

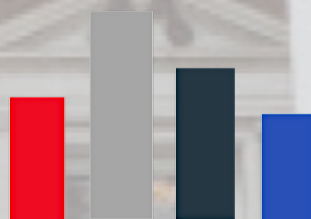
Congregation Survey

July 13 – July 29, 2022

PREPARED FOR:

Central United Methodist Church

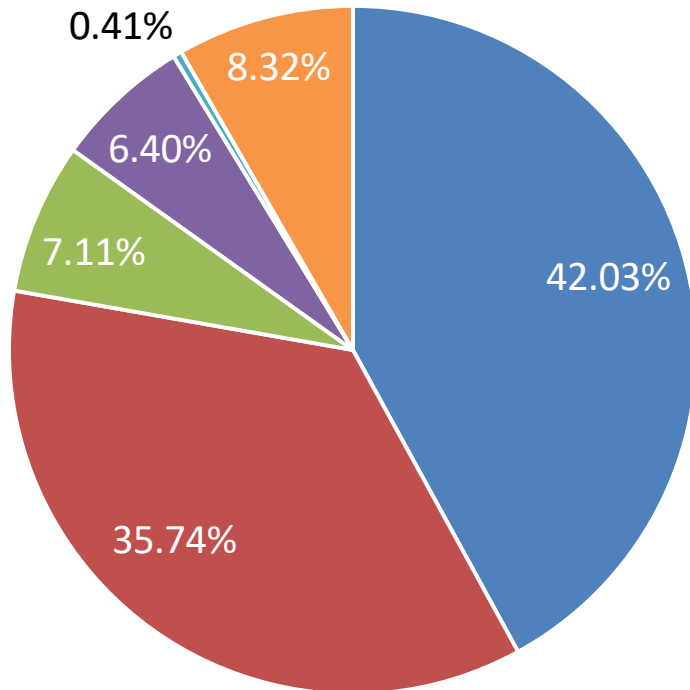
Key findings of an online survey of 985 Central United Methodist Church members. The survey has a margin of error of plus/minus 2.72 percentage points (+/- 2.72%).



**MAIN
STREET**
ANALYTICS

SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Which service you normally attend?

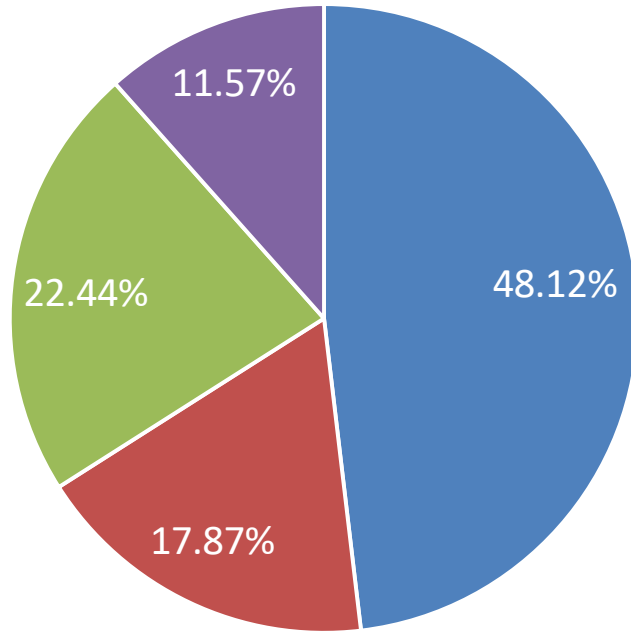


- Classic Service
- Contemporary Service
- Genesis Campus
- Online
- UA Wesley Campus
- Do not regularly attend

- Classic Service had the highest predominance among 60-69 year olds and 70+
- Contemporary Service was the top choice for under 18, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, & 50-59 year olds.

ATTENDANCE FREQUENCY

In the last year, I have attended worship with the following frequency.

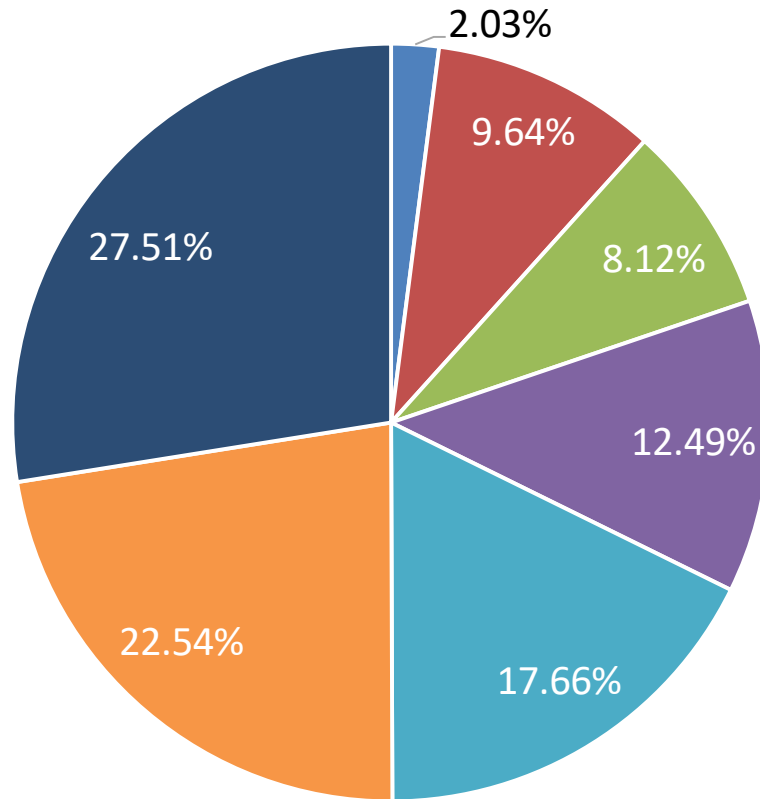


- Weekly attendance is highest among 70+ (61%), followed by 60-69 year olds (58%).
- A plurality of 50-59 year olds (42%) and 40-49 year olds (44%) attend services weekly.

■ Weekly ■ Monthly
■ A Few Times ■ Not at All

AGE

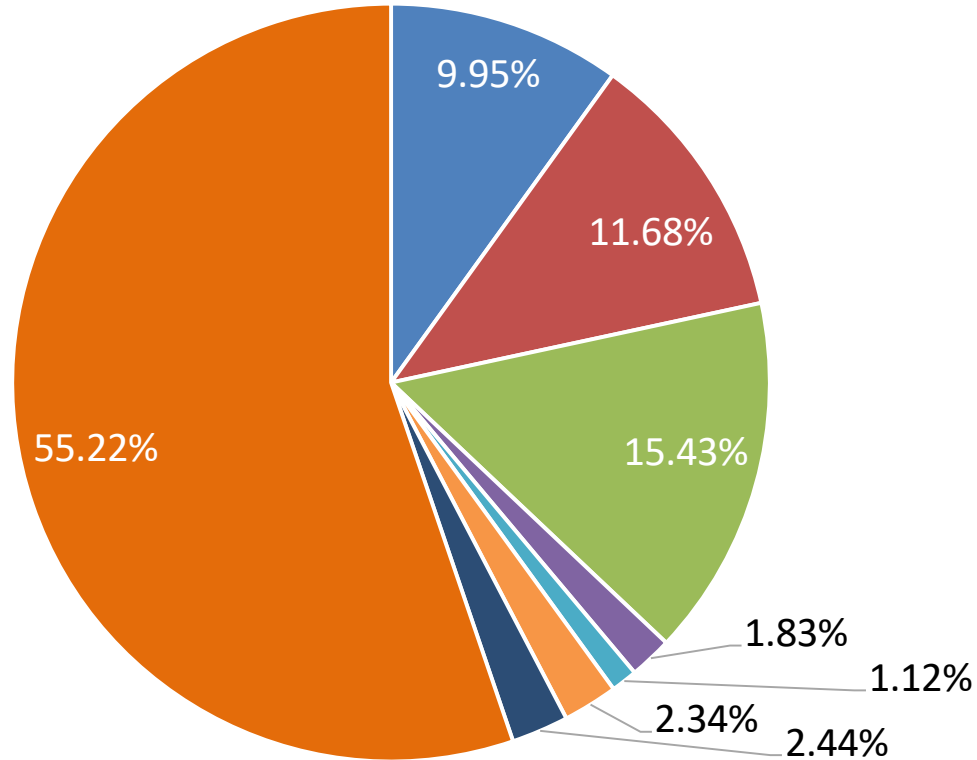
What is your age range?



- Under 18
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70 or older

INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE

Which information session did you attend?



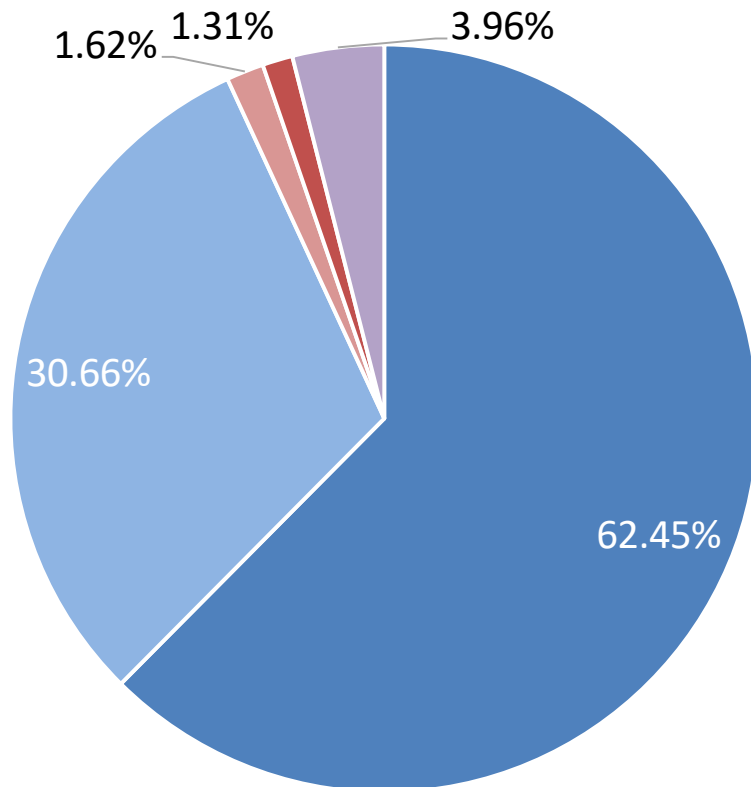
- May 12th only
- May 31st only
- June 5th only
- May 12 & May 31
- May 12 & June 5
- May 31 & June 5
- All Three
- Didn't Attend

INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE

- Overall 55% of respondents did not attend an information session.
- Weekly church attendees had the highest information session attendance (64%).
- Participation in the information sessions had a reverse correlation with age.
 - 59% of 70+ attended at least one session
 - 57% of 60-69 attended at least one session
 - 47% of 50-59 attended at least one session
 - 33% of 40-49 attended at least one session
 - 24% of 30-39 attended at least one session
 - 13% of 18-29 attended at least one session
 - 15% of under 18 attended at least one session

UNDERSTAND ISSUES

I believe I understand the issues that are before our church.

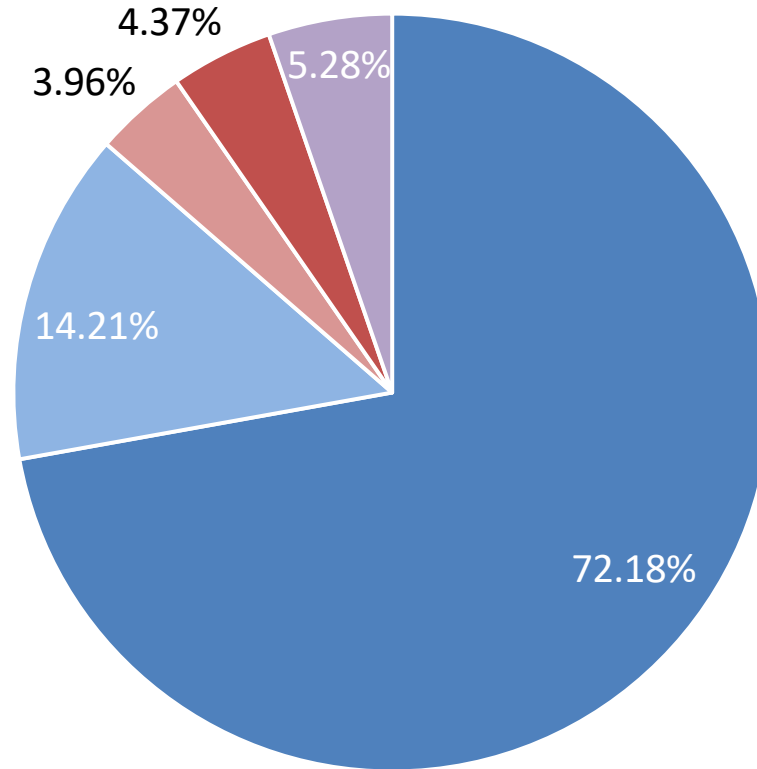


- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree

- Broad overall understanding of the issues (93%)
- Correlation between attending sessions and understanding the issue
 - Didn't attend session – 56% strongly agree with statement.
 - Attended all 3 – 84% strongly agree with statement.

