

Administrative Council Response to General Conference

The past few months have been challenging for many churches in the United Methodist Church and for Central. The results of the temperature check held on Sunday, June 23 regarding changes made at the 2024 General Conference concerning human sexuality resulted in a split decision of 55% to stay United Methodist and 45% to leave the UMC. This information gave guidance to our Administrative Council, Trustee, and Staff Parish teams that met this past week.

Because we did not meet the 2/3rd majority to potentially dissociate from the UMC, the Administrative Council voted to stay UMC.

The Administrative Council also affirmed the following decisions:

- The Staff Parish team voted to communicate to Holston Conference it would be detrimental for the congregation and/or a practicing gay pastor to be appointed to Central.
- The Trustees, as permitted by the General Conference, updated our wedding policies to not hold same-sex marriages at Central UMC based on Central's leadership recommendation.

Our mission and ministry at Central remains the same. We are here to help people find and follow Jesus. We still believe there is more that binds us together than separates us. In our age of division, we believe that staying together in the midst of differences is a testimony to the work of Jesus Christ and that we are stronger together.

- July 21, 2024