



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LONG BEACH

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Explanation of March 3rd Church Conference Vote Which Will Result in Staying or Leaving the United Methodist Church

On January 29, 2024, the Long Beach First UMC Church Council voted to enter the Mississippi Conference Trustee Church Closure plan (Paragraph 2549 of the current Book of Discipline) which is now the only method for churches to leave the United Methodist Church denomination.

On February 18, the Long Beach First UMC Church Council voted to select option C in the Mississippi Conference Trustee Church Closure plan. Option C results in the following process:

For the Sake of clarity, The Church Conference Vote on March 3 at 2 pm in the First UMC Sanctuary will be a vote to close our church which is effectively a vote to leave the United Methodist Church denomination. Those who are eligible to vote are those members who are present and voting. The results of the vote will be announced before the meeting is over.

If this vote on March 3 fails to reach a 2/3 majority, then our church remains in the United Methodist Church. This ends the 2549 Process. There is no second vote.

If the vote on March 3 reaches or exceeds the 2/3 majority, then the next voting step is to await the results of the United Methodist Church General Conference of April 23-May 4, 2024. After the church evaluates any changes, or no changes to the Book of Discipline regarding marriage and ordination of homosexual persons, then our church will schedule a second vote (date to be determined).

This second vote based on the results of General Conference is to either affirm the vote of March 3, (again, by reaching or exceeding a 2/3 majority) or by rescinding the vote of March 3 (by failing to reach a 2/3 majority). If the second vote passes by 2/3 majority, our church exits the United Methodist Church denomination. If the second vote fails to reach a 2/3 vote, our church remains as part of the United Methodist Church.

Jon Kaufman
Senior Pastor

Ben Barlow
Associate Pastor

David Roots
Church Council Chairman