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION

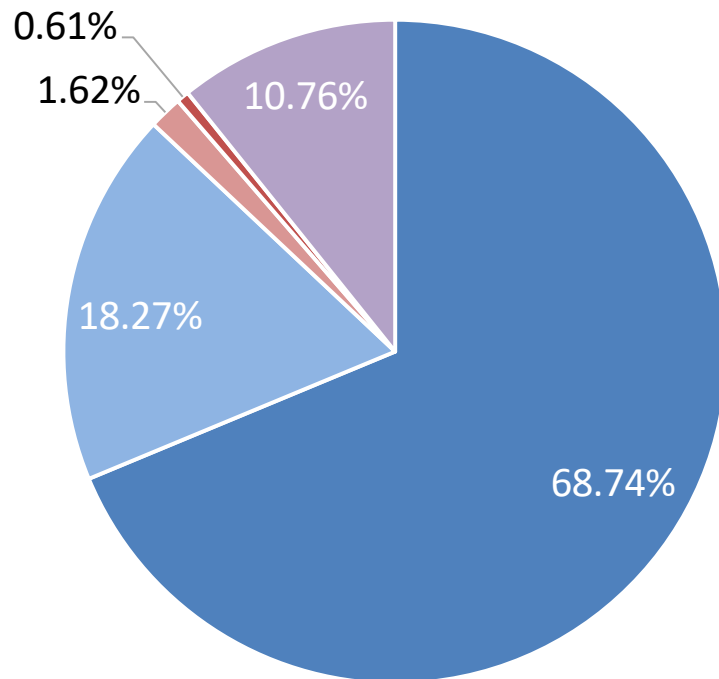
I believe it is important that Central is talking about these issues.



- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree

COMMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP

I am committed to my vows of church membership.

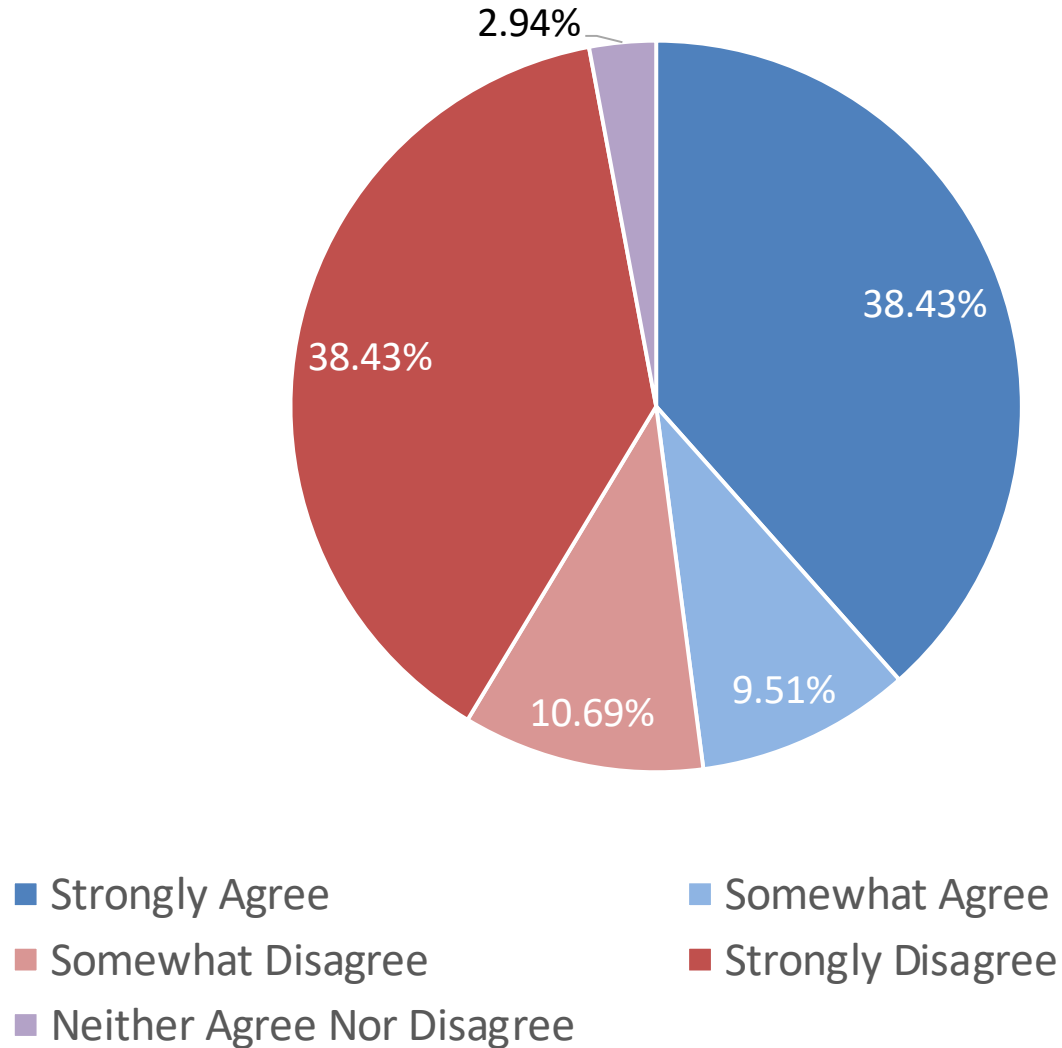


- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree

- Overall, 87% are committed to membership.
 - Lowest commitment levels among –
 - Those who don't regularly attend (62%)
 - Genesis Campus (83%)
- Weekly, a few times, and monthly attendees all top 80% "committed to membership".
- Strength of commitment is highest among oldest age groups and lowest among youngest age groups.

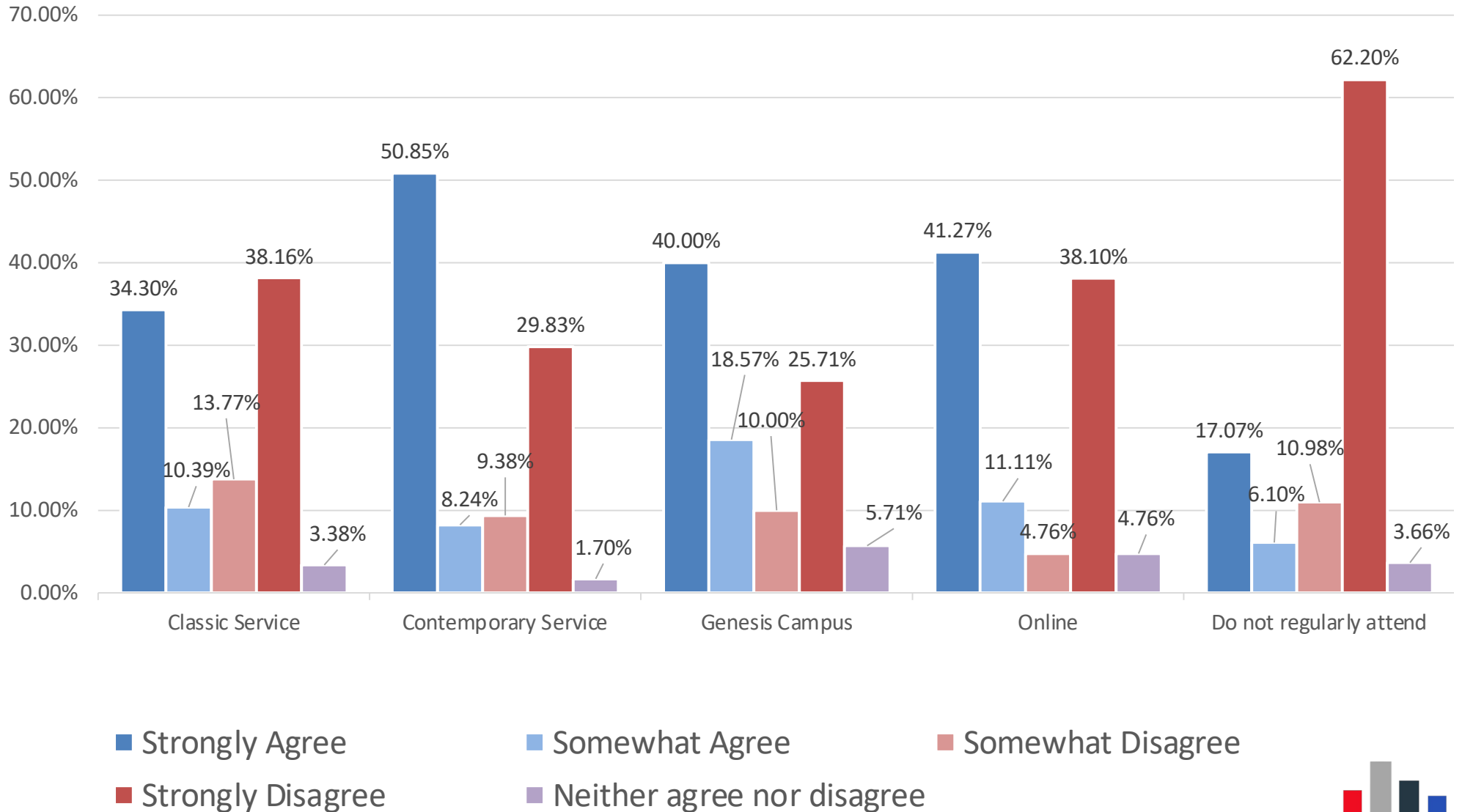
BOOK OF DISCIPLINE – CURRENT STANCE

The current stance in the Book of Discipline relating to matters of marriage and sexuality aligns with my personal beliefs:



