

## Why stay United Methodist?

*“Do not rashly tear asunder the sacred ties which unite you to any Christian society.”*  
- John Wesley

### About The United Methodist Church

- We love the United Methodist Church and the people in our church family. We were raised in the church or found a home in it. We have been saved and transformed by Jesus Christ in the UMC.
- We have a Wesleyan theology of prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. We center not on judgment, but on the God who reaches out, forgives our sins, and welcomes us into community.
- **We believe in the authority and primacy of Holy Scripture, interpreted through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience. We believe that the core of Scripture is love, what John Wesley called the “royal law” and what Jesus called the sum of all the law and prophets.**
- The UMC is dedicated to the inclusion of all people. Though by no means perfect, we nevertheless strive to be a church of “open hearts, open minds, and open doors.” We believe that diversity within the Body of Christ is a strength and helps us give witness to the Kingdom of God in our midst.
- The current stance of The United Methodist Church on human sexuality has not changed. Whatever changes are made in the future (2024 is the earliest this can be considered), we want to continue to be a “big tent” church where people of various convictions can live together and serve together under the core doctrines of Wesleyan Methodism.
- Pastors will continue to have discretion over whom to marry, churches on weddings allowed, and annual conferences will continue to have authority over whom to ordain.
- We are staying on mission: “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” That is our call from God and why we exist.
- We are already a global church. The UMC works around the world in missions, disaster relief, education, and many other efforts. We have a covenant relationship with historic institutions like UMCOR, Methodist Children’s Home, Methodist Hospital, MRC, etc. A new denomination will take years to reach anything close to that impact and reputation.
- Remaining in the United Methodist Church allows KUMC to continue its missional focus and allows us to grow deeper with each other and with Christ.

**“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? . . . Without all doubt, we may.”**  
- John Wesley