



A Church Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 16th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for the purpose of voting on disaffiliation under paragraph 2553 of The Book of Discipline.

Frequently Asked Questions

Disclaimer: These answers are to the best of our knowledge given the information we've received. We appreciate your understanding if anything changes.

Who is eligible to vote?

ONLY full members are eligible to vote at this church conference. Full members are those who have taken a vow of membership and includes any age person who has been confirmed or professed into full membership.

Do I have to be present at the vote? What if I have a conflict or am out of town?

You MUST be present to vote. You CANNOT vote by proxy or absentee ballot. This is a rule specified in paragraph 2553 and is non-negotiable.

What is the check-in process for the church conference?

The sanctuary will be accessible through the doors facing Monte Sano Avenue or through the Gathering Area. Please use the Monte Sano entrance if you are able and reserve the Gathering Area entrance for our elderly and disabled members. Please reserve the parking behind the church offices off Arsenal Avenue for our elderly and disabled members.

Check-in tables will be located just outside of each of the entrances. Find your check-in table based on your last name. Please state your LAST NAME and then first name to the check-in volunteer and present identification to verify your name. Once you have been verified as a full member, you will be permitted entry to the sanctuary.

In the event the sanctuary becomes full, voting members will be seated in the Gathering Area and then the Chapel. Both overflow areas will have TVs to provide video and audio relay of the proceedings.

What forms of identification are acceptable?

You may bring your driver's license, government-issued ID, military ID, school ID, or any card with your name clearly printed on it. You may also bring a piece of mail if your name and address matches our membership record. Youth under the age of 18 who are accompanied by a parent/guardian do **NOT** need to show any identification.

How will the vote be conducted?

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Greg Porterfield, will call the conference to order. He will explain the ballot and the voting process. When instructed, you will use your ballot to vote either "yes" or "no". A "yes" vote will mean that you want Trinity on the Hill to disaffiliate from the UMC for the specified reasons. A "no" vote will mean that you do not want Trinity on the Hill to disaffiliate from the UMC for the specified reasons. The exact wording of the ballot will be provided by Rev. Porterfield. Designated individuals will collect all ballots and counting will begin immediately.

**What if I can't get there by 7:00pm? Can I show up late and still vote?**

We will start checking people in at 6:00pm and ask that you arrive by 6:30pm to ensure we can check in everyone by the start of the meeting. Once the meeting is called to order, you will NOT be permitted entrance and CANNOT vote. Punctuality is imperative for this important meeting! Please plan accordingly to allow yourself time to park and carpool with other members if possible.

How long will the meeting take?

We expect the meeting to last from 7:00-8:00pm, but it may go later.

Do I have to stay for the entire meeting?

You are not required to stay for the duration of the meeting, but we strongly encourage you to do so. In the rare event of a count that's too close to call, we will have a re-vote. For this reason, we request that all members stay until the conclusion of the meeting.

How will the vote be decided?

The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of professing members present at the church conference.

When will be outcome be announced?

The outcome of the vote will be announced by Rev. Greg Porterfield as soon as the count is verified by auditors that evening. We expect the announcement by 8:00pm.

Is childcare provided?

We will offer a nursery for infant- PK4 in the Preschool building beginning at 6:00pm. Childcare for elementary aged children will be in the Children's wing (use the ramp upstairs next to the playground). We are asking that you please do NOT bring your children into the sanctuary with you, if possible, to allow as much seating as possible for voting members.

If I'm not a member, can I still attend the meeting and just not vote?

No, non-members will not be permitted entrance into the sanctuary unless they are children accompanied by an adult or a caregiver of a voting member. Please respect that this meeting is for full members only.

I'm not sure I'm a member; how can I verify my membership status?

We will have volunteers in the Gathering Area on Sunday, May 14 who can verify your membership status. You may also call the church office during regular business hours. If you received the email announcing the church conference on Friday, May 5th then you are considered a full member and we ask that you refrain from checking your status.

Will there be security at the meeting?

Yes, we have contracted security through the Richmond County Sheriff's department for the Church Conference.

We invite you to join us for prayer in the chapel at 6:00pm before the meeting. Jan McElreath, one of our Prayer Warriors, will open the time of prayer and then you may participate as you feel led in corporate prayer.