BOOK OF DISCIPLINE – CURRENT STANCE

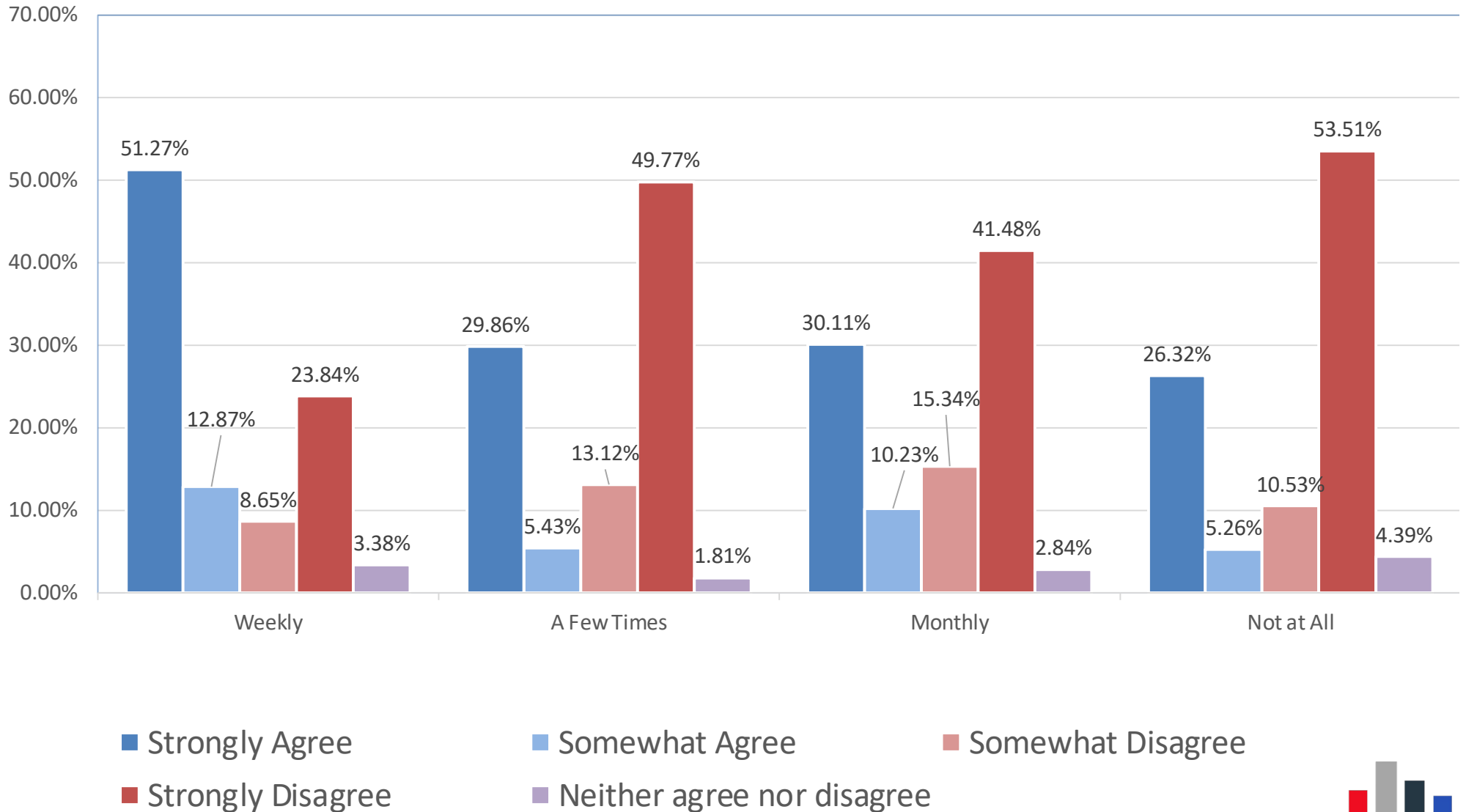
Book of Discipline View by Service Type



■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Somewhat Disagree
■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree

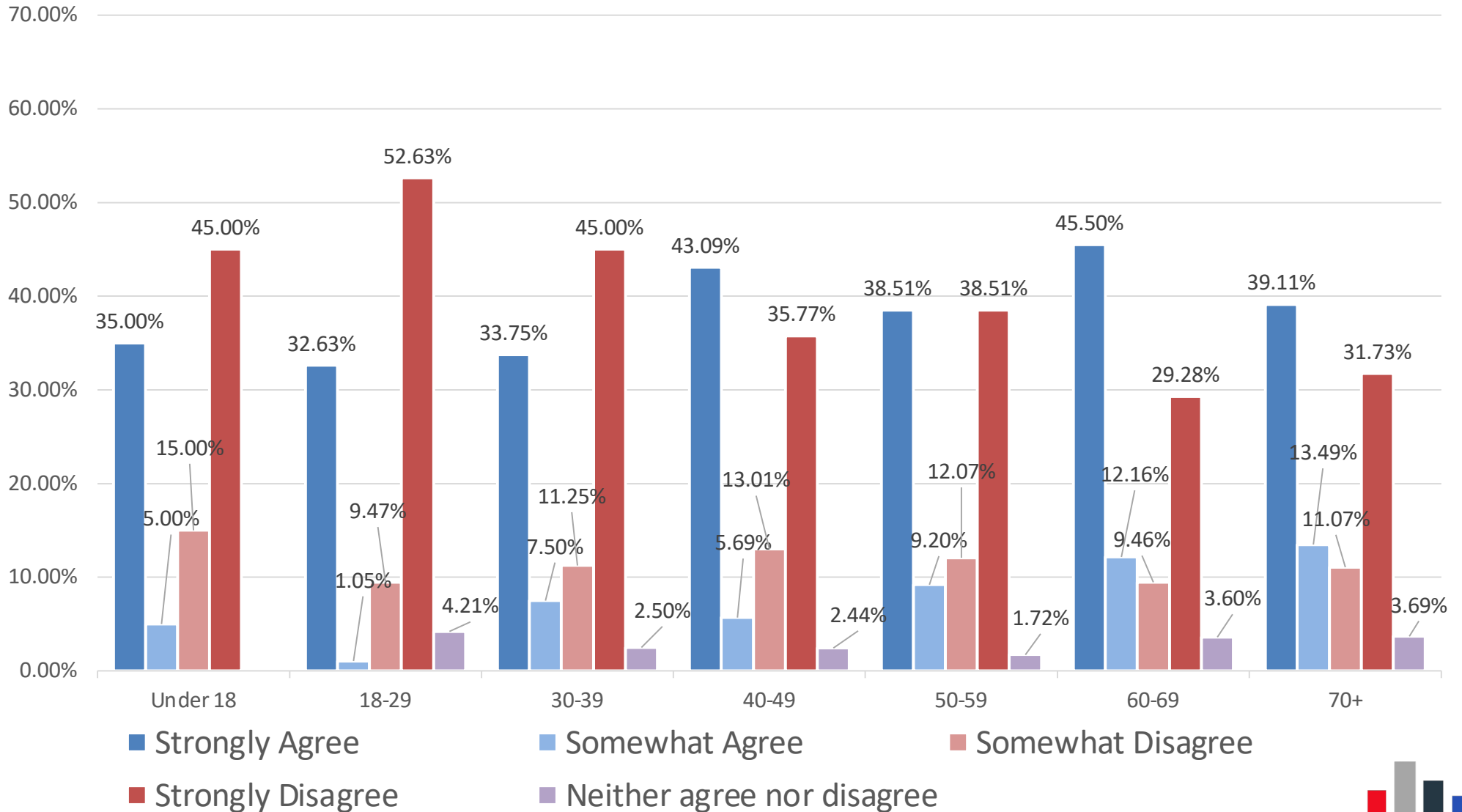
BOOK OF DISCIPLINE – CURRENT STANCE

Book of Discipline View by Attendance Frequency



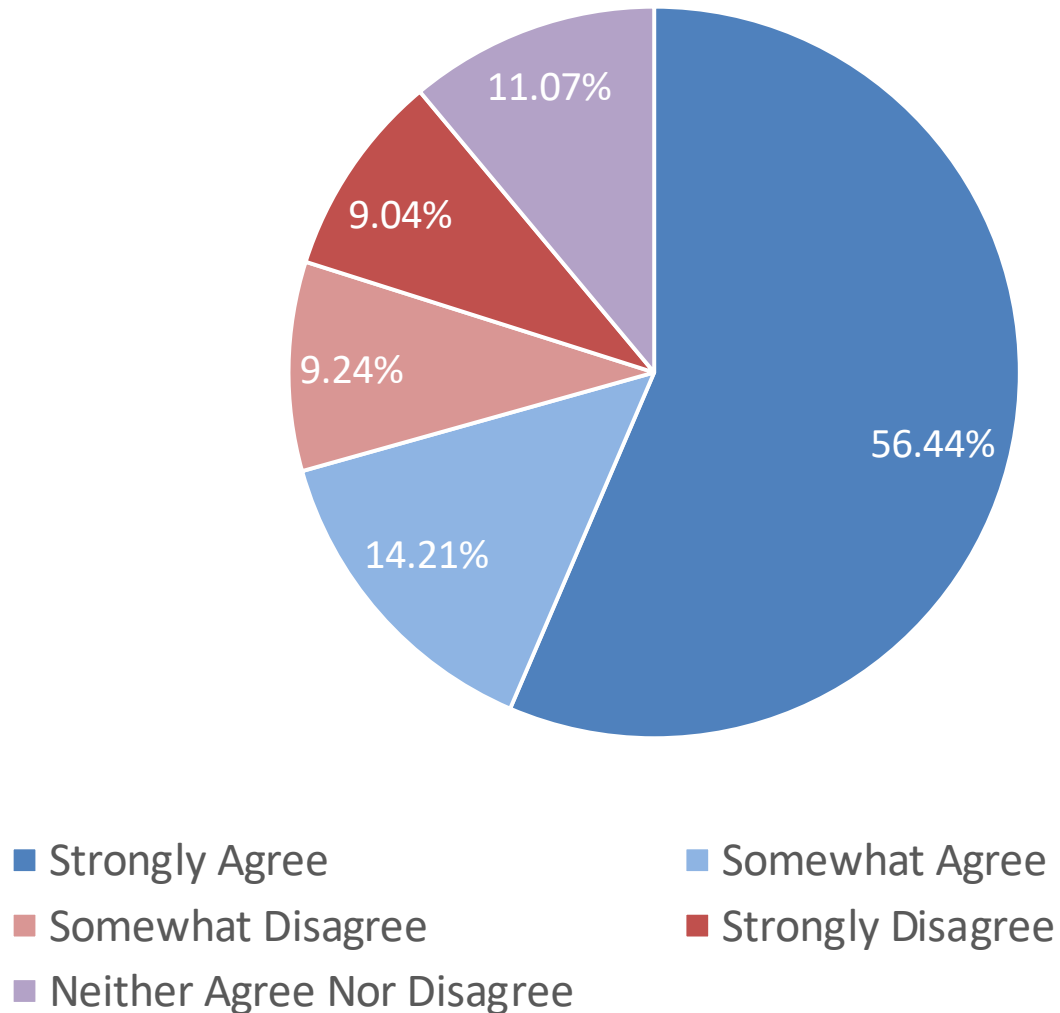
BOOK OF DISCIPLINE – CURRENT STANCE

Book of Discipline View by Age



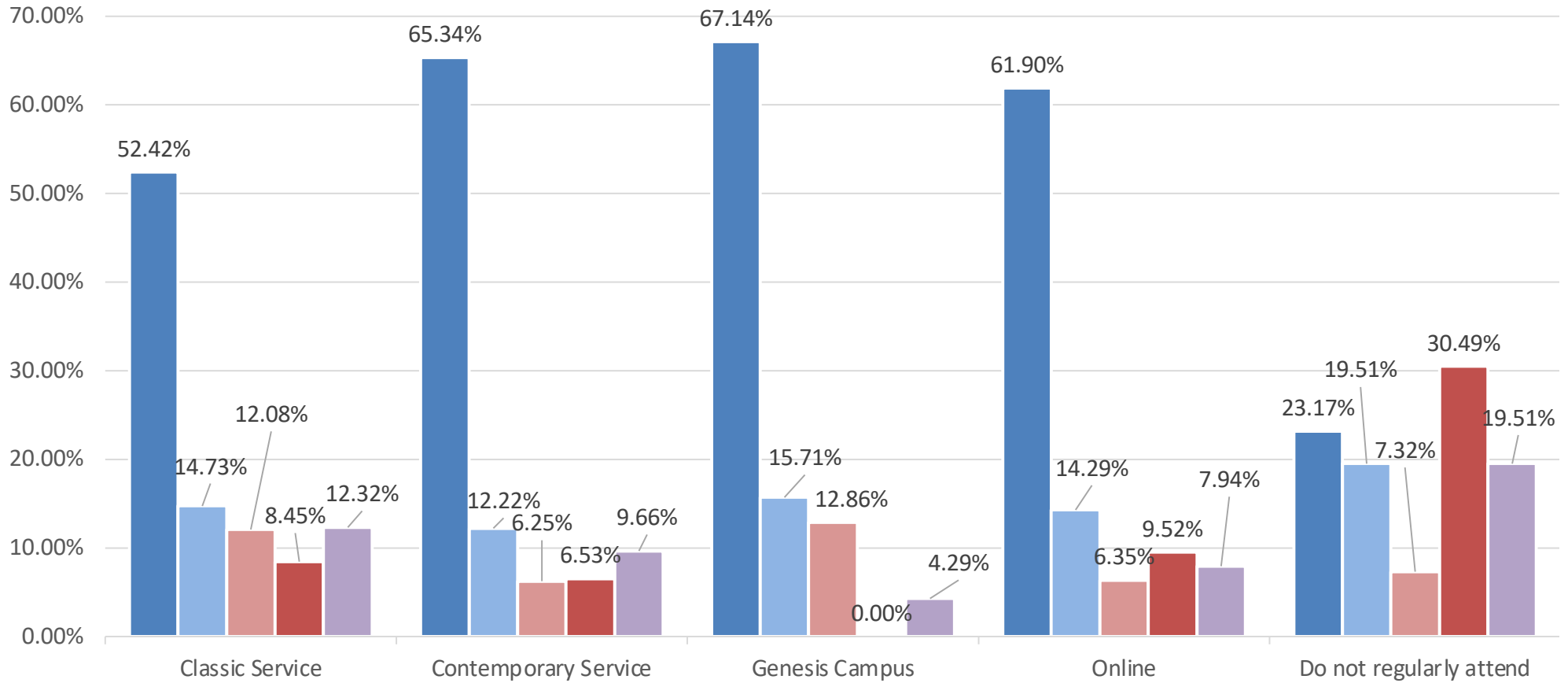
PERSONAL BELIEFS ALIGN

My personal beliefs regarding my understanding of the Bible aligns with those set forth in the Book of Discipline.



