

May 16, 2022

Dear Canton First family and friends,

On Sunday, May 22, Rev. John Pinson, our District Superintendent from the North Georgia Conference, will meet with members from Canton First to discuss the ongoing theological differences within The United Methodist Church. Rev. Pinson will share with our church members what disaffiliation means, what is entailed, and what steps must be taken to disaffiliate from the UMC, and he will answer questions from those in attendance, time permitting. Please remember that this meeting is a time for us to learn about the ***process of disaffiliation***; no other topics will be discussed at this meeting. Rev. Pinson is the expert on this topic, and he has been very gracious to come and meet with us just a few days before his retirement becomes official. The Chapel will be open before, during, and after the meeting for all who would like to come and pray for this gathering.

As mentioned in our letter to the congregation dated May 6, 2022, your Governing Board continues to study all aspects of the issues currently dividing the UMC, while also evaluating the options which are available to us. Our prayer is that we can discern God's plan for Canton First together, so that we can continue to faithfully follow God's vision and direction for our church. As we work through the process required by the United Methodist Church, the Governing Board will provide opportunities for our congregation to learn all we can about disaffiliation, to become familiar with the process, and to participate in and ask questions about what this means for Canton First UMC. We are including a link to a [video](#) from Pastor Kenny with updates for our members.

The Governing Board has invited Mr. Dan Parr, President of the North Georgia Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), to meet with our congregation to share information about the WCA and the Global Methodist Church, which officially launched on Sunday, May 1, 2022. You can read more about the [WCA here](#). The Wesleyan Covenant Association has been an integral part of the creation of the Global Methodist Church, and Mr. Parr is well prepared to share with us concerning the vision, the mission, the beliefs, and the governance of the GMC. You can access the Global Methodist Church's [website here](#) for more information and **we strongly urge you to inform yourself about the beliefs, values and doctrine of the Global Methodist Church**, found in [The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline](#) under the "Resource" tab on their website. Many of your questions can be answered there.

We invite you to attend the meeting with Dan Parr, scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 15, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mr. Parr will provide information about the WCA and the Global Methodist Church, and he will be available to answer questions from our members. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the process, and for our members to seek answers to any questions you may have.

Please continue to pray for our church, our pastors, and our Governing Board members. These are challenging times within the Methodist church, and we are grateful to you and our staff for remaining focused on the ministries of Canton First UMC as we work together to determine our future.

Blessings,

Dr. Kenny Ott, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Kelly Beckley, Executive Pastor  
Dave Sullivan, Lay Leader  
Susan Dreschel, Governing Board Chair