under this designation. They agree to this statement in order to let people know about safe spaces where they can heal.

79. Wouldn't a return to church committees help our church to find a sense of reconciliation instead of a board of governance that appears to be heavily tilted? Is there any hope of reconciliation with interim pastors?

It is the hope of the conference that the two pastors appointed as interim co-senior pastors will be able to provide healing and reconciliation to Church of the Servant. They have both undertaken training for interim ministry at the expense of the conference. Part of that reconciliation may be a review of the current governance structure of the Church of the Servant and its compliance with The Book of Discipline.

80. What has happened to Abiding by the word of God about human sexuality? God's word clearly states in the bible!

Currently The Book of Discipline prohibits same-gender marriage and the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals. The Bible also speaks against suing fellow believers in 1 Corinthians 6.

81. How does the conference plan on replacing talented ministers who have left the UMC like Bob Long, Jay Smith, Matt Judkins, Matthew Mitchell, & Tom Hanson?

We will continue to receive pastors from congregations all across the conference and the world. Our hope is that Church of the Servant will also continue to lift up talented ministers.

82. Are new confirmations considered voting members?

Yes, those who are confirmed in the faith are voting members of the church.

83. Dr. Powers – you obviously do not like Matthew or Randy. Please explain why you chose to humiliate Dr. Mitchell before our vote, thereby swaying some voters.

It is the job of the district superintendent to hold our clergy accountable. I received information leading up to the vote that made it clear that Dr. Mitchell and Mr. Shrauner led a process that swayed the congregation towards disaffiliation. It is the job of the district superintendent to point out this information to the congregation.

84. Will Sam be held accountable telling congregation Mathew is demonizing congregation?

See the response to Question 83.

85. Will Sam be held responsible for how unprofessional the vote was?

The district superintendent has leeway to conduct the church conference as he or she sees fit.

86. Was the second ballot a secret ballot? If so, how do you know the non-attending COS members all voted no?

a. Also, does any other church have a non-clergy Executive Director?

The second ballot was a secret ballot. It is possible that other churches have a non-clergy Executive Director but like all lay employees, these would be under the supervision of the appointed senior pastor.

Questions for The Oklahoma Conference and the Church of the Servant Board of Governance

87. A contract was granted by the church council to retain the services of a council member's company to do upgrades and repairs to the Church of the Servant facilities – this at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. Was this contract subject to a competitive bidding process, or was the decision simply and quietly made to hire the company of the council chair?

a. Was this decision by the church council approved formally at a Charge Conference, announced to the congregation in advance?

Oklahoma Conference response: While most of this question is directed to the Board of Governance, I don't believe that the remodeling contract was discussed or approved at a Charge Conference. In my inquiry into this matter, I was told that the District Superintendent at the time was informed that the that the remodel project would not exceed 25 percent of the value of the existing structure and so did not trigger the process found in paragraph 2544 of The Book of Discipline.

88. In the past two years, has the church council entered into contractual agreements (for salaries or other business) without taking the financial decisions to the Charge Conference for approval?

a. If so, what is the nature of the contractual agreements, and what are the financial encumbrances/obligations that the council has approved without the express permission of a duly-called charge conference, announced and open to the church members?

Oklahoma Conference Response: I do not believe that we have discussed financial contracts at any charge conference for at least the past three years.

89. Was the decision by the Church Council to create a new executive position and hire Randy Shrauner formally approved at a called meeting of the Church of the Servant Charge Conference, announced to the congregation?

Oklahoma Conference Response: This decision was not approved at a Charge Conference nor was the conference consulted on this hire that could possibly interfere with the financial viability of the appointment of the two interim senior pastors

90. When Randy Shrauner surrendered his credentials as a Methodist clergyman, was he then immediately re-hired by the Church Council as a full-time lay employee at Church of the Servant?

- a. What is his exact position title, and what is his salary?
- b. Word in the community is that his new salary is around \$180,000. How does this compare to his previous remuneration as a clergyman?
- c. Whatever the exact salary, was the position and the salary approved in a formal decision by a duly-called Charge Conference, at an open meeting previously announced to the congregation?

