

## Attachment 5

General Conference information has been provided to you in emails dated May 4, May 16, and July 23. Based on that information, what comments or questions do you have? 84 responses

None

none

We were told that we could not talk about disaffiliation prior to General Conference. What about now? What would it take for Settle to disaffiliate, and how do we start that discussion?

If Settle remains in the UMC, do our apportionments go toward supporting LBGTQA+ initiatives? If so, can we discuss as a church if we wish to continue making those payments?

If Settle remains in the UMC, will we be forced to accept LBGTQA+ clergy? If not now, is that anticipated in the future?

We were not given information on disafilate rules or allowed to vote on the future of Settle.

Homosexuality is a sin. That has been made clear both in the Old and New Testaments. The argument that Jesus – who was present at Creation – somehow didn't condemn homosexuality is simply specious. Jesus made that very clear in Matthew 5:17 when he stated unequivocally that He came to "...fulfill the Law." I, for one, am not going to tell God that He is wrong.

It is also a disappointment to me that our congregation has not met this issue head on with meetings, discussions, and opportunities to influence General Conference – and our delegates – long before this time. To schedule a "Listening Event" at this post-decision time is, at best, troubling. We have kicked the can down the road for years by avoidance of talking and listening.

I believe we should move forward—seeking Gods guidance— we have to be open minded. I do not believe I'm in a position to judge one's sexual preference and I want to be open to anyone who seeks our church

Keep the traditional teachings of the bible. That means marriage between one man and one woman and no gays in the pulpit. Thank you,

I don't have an opinion either way. I have family that are gay and know that they love God and that God loves them

After the listening session on August 25, small group discussion opportunities should be provided so members can get questions answered and clear up any confusions. The listening session will not provide the opportunity to ask questions.

I almost feel as though each circumstance for the above-mentioned question should be taken on an individual basis. Are both partners (or one) active members of the church? Do they give of their time, talents and gifts to the church? What would the ramifications be if the church allowed such a union? We should be following what God says about issues. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. I feel we are, as a denomination, drifting from our values and accepting the world's values. I do agree that we need to separate into the regions. I read all the information and think that the General Conference has adopted thoughtful faith based decisions.

I really have no opposition to same sex marriages but would respect the wishes of the majority of Settle members if they oppose hosting them. God's love is for everyone, and I can't help but feel the Holy Spirit was present at GC. Settle should remain a United Methodist church.

I am strongly in favor of remaining United Methodist and NOT disaffiliating.

I applaud the fact that the Methodist Church has finally taken a stand to stop discrimination.

I'm very disappointed. I personally will continue to follow the Lord and my Bible but not at the church which use to be my home.

1. Will Settle accept a minister that does NOT agree that the Bible is the TRUTH, exception being parables?

2. Will Settle accept a minister that openly practices actions that are considered to be Biblically a sin?
3. While the question above asked if I believe Settle should allow.... Trustees should put this to a member congregational vote, not a small committee.
4. Administrative Board meetings should be advertised, not held in secret. The last meeting was not posted and at last hour room was changed so that if anyone did find out they would not be in the correct room.

Is a Congregational vote on the use of its facilities mandatory or optional.

I have been wrestling with this and praying about it, but we still truly perplexed.

I feel it is inappropriate to support the United Methodist church as it pertains to our apportionments that can be spent by other church's that support gay marriages or gay clergy.

Will homosexuals be allowed to teach our Sunday School classrooms of all ages and will Settle allow a homosexual pastor to preach in our facility?

I would like to hear more about the Social Principles and the history of said document

I will be disappointed if Settle does not allow same sex marriages and leaves the United Methodist church.

Settle is on the right direction

Will there eventually be a church vote about staying United Methodist?

The hierarchical church has discerned that its future rests in local home rule. This is a big change but it may be what saves Methodism.

not sure

N/a

We as a church need to continue to sharing God's love with the world.

Informational to all.

We need lots more information about discussions at general conference. We did get the information May14 but not the other two dates,

I believe you ask ING abo.ut Gays.i will pray I. Eat with them. I not take sacrament s..I believe marriage should only Man .and Women

Love your neighbor. Let God sort out the rest.

