



Dear AUMC Family,

Earlier today, your administrative board approved the ballot for the called church conference on September 25th at 7:00 pm. The board also endorsed the resolution, which calls for disaffiliation from the UMC and affiliation with the GMC, by an overwhelming majority (11-2). During this called church conference our members will have the opportunity to decide our future affiliation, and whether that will be in the post-separation United Methodist Church or will begin with the Global Methodist Church.

While the decision before us is heartbreaking to many, and this discernment season has been very difficult, we are not alone. As of this letter's drafting, 290 churches in the Texas Annual Conference have entered the discernment process, and of those, 48 have already voted to disaffiliate. Those numbers are increasing daily as many churches vote in the upcoming days.

Your lay leadership, which includes our administrative board, board of trustees, finance committee and staff parish relations committee have voted to endorse disaffiliation from the UMC and affiliation with the GMC. In the coming days and weeks, we'll share more about this, and our vision for the future, with you.

In order to disaffiliate from the UMC, two-thirds of the members present at our church conference on Sunday, September 25th at 7pm in the Wesley sanctuary will need to vote for that option. Because of the way our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are written, a corporate exit from the UMC is not a viable option for our church. Our only means of leaving the UMC is using the Book of Discipline (BOD) paragraph 2553. While we believe that the ongoing controversy of human sexuality and the lack of enforcement of our current BOD over the same is just one symptom of a much deeper and more serious issue in the denomination, paragraph 2553 and the needed supermajority vote result is the only option the UMC leadership has left us with.

Please review the resolution and ballot, and if you have any questions about the language and options, contact the church office. Be sure to register to vote online, by phone or in-person at the church office prior to 9/22 for our Called Church Conference, led by our District Superintendent, on Sunday, 9/25 at 7pm. Check in and ballot pick up will begin at 6pm and the doors will close at 7pm. It is important to not be late. All votes must be cast in person per UMC BOD guidelines

We continue to be grateful for the leadership of our clergy and encourage you to keep Pastors Mike and Leigh-Anne as well as their families in your prayers.

Our prayers continue to be with all members of this church, especially those who are hurting.

Peace and Grace,

Mel Griffin, Lay Leader

Laura Packard, Administrative Board Chair

## Discernment Vote Ballot

Whereas Atascocita United Methodist Church (“AUMC”) has completed a season of prayerful discernment which included the gathering of information, the communication of said information to the professing membership, and much prayerful consideration, the membership of Atascocita United Methodist Church hereby resolves to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church using the process given in Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the “BOD”) and to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church.

By the passing of this resolution, the membership of this Church Conference authorizes and directs the Administrative Board and Board of Trustees of Atascocita United Methodist Church to take such actions as are necessary to effectuate this resolution, including (but not limited to) fulfilling any financial and legal obligations required under Paragraph 2553 of the BOD, and revising the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Atascocita United Methodist Church as is deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, I vote in favor of passing this resolution and support AUMC disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church and then affiliating with the Global Methodist Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ NO, I vote against this resolution and do not support disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church and affiliating with the Global Methodist Church.

With my signature below, I affirm that I am a professing member of Atascocita United Methodist Church and that the information on this ballot is correct.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September 25, 2022