Oklahoma Conference Response: Lay hiring and salaries are not requirements of charge conference business as per the Book of Discipline. Clergy salaries are discussed and approved at charge conferences. However, if a lay staff hire were going to interfere with the ability to pay for the clergy salary, this should be addressed with the district superintendent prior to the hire.

91. Our Church of the Servant website still (as of this past Sunday) lists Randy Shrauner as Reverend and his title as ‘Executive Director’ at Church of the Servant. It has been made public that he was hired back as a lay person at an executive level after he surrendered his clergy credentials in the United Methodist Church. What is Mr. Shrauner’s exact job title at Servant?

- a. What is his salary under this new contract?
- b. Was this new position and new salary formally approved at a Charge Conference at Church of the Servant?
- c. Was this an “open meeting” announced publicly to congregation?

Oklahoma Conference response: As mentioned, this did not occur at a charge conference but a charge conference is not required to hire lay staff. Consultation with the district superintendent should have occurred. Mr. Shrauner as a lay staff person should not be referred to as “reverend” as per his voluntary withdrawal from clergy orders.

92. According to the Book of Discipline are decisions by the church council that affect the administrative policy, finances, or affiliations of Church of the Servant binding/legal when they were made by the church council at business meetings that were not previously announced to the congregation – thereby essentially precluding the participation of the church membership in the decision-making process?

Oklahoma Conference response: Technically, this is a gray area. Paragraph 722 outlines the openness of United Methodist meetings. When that is violated, does the decision stand? Paragraph 2544 on church buildings and remodels indicates that the church conference should be employed throughout the process. This allows for appropriately informing the congregation and will alert leadership to problems they might not have foreseen. As mentioned in question 22, this paragraph may not have been triggered due to the cost of the remodel. However, following much of the same processes is wise practice.

93. When the church council made the decision to sell part of the church property to a local bank for approximately \$750,000, was the meeting publicly announced to the congregation in advance so that congregants would be able to attend and participate in the decision process?

Oklahoma Conference response: I believe that this was held as a Charge Conference which under the Discipline should have included multiple ways of congregational notification at a minimum of ten days prior to the Charge Conference. These are public meetings and while only the Board of Governance as well as clergy associated with the church can vote at Charge Conferences, all of the church should be invited to attend.

94. What are the financial implications to C of S of leaving the conference?

- a. Do C of S pay annual dues?
- b. Will that continue if we leave?

Oklahoma Conference response: Church of the Servant is assessed apportionments or connectional giving each year while it is United Methodist. If Servant disaffiliates, they would no longer be assessed apportionments by the Oklahoma Conference. Additionally, there are financial costs to disaffiliation. Prior to disaffiliation, congregations in the Oklahoma Conference are required to pay their portion of unfunded pension liability, retiree health plan liability, and complete the apportionment payment for the prior to disaffiliation and two times the apportionment payment for the year of disaffiliation.

95. If all churches in the UMC are under Book of Discipline, why are reconciling churches involved in Pride events (seemingly in opposition to the Book of Discipline)?

Oklahoma Conference response: It is not against United Methodist polity for local churches to participate in Pride events. General and Annual conference would not be allowed to provide funding for Pride events. The major disallowances are United Methodist clergy officiating at same-gender weddings (local church) and the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing

homosexuals” (conference). Because we believe in prevenient grace, we seek to share God’s love with all people.

- a. How can we be sure we will not lose our “servant identity” with a no vote – our own camps, non-UMC curriculum, our own way of doing things?

Oklahoma Conference response: 95a seems to be a question for Church of the Servant’s Board of Governance.

96. Why is it that people seem to have no easy access to facts, figures, meetings, etc. at Servant any longer?

- a. Does the board think that the budget standings, the nature of expenditures, etc. might hurt support for going on our own & incurring expense for disaffiliation?
- b. Can we as a church take a vote for or against another vote? Or can we vote to or not to have another vote?

Oklahoma Conference response: In answering the last question, any church is eligible to take some type of survey or straw poll in order to determine the likelihood of achieving a supermajority on a ballot.

97. Isn’t it a conflict of interest for Jill Walker to be heading up an effort to disaffiliate (& to be the chair of the Board of Governance) when she was providing services to the Church on it’s recent remodel?

