

SUMMARY—SMUMC Survey Responses (August 2024)

Attachment 1—Question #1: Favorite Memories

- 1) Special family events (joining church, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, funeral services)
- 2) Special ministries (preschool and child care, children's, youth, adult Sunday school, music, small group, Bible studies)
- 3) Community outreach
- 4) Missions
- 5) Lifelong friendships (fellowship and support)
- 6) Sunday services and special/seasonal services
- 7) Music
- 8) Supportive caring ministers

Attachment 2—Question #2: Ministry Offerings

- 1) More small group opportunities
- 2) Community outreach
- 3) Expansion of senior adult ministry
- 4) Young adult ministries

Attachment 3—Question #3: Ministry Challenges/Opportunities

- 1) Service rather than being served—empower individual members to own ministries
- 2) Welcoming, loving to all
- 3) Reaching young families and young adults and providing programming (creative thinking, find right time and place)

- 4) Growing Shout service participation

Attachment 4—Chart

- 1) 131 responses
- 2) Vast majority of respondents belong to Settle (89.8% members; 10.2% attendees but not members)
- 3) Majority feel that Settle should not allow same sex weddings in its facility. (59.8% no; 40.2% yes)

Attachment 5—Comments/Questions

Comments

Opposing Viewpoints:

Biblical belief that marriage is a union between a man and a woman
Opposition to permitting same sex weddings at Settle
Opposition to allowing homosexual ministers to preach at Settle

Supporting Viewpoints:

Support for remaining United Methodist
Support for inclusiveness regardless of race, gender, sexual identity
Emphasis on being non-judgmental and loving all God's children

Moving Forward:

Time to seek God's guidance
Time for questions to be answered
Time to listen to each other
Time to agree to disagree and move forward as Settle UMC, loving God and loving others

Questions to be answered at the Aug. 25 Settle Listening Event

Disaffiliation:

Can disaffiliation be discussed now? What would it take for Settle to disaffiliate? How do we start that conversation?

Remaining UMC:

Can Settle remain UMC even if we do not allow same-sex weddings and homosexual pastors in the pulpit?

Apportionments:

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

LGBTQ+ Clergy:

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

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

Will Settle accept a minister who openly practices actions that are considered biblically a sin?

LGBTQ+ Members:

Will homosexuals be allowed to teach our Sunday School classrooms of all ages?

Same Sex Weddings:

Why should the congregation have any input into who gets married at Settle or anyplace else?

Is a congregational vote on the use of its facilities mandatory or optional?

Should hosting same sex wedding decisions be made on an individual basis? Are one or both partners active members of the church? Do they give of their time, talents and gifts to the church?

What are the ramifications if the church allows such a union?