PERSONAL BELIEFS ALIGN

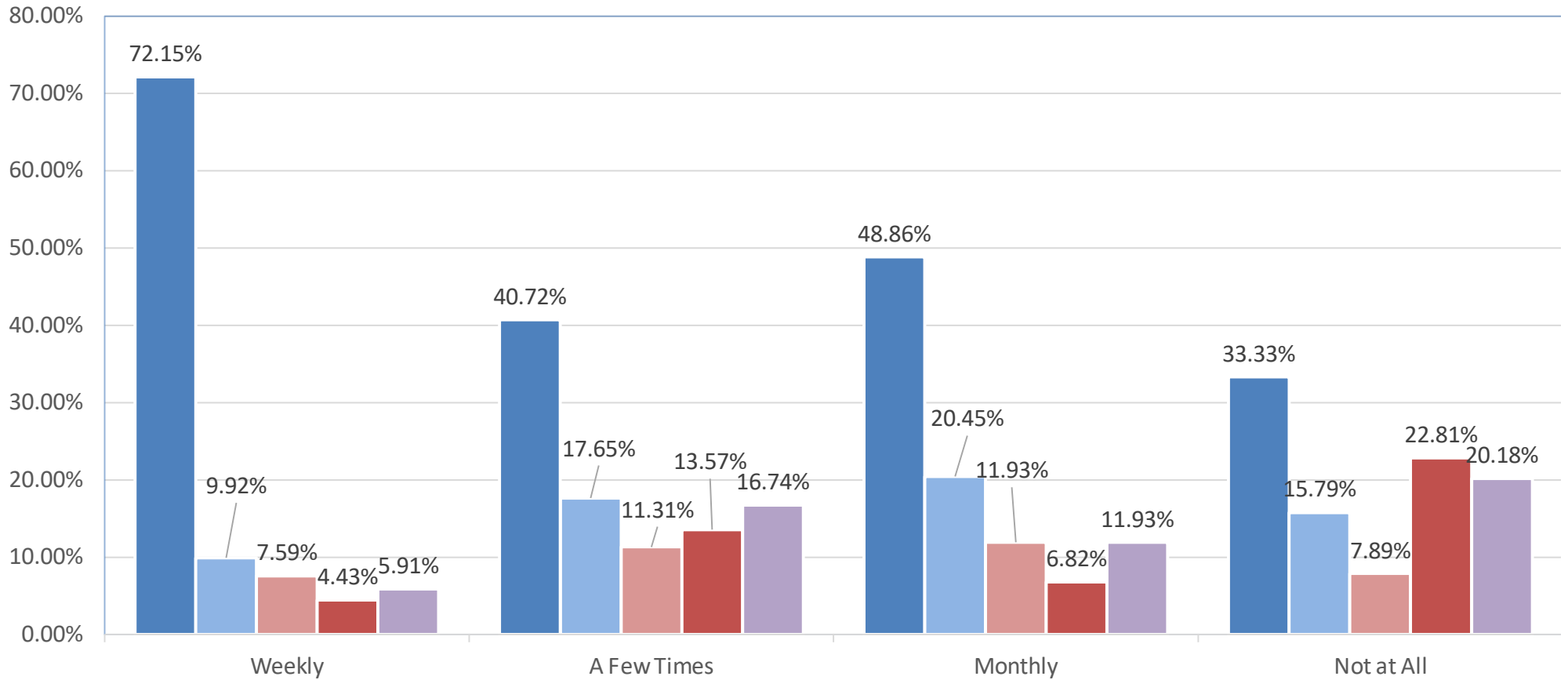
Personal Beliefs Align by Service Type



- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

PERSONAL BELIEFS ALIGN

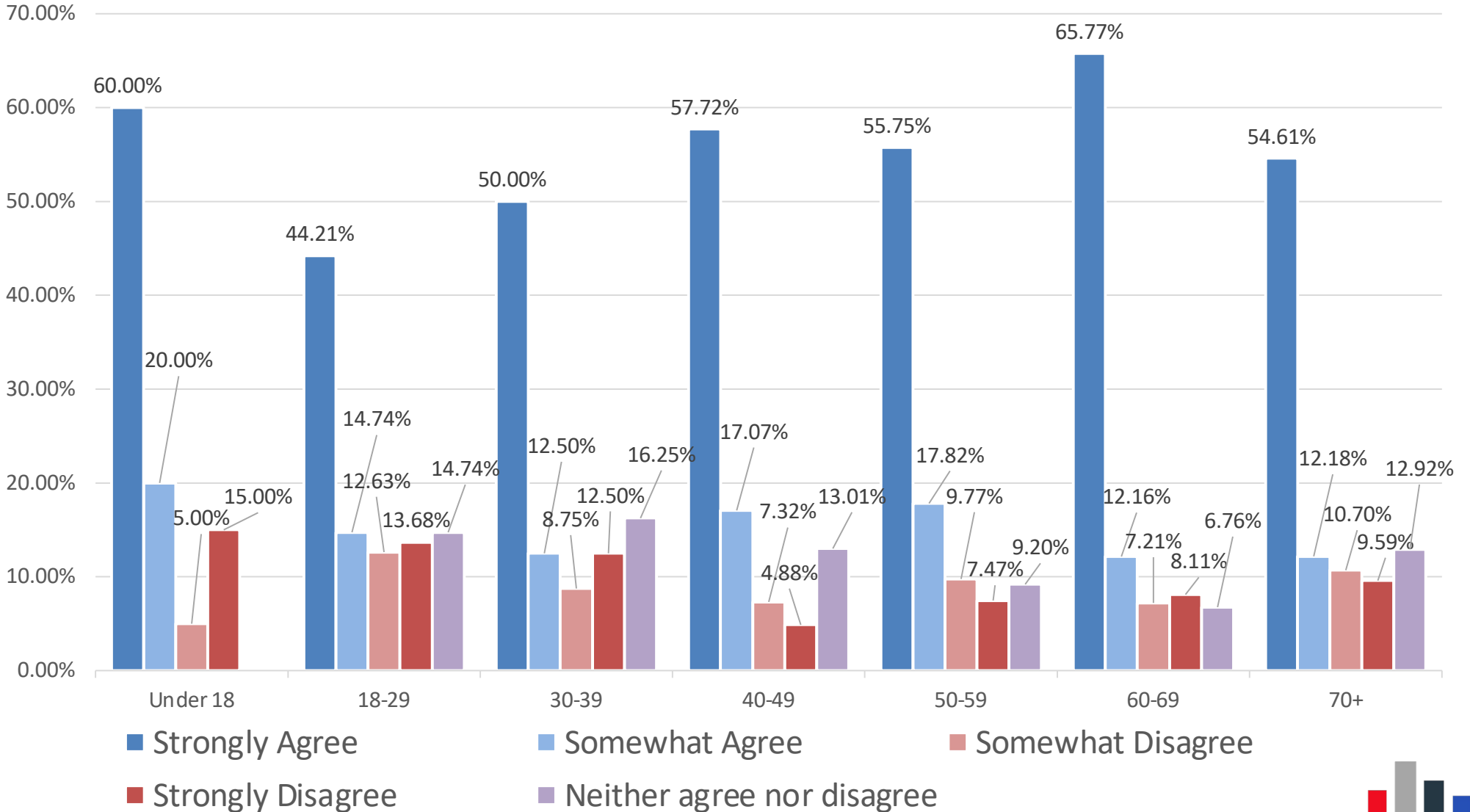
Personal Beliefs Align by Attendance Frequency



- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree

PERSONAL BELIEFS ALIGN

Personal Beliefs Align by Age





QUESTIONS?

Ten Commandments does not mention human sexuality. Jesus wants us to love everyone. Global Methodists are destroying Methodist church.

GOD IS LOVE. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination.

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our clearly states in Romans, Romans 2:15-24, God's sinners are those who are revealed them to people and the consequences of idolatry. A.W. Tozer sums it up most eloquently and veraciously in the 1st chapter of his The Knowledge of The Holy. "Let us beware lest we in our pride accept the erroneous notion that idolatry consists only in kneeling before visible objects of adoration, and that civilized peoples are therefore free from it. The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him. It begins in the mind and may be present where no overt act of worship has taken place. "When they knew God," wrote Paul, "they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Then followed the worship of idols fashioned after the likeness of men and birds and beasts and creeping things. But this series of degrading acts began in the mind. Wrong ideas about God are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow; they are themselves idolatrous. The idolater simply imagines things about God and acts as if they were true. Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear. The long career of Israel demonstrates this clearly enough, and the history of the Church confirms it. So necessary to the Church is a lofty concept of God that when that concept in any measure declines, the Church with her worship and her moral standards declines along with it. The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God. Before the Christian Church goes into eclipse anywhere there must first be a corrupting of her simple basic theology. She simply gets a wrong answer to the question, "What is God like?" and goes on from there. Though she may continue to cling to a sound nominal creed, her practical working creed has become false. The masses of her adherents come to believe that God is different from what He actually is; and that is heresy of the most insidious and deadly kind. The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him - and of her. In all her prayers and labors this should have first place. We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past. This will prove of greater value to them than anything that art or science can devise." -A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy (pg. 18 paragraph 1-3, italics emphasized are mine.) Our hearts and prayers are covering our

Nontransparent or Decisions made without congregational full knowledge or approval have created this terrible situation now confronting a confused congregation.

"The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." How can the Church say that in one breath and in another say, "We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." Feels hypocritical to me and in my opinion is a good example of why so many people are turned off by organized religion. I suspect Central is headed for the Global brand and if that happens, I'm out as a member.

#9. My somewhat agree answer driven by: I do believe practicing homosexuals should not be ministers and our church not conduct homosexual unions. I do feel practicing homosexuals should be in on our congregation and serve in some capacity in our church ie volunteer to serve in a outreach or support church initiative. We don't want to be too rigid. As followers of Jesus, we need to show our unconditional love while also showing there is a higher standard/calling for some people to lead in our church.

1. Adherence to the Book of Discipline concerning nonpracticing homosexuality by Clergy or Bishops. This a vow that was taken and is expected to fulfill. 2. Important that CUMC show complete transparency in initiating action about reaching out to our entire community. 3. Staying faithful in loving our neighbor as ourselves.

1. Jesus does not address issues of gay marriage and I believe that we all have sins that God would not approve of. 2. I wish our church could find a way to remain united. John Wesley himself said "Though we can not think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of ONE heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein ALL children of God may UNITE, notwithstanding these SMALLER differences."

1. We should NOT leave The United Methodist Church. 2. The United Methodist Church is not broken. 3. The Global Methodist Church is transitional/unproven and we don't know for sure what we are really getting into. 4. It is too expensive to leave. 5. Inclusivity is the future and is important to younger generations. It is also more compatible to the community of Fayetteville. 6. This process is supposed to be a congregational decision and not a pastoral (or for that matter a administrative) decision. It is unfortunate how biased the process has been.

1). I may not attend weekly, but I attend more than once a month. I also, enjoy attending both classic and contemporary services. 2) As to what I disagree with regarding the book of discipline is this specifically "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." This I strongly strongly disagree with. 3) As far as the Bible. I've read it and studied it my whole life. I have used it as a guide to my life. I have believed it as true and inspired by God. I have believed in Jesus as my personal Savior. But thank God, by prayer and Holy Spirit revelation, since the writing of the Bible we have grown in wisdom and knowledge and interpretations of scriptures. And there are widely accepted "interpretations" of Revelation. I've taken 2 different Revelation studies at our church and they varied quite widely on several ideas. There are many examples, as you well know. The fact we can have women as ordained clergy is just one other examples. Throughout our history the Bible has been misused and misinterpreted so I lean towards the belief that we are all very capable of getting parts wrong but whole heartedly believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in my heart and the hearts of all believers revealing and teaching us all about the Holy Scriptures. I believe that through prayer, seeking and revelation I have come to believe that being gay is the way that some people were knitted together in their mother's womb. They deserve to find love and be married within the church walls. And I certainly believe homosexuals should be ordained clergy if that is the call God has put on their lives. 4) I think the survey feels narrow and could have fleshed out a bit more "the issues" it says we are talking about. Thank you for your time reading these comments.

