

IF/THEN

IF we remain a United Methodist Church THEN:

- The Church and Carnegie buildings do not belong to us.
- We would still be Methodists and continue in a denomination that has lost 4,700,000 members in 50 years.
- We support a large bureaucracy no longer sized for the ministry and mission it administrates.
- Though the stated aspiration of denominational leadership is to liberalize church teaching and practice regarding homosexuality, the doctrine stating “homosexuality is incompatible with Scripture” will remain until at least 2024. Importantly, the doctrine also proclaims: “the infinite value and worth of every human being” and we live this at Marion Methodist.
- Our church will be subservient to bishops who state they will continue to ignore specific doctrinal statements and rulings of the Judicial Council and Legislative bodies.
- We will be members of a church in which every U.S. bishop identifies themselves as liberal or progressive and aims to lead the church in a direction that aligns with those theologies.
- We will be part of a denomination that is choosing to demand congregations pay exorbitant fees to exit and own the buildings and properties they have built, maintained, and paid for while having cash reserves in the millions.
- We would vote in a direction opposite the actions of our Church Council who has consistently voted to withhold apportionment payments since 2017.
- We would seek to heal from a protracted and divisive half century long denominational battle while continuing in a denomination ripe with strife with nearly certain significant structural and doctrinal changes in the foreseeable future.

IF we disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church THEN:

- The Church and Carnegie buildings belong to us.
- We would still be Methodists and could affiliate with a new or growing denomination. (Alongside thousands of other disaffiliating congregations.)
- We could support a denomination with less bureaucracy to administrate mission and ministry at a much lower cost.
- We would continue to hold the historic church teaching that states: “homosexuality is incompatible with Scripture” and steadfastly live and proclaim, “the infinite value and worth of every human being.”
- We would only affiliate with a denomination that holds leadership accountable to the integrity of their theology, rules, and doctrine.
- We could be the moderate to conservative church we have been and grow our ministry in that niche.
- We could heal from a protracted and divisive half century long denominational battle and move together into a new epoch of ministry at Marion Methodist.