I am happy decisions have been made to help the church become more inclusive. My hope and prayer is that more people will feel welcome and engaged in our church.

Will Settle accept a practicing homo-sexual as pastor? Will Settle allow same sex weddings at the facility? Will Settle allow a preacher to go against the Bible's teachings?

Haven't read it all yet

We should show love to all people no matter your sexual orientation but that doesn't mean we should condone their behavior because unfortunately those marriages are not blessed by God. Sin is sin

I am very disappointed in our denomination for allowing homosexuals to be pastors and allowing homosexual couples to marry in the United Methodist Church. However, I am hopeful that will never happen at our church and we continue to go about God's work in our community.

I just want to follow the word of God balancing loving our neighbor and still following scripture

The whole issue of homosexuality has troubled me for decades, but I am striving to not be judgmental because I feel that God asks us not to be judgmental, rather that we should love our neighbors. Since the General Conference changed its stance on this issue, I feel we should accept their decision and be open to same sex weddings being held in Settle. if the membership decides to not have same sex weddings at Settle, I want to still be an active member of Settle.

Settle should follow the Bible and recognize that a marriage is a covenant between man and woman. Society should not dictate our biblical views.

My husband is much more traditional and conservative than I am. We disagree on this issue, but neither decision will cause us to leave Settle. We will stand together and with the church no matter what the majority decides.

What does this mean for Settle?

It isn't about not approving of certain people. All are welcome since God says He does not want any to perish. It's about God. He alone decides what is sin. By marrying same sex couples and having gay clergy, the United Methodist church is saying it's not a sin any more. The church is charged with teaching the Word to all, not changing it. I am so very sad that the general conference has made such decisions that affect Settle and other congregations.

I know that because of General Conference decisions we have lost members and may lose more. We need to continue being a beacon in downtown Owensboro. Owensboro needs us more than ever and we need Owensboro. We need to continually be in prayer and open to where God leads us.

I believe same sex marriages should be considered case by case by the pastor

I think our church must go by the Biblical teachings & stand fast to God's word.

There are 27 references in the Bible against homosexuality. There are 0 references in support of it. If we are going to teach our children the importance of abiding by God's printed word then we shouldn't be hypocrites by caving to the influence of Satan and not following the word as adults.

I am disappointed with some of the decisions made. Although not explicitly stated as much as other examples, homosexuality is expressed in God's Word as a very severe sin (looking at Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19 as well as Leviticus, Romans, 1st Corinthians and 1st Timothy). Yes we are

called to love others as ourselves, which means looking past the sin in people's lives and at the person that God loves, but we are not told to support the sin that others do. Sin is what separates us from God, and although Christ died so that we may return to closeness with Him, continuing in sin regardless continues to keep us from Him, and likewise allowing and supporting the sin of others is doing the opposite of God's work, which is Satan's work, and is keeping both us and them separated from our Savior. God also set standards for His workers in the church which some of these decisions chose to disregard as well. Deciding that "the practice of homosexuality is now considered compatible with Christian teaching" is blasphemous. God's rulings are eternal, as unchanging as He is, across time and space. That all being said - just to vocalize my stance on the decisions - my affiliation is not as much with the UMC as with the Settle Memorial Church, and the Conferences decisions to change wording in their Book of Disciples does not affect my commitment to this organization. I trust Pastor Mark and the work he does here, as well as the other Church Leaders direction this local organization. I recognize these decisions open greater "options" to the UMC, but it does not mandate a change in behavior (to those that are leading as God would intend) or prevent the spreading of the Gospel of Truth to the lost. Should the church continue as it has been, I will be glad to continue to support in any way I can, but should God call me elsewhere, I do not intend to disobey Him either. If anything, this is just a sign of the times we are in for "it will be as in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot when the Son of Man shall return again."

I hope that Settle will welcome same sex couples and LGBTQ individuals into our church family with open arms. I know of several people in the community, many former Settle members that have expressed interest in returning or have been waiting to return if Settle were to express a welcoming message.

Shocked on how the Conference supported every liberal and woke stance.