10 and the Book of Discipline seem to ignore or underestimate the scope of Wesley's Quadrilateral. Only a few aspects are mentioned in the Book of Discipline thereby diminishing other vertices of the quadrilateral.

A difficult, but important issue that needs to be discussed , considered and decided with grace.

A more accurate survey would have included instructions for technically handicapped . I have heard that a separate letter was send to some of the congregation concerning how to specifically answer questions 6-10. If this is true, it would make the survey inaccurate and doesn't sound "Christ like."

A serious issue should require a 3/4 - 4/5 majority by the membership of the CUMC of those seeking to disaffiliate.

Above quotes from confession of faith, etc do not match what I expected. My expectation was that homosexuals could attend services but could not be ordained ., or conduct functions requiring ordination, among other things.

All I know is I think diversity and inclusiveness are important and that staying with the United Methodist church would best follow those teachings. So I don't agree with leaving.

All people are children of God, and God loves each of us even if some do things and act in ways others, specifically some members of the Methodist faith, don't like or feel comfortable having around. The current stance of this Protestant denomination limits its usefulness and sets it back to darker times when people were forced to lie and live lives of lies. How does that promote anything good? Stay out of the bedroom and focus on people's hearts and minds and bellies. Be helpful, loving, kind, accepting, generous, and fair without this immaterial and superficial judgement and stance. Live and let live. Those who identify as LBGTQIA are people, PEOPLE, human beings, most of whom live useful productive lives and help others. Why separate them like this? What sad, sick fear is driving the church to take this stand? What harm have any of these people done to you? Think about it. Stop, and really think. Ask yourselves "Why are we so afraid of these people that we must make such a statement and take such a stand as this? Why can't we simply accept them and love them unconditionally, as Jesus Christ would do?"

Although it breaks my heart, I believe that we must leave the UMC. If Central does not leave, I may be forced to leave Central.

Although there is no mention of the potential exit from the existing United Methodist Church, I feel it should be addressed. Our church is and has been built on the foundation of John Wesley and the entire Methodist Church. To leave this denomination would be leaving tradition. I am firmly against leaving the current Methodist church.

Are those who are engaged in infidelity, lying, cheating, or otherwise breaking church doctrine also barred from being a candidate, minister, or appointed to serve? Remove the log from your own eyes first.

As a former member of the Catholic Church, I joined the United Methodist Church in 1986 because of the welcoming of ALL like is the example of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I cannot accept or condone this stipulation on our brothers and sisters in the gay and lesbian community being played out in a way that is divisive and a reflection on our church and against the teachings of Jesus who never spoke of this. We should be about inclusivity not exclusion. Where are you trying to go with this in such a rush and a defensive attitude by the clergy and staff as is being circulated in the church and beyond?

As a lifelong Methodist, I have always believed in my heart and in our actions, that we were an open, accepting, loving and much less judgmental faith organization. The fact that we are having these conversations and that each of us has to choose a side is so sad and disappointing to me. We are witnessing massive divide in our country right now causing huge heartbreak among friends, family, and our overall wellbeing. This action will further divide our faith family, friendships and our community. I thought we were better than that.

~~As a lifelong United Methodist, I am very concerned and heartbroken about the current state of the~~
church. I am disappointed in the attitudes of the active participants in both sides of this discussion at CUMC to the point that I'm not sure I feel I can be or want to be affiliated with either as a church going forward. On the progressive side, I do not want to be part of a church which allows doctrine regarding the Messianic nature of Jesus to enter the teaching. I also disagree with the tactics that I have seen many on this side take towards current and past church leadership. I am struggling to understand if this is a true issue with the UMC or if it is just a few "rogue" leaders. I am concerned that the UMC has rules that are not enforced. On the traditional side, I do not want to be a part of a church which I don't believe is acting Christ-like towards people who may have different beliefs which don't affect the core Christian belief of the nature of Christ and may move further in this direction as the "liberal" arm is split off. I am concerned that these two groups are the extremes and that we are seeing conservative/liberal divides (from minorities) from politics in this country infiltrate the church and distract from our true mission. This saddens me greatly. I get the issue of homosexuality and the biblical statements against homosexuality. The concern is how do you accomplish the mission of "Making Christ central to life for the people of Northwest Arkansas and around the world" if you present yourselves as not being accepting to all people (or at least the belief in the Community is that you are not accepting of people with a different lifestyle). I'm concerned that you can say that you are accepting of all people all you want, but with language such as this in the Discipline, many will believe they are not welcome. If people do not feel accepted where they are now, it is impossible to share the true Gospel with them. Are other sins elevated in the Discipline as homosexuality is? What makes this sin worse than others to the point it needs to be pointed out in the Discipline? Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was and his response was Love the Father and Love Your Neighbor. It is very hard to project Love when you are perceived as being exclusionary. What would Jesus' approach have been to homosexuals? I believe it would have been to accept them where they are and then share the true Gospel with them, much as he did with other sinners mentioned in the Bible. This is not the perception in the Community of where many believe CUMC is headed. I am concerned about the process going forward for CUMC. My understanding is that a super majority vote would be required to

As a Methodist preacher's daughter, niece, granddaughter, and great-grand daughter I have great respect for the United Methodist Church and for everything the bible teaches. I am so thankful that it brought me to my relationship with Jesus Christ. And, I am so thankful I was raised to love my neighbor, my enemy, and to be raised in the grace of God. I know that every word of the Bible was influenced by God. I also know that through the years, the original Hebrew and Greek scripts have been translated in a way that don't always align with its original meaning. The word "arsenokoitai" is mentioned twice in the bible and was not translated to mean "homosexual" until 1946. PLEASE do your research on this. It took me a long time to find the courage to search this. I was afraid I would come across something that would damage my faith. However, through my questions and through my discernment I have grown closer to God knowing how absolutely abundant his love truly is. I am so proud of the Methodist Church for making such an important stance on this issue and I PRAY Central will have the wisdom to follow. I do not want to leave this church. I live up to my United Methodist Vows in my membership giving, serving, and attending worship regularly. However, if they do choose to disaffiliate, I will move my membership. Kara Hilliard Willis

As a practicing Christian, I believe that we are all made in God's image and that He does not make mistakes in gender assignment. I believe that brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ+ community should be welcomed in the church as fellow Christians. I have friends and family members who are gay and none of them asked to be gay, they were born that way and God did not make a mistake in their gender assignment. I am distressed that the United Methodist Church is seemingly unwelcoming in this regard.

As Christians, the Bible is God's written word for how we should live our lives.

As to question #9. I do not embrace gay culture and things like the Fayetteville gay pride parade on Dickson Street recently. It is not to be celebrated.

As we move forward in this realignment I pray that we are proceeding in a grace filled, God centered and loving way.

Ask the question you want to ask: "do you support gay marriage?" Yes. Yes I do. Ask the question that you want to ask: "should we include LGBTQ persons in our ministries?" Yes. We should. Ask the questions you want to ask: "does the global Methodist church minimize the racial issues inherent to the history of the United Methodist Church?" Yes. Yes it does. "Does the Global Methodist church outwardly reject LGBTQ?" Yes. Splitting is ridiculous. This survey is ridiculous. You're trying to show that "75% of the church supports the Book of discipline, so therefore we should split." Nothing about change. Nothing about growth. I believe the book of discipline, but I believe it can and should change. Ask those questions. Quit preaching "Closed hearts. Closed minds. Closed doors." You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Be bold! We as a church do not want to miss the opportunity to not communicate with our congregation to have an uneducated vote! Especially calling on our pastors to get out of their comfort zone and address this issue before the Bible is not properly represented!

Be open to Holy Spirit's guidance

Because of the stance of the leadership in our church, I have not felt comfortable going to worship services for the past 2 years. I disagree wholeheartedly with the leadership taking the stance against the gay community. I am appalled that our church would teach kids that homosexuality is unacceptable, and that God does not accept them. It is not our place to judge others. It is our job as Christians to love one another. If there is any judgement to be made, God should be the only one to do so. Also, I am AGAINST our church disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. It is infuriating that our leadership fears that the UMC vote will not align with their 'conservative beliefs' so they want to 'jump ship' before they are forced to make a change. I feel like the leadership of our church tried to sneak this vote in without discussing it with whole congregation until they were 'caught' I have lost all faith in the current leadership of our church. This makes me sad. I have attended CUMC for 26 years and been a member for at least 22 years. I am saddened that I no longer have faith in the leadership in my own church. Christ was about inclusion. He loves all of us. We are all sinners. We should not turn anyone away or make anyone feel 'less than' in our church. This needs to change. ** I was unable to attend any of the informational meetings but got notes from several who did attend. I have had several conversations over the last few months about these issues our church is facing. Our family has been very informed.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. Jeremiah 1:1 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39. Neither being born gay can separate us from the love of God. Don't split our church apart, don't let Satan have a victory by splitting our church. The questions on this survey are directed in a way to gain a vote to split the church. You should have asked if the congregation would be accepting of new wording that excludes the exclusion of homosexual individuals. That would have brought forth a positive response to remain United Methodist. Very skewed survey questions.

BElieve Church should be open to all -open including offices of the church.

Believe CUMU should be open for all believers to participate in all church offices and activities. Little difference between discrimination of Blacks or Homosexuals and Blackness is being rammed into our psyche and nauseam.

Book of Discipline is not the Bible, never provided with a copy of it, never offered access to it, therefore I am insulted by the question or comparison/insinuation that my beliefs should dovetail with it. I am a former president and chairman of the board of the NWA District Office of the UMC, and I am discouraged and embarrassed by the suggestion of departure from UMC based on exclusion of other human beings, in the guise of scripture. Further, I would encourage those receiving my thoughts to open their hearts to love and acceptance of all humans, and reject division and segregation.

Central has been accepting of those who wish to worship and be a part of the church. It has tended to be all inclusive. Going forward, that acceptance should also include people who are homosexual.

Central should remain a moderate, centrist church and stay within the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Central should be welcoming to all regardless of sexual orientation.

Central should remain a moderate, centrist church, welcoming to all.

Central United Methodist Church has no business excluding or discriminating toward or against any person regardless of sexuality or marital status. The very act of looking into a disaffiliation process is absurd and embarrassing. Jesus welcomed people of all backgrounds and statuses and we should too. Carness, you have no feel or understanding of this congregation and your rampage is disgusting.

Changes have occurred in Society and in the church previously, can hopefully can again, as Society changes.

Christ accepted all. Love your God and your neighbor as yourself. Reject no one and follow the Way, not the earth. Paul taught application of the complete Bible for us!

Clearly CUMC did not want to actually survey the membership as to their interest in exploring disaffiliation. This survey is the latest in our church leadership's years long campaign to defraud our congregation into joining this new fringe group GMC.

Clearly it is not necessary to do anything at this time. However if there is a small renegade group wanting to breakaway and start a new church please do so. The sooner the better.

Continue to move toward disaffiliation from the UMC. The issues are more numerous than sexuality.

CUMC does not need to enter discernment process to disaffiliate from UMC. I have always welcomed all. God made each of us in his own image. those members and clergy who do not believe we are all equal should seek out a congregation that aligns with their belief. God loves all of us and so should we.

CUMC must remain in the United Methodist Church and work toward affirming full membership for members of the LGBTQ community.

CUMC should ultimately split.

DISAFFILIATION IS DEFINITELY NOT AN OPTION!!!

Disappointed that church leadership in Ark and the US have not been able to make decisions and stick with Book of Discipline

Do not acknowledge the LGBTQ community and do not celebrate any Gay Pride celebration. They can live quietly in their own world.

DO NOT CHANGE the Book of Discipline

Do not disaffiliate with UMC. Do not join GMC.

Do **NOT** wish to join Global Methodist

Due to close involvement at Central, I somewhat understand what is going on but after many, many conversations, believe the large majority of members are extremely confused. I am very saddened at the thought of losing members with varying view points and believe we would be stronger if we could find a way forward together.

During this period of indecision I feel the leadership of the church should maintain a neutral stance and minister to all congregants without prejudice. I do not believe this is the case up to now. Having leadership declaring a "side" gives me the impression that they are making the decision for the rest of the church. All those who disagree need to get over it or leave... which some have already done.

