

June 09, 2022

Dear Canton First family and friends,

On Sunday, May 22, Rev. John Pinson, our District Superintendent from the North Georgia Conference, met with members of Canton First to discuss the ongoing theological differences within The United Methodist Church. Rev. Pinson shared information concerning disaffiliation from the UMC, as well as answering questions from those in attendance.

As mentioned in an earlier email to our congregation, Mr. Dan Parr, President of the North Georgia chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, will present information to our congregation on the WCA and the Global Methodist Church. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 15, at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. All members are invited to attend. The Chapel will be open before, during, and after the meeting for all who would like to come and pray for this gathering.

Following the presentation from Mr. Parr on June 15, the Governing Board will conduct small-group meetings for our members to provide additional opportunities for congregants to learn more about our future affiliation options, should our church vote to disaffiliate from the UMC, and to ask questions. These meetings have been scheduled on the following dates, and you can sign up to attend any of these meetings by going to the church website > [Upcoming Events](#) > and register for the session that works best for you:

- Sunday, June 19 – 2 pm
- Wednesday, June 29 – 6 pm
- Wednesday, July 6 – 6 pm

Please register in advance to help us plan for space, but everyone is welcome! A nursery will be provided, but please register your child(ren) so we can ensure adequate staffing. Additional sessions may be scheduled, depending on requests from our congregants.

The Governing Board has also scheduled an informational session with Dr. Kenny Ott on Sunday, July 10, at 2 pm in the Sanctuary. Pastor Kenny will meet with the congregation and share his perspective with interested members, as well as responding to our questions.

In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns regarding this period of discernment for Canton First, please contact one of us. We would be happy to discuss with you! We ask that you continue to pray for our church, our pastors, and our Governing Board members.

Blessings,

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