

Why has the timeline changed?

When the Discernment Team was formed in March 2022, there were still high hopes that the Protocol could be passed and that a fair process of disaffiliation would be available after the 2024 General Conference, if WMUMC was to decide to disaffiliate. We felt we could wait until after the 2024 General Conference to make any major decisions about WMUMC's future. Since then, however, more and more groups have abandoned the Protocol or left the UMC. Many believe that the chances are greatly diminished that the Protocol or any other fair process for disaffiliation will be passed by the 2024 General Conference.

Currently the only viable option to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and retain one's property and assets is the process outlined in ¶ 2553 of the UMC's Book of Discipline. This process is temporary and ends on 12/31/23. The process is cumbersome and requires approval of a church's Annual Conference in the Spring of 2023. If the deadline is missed, the window on ¶ 2553 closes. The DT feels strongly that it is our responsibility to inform the Church Council and the congregation of this evolving situation and give them the opportunity to respond if desired. The alternative is to let the deadlines pass and regret that we had not been aware of them. IF our desire is to disaffiliate and retain our property and assets, it may be now or never.

So, **IF** WMUMC was to decide to disaffiliate, the timeline would be:

1. WMUMC leadership requests a vote for disaffiliation and notifies our DS (*around mid- to late- October*).
2. Our District Superintendent can take up to 4 months (120 days) to schedule a Church Conference where a vote on disaffiliation would occur (*around mid- to late-February*)
3. If the vote is affirmative by a 2/3 vote of WMUMC members present at the Church Conference, there is a deadline of *April 1* (and considerable paperwork to complete) between the vote and presenting the application of disaffiliation to the 2023 WNC Annual Conference.
4. The disaffiliation request would be presented at the WNC Annual Conference in the *Spring of 2023* and must be approved by a simple majority vote.
5. WMUMC pays 2 years of apportionments and unfunded pension (as determined by Wespah) and retains property and assets.

As noted above, this means that the request for a vote needs to be made in mid- to late-October 2022.

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