



Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, our Helm Leadership Team has been meeting recently. After much prayer and discussion, Helm has voted unanimously to begin a process of discernment as to whether we should continue as a United Methodist Church. To be clear, the Helm does not have the authority to make a unilateral decision to disaffiliate from the UMC. According to the current Book of Discipline, disaffiliation must be done by a two-thirds vote at a called Church Conference, and then ultimately at an Annual Conference either in November 2022 or June of next year.

We will be gathering as a church on Sunday, August 14th at 3 p.m. for a time of prayer and to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit as we share and pray. Our Helm Leadership will lead this time.

On Thursday, August 25th at 6 p.m. we will meet as a church body for a Town Hall style meeting with the District Superintendent.

On Wednesday, September 7th at 6 p.m. we will meet in the Life Center for a Church Conference and vote.

We are also asking all of you to mark Wednesday, August 24th and Tuesday, September 6th as days of prayer and fasting for our church. The Sanctuary will be open all day for those that want to come and pray.

Please see back for timeline

I pray that we will seek to honor God and each other as we listen for the Holy Spirit's leading through our conversations. Our goal as church leadership is to make this an open process and for you to have all the information you need to help us make this decision together.

Please be in prayer for our Helm, our District Superintendent Jean Tippet, Bishop David Graves, your pastors, our church, and the United Methodist Church as we begin to walk through this process.

Grace and Peace,

Allen Newton ><>
Lead Pastor
Destin UMC

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Process of Discernment and Meeting Schedule

August 14th Sunday / 3:00 pm

Church Wide Gathering in Sanctuary

August 24th Wednesday / All Day

Day of Prayer and Fasting

The Church Sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to come pray

August 25th Thursday / 6:00 pm

Town Hall meeting with District Superintendent in the Sanctuary

September 6th Tuesday / All Day

Day of Prayer and Fasting

The Church Sanctuary will be open for anyone who wishes to come pray

September 7th Wednesday / 6:00 pm

CHURCH CONFERENCE VOTE in the Life Center

Must be a professing member to vote

Must be approved by 2/3 of professing members present at the meeting

November 12th Saturday / Time to be Announced

Special Called Annual Conference for the purpose of voting on churches wishing to disaffiliate