Oklahoma Conference response: We do not recommend that local churches have individuals who are under contract with the church for services also serve in leadership roles within the church because of conflict of interest issues.

98. Why were the meetings of the Board of Governance done in secret) when they met about the intention to push for another disaffiliation vote)?

- a. Aren’t those meetings supposed to be open?
- b. Isn’t that part of the Book of Discipline?

Oklahoma Conference response: Within the Book of Discipline, Paragraph 722 outlines how meetings are to be conducted openly and the process for closing meetings.

Questions for the Church of the Servant Board of Governance

99. I heard that Randy Shrauner was paid a large sum of money in advance, upon being hired as a layperson as the Executive Director at Servant.
- a. Was this done as incentive for him to push for disaffiliation?
 - b. I heard that Matthew Mitchell received a large sum of money just recently from Servant. Who approved this and why?
 - c. Is the plan to have Matthew ordered with Servant, even if we disaffiliate? If not, why the payment.
100. Did the church council provide a financial package (directly or indirectly) to Rev. Matthew Mitchell at the time of his departure?
- a. If so, what was the amount of the financial severance?
 - b. Was the severance, if paid, approved by a duly-called meeting of a Charge Conference, or was it decided and disbursed at the sole discretion of the church council at an open, publicly announced to the congregation?
101. Is Servant in the “red” financially?
- a. If not, why was church property sold and by who’s authority?
 - b. If so, why is the church paying for a choir director, Dr. Schinske, who is never seen at church services except funerals where probably he is paid again by the family?
 - c. And, why pay for 10+ musicians when a choir is ready and willing to sing for free?
 - d. Does Dr. Schinske get more money for the church using his songs?
102. At the end of this year’s financial campaign, we (the congregation) do not seem to have received any report provided to the congregation as to the level of pledges for this church budget year. What is the church’s total budget for this fiscal year, and how does it compare to last year’s budget?
103. Why are companies, which more than likely received a great deal of money for remodel, decorating, furniture, plants, etc. at the church serving on the church board?
- a. Conflict of interest here?
104. Why has the congregation not had any notice or input into the enormous expenditures the church has taken on?
- a. Or seen bid reports for huge expenditures?
105. I’ve not heard a faith, Christian or reason for leaving UMC?

106. Why are congregants told a board meeting is in executive session and can't attend?
107. Where is a detailed financial report as to how much, where, and to whom monies are going on big expenditures such as property sale, contractors, etc.?
 - a. Committees in place to make such big commitments?
108. How were people put on the church board?
 - a. How long have they been members at Servant?
109. Why are meetings not announced or posted on the church website and reports from meetings not given to the congregation by announcing or posting?
 - a. Meetings are not on the church calendar.
110. By what authority was Randy put in a church position?
 - a. His job description?
 - b. Did his salary decrease with his decreased responsibilities?
111. Who takes the board minutes?
112. Who monitors salaries and wages?
 - a. Who's authority to give severance terms, money amounts, and length of time?
 - b. To whom have any severance packages been given and what do they include, specifically?
113. Why haven't compensation packages been made available to congregation?
 - a. Where is transparency?
114. Why is our church board getting by with not informing the congregation about meetings?
115. How often have the church committees met since 01/01/2023?
 - a. Which have met?
 - b. When, where, were they posted?
116. Why does the church board and Randy Shrauner persist in going against Conf. Rules?
117. Why haven't minutes from church board meetings been made available to congregation?