Exclusion of a person based on their sexual orientation is wrong. The christian faith/church as a whole has an incredible/disappointing history of excluding those who are "different". One of the main characteristics of Jesus was ignoring/going against the common thinking towards those who are different. Jesus is about love and acceptance. This is another issue in a long line of issues that the christian church has a change to open its arms and welcome everyone or continue to make choices to exclude and shame. If you are a person who stays up worrying about someones sexual orientation then frankly you need more to do. From a biological standpoint there is no denying the differences in an individuals hormonal makeup will determine such things as their muscle mass, body structure, body hair and yes their sexual orientation as well as many other things. Let us be a shining light of love from Jesus and open our minds, hearts and doors to all.

For as long as the church has been in existence there has been disagreements of how the bible is interpreted. I have personally been harmed as a child by such interpretation. My mom was divorced and remarried. The church we attended would not allow my family to fully participate as full members due to that divorce and remarriage. I left that denomination and found the Methodist Church which seemed so accepting and loving. I have been a member since the 1990's in various states. I MADE MY VOW OF FAITH TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NOT some new Global Methodist Church. I have spent hours crying over this issue and do not understand why some in the congregation are in such a hurry to break away from the Methodist Church.

For Central to leave the United Methodist Church would be devastating for many. It is an over reaction to a few isolated incidents in our denomination. I am firmly against Central joining the Global Methodist Church.

For years, we backed up our own outdated beliefs, including segregation and sexism, with scripture. Before the fifties, we were told it was wrong for women to be ordained. For years, we didn't allow interracial marriage in our churches. Preventing gay marriage and barring LGBT+ people from serving in church leadership will soon be seen as equally backward.

God chooses who will proclaim His message, not humans. That's why I believe that God may anoint anyone to minister to His flock, whether that person is a homosexual or not. As the Bible stories illustrate, the Truth, more often than not, comes from people others have disdained or ignored. That's why I support gay people becoming clergy members. I also believe that the key to a strong society and church is the family unit. This unit can be defined in many ways, as long as the people in that unit profess love and commitment. If there's one thing children and our society need now, it's as many people as possible committing to each other, especially if they base that commitment on Christian principles. That's why I believe two gay people can marry.

God created us all equal whether we are heterosexual, gay, etc. I am no better than gay people because I am straight. This world has become so divided and its issues like this that make it worse. We have to figure out a way to become united as a nation regardless of our sexuality.

God sees and know the heart of all. Love is all encompassing. If it truly comes from the heart it flows from person to person regardless of gender or sexual orientation. We love the person not the gender. We all are different on the outside but similar on the inside.

God's Word is alive. It is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If the church was doing what it was supposed to be doing, this wouldn'tt have gotten this far. Following the world instead of God.

Homosexuality is a sin against God

Homosexuality is not a "lifestyle choice." Please stop referring to it with that label.
Homosexuality is NOT a choice and should have nothing to do with who serves in our church. God loves all and made ALL people, even though they might be different than us. I'm sad this is even a topic of discussion among our church. I pray our church chooses love and tolerance and remains in the United Methodist Church. Our church does not belong among the Global Methodists.
homosexuality is not a sin. we are chosen to follow a path set by god. if that includes being gay, then it is clearly ok with Him. If a paster decides to serve god while being ok, that should be respected and accepted by the church.
How can we as christians believe in "open doors, open hearts and open minds if we are to exclude a segment of society from our practices?
How will any decisions be made based on this very narrow survey????????? We have no idea what it means to stay or to go. Or how our answers will be used in those decisions. As it stands right now, based only on the above questions, I am not in favor of either choice.
Hypocrisy is the very reason people are leaving the church. There are many homosexuals who aren't 'out'. This church wants to penalize those who tell the truth. So sad.
I accidentally put my name on my last survey, so I answered here the exact same and either one can be thrown out. I believe it is wrong for us to keep anyone from participating and being a part of the church. We must treat everyone equally and with the same love and affection as we would want.
I adhere to the Word of God and the teachings of the church and am strongly opposed to the changing of the Discipline. Although I welcome gladly anyone who comes to worship in our church, I will not be in a church who wants to change our traditional beliefs and will never accept gay or lesbian pastors and same-sex marriages at the holy altar of our God! I have several gay and lesbian friends and family and love them dearly, I just don't agree with their lifestyles. "Love the sinner, hate the sin".
I agree with what is stated in question 10 and beliefs being based on Scripture- but how that Scripture is interpreted to address the issues currently facing the church seems to differ amongst the congregation
I also strongly believe Central should move into a discernment process.

I am a cradle Methodist, and I was married in the United Methodist Church, raised our children in this faith, both children were married at Central United Methodist, and all four of my grandchildren have been baptized in the United Methodist Church. I very strongly believe that Central United Methodist should be an open and welcoming church in order to fully minister to the NW AR community, the state and the world. Jesus never said one word about homosexuality being wrong or incompatible with the Christian faith. Telling homosexual people that they are welcome in the church but then denying them the right to marry in the church or to be ordained as a minister is simply not full inclusion and would obviously make those people feel "less than" or not as valued as heterosexuals in the church. This attitude of full inclusion regardless of one's sexuality has been accepted by the United Methodist Church of the future, and Central United Methodist needs to be a part of that future. I don't mind open discussions and disagreements among church members, but for Central to even embark upon a discernment process related to disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church is a grave mistake which will further divide the church and send the wrong message to the Fayetteville community in spite of the fact that I believe that in a final vote CUMC will remain an integral part of the United Methodist Church. As a church we desperately need to get this decision right!

I am a life long Methodist. I believe the Central Wesleyans and some clergy have acted dishonestly and this survey can not be answered accurately. I agree the Bible is THE source of Christian doctrine. The problem is interpretation by man, on both sides. No man can answer the issue, and in reality, there is only one issue, sexuality. Methodist Clergy who claim to be Biblical scholars on both sides disagree. So disappointed and disgusted with the church.

I am against disaffiliation and will remain an engaged member of the United Methodist Church.

I am against disaffiliation.

I am ashamed for the first time in my adult life of this church. I love this church and feel strongly we are to be disciples of Christ- which means making a welcoming place for ALL. This type of division is not who we are as United Methodists. I was married in this church many years ago and have been active since we moved home, albeit recently I have been absent because I do not understand not including all in God's home. We should, especially at a time when people are leaving organized religion in droves, make sure ALL who want to enter these doors feel the love and power and grace of Jesus Christ. I am not in support of leaving the United Methodist Church.

I am committed to the Bible and it's teachings and to the Book of Discipline.

I am concerned about the future direction of UMC denomination and strongly believe Central must continue to align with a historical understanding of human sexuality and scriptural authority.

I am deeply concerned with how much money we are spending on this decision to separate from the United Methodist Church to a denomination that is just being formed. I am concerned that the main reason for the split presented is on sexuality alone. Other "concerns" or problems with UMC have been voiced but we don't know the full issues. I feel torn that we would spend so much time and money on something when we could use this money and time to serve others. Loving God and loving people in our community. I am sad that this is causing a divide with so many in our church and community. I do not even know what I feel the right answer is but I am troubled by the situation.

I am deeply opposed to disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

I am disappointed and disgusted at the way our senior minister and the church leadership have made a conscious choice to inflict their will on the congregation. The clergy answer questions they agree with directly and straightforwardly yet answer questions that are difficult to answer, or which may lead to a discussion for which the clergy is unprepared to have, with a watered-down response full of empty words, deliberately avoiding addressing the crux of the matter. It escapes me why the clergy seems to be trying so hard to avoid answering questions thoughtfully, thoroughly, and truthfully –i.e., using no innuendo. In other words, leading the congregation to believe something by mannerisms or insinuations so they can credibly say they never said that. Sometimes the answer is found in what goes unsaid. It seems the clergy has spent much time deliberately confusing, obfuscating, equivocating, and evading answers to questions that they choose not to answer. For example, I firmly believe our clergy has deliberately misled the congregation regarding the number of churches in Arkansas that have chosen to disaffiliate. You sirs, (mind you are all older white men) have had a hard time acknowledging that fewer than 10% of our churches have formally entered the process to possibly consider disaffiliation. Furthermore, clergy rotates roughly every 4-6 years. This is not your church. This church belongs to the congregation, the laity who will be left behind to pick up pieces from the destruction and division and fractured relationships between friends, family, and community that you will have left behind. You should not be able to make this decision for the congregation. You should not be allowed to force your will on this congregation in the name of God to advance whatever agenda you have. I also would be remiss, if I didn't mention the appalling and rude behavior of the Senior Minister due to his refusal to answer questions from a visiting group of elderly women from Butterfield. What are you scared of? What are you so worried they would ask—so worried you cut them off? That behavior is unacceptable. That is no way to treat women of the congregation who have most likely been members of the church longer than you have been alive. It was disturbing to read the bishop's letter that I received from a friend at another church. I cannot say I received it from the clergy at this church. The bishop notes that the Appointive Cabinet of the Arkansas Conference is grateful for the many laity and clergy who are embracing hearts of peace. Yet, at the same time, the Cabinet is concerned that some are choosing to display hearts of war. I believe our clergy is divisive and displaying the latter. I assure

I am disappointed in the faction that has made differences an issue. Jesus loved and accepted everyone and so should we. This issue is not a matter of interpretation of scripture. There are a lot of instances in scripture that are not applicable to today. Please listen to this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQ9ImE1EUyQ>. I agree with Dr. Robbins. Julie

I am disappointed in the way this survey has been handled. I am also disappointed in the lack of communication and discussion of the problems our church is facing. If there is no modern interpretation of our Bible then women could not hold leadership positions in the church. Our former head pastor was a woman. If we do not allow for growth then she should not be a pastor at all. There are other similar hypocritical examples as well.

I am extremely disappointed with the leadership of Central Methodist Church and their attempts to divide our congregation. You are an embarrassment! The use of the word "traditional" is tragically misleading and you should be ashamed. You are welcome to leave. I trust in our almighty God to hold you accountable.

I am FOR central to remain in the United Methodist Church. I am NOT for leaving. I am for a new senior pastor who is open and welcoming to members of the LGBTQ community that would like to participate fully as members of our church (including marriage etc). Scripture is the most important however I believe that interpretation may differ but that doesn't mean it doesn't matter. It does very much so. Scripture supports slavery but thank heavens we no longer have that. Your last question is very misleading. The information meeting I attended was poor as far as information and time allowed for questions and discussion.

I am for love and acceptance of all. That is what a Christian is. We are to be like Jesus and love all. If someone that is gay is wanting to lead a bible study or whatever, I believe that we do not, as Christians, as good KIND people, have the right to deny anyone because of who they are attracted to? They want to be at church, and lead people to Jesus. We can do this, Central!

I am gay. I always have been. I am also a Christian and a third generation member at CUMC. Psalm 139 says that I am beautifully and wonderfully made by God. I don't read the Bible to say that the way God made me is a sin. I don't believe that CUMC should leave UMC over the "gay" issue. I am very disappointed in church leadership taking the initiative to have us leave UMC. Also, a church leader preached in youth group that being gay is a sin. My parents and I have stopped attending church because of that, coupled with Jan Davis's divisive February 2020 sermon saying that to believe that being gay is not a sin is a rejection of Christ. How wrong and offensive! I hate to see church leadership sew division between its members. We are waiting to see how current CUMC leadership comes down on these issues regarding sexuality before we decide either to return to CUMC or transfer our membership. Plenty of members are very upset right now.

I am not attending Central right now because I am not going to support a church staff that is leading with hate and not love. I have not tithed while this awful situation is happening. I joined this church (from another denomination) because it was so welcoming. I will not only be horrified if Central joins the Global Church, but I will find a new church home and will be giving all of that tithe to my new church. I know that if John Robbins was still the pastor of our church, we would not be going through this. He is about love and acceptance and the church staff after he left, has only been about judgement and exclusion. I wish that this group of people would really search their souls and ask the question - "What would Jesus do". If they really did, this would not be happening.

I am not sure about wording in these questions. I firmly believe in marriage between one man, & one woman. Guys & lesbians are completely against the Bible. Why do we have to give up what is right to accommodate these people. We better start standing for what is right, & quit folding to these satin filled ideas.

I am open to the gay community being full members of the church and rewording the section in the Book of Discipline to reflect that idea.

I am praying for our church, staff, and leadership, and have faith they will stand firm in upholding the truth regarding these issues.

I am Sad about the situation that our Church is confronted with causing division among the members.

I am sad that united methodist church is no longer united. It's a sad day. What makes this so difficult is what we choose out of the Bible to be literal. There are punishments in the Bible that thankfully are not carried out today. I chose the methodist religion because they have always represented inclusiveness and love. The devil weaves his way into our world and we are left trying to figure out how to navigate. May God bless our spiritual leaders. In the future I wonder how history is going to reveal what is happening.

