

Notice of Business Meeting of Summerville Methodist Church to Adopt A Provisional Constitution

May 29, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Summerville Community SDA Church 520 Gahagan Road, Summerville, SC

The formation of Summerville Methodist Church, known in official incorporation as the Ambassadors of 1857, represents both a bold new beginning and a deep return to our spiritual roots. Established in the wake of significant changes within the United Methodist Church (UMC), our congregation was born from a desire to remain steadfast in biblical orthodoxy and faithful Wesleyan practice.

The Governance Committee has been working on documents which will allow our church to function as a religious organization with Wesleyan doctrine, theology, and processes to ensure a solid foundation for Summerville Methodist Church both for now and for the future. *The Method* will be our collection of documents and statements that define and describe the processes and beliefs of those who choose to be members of Summerville Methodist Church. Each part of *The Method* will be added by congregational vote.

The following information is a brief outline of the draft contents of *The Method*. Please keep in mind that *The Method* will continue to evolve.

1. The members of Summerville Methodist Church believe the Holy Scripture is the inspired, inerrant and infallible word of God. The Bible, along with The Apostle's Creed, The Nicene Creed, and The Chalcedonian Creed constitute our Normative Standards for Christian Belief.
2. The Articles of Religion, The Confessions of Faith, The Standard Sermons, John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the New Testament, and John Wesley's "The Nature, Design, and General Rules of the United Societies (1739) constitute our Normative Standards for Wesleyan Teaching and are our doctrinal foundation.
3. Our Social Witness is our statement of social beliefs and forms the foundation of our place in our community, our state, our nation, and our world.
4. The administrative documents are our Constitution and our Bylaws. These define our congregation and provide guiding rules to maintain and strengthen our church.
5. Our church history provides the foundational reasons behind the formation of Summerville Methodist Church, along with documents pertinent to our founding.
6. Our Pastor's Spiritual Guide for the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and his instructional teachings for confirmation, children's church, acceptance of members, and other church identified activities are also included.

The first document requiring approval will be a provisional Constitution. It will allow us to begin functioning as a religious organization. The adoption of our Provisional Constitution will allow us to establish our first Core Leadership Team. The CLT will appoint our Treasurer and establish the Treasury Team. This provisional Constitution will be in place until a final vote is taken on all documents included in *The Method*.

Members, who are on the current email list for Summerville Methodist Church and have attended three or more worship services of SMC, are encouraged to register to vote using the Google form link included with this notice. Those who register will be eligible to vote to adopt The Provisional Constitution of Summerville Methodist Church which is one part of *The Method*. Paper copies of the Google form will also be available on Sunday mornings.