



CLINTON

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Tower Views



July 28, 2022

As I am sure many of you have heard, the United Methodist Church is experiencing some inner unrest over the issue of human sexuality. This topic has become a divisive issue for several other denominations over the past twenty years... and today the United Methodist Church finds itself in a similar position.

As it stands currently, and has since 1973, our Book of Discipline prohibits same-sex marriage ceremonies to take place on church property, and does not allow United Methodist Pastors to officiate at such ceremonies. In addition to that, our Book of Discipline does not allow ordination of those living a self-avowed practicing homosexual lifestyle. During a special called General Conference in 2019, this topic became very heated and divisive, and resulted in the thought that division would ultimately be necessary. And then... Covid hit! Two "called" general conferences have since been postponed, with the next conference scheduled in May of 2024.

So what has been happening lately?

Because some feel so strongly that marriage should only be between one man and one woman... a new Methodist denomination has formed. It is called the Global Methodist Church (GMC). This new denomination is completely against same-sex marriage as well as the ordination of anyone who is not heterosexual. Many of the churches who fall on that conservative side have begun to pull away, and even disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Many of these churches feel that the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will remove the prohibitive language from the book of discipline in 2024; thereby allowing churches to decide for

themselves where they stand on these issues. Here in the Missouri Conference, we have seen approx. 30 of our 725 churches file for disaffiliation. At this point, none of those who have filed for disaffiliation have expressed a desire to join the new GMC, but they have chosen to leave the United Methodist denomination.

So what are we being asked to do?

At this point... nothing. Nothing has changed. The Book of Discipline is the same on this issue today as it has been for the past 49 years. Our Boards & Committees are the same. Our Foundation is the same. And no matter which side of this issue you might find yourself... our church is the same. IF... the General Conference does change the Book of Discipline in 2024, we can then decide if we choose to continue as a United Methodist Church, or if some other choice might best serve the congregation and the community. Actually, there has been a process for "disaffiliation" in our book of discipline since the beginning, and thereby a vehicle for any church to leave the denomination at any time if they so choose. It's just not something that most churches discuss.

Summary

I would ask that you keep our Bishop and leaders in your prayers. There are many wonderful people on BOTH sides of this issue! People who are dedicated and faithful... people who God loves... people who WE are supposed to love... but simply have a different view of this difficult issue. I will do my best to keep you all in the loop... and let you know of any changes that might come along. Thank you ALL for being the church!

In Christ, Pastor Monty



A note from
Emma Anderson...

Parents of Children & Youth

Sunday, July 31st from 9:00-9:30 there will be a meeting for parents of children and youth to discuss activities for the 2022-2023 school year. Grab your donuts and coffee and come join us in the chapel!

Coming Up!

Friday, July 29th

8:00 Pickleball

Sunday, July 31st

8:15 Early Service

9:00 Fellowship Time

9:00 Parents of Kids & Youth meeting in the Chapel

9:30 Second Service

9:30 AM Sunday School

Monday, August 1st

Morning Pickleball cancelled this week

10:00 Visitation Dr. James Clouse

11:00 Funeral Dr. James Clouse

5:30 Pickleball

Wednesday, August 3rd

8:30 Bible Study



Thank you for your support and prayers, and for the many cards I have received during surgery and radiation.
Suzanne Ammons



Prayers Needed

Ryan Self, Jill Bernard, Mike Lester,
Tom Stark, Suzanne Ammons, Melvin Dennis



Connect With Us!

Office—Kathy Garnett—660-885-5597
office@clintonumc.net

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Fred & Carolyn McAllister
Greeters: Martha Welsh & Peggy Powell
Donut helpers: Colan & Shirley Mincey
Liturgist: Monty
Children's Time: Emma Anderson
Acolytes: Lizzy Miller & Lala Schilling
Gathering & Service Music: Brenda Ford
Tech Team: Dave Garnett & Hunter Cates
Flowers on the Altar: Ken & Susan Scott



Ice It Down!

Reminder: Our new kitchen has a "Sonic Ice" maker that can produce about 50 pounds of delicious chewy ice a day... stop by

the church and say hi to Kathy and bring a little cooler along to grab some ice to keep your drinks chilled at home!

Better yet, drop off a small bag to your home bound neighbors to help them breeze through the heat wave!

Mr. Hawk!

We've had two hawks around the church the past month. One likes to hang out on the ark or on the utility poles in the parking lot. The other



favors the church steeple. Rumor has it, they sometimes get confused and fly into the glass doors or windows of the church!

This picture makes me wonder—is he ruling the roost or wants to be the first one on the ark when the flood comes?