



## Walnut Grove United Methodist Church

Hello, my name is Charles Harrison, and I am a member of Walnut Grove UMC. My family have been members here since the Walnut Grove Church was organized in 1858. Walnut Grove and the congregation are extremely important to me. I feel sure that you feel the same way about your church.

Over two years ago, I began seeing things change in some UMC churches. The most striking change was the church's position regarding the LGBTQ+ situation. I've seen many bishops disregard the book of discipline and pastors performing same-sex marriages. Then I realized that our fundamental beliefs were also being disregarded. Fewer people think that the Bible is actually and literally God's Word. One pastor in the biggest UMC in Houston, Texas, said that the church created the Bible and the church could change it.

I trust that John 17:3, 2 Timothy 3:16, and Psalms 119 are the truth. Fewer people believe that Christ ever even lived. There is a growing belief that Christ was not without sin. Fewer people believe that Christ died, was buried, and rose again. Christ died to allow us to be redeemed from our sins. That is the most fundamental belief we have. yet some UMC churches have moved away from this pillar of our Christian faith.

I do not know how much you know about the separation of some churches from the UMC. Your pastor may not be providing this information to your congregation. Over 20% of the churches in Florida are in the process of leaving the UMC. The North Carolina Conference has published a document on how to withdraw from the UMC. But here in South Carolina, not a word is spoken from our bishop or the conference leadership. It seems that the bishop and the cabinet believe everything will be fine and without any problem. This is not true. Everything might be fine currently. This is true at my church now, but we may get a new pastor and that pastor may have beliefs that are contrary to our fundamental beliefs.

These issues were to be resolved by the General Conference, but the General Conference was not held for 2 years because of COVID, and then postponed again, for possibly more nefarious reasons. This was in spite of the fact that many other denominations held their worldwide gatherings in 2022. There were expected to be enough votes at that General Conference to provide a means for churches to leave the UMC in a way that the church could retain their property, and for a small dollar penalty. However, with so many conservative churches already withdrawing from the UMC, the votes are unlikely to be present for an amicable separation at the next General Conference. I truly believe that churches which hold a traditional view must leave the UMC now.



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If you feel you need to look more closely at this situation, many Internet resources are available. Just search Google for the following:

Peopleneedjesus.net UM Fallout: A Compendium

<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2022/07/28/um-fallout-a-compendium/>

Keys to Doing Separation Right By Thomas Lambrecht

[https://app.donorview.com/Communication/View?prm=FXGWJE8IKbpJdlwOgBRdzv\\_wb4aoSY5hM0ECQaDWLTPzXSwmkb7DB49tK\\_GzbZn5SMvcsXbZpMc67IrmvsQ2tHM3Bvc00rqgzynjuYs6oKrS0VhqnTZWy4G\\_yU2LUNye0O6XP9Fiymf2f\\_eaqDh1O9vlVVX6p\\_0wVEdvAXk98m8cxOFsvDzV09k8YAdjp0UL1Xuv6pWk-XSMnJ-69Q5SagVnntN4p9aG9TM785s7AXzY1](https://app.donorview.com/Communication/View?prm=FXGWJE8IKbpJdlwOgBRdzv_wb4aoSY5hM0ECQaDWLTPzXSwmkb7DB49tK_GzbZn5SMvcsXbZpMc67IrmvsQ2tHM3Bvc00rqgzynjuYs6oKrS0VhqnTZWy4G_yU2LUNye0O6XP9Fiymf2f_eaqDh1O9vlVVX6p_0wVEdvAXk98m8cxOFsvDzV09k8YAdjp0UL1Xuv6pWk-XSMnJ-69Q5SagVnntN4p9aG9TM785s7AXzY1)

Case Closed: Affirming Homosexual Practice is Irreconcilably Contrary to Core United Methodist Doctrine by John Lomperis. <https://juicyecumenism.com/2017/10/24/case-closed-affirming-homosexual-practice-irreconcilably-contrary-core-united-methodist-doctrine/>

Good News Magazine has provided a series of YouTube videos by Rob Renfro that are very informative and I consider them essential viewing. [www.goodnewsmag.org](http://www.goodnewsmag.org)

Concord Church: GMC versus UMC This is a site that provides a great amount of information on the entire situation. <https://www.concordchurchrox.org/about-us/gmc-vs-umc>

Time is running out as our exit ramps and disciplinary opportunities are being closed and an alarming rate. If churches have not taken action to disaffiliate within the next year, I believe that opportunity will be gone for good.

For Christ and the Church,

Charles Harrison  
Walnut Grove UMC  
Way Forward Committee Chair