While same-sex marriage is not a favorite ( I wish it could be called by another name ! ) I have decided it is better to be inclusive in our Christian Fellowship than to draw lines and keep others out. Christ taught us to love one another. I came to Settle thirty years ago, looking for a church home; I knew no-one nor did I know anything about this church. Everyone, without exception, welcomed me with kindness and friendliness, and an invitation to the next choir rehearsal ! And so I stayed . I can do no less .

The UMC and the book of Discipline that I studied in seminary is NOT the one now being followed by the UMC. This directional change is not what I truly believe.

I very much appreciate the leadership at Settle. I know these are trying times, but please know that you are appreciated! No matter how Settle goes forward at this time, you are doing God's work, and He sees that!

Our church needs to express our intentions through congregational vote.

I think we are all children of God and as the church we should serve and love all of God's children. It is not for us, as a person, or a church, to restrict the word of God/ Jesus in anyway.

The need to share the Bible and gospels with the people

I hope we can come to an agreement by really listening to each other instead of making assumptions about what each other believe. I think there is room for every person in our congregation. Being honest, same sex relationships are such a hard thing for me to wrap my head around. My instinct is that it is not the way God wants us to live. But not being able to understand why people feel this way (some with a lot of conflict and some with a lot of conviction) makes it tough to defend that at times. I am praying for our church, our leadership, our congregation, our community...that we can really hear each other and move forward in love.

**WHY DID WE CHANGE OUR DOCTRINE, ITS LIKE CHANGING THE RULES AFTER HEARING ALL THESE YEARS THIS IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO**

I appreciate the more progressive tenor of the General Conference decisions, very much in step with social issues that are currently part of our world. We are to love God and others—all means all!

I think it is imperative for members to have their voices heard. This survey is a good start. But I think what needs to be underscored is that churches will still have options open to them as a church. Also that the ministers will continue to have individual choices. I would like to add to the previous question about same sex marriages (since there was no space to explain or supplement the response) ...the marriage ceremony is a religious ceremony and if members of our church wish to be married in Settle Memorial, I believe their sexual preferences (no more than the color of their skin) should not be an issue. If they have pledged to be a member of Settle and "Faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service and their witness", they should not be treated differently than any other member. Please remember that Christ had all sorts of "sinners" as his Apostles and followers - he never denied anyone, we should not either — regardless of our personal opinions. If the Bible is used as a "prohibition" against same sex marriage, then women would not even be allowed to speak in our church. As an aside, Settle Memorial does not have a "facility" . . . it has church buildings(s) including a Sanctuary.

There were "a lot" more changes in "beliefs" than I expected. I knew "gay issue" but there's wayyy more to the changes than that. Suprised so much focus on only 1 of the changes.

I respect others opinion however I believe Jesus wants us to love all people. If we are all made in his image would that make sense?

Broadway UMC has successfully navigated this challenge before us. Adam Shourds would be a great resource at one level or another, in person or via facetime or similar.

We just need to move forward

The information was helpful provided in these emails. No questions.

Weddings are between the couple, their families, the pastor and God. Why should the congregation have any input into who gets married at Settle or anyplace else? I've never been asked before.

I want to qualify my answer above. Same sex weddings could be hosted at Settle for church MEMBERS.

same sex unions are in God's hands...but these are not considered marriages

I have nothing against gay people but do not want a gay minister.

Settle should leave the United Methodist Church and take a stand against sin  
my values are more traditional

I believe that the leadership team has handled our current situation wonderfully. I feel informed and appreciate that no rash decisions have been made. I feel confident that our leadership team will make the best decisions for Settle.

The conference has failed to follow the Scriptures and has approved sinful acts.

We should remain part of the United Methodist Church.

Don't overplay the Discipline changes and further fracture the UMC...let time allow learning and evolving beliefs

I pray that Settle will continue to be the church that they have always been and not change because some think we need to. I could not be apart of a church that allowed things that in my heart knows is not right and isn't in line with the Bible's teachings. We are in scary times more than ever and I feel we need to stay closer to God and not move away from him. Our prayers are with Mark and the difficult path that he has had to be put in.