

A Helpful Disaffiliation Timeline for Churches

1. Complete the [Disaffiliation Inquiry](#) form. This form needs to be done ASAP; doing so will allow the church to obtain specific dollar amounts for required payments set by our annual conference cabinet and trustees for disaffiliation.
2. The Church Council should decide to request a church conference for the purpose of disaffiliation. Most churches will have the council chair (or chair of the trustees) make the request of the district superintendent for a church conference in the fall.
3. Complete Preliminary Disaffiliation Agreement: Local Church fills in the [Disaffiliation Agreement](#) details, including payment amounts, in preparation for a church conference vote.
4. Once the Church Council has decided to request the church conference, and the Disaffiliation Agreement is complete, the church must submit a [Church Conference for Disaffiliation Request](#). We recommend submitting this request as soon as possible to allow for scheduling.
5. We recommend that an informational session be held to help people understand what the disaffiliation means for the church and why the church is wanting to disaffiliate. The WCA Leadership Team will provide each church with material mid-July for purposes of offering information to members of the church.
6. The church conference will be held in the fall to approve disaffiliation. At the conference at least 2/3 of the professing members present must vote yes (via written ballot) to move forward with disaffiliation from UMC. The paragraph for disaffiliation in the UM Discipline is paragraph 2553.
7. We also recommend that rather than call for a second congregational meeting later, the chairperson of the church council add one more item of business to the church conference: a show of hands vote of the church's intention to transfer to the Global Methodist Church. (More specifics will be given later.)
8. All annual conferences have different terms for compliance with paragraph 2553. The North Carolina Annual Conference set their terms with consultation from the conference board of trustees, the cabinet, the conference treasurer, the annual conference benefits officer, the conference chancellor and Bishop Fairley.

Payments required:

1. Any unpaid apportionments for the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the Disaffiliation Date plus an additional twelve (12) months of apportionments.

2. The church's fair share of the annual conference's pension liability.
 3. Any direct-bill obligations as verified by the Conference Benefits Office, including prior year pension and health insurance outstanding balances.
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9. Bishop Fairley has announced a called annual conference for final approval of the disaffiliation agreements approved by the churches of the annual conference. This meeting will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Jarvis UMC in Greenville from 11 am to 4 pm. The above mentioned agreements must be "ratified by a simple majority of the present members of the called session of the Annual Conference."
 10. Organizational Transition: Each disaffiliating church must take steps necessary to change all legal documents (deeds, accounts, EIN numbers, incorporation documents, etc.) by the disaffiliation date of December 31, 2022.
 11. While the disaffiliation terms in paragraph 2553 of the United Methodist Discipline are good through December 31, 2023, we highly recommend that any church that would like to disaffiliate do so in 2022 to avoid changes in the current terms from OUR annual conference which could occur in 2023. We are likely to have a new bishop in January and these current terms may well change with new leadership in Garner.

Jerry Lewis and Branson Sheets worked on this document on behalf of the NC WCA Leadership Team