118. Are the people making donations to fund the lawsuit against the Annual Conference being given charitable donations credits for these donations to a legal fund?
- a. How much money has been donated for the purpose of the church filing a lawsuit against itself – The local church filing a suit against its parent body?
119. ? to BOG Why did you choose to take and/or threaten legal action against UMC?
120. Are we operating in the red
121. Can you address how a vote for disaffiliation would help/or not help the financial stability of COS?
122. Why is Jill Walker, Chairman of the Church Board, able to make all decisions about remodeling. Against Conf. Rules?
123. Even posing this question, which I believe to be rhetorical, fills my spirit with disappointment. Any member of the church council may answer: Over the past year has the council operated under a veil of secrecy, perhaps reflected in the code of silence that any member revealing the discussions and decisions of the council would be deemed “a Judas”?
- a. If accurate, to state the obvious, such secrecy is a severe violation of church order and an abrogation of the council’s fiduciary role as set out in The Book of Discipline.
124. Does the church council have the authority to engage Church of the Servant in a legal suit against the Annual Conference (any lawsuit) without the vote of the membership at a duly-called church meeting?
125. For Randy Shrauner’s new employment contract, how does the current remuneration compare to his previous compensation?
- a. How does his level of salary compare the compensation of other full-time ministers – ordained or lay?
- b. Was this salary/benefit package set at an open meeting – announced to the congregation?
126. How come no one knew that Randy was being supported to be head minister? Not any transparency
127. In recent weeks/months, has a significant amount of money been placed in the pastor’s discretionary fund?

- a. What has been the peak dollar amount in the fund in the past 6 months, and what is the balance in the fund currently?
 - b. If significant funds have been expended, for what/to whose benefit have these funds been distributed?
128. In a published public announcement from the church council, it was announced that it was the church council's intention to engage in legal action if the OK Conference leadership did not acquiesce to the council's request for another vote on disaffiliation from the UMC. Has the church council sequestered funds from our tithes and offerings to pay for the legal fees for this promised action?
 - a. If so, how much has been sequestered and where are the funds being held?
129. When the church council made the determination that we intended to 'sue' the Annual Conference unless the Conference leadership acquiesced to their request for a second vote on disaffiliation, was the decision to threaten to sue the Annual Conference, and announce that publicly, made at a meeting that had been made public to the congregation so that the members could attend and be part of discussing the wisdom of such a move?
130. If Church of the Servant would disaffiliate from the UMC, would this church council (or a committee designated by them) be responsible for finding us a new minister?
 - a. What expertise would this church council possess to assess the theological integrity of and assure that our incoming minister has a grasp of the historic Wesley and Methodist identity that has been foundational to our Servant identity since its beginning?
131. If Church of the Servant were to disaffiliate from the UMC, what would prohibit the church council from moving into a non-Wesleyan theological heterodoxy by choosing a church leader inclined to use "doctrinal purity" (as he/she understands 'orthodoxy') as a litmus test for staff hires and church membership?
 - a. How many people on our church council have the comprehensive expertise to make such a theological adjudication?
132. How many church council meetings have taken place in 2022 and 2023 **WITHOUT** notifying the congregation that the meetings were taking place?
 - a. Did any council meetings take place during this period of time when **not all council members** were informed of the meeting?
133. Since our church council seems to have engaged in meetings to conduct official church business without consistently notifying the congregation of said meetings (despite the clear intent of **The Book of Discipline**), since disaffiliation would make **The Discipline** of no consequence in the event that we disaffiliate, by what authority would

the congregation be able to hold the disaffiliated church council accountable for open communication and transparency in its decision-making processes?

134. A legal suit may be deemed to be a necessary step when one party has been wronged by another party and the issue cannot be worked out amicably by the differing parties. Necessary to such an adjudication would be a clear delineation/outline of the specific ways in which ‘injured’ party has been harmed or had its rights violated. Please outline the specific warrants that would justify Church of the Servant suing the Oklahoma Annual Conference.
- a. What are the rules and guidelines that the Conference has broken that have “inflicted harm” on Church of the Servant?
135. Did the ones asking for a 3rd vote NOT have the opportunity to vote?
- a. If so why would we need another vote?
136. Subject disaffiliation: if disaffiliation passes, what is the “plan”?
- a. Where will COS find a pastor, will the name of the church change, etc.
137. For the Board – Besides the gender/homosexuality issue, what are other reasons people are wanting to disaffiliate?
138. I understand we are paying a choir director a salary that is a choir director at another church. The only time he attends our church is to play for a funeral.
139. We also pay for singers and guitar players, drummer, and keyboard when we have a choir.
140. Is there more than \$10,000 in Ministers discretionary fund and if so, why?
141. Please explain why our church leadership would antagonize and undermine our capable conference leadership to exert their chosen appointment of Randy Shrauner to the position they arbitrarily chose.
142. Please explain the process and timeline that led to the appointment of Randy Shrauner as Executive Director.
143. On an average Sunday how many online people do we have, and their average tithe for a month in total.
144. Why is the chair of our 2 big boards also the person who was hired to remodel our church.

