



Centenary United Methodist Church
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THE MISSOURI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR AN AMICABLE SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Centenary United Methodist Church will close as a United Methodist Church under Paragraph 2549 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline, with two separate congregations forming, one that will remain United Methodist (New UMC) and the other, which will become an independent Congregation (New IC). The independent congregation will retain the physical church plant and campus at 300 N. Ellis in Cape Girardeau and all other real and personal property Centenary UMC now holds.

Both new churches will bless one another realizing that their common goal as the Church is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. This separation is to be as amicable as possible so both congregations may grow and continue to spread the gospel.

In order for the necessary approvals to be granted, the same financial obligations will be required of Centenary UMC as those that would have applied if the church disaffiliated under paragraph 2553. That is, prior to closure, Centenary would pay to the Conference all unfunded pension liability (\$132,544) and apportionments (\$56,199) due for 2022 and 2023 totaling \$188,743.

Centenary UMC will make the required payments as stated above to the Conference by June 20, 2023. The Conference will quit claim and release all real and personal property to the new independent congregation (New IC) by June 30, 2023.

In gratitude for the long and substantial service to Centenary UMC by those who will form the new UMC church, Centenary UMC assets will fund the new church with \$200,000 in a lump sum by June 30, 2023 and existing equipment, furnishings, etc. as needed, not to exceed \$50,000 in value.

The effective date of the separation will be June 30, 2023, and Pastor Jennifer Long will remain as senior pastor until that date.

Both new congregations, the New IC and the New UMC, will rename themselves, establish themselves as legal entities and not-for-profit corporations and begin a transition of lay leadership forthwith. Pastor Jennifer Long will become the senior pastor of the New UMC congregation. The common goal of both groups will be to assist each other as much as possible.

Pastor Jennifer, husband Chris and family will be welcome to retain residence in the Centenary parsonage through December 31, 2023, or until the new independent church hires a new senior pastor, and 60-days thereafter, whichever is sooner.

In the spirit of amicability, members of the New UMC church will be eligible for the same discounted fees for facilities usage (i.e., weddings, baptisms, facilities usage, pre-school tuition, etc.) as members of the New IC church and subject to protocols for usage established by the New IC church.