I am so embarrassed that our church has allowed a small group to kidnap our membership and attempt to force us to DISCRIMINATE against our fellow Christians! God is "all inclusive" and our church should be also. Shame on this small group to try and force the rest of the membership to be unkind and alienate God's creatures. We need new leadership at our church who WILL LOVE ALL and be representatives of Jesus. Our current ministers need to ask to be reassigned as they have embarrassed the Fayetteville community by their request to leave UMC because they are against homosexuals-

I am sorry this is happening because I do not believe it is as cut and dried as some want to make it. My God is forgiving. All these issues are open to interpretation

I am strongly against our church's entering into a period of "discernment." It is misleading to say that this is about scriptural interpretation when it is not. If not for the issue of homosexuality, our congregation would not be asked to participate in such a survey. In my life as a United Methodist, I have felt (mostly) free to express my doubts about scriptural interpretation. For example, as a woman I have struggled with some of Paul's teachings about women in the church; yet the Methodist Church chose to ordain women who are called by God to be in the ministry. Paragraph 105 sec 4 of the Discipline calls us to test our expressions of faith, in part by asking if they are based on love. As Carness said Sunday, "We love with everything we've got." Let us stay united in love.

I am strongly opposed to CUMC disaffiliating from the UMC. I think we should continue to stay within the UMC and be a moderate church with many differing opinions.

I am the Mother of a gay son. He was confirmed in the Methodist Church. He now lives out of State due to stance on homosexuality- he no longer feels comfortable attending CUMC when in town.

I am truly disappointed in the way our senior pastor and Mr. Swain have presented information. It is obvious they are biased and pushing their own personal beliefs and acting like they represent the majority of Methodists. I was heartbroken at the information session with the senior pastor's misleading statements to make it seem like a high number of Methodist churches statewide and elsewhere were considering leaving the United Methodist Church, but then it turns out that less than 5% in our region are actually considering it. I was truly disturbed by the email from the Arkansas bishop saying 'to embrace peace and not a heart of war!' A number of members of CUMC that I know believe that our church is one the bishop believes as 'a heart of war'. Our family has been a part of CUMC for generations. As a Methodist, I truly believe God wants us to love all people....not just let them in our doors and then treat them as lesser people. Our family has been a part of CUMC for generations. We have raised our three children at CUMC and the idea of our church becoming a fundamentalist, fearful, hateful environment while proclaiming 'God loves you' is devastating. Do not leave the United Methodist Church!

I am very disappointed that our leadership is even considering this divisive process.

I am very surprised that there are only 11 questions in this assessment. The issues are wide and deep and I find it hard to believe that this information is enough for the Church Council to make such an important decision.

I am very upset that this is going on. I have been a member there & singing in the choir for many years. I raised my children in this church. The bible says we are to love one another like Jesus does & not judge anyone. We just lost our best Music Director we have ever had because of negative comments from the Senior Pastor that were very judgemental. I don't understand why people are judging others & I don't understand all the politics in our church except that a few rich people seem to dictate what happens. Church & government are supposed to be separate & I'm really getting sick of it. This is the first time in over 3 decades that I have considered leaving this church. It makes my heart hurt.

I am, frankly, disgusted by this split in the Methodist Church. Although I consider myself conservative and a traditionalist, I firmly believe that the "bottom line" in Christ's teaching is LOVE. Period. I am afraid that Central (and Methodists in general) are losing sight of our Lord and Savior's basic teachings. I can be loving and tolerant without being outwardly judgmental. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are not the final judge.

I attended all of the information sessions before Covid . I want to be a part of an all inclusive Methodist Church. I believe our existing Book of Discipline is outdated and does not reflect my views on acceptance and inclusion of the gay and lesbian communities . Finally, I am not opposed to exploring disaffiliation or a time of discernment for Central United Methodist Church.

I attended an informational meeting before Covid (not an answer option in the survey). I believe I understand 9 and 10 above as "issues", but certainly there are others.

I believe a true Christian acknowledges and accepts all people regardless of their sexual orientation. All people are valued and should have equal opportunities within the church. It is not our place to judge.

I believe as the Holy Bible states each human being is given by God certain special gifts: teaching, preaching, musical abilities, compassion for caring...all of which can be used to contribute to our worship experiences and honor God. Scripture also states we are not to judge one another. So who are we to deny fellow believers in Christ the opportunity to use their God given talents in leading others in worship of our Lord? I do believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. Having a pastor who does not follow the traditional Book of Discipline, who is not preaching the word as written in the Bible would be a problem for me..However, having a church leader using their God given talents to lead in worship services, as a participant, for me would be acceptable. I believe marriage was instituted by God between a man and a woman for the purpose of creating families. Yet I know and see families composed of like genders who are participating in other churches, who are strong in their faith and providing good homes for their adopted children..I am glad their faith offers them a place to worship God and to use their talents. But for me.... the traditional Bible teachings and Methodist Book of Discipline are my anchor and faith..

I believe Central should be welcoming to all no matter their sexual orientation, and should provide all services to all who truly seek to worship and love Jesus. I believe Central should remain a moderate, centrist church, and stay within the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

I believe Christ should be the center of our church. I believe God made homosexuals just like he made me. We are all God's children.

I believe genetics play a large role in the identification of whether a person is male or female. Identifying someone based purely on what is on the outside (genitalia) has been proven scientifically to not always be the correct way to identify a human's sex. This genetic anomaly is no more of a sin than having Down's syndrome. I believe God would not refuse 2 human's the right to enter into a committed relationship that is founded in their beliefs in Christianity based on genetic anomalies. I also believe that you can be blessed by the Holy Spirit by word or deed in all forms of life. I have been taught many spiritually significant ideas by people who live in sin daily with various vices they are struggling to manage. If you believe two people (not identified as male and female) wanting to commit to a relationship with Christ in the center of their union is considered living in sin and therefore cannot be a person to be a leader in the church... then I implore you to look at the sin you currently live in... We all live in sin daily. Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, sloth (laziness)... living in these sins do not keep anyone else from being able to teach in the church and be ordained. Why do you choose sexuality as the defining line of someone who can share the word of God?

I believe homosexual persons are born that way as opposed to it being a choice, and they deserved to be treated like others. With regard to the Global Methodist movement, I believe a minority of USA Methodists will be going that route, and the Global will be dominated by Methodists in Africa, the Philippines, and other countries, and USA members of Global will be outnumbered and disappointed in some of the stands Global takes.

I believe in the Bible and exactly what it says!

I believe in the Scripture and I certainly believe in what Jesus preached which is that we are to be loving, kind, inclusive and caring to all. He did not preach on homosexuality. I'm also of the firm believer of scriptural interpretation since many things are stated in the Bible which we do not follow (ex. A woman's place in church, the family). I could go on at length. I have been part of central since I was nine years old, confirmed there, married there, both of my children have been baptized there. I will not stay with the church if they decide to leave to go to the global United Methodist Church. I will not be affiliated with a church that has no real foundings and evidently has real feelings of discomfort over sexuality.

I believe in what the Bible. Says and not what people are trying to change things to what they want to believe.

I believe it is essential for Central to talk more openly about the issues that divide the UMC. Therefore, I would like to see us move into a period of discernment.

I believe Jesus accepts all people as equal in his church. I believe homosexuals should have the full rights of all members of the church.

I believe our church should enter into a period of discernment so we can learn more about what's going on in the UMC denomination.

I believe our church would be ill-advised to try to separate from the United Methodist Church. I do not feel the need to explore this any further.

I believe scripture is open to interpretation and should be studied in context. I believe each scripture should ultimately be interpreted through individual relationship with Jeseus Christ and not through a minister or other spiritual leader or teacher.

I believe scripture needs to be interpreted with the aid of the Holy Spirit and considering the setting and audience for and in which it was written. Scripture has been used to condone slavery and the subjugation of women - among other things we no longer think are correct. I do not want to leave the United Methodist Church. I think we need to pray about this and let the next General Conference settle the question. To push for disaffiliation now has the aroma of the love of money rather than love of fellow human beings to whom we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I love the United Methodist Church, and Central specifically. I have been spiritually fed here, I have learned to find the Holy Spirit here, I have been trained to find and use the gifts God gave me here. United Methodist pastors baptized and confirmed my daughters and conducted my parents' funerals. I have shed tears of pain and of joy here. I do not believe the United Methodist Church is corrupt. And as for the bishops and pastors that are not adhering to the present Book of Discipline, they need to be disciplined. To say that the whole United Methodist Church is corrupt is painting with a rather broad brush. It is like saying all Democrats are loony or all Republicans are greedy or all blacks are lazy, or all Mexicans are bad, etc. etc. etc. and, I resent that greatly. It is fear mongering which has vastly increased the divisions our nation is now experiencing. We are better than that. Our pastors ARE better than that. Please don't go down this path.

I believe strongly that ALL children of God should be welcomed and celebrated at Central. If someone has accepted their Lord and Savior, that someone has the right and privilege to be recognized as Methodist. It breaks my heart as a lifelong Methodist that this is yet one more way to divide people. The Bible was written thousands of years ago, yet our society has evolved into a much different place, like it or not. As a Christian, it is not my place to judge. Period. As a teacher for over 30 years, I also strongly disagree with the Global Methodist beliefs. Around 75% of my students can not recite the Ten Commandments or know the unconditional love and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you want to move young people farther away from the church, go this direction. I will not join you, and I will be vocal about my disappointment in leaders and members. Our world is reeling from Covid, political turmoil, mental illness, racial tension, women's lack of rights, and so much more so Central Methodist Church on Dickson should remain inclusive. I always ask myself, family members, and students if what they are about to say is helpful or hurtful. Without a doubt, this is hurtful. Many of us will move our membership, possibly to the Episcopal faith, or just choose to follow our own spirituality based on the word of God in both testaments. If the holy trinity can love all, Northwest Arkansas Central Members must follow suit. If the congregation moves to a Global Methodist ignoring basic rights of living, breathing citizens making a difference, my family's membership will be moved. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

I believe that a full and complete faith in Jesus as God's perfect, sinless son who died a substitutionary death on my behalf, is the only way to eternal life in heaven. Having gained that faith, we are still in a position to sin, (as defined in The Bible) but when we do sin, we are to immediately confess and repent. Under no circumstances should we expect others to accept, condone or perpetuate our sin as part of an ongoing, accepted and normal Christian lifestyle or faith walk. We should still love and care for all people and welcome them into our church.

I believe that Central should be a fully welcoming congregation that remains within The United Methodist Church. I oppose entering into a discernment process that could lead to disaffiliation from the UMC.

I believe that Central should undertake a period of discernment in order to find a way forward for our congregation.

I believe that CUMC should allow same sex and same gender marriage ceremonies to be held inside our church without grudge or disdain. I also believe that because of some opinions and attitudes regarding homosexuals and lgbtqia+ people, they have made the decision to leave our church due to that.

I believe that God created homosexuals just as He did straight. I believe everyone is created equally and should be seen that way. But, I do not want to be the judge. Will let God do His job.

I believe that God loves ALL and I am NOT in a position to confirm or deny someone the right to love who they love. Therefore, I will not align with a church that blocks certain people from this sacred practice. Additionally, I believe that the UMC will remain focused on the Bible and the true meaning of Jesus within our lives and future.

I believe that God loves everyone and wants everyone to be treated equally in the church

I believe that homosexuality is a viable lifestyle which God recognises and gives his blessing to those people, and we should do likewise. I have known some such persons personally.

I believe that homosexuality is not a choice, but is determined as part of the body's make-up at birth. I believe that God creates all people and that he would not create a person he does not consider worthy of all sacraments and services of the Church. In Question 10, it is the phrase "through the Holy Spirit" which to me is an important phrase. As I've been taught through Bible study (specifically a class I participated in at Central United) the Holy Spirit talks to each of us and helps us to understand God's true meaning. While I consider the Bible is a sacred book, it was written by man--interpreting God's will hopefully with the help of the Holy Spirit. But their writings were also influenced by the norms of the time. It has also been proven over time that people interpret the Bible's meaning differently and have often used the same Bible verse to support and prove very opposite positions. Thus, it does require the intervention of the Holy Spirit for a person to interpret God's true meaning. The Holy Spirit tells me that all men are created equal and are deserving of God's Grace.