145. No one has seen a budget showing salaries, expenditures, compensation packages, and if we are in the red. No transparency!
146. If there has to be a law suit against the OK Conference, in order to have a disaffiliation vote, who's going to pay the legal fees?
- a. Is this coming from one of our Servant funds?
 - b. Which one?
147. Is there now, or has there ever been, money given to Church of the Servant with the intention of using it to further an attempt to disaffiliate or pay legal expenses to do so?
148. How does engaging in a law suit with the Annual Conference in Oklahoma help Church of the Servant attain its ministry goals or grow our church?
- a. What's to be gained?
149. Was the Board of Governance's action to hire back Randy Shrauner as a layperson for the same staff position (after his withdrawal from ordained ministry) an attempt to keep the same executive leadership for Servant ...so that the chances for getting people to vote for disaffiliation will increase?
150. Do you think it was unifying to make members who are truly trying to discern the issues feel as though they are not welcome any longer? (coming back to vote after not (undiscernible words). I am still searching for a church home after events caused by church leadership forced me to leave the church I love & was/am a member of for over 22 years. I came to this meeting to the vote 9/11/22 because I care about my church. I was considering returning after the leadership change. After this meeting & the boos & comment shaming & (undiscernible words) I will not be back.
151. For the Board of Governance: Why is it necessary to pursue legal action if the request to vote again is denied?
- a. Does the board have access to pro bono legal assistance, or would Church of the Servant have to pay for that?
152. To what degree has Cara Nicklas been involved in discussion around disaffiliation. She is on the leadership of the GMC?
- a. Was the person who moved to reconsider the vote a regular attendee. I know she does not live in OKC at all. Regular attendance & membership seems to be important to the board?
 - b. How much discretionary funds have been spent on disaffiliation efforts?
153. Are all members of the board of Gov. in agreement?

- a. Who wishes to disaffiliate?
 - b. Who wishes to remain United Meth.?
154. What about the closed, locked, secret meetings when checks were cut to Andrew & Randy for over \$100,000 dollars?
155. It seems that the home which Matthew Mitchell purchased in OKC was bought by Servant through the Servant Foundation. The home was valued at \$541,000 (estimated), but Matthew bought it from the Foundation for \$385,000. Now, if he sells it, he'll make additional profit. Were there strings attached to this – to lead our church to disaffiliate?
156. Did the C of the S pay Matthew a partial year's pay or a full year's pay?
157. For Board: under the assumption that COS disaffiliates from the UMC, what will be COS stance regarding marriage of LGBTQ *conphes (sp?)* in COS facilities and by COS clergy?
158. Does COS want to vote because of the issue of homosexuality or because the COS board is unhappy with the Conference?
159. Is there a plan for the church if disaffiliation is achieved?
160. In the event of disaffiliation of Church of the Servant what is the vision of the governing board? Is it Matthew and Randy in there same jobs as before or something similar.
161. How and why since Randy was offered another church would our Board elect Randy w/o speaking to anyone & hire Randy to be the executive officer.
162. If we do vote to disaffiliate, how/when would we decide where our church would go? Ex: Global, Wesleyan, Nondenominational
163. Is the board wanting to disaffiliate and change the name of Church of the Servant because they do not want the sexuality issue in COS?

Statements from the Congregation

164. If someone wants to disaffiliate from the UMC, they can do it. A large group can do it. What's holding those who want out from leaving. Go. Build your own church. Do like this church did when it began. Why must you take the property with you. That belongs to the UMC. And has been paid for by thousands of UMC people over the last 55 years. Build your own church, have your own pastor. Just go. Nobody is holding you back!
165. I do not feel COS needs to take another vote!

166. I DO NOT think we need another vote –
167. I do not feel we need to have another vote.
168. I do not feel COS needs to take another vote.
169. I thought we voted twice to begin with. I don't agree that we should use the church's money to sue. Our coffers are limited.