



Transition Team Letter and Recommendation

Dear New Centenary:

As you know, after the vote approving the MOU, there was much to do as we pursue the June 30 separation date, and indeed, there has been a great deal of activity, but not all of it visible. We on the transition team have now reached an action point and thought it best to inform everyone of our progress.

1. Mike Howard, and both Steve Limbaughs, Jr & Sr, have worked hard to address name change, articles of incorporation, and the other legal filing requirements for separating the New Centenary and the New UMC churches.
2. We asked to meet with the Global Methodist Church's Bishop Scott Jones, either in person or via Zoom, and he surprised us by appearing in person at the University to meet with members of Centenary and several other regional pastors and congregations invited by the New Centenary. He spoke for about an hour and took any/all questions. Additionally, the regional GMC representative, Jan Dillard, was very helpful, even offering to help smaller congregations that may not be able to afford disaffiliation exit fees obtain low-cost loans for that purpose.
3. The transition team reviewed many different links, documents, and materials from the GMC and the Wesleyan Conference to understand what resources are available for churches in our position.

At this time, the transition team members and other church leaders have come to a unanimous conclusion, and it is our recommendation that, given the work we have before us and our painfully short timeline, affiliating with the GMC affords us many practical advantages with minimal downside. Simply put, the GMC provides us with materials that we would otherwise have to create in a timeframe that does not allow it.

- The major advantage is we can essentially “Plug & Play” with GMC materials to meet requirements for our new charter. Specifically, our current charter uses the UMC Book of Discipline for our bylaws, defining everything necessary for the operation of the church, both theologically and administratively. Our new charter must contain similar structure if we are to become a new church.
- If the congregation approves our recommendation to affiliate with the GMC, we can simply incorporate the GMC Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline and we're done! The GMC material is very similar to the UMC Book of Discipline—we would have an Administrative Council and the other committees to govern the church.
- Immediately thereafter, we can file a petition to amend our corporate charter in the circuit court, and after 3 days the judge can issue an order approving the amendment. We then refile the amended charter with the MO Secretary of State under the not-for-profit statute, all in time for us to meet the timing requirements under the separation agreement.



To this end, we contacted our District Superintendent, Bruce Baxter, who set up a church conference for Tuesday, June 6, at 7 PM in the sanctuary for a vote.

For those of us who heard Bishop Jones, he told us the GMC is not going to build a bureaucracy like the UMC, the apportionments will be about one-half what we pay the UMC, and the GMC will assist us in finding a pastor with a process that allows much more autonomy in selecting a pastor. Some have said, “I don’t want someone else to tell me what I believe.” But if we’re Methodists, the GMC *is what we believe*. It’s essentially the same as the current UMC Book of Discipline, and the key parts that are presently ignored in some UMC conferences and facing revision by the UMC in 2024, will remain intact.

So, for those undecided, what’s the downside? If down the road we decide it’s not what we thought it would be, we can quit in a period of 90 days, retain ownership of all our assets and property, all without a cumbersome process and no exit fee! In view of these advantages, more than 2,000 former UMC churches have affiliated with the GMC and many hundreds are following. Those who were present for Bishop Jones presentation will not soon forget his announcement that earlier on that same day the 15,000-member Woodlands UMC, which had disaffiliated a few months ago, voted 96% in favor of joining the GMC!

We have scheduled a meeting in the FLC for Thursday, June 1, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM, to answer questions and further explain our recommendation prior to the June 6 vote.

Blessings,

Your Transition Team,

Ron Hahs	Steve Limbaugh, Jr.
Lisa Burns	Frank Kinder
Peter Kinder	Bob Garrett
Scott McClanahan	Nancy Hale
Kristen Daniel	Roxiann Woody

The following individuals are representative of additional church leaders who have authorized us to place their name on this recommendation as well:

Harry Rediger (member and former chair of admin. council)
Jackie Clark-Otto (former chair of admin. council)
Jeff Hine (chair, trustees committee)
Cory Daniel (chair, finance committee)
Mike Dumey (director of music ministries)
Gary Gilhaus (facilities director)