

# New Denomination Information and Recommendation

## **New Denomination Sub-Committee:**

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# Denominations Studied

- Post-Separation UMC
- Global Methodist Church
- Independent
- Free Methodist
- Southern Methodist
- Wesleyan Church
- Nazarene Church

# All Criteria Considered

- Theology & Scripture
- Trust Clause
- Organizational Structure
- Female Clergy & Leadership
- Position on Homosexual & Transgender Clergy
- Clergy Participation in Same Sex Marriages
- Missions
- Ordination & Sacramental Authority
- Sanctity of Life / Position on Abortion
- Materials & Literature
- Support Services, Compensation, and Benefits
- Apportionments
- Missions & Outreach
- Appointment of Clergy
- Ordination

# Decision Critical Criteria

- Theology & Scripture
- Trust Clause
- Female Clergy & Leadership
- Ordination of Non-Celibate Homosexuals and Transgenders
- Clergy Participation in Same Sex Marriages
- Sanctity of Life & Position on Abortion

# Denominations Eliminated from Consideration

## Free Methodist

- Trust Clause

## Wesleyan Church

- Trust Clause

## Southern Methodist

- Does Not Ordain Female Clergy

## Nazarene Church

- Trust Clause
- Not a Good Cultural Fit for TOTH
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Holiness Theology

# Remaining Options

- Do Nothing – Remain in Post-Separation UMC
- Disaffiliate and Join Global Methodist Church
- Disaffiliate and Become Independent (Non-Denominational)

# Do Nothing – Remain in Post-Separation UMC

## Pros

- Already Organized
- Ordains Female Clergy
- Clergy Benefits and Pension Already in Place

## Cons

- Theology Being Influenced by Culture, No Longer Biblical
- Will Allow Same Sex Marriage
- Will Ordain Non-Celibate Homosexuals and Transgender Clergy
- Trust Clause
- Likely to be Pro-Choice
- Bishop Appoints Local Clergy

# Disaffiliate and Join Global Methodist Church

## Pros

- Organization Similar to UMC
- Theology Grounded in Scripture, Apostle's Creed, and Traditional Methodist Beliefs
- No Trust Clause
- No Non-Celebrate Homosexual or Transgender Bishops or Clergy
- Ordains Female Clergy at All Levels
- No Same Sex Marriage
- Does Not Support Abortion, Affirms Sanctity of Life
- Lower Apportionments than Current
- Clergy Appointment Tenure is Open Ended, Lay Leaders Have a Greater Voice in Appointments

## Cons

- Lots of Unknowns
- Large Organizational Structure
- Brand New Organization, Certain to Have Changes and Struggles Early On
- Potential Difficulty with Sourcing Clergy



# Disaffiliate and Become Independent

## Pros

- Theology to be Defined by Scripture, Apostle's and Nicene Creeds, Traditional Methodist Beliefs
- No Trust Clause – TOTH Retains Ownership of All Property and Assets
- No Bishops or Superintendents
- Church Determines Clergy Appointments and Tenure – Led by Church Council
- No Apportionments
- Ability to define and enforce standards of discipline locally

## Cons

- TOTH Responsible for Clergy Pension and Benefits
- Recruiting Clergy May Be Difficult and Could Require Professional Outside Assistance

# Our Recommendation

- Disaffiliate from the UMC
- Establish TOTH as an Independent Church
- Closely Monitor the GMC's Adopted Bylaws and Organizational Structure Following Its First General Conference in September 2022 and After
- Make a Timely Decision About Affiliation with the GMC or Remaining Independent – 2024 or Later