



# Zion United Methodist Church

5708 Highway 187 North      Anderson, South Carolina 29625

Website: [www.zionumc.net](http://www.zionumc.net)

864.287.9098

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Dear Members of Zion,

Our Bishop has recently announced a discernment process for United Methodist Churches in SC for separation from the UMC in 2023. This process had not been available before the December 19, 2022 announcement. At the first meeting of our Administrative Council since the announcement, we carefully reviewed the new information and gave serious consideration to implications for Zion.

In short, we believe it is in the best interest of Zion to continue being Zion, keeping our focus on God's mission and ministry in this place. Once we are aware of the outcomes of the 2024 General Conference, our members will prayerfully consider what, if any, implications those decisions have for the future of Zion's mission to serve Christ and our community.

Had we felt led to consider the discernment process, the following would have had to be considered:

- The financial obligations for Zion to separate from the UMC as defined in this process are significant - our rough estimates range to more than \$500,000.
- The discernment process was not something we could accomplish in time to satisfy the March 1 deadline for 2023.
- With new developments occurring regularly, we believe waiting to know our real options is in the best interest of Zion.
- There are simply too many unknowns to allow us to make an informed and faithful decision.

The Administrative Council will continue to be diligent regarding General Conference developments and will keep you informed. Please know, with your continued support and prayers for God's guidance and wisdom, your AC is committed to facilitating the Lord's work at Zion in 2023 and beyond! We cannot allow fear or misinformation to cause us to stray from the path that God has us on at Zion right now; a path that is bearing fruits of growth and fulfillment in our ministry.

It is our fervent prayer that we will continue to be the church that we know and love united in the effort to fulfill our mission "to serve Christ through prayer, worship, study, mission and fellowship" as we await the leading of the Holy Spirit in the discernment of our path forward.

Respectfully yours in Christ,  
KC Carter, Administrative Council Chair  
Beverly CroweTipton, Pastor

Helpful website for information: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-series-is-the-umc-really>