

New Life in Christ Church
Short Synopsis of Our History
Also Present and Future Path of Our Church

Our New Life in Christ Church has been through a lot over the past 3 ½ years since our inception. Much has happened that was not planned, or even foreseen, since late fall of 2021. Below you'll find a brief history from the time we left the United Methodist Church denomination (UMC) to the present. Along the way you will see the roadblocks that have delayed talking about the future path of our church.

Years 2019 through 2021:

- 2019 through 2021 we were educated on the issues, and the eventual split, of the United Methodist Church Denomination.

Year 2021:

- September 2021. The church hired a law firm to guide us through the disaffiliation process.
- November 2021. We began the name changing process of our church. We also waited for the UMC's General Conference to meet in hopes they would agree to a fair exit plan for churches like ours who were thinking about leaving the denomination.
- December 2021 through March 2022 – Church leaders informed the congregation about the issues dividing the UMC, and the separation process needed to disaffiliate from the UMC.
- Fall of 2021 - We held a Town Hall meeting to discuss disaffiliation issues.

Year 2022:

- March 2022. We held another Town Hall meeting to inform every one of the processes, the vote, and where we go after disaffiliation if we voted to exit the UMC.
- We Incorporated New Life in Christ Church as a non-profit church entity following the Wesleyan traditions we have always practiced.

- May 1, 2022 - Our church members held a vote to disaffiliate from the UMC and become a non-denomination church. 92% voted yes to disaffiliate from UMC.
- May 1, 2002. The Global Methodist Church formally became a denominational organization separate from the United Methodist Church denomination.
- June 6, 2022 - New Life in Christ Church signed the Disaffiliation Agreement and Joinder Agreement with the UMC to assume and guarantee all liabilities of the First United Methodist Church of Punta Gorda.
- June thru September 2022 - We finalized our disaffiliation from UMC and began operating as New Life in Christ Church.
- September 2022 - Hurricane Ian hit. Samaritan's Purse uses our campus as a home base until mid-December 2022. No other official church action is taken for the year.

Year 2023:

- January through March 2023 - We finished all legal paperwork of disaffiliation and formulation of our new church. Still working on Hurricane Ian's reconstruction.
- GMC was to hold their first Convening General Conference, which was postponed and did not occur until the fall of 2024. We also wanted to review their final organizational structure before considering the GMC as an option for us to affiliate with in the future.
- March 2023 - We held a Town Hall Meeting concerning hurricane cleanup and future path of our church. We presented a first round of initial information on whether to remain an independent congregation or whether to join another denomination such as the Global Methodist Church.
- Fall of 2023. Pastor Mike announces his retirement effective in November of 2024. The Leadership Council and the Staffing Committee both decide to wait on any further consideration of remaining independent or joining another denomination until after a new pastor is hired. The intent was to have the new pastor be a part of the process of the church's future.

Year 2024:

- January through July – Our Search Committee interviewed many candidates to find our new Lead Pastor. During the interview process the Leadership Team and Search Committee discussed independence vs. denominational affiliation with

Pastor Casey. Pastor Casey recommended that the church wait for one year after hiring a new pastor to decide this question. The Leadership Council approved this recommendation.

- August 2024 – Pastor Casey Taylor was hired and began serving on January 1, 2025.
- September and October 2024 – Hurricanes Helene and Milton hit Punta Gorda. Multiple church buildings were flooded and damaged. Recovery and reconstruction of the church campus continues into 2025.
- September 20-22, 2024 – The Global Methodist Church held their first convening General Conference, formalizing the GMC's denomination's structure and policies.
- November 30, 2024 – Pastor Mike retires. Preaching through December was covered by guest pastors.

Year 2025:

- January 1, 2025 - Pastor Casey Taylor was installed as our new Lead Pastor.
- January through March – We are still in major recovery from the 2 hurricanes.
- March 2025 – We have begun our search for a full -time Associate Pastor.
- March 2025 – We began a Disaster Response Task Force to prepare for future storms.
- Fall of 2025 – We will begin to develop the process and procedure we will use to review and decide the issue of staying independent vs. becoming a part of a denomination, such as the GMC.