LOCAL CHURCH REQUEST TO EXPLORE DISAFFILIATION UNDER ¶2553

*APPLICATION*

According to ¶2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the Local Church has a limited right to petition its annual conference to disaffiliate from the denomination “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.”

The first step in discerning whether God is leading your congregation to disaffiliate is for local church leaders to thoroughly and prayerfully review the attached document, “Disaffiliation of Local Churches Over Issues of Human Sexuality.” Questions for clarification and understanding can be directed to your District Superintendent or the chairperson of the Conference Board of Trustees.

If after reviewing the eligibility requirements and local church obligations, a local church wishes to explore the possibility of disaffiliation, it should complete and submit a request to explore disaffiliation. Submitted applications will be reviewed by the Conference Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Bishop and Cabinet, to determine eligibility and appropriate next steps.

NOTE: this request form must be completed and submitted no later than February 1st for a local church to be eligible for Annual Conference action that calendar year.

I. LOCAL CHURCH RATIONALE FOR DISAFFILIATION: Please attach a 1-2-page statement detailing the reasons of conscience which compel your local church to seek disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church. To meet the criteria established by ¶2553, this statement should directly address:
   a. “change[s] in the requirements or provisions of the Book of Discipline” or
   b. “actions or inactions of [the] annual conference” related to “the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference.”

II. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Official Church Name:

Mailing Address:

GCFA number:
Pastor:

Lay Leader:

Local Church Board of Trustees, chairperson:

Church Council/Administrative Board, chairperson:

Staff-Parish Relations Committee, chairperson:

III. REQUIRED SIGNATURES:

_______________________________________________________
Lay Leader

_______________________________________________________
Pastor

_______________________________________________________
Local Church Board of Trustees, chairperson

_______________________________________________________
Church Council/Administrative Board, chairperson

_______________________________________________________
Staff-Parish Relations Committee, chairperson

IV. COPIES SUBMITTED TO:

___ chairperson of Conference Board of Trustees

___ the District Superintendent

___ the resident Bishop