I believe that Jesus is the Word of God, as expressed in the Gospel of John: "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Bible as we know it today had not been completely written in Jesus' day; therefore we must look to Jesus as the word of God. Jesus did not mention homosexuality as far as we have recorded in the Scriptures. He did, however, mention his love and inclusion of the marginalized of society, for example tax collectors, lepers, Samaritans, women, and many more. For this reason, I will not join a church like the Global Methodist Church, which is founded on the premise of taking the Bible, not Jesus, as the word of God and which seeks to marginalize a group such as homosexuals. I resent the efforts of our pastor and other church leaders to take us in this direction. I love Central, especially the beautifully remodeled sanctuary and the classical Christian music. It will be a great loss to me if I have to leave Central, but I will not remain with it if it leaves the United Methodist Church.

I believe that one of the sole purposes of the Christian faith is to make the world a better place by Spreading the love of Jesus. Homosexuality is as much a part of someone as their skin color or ethnicity . Would we exclude someone because of the fact that he or she has brown skin or is Asian? I believe that the answer to this question is absolutely no so I struggle to understand how one could be excluded for his or her sexuality either. I firmly believe that it is time for our church to take a more progressive stance and show every single one of God's children inclusion and love.

I believe that our church should strongly stand firm in our beliefs and teachings in the current book of discipline

I believe that our God that created the universe can surely create His Bible.

I believe that scripture is the inspired Word of God written by humans. Humans make mistakes. I also believe that many practices that took place during the era in which the Bible was written are not considered acceptable in today's society (stoning, a man having sex with his slave ((slavery)) if his wife couldn't bear children, etc.). We must change with the times but in a way that captures the essence of Jesus, which is to love and accept everyone for who they are, and embrace them in that love.

I believe that sufficient effort has been expended by the church leaders to inform all members of our church on the issues at hand concerning the graceful separation of the UMC. Unless new fundamental issues have arisen, I believe that a vote of our membership should soon take place concerning what course our church will take. There have already been enough delays.

I believe that the bible's stance towards homosexuality is not that different that its stance against women being leaders of the church. Times change and our understanding changes.

I believe that the Church Council should vote to begin the disaffiliation process with the United Methodist Church. I believe the the UMC as a whole has strayed from the statements below and from faithful Biblical orthodoxy and orthopraxis.

I believe that the Discipline should be amended to be "inclusive" of all people. We may not agree with their homosexuality lifestyle, but they are God's children.

I believe that the members should, by now, be adequately informed on the issues that result in UMC separation. I think that a vote should proceed as quickly as the process allows concerning discernment related to disaffiliation from UMC.

I believe that the world has changed since the Bible was written. Many things that were not condoned in the Bible are widely accepted now in our society. Jesus wanted us to love our neighbors and I do not believe any human being should judge the lifestyle or relationship of another human being. God alone is responsible for that.

I believe that voices that are timid and do not want to express any strong leaning on this matter have carefully chosen words such as inclusion instead of tolerance also discernment instead of knuckling under to the the will of others who believe they are more enlightened than the rest and should be leading the congregation toward a meaningless, watered down form of the Gospel that will ultimately lead to the destruction of the Church as we have known it to exist.

I believe the Bible is the inspired and holy Word of God and is God's revelation of his nature to us. I believe in the Trinity and that Jesus Christ (who was God in the flesh) was sent to atone for the sins of mankind and there is salvation through faith in Him for all who seek and ask. After studying and praying I do NOT believe that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. I believe we have gotten this wrong, similar to when we did not ordain women before 1956. I do NOT believe being a practicing homosexual is a sin. I believe the nature of some people is to be attracted to the same sex and we should strike the language around this as a DQ from ordination in the book of discipline (304.3) as well as the language about same sex marriages (341.6). I'm not a "low Christology" person as has been directed sometimes by Jan. I'm High Christology but I believe we have interpreted the scripture incorrectly regarding Homosexuality as a sin.

I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God written by mere mortals often in the form of proverbs, legends, fables, and ,moral precepts of the time and is often not relevant for this moment in time yet is serves as a beacon and guide to equip us to grow in love, compassion, and goodwill for our fellow man.

I believe the Bible literally, meaning that it was written several thousand years ago by a civilization that did not have anywhere close to knowledge we have today, both biblical and secular. I would like to be in a church where we can use more knowledge than just the Bible to explain spirituality. The two sets of knowledge do not really contradict each other. It is only when take one base of knowledge as the only knowledge that applies or is complete that you do not take the Bible literally.

I believe the Bible tells us to love everyone, but also tells us that homosexuality is a sin. Therefore, the Church should not perform same sex marriages nor allow gay pastors to lead congregations. I believe God determines our sex when he creates us in our mothers wombs so the church should not support transgender procedures

I believe the church needs additional time for discernment.

I believe the church should enter a time of discernment and prayer in these matters. Thank you.

I believe the Disciplines follow the Bible's teaching therefore if they are changed I will seek another congregation of believers.

I believe the way John Wesley presented Methodism

I believe there needs to be further discernment processes, and we do NOT support disaffiliation with UMC.

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I believe there needs to be further discernment processes, and we do NOT support disaffiliation with UMC.

I believe to follow Jesus' teachings and accept all people and the church should be open to offer opportunities to all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

I believe we are to love and accept everyone regardless of their choices on homosexuality or sins. No one sin is greater than another. However, the Bible calls us to repent of our sins and not celebrate them. I believe that pushing the church to include secular beliefs as acceptable will only continue as Satan wants it. I believe this is just the first step of many to come. It saddens me. When I taught Tiny Tims and Timothy Team years ago I had to sign an agreement that I believed that the Bible was truth....ALL of it or I couldn't teach. I'm sorry to say we are far from that now. We need ensure that especially those teaching our children and youth are abiding by and teaching only what God's word says in the Bible...not their opinions.

I believe we need to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. I would like to see us join the Global Methodist Church.

I believe we should love everyone. I believe marriage should only be between one man and one woman. I believe the church should wait to see what happens at the annual conference. If preachers, or members, do not like the outcome of the conference, they are free to leave. This should not be about money. I will make my decision to stay or leave AFTER I know if changes are made to the book of discipline. You won't find many people more conservative than me, and I believe the preachers pushing to split the church to save their pensions should be ashamed. These preachers, and other church leaders, are not leading based on faith. If the church splits prior to any change to the book of discipline regarding homosexuality, I will find a new church home. Again, decisions should not be based on money. We should have faith God is leading the church in the direction God wants the church to go.

I believe what is going on is terribly sad! I look at the ways of Jesus and don't believe anything I have read about Jesus would align with the practice of judging others. I have myself asked the Holy Spirit and Jesus for guidance in my thoughts! My conclusion, I feel, we all read the Bible and not one of us would interpret it the same, it is between God and myself. I also don't like the way it has been represented Us Vs Them! "He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone at her." I am not without sin and thus believe I am better off letting God judge!

I choose staying with the United Methodist Church and not moving to The Global Methodist Church.

I consider myself UNDER the authority of Scripture and would never contemplate placing myself OVER it. I could not be a part of any movement that chooses to transform the Word of God into something more palatable for today's cultural taste buds.

I definitely think the Church Council should move forward with disaffiliation; the UMC is broken beyond repair.

I did not attend an information session because I serve on the Genesis advisory council and was already aware of the information being shared.

I do believe that if two same sex people want to have a legal union/"marriage", that is their choice and not my business. I do not believe such a "marriage" qualifies as Holy Matrimony nor should it take place in our church. If a CUMC pastor knows and has a friendship with a gay person who is or is not a member of our church and that person chooses a legal union/marriage not in our church nor conducted by our pastor, I think it would be fine for that minister to attend the ceremony if invited. I think it would show loving concern. I strongly believe that gay people should not, nor should anyone else be denied membership in our church!!! I do not believe certain sins supersede other sins. I view our church is as a "hospital" where we are all sinners and are there to repent and grow in faith in Jesus Christ. I believe that gay members should be welcomed to serve in our church as they feel led to do, just as we have had back to back gay Directors of Music. Fine with me! I do not believe anyone should serve in our church and use that position to promote political stances, cultural beliefs etc. I believe if they are doing that, it should not be ignored. The situation should be dealt with lovingly and carefully. All who serve should do so in service to our Lord, our church and to each other. The church is not the place for promoting the cultural topic of the day. That should be left outside, and worship, service and love should be the focus of our church. I do not believe the Holy Scripture is dated nor is most of our doctrine dated. I believe it has stood the test of time. Above all, LOVE should prevail at all times.

I do not agree with leaving the United Methodist Church. I want to stay United Methodist. Additionally, I believe the church should always strive to be more inclusive, not less inclusive. That's what Jesus would do. I also think this survey was intentionally confusing and I'm disappointed. I believe we should have just been asked whether we wanted to vote to stay or leave.

I do not agree with most of these questions as they are laid out. First, a question of attendance over the past year is completely irrelevant with COVID!!! Am I committed to my vows to the church is insulting. IF whoever agreed with this line of questioning and IF they wholly believe in Scripture why aren't we telling our women, "who are property" not to speak/sing in church. To only wear clothing made out of one cloth and sure as the heavens not wear any ornate jewelry. The church and our religion can not afford any type of exclusion. Perceived or other wise! Do not confuse support as approval! LOVE is LOVE!!

I do not agree with the direction our church is heading. It is my belief that God loves and supports all of us. The workings of Jesus support caring for all humans. What's aggravating to me is most recent direction is that CUMC pastors have the right to refuse performing marriage ceremonies. It seems to be an act of compromise but contrary to my Christian values of a loving and caring God. It is bias. It is prejudicial. It is not right.

I do not believe Central should leave UMC to join some global church.

I do not believe Central should pursue disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church nor do I believe the Church Council should move towards a discernment and disaffiliation process.

I do not believe CUMC should leave UMC for GMC

I do not believe everything in the Bible is to be taken literally. If we believe that God doesn't make mistakes, then we should accept all homosexuals and give them all the same rights as anyone else.

I do not believe our church should leave the UMC. We should be a more welcoming church.

<p>I do not believe that singling out homosexuals to be excluded from ministry and identifying them as incompatible with Christianity is a Christian attitude. Jesus professed love for all. Jesus never mentioned homosexuality. I agree with the proposed wording of the new UMC Book of Discipline. I will never attend the GUMC.</p>
<p>i do not believe that we should change our discipline to conform to cultural ways of the world that do not go along with scripture and against Jesus's teaching.</p>
<p>I do not believe the church should go into further discernment. I believe we should remain part of the United Methodist Church.</p>
<p>I do not believe we should leave the United Methodist Church to join the Global Methodist Church.</p>
<p>I do not have enough background. We missed the information sessions due to being out of town. I believe there needs to be more information and background concerning these issues.</p>
<p>i do not know if i can support a church that does not support all people with love and understanding. the salvation of souls is not determined by a man-made religious doctrine; is is accomplished in the heart, the mind, and the soul. for a church or any other institution to deny the sovereignty of an individual's soul or that soul's 'worthiness' of salvation is unholy. you might mince about with words that your version of Christianity is accepting of the salvation of a gay soul; after saying you just don't want them in YOUR church. i do not believe my Lord to be so exclusionist. i thought there was a new covenant...i don't remember there being a caveat for loving someone of the same sex. your stance is counterproductive to the salvation of souls.</p>
<p>I do not like this type of survey. I am not sure what I'm agreeing with and neither is the analyst when it comes to the nuances of what a person intends to say. I do appreciate and pray for the leaders in our church who are having to make these very difficult decisions. Thank you.</p>
<p>I do not support disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. I pray for my church home to be welcoming to all, regardless of race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. I wish to remain a Methodist and part of the United Methodist Church as I have been my entire life.</p>
<p>I do not support discernment or disafiliation. I strongly wish to RETAIN MY 70+ year membership in the Methodist/United Methodist Church. Disaffiliation will financially and spiritually destroy Central UMC. Any member or CLERGY who cannot continue to support their vows to support the UMC should resign and move their membership to a church that they can support.</p>
<p>I do not think all of THIS is necessary.</p>
<p>I do not think disaffiliation would solve the problems Central Wesleyans have concerns with. All sides need to discuss these issues but disaffiliation will not help.</p>
<p>I do not think we should divide the church. No church is perfect. Be ready to accept the things we do not like about the church.</p>
<p>I do not think we should split the church and join the Global Methodist. I do not agree with the first part of the Book of Discipline in which it states that homosexuality is not compatible with the Bible. However, I do agree that homosexuals should be loved by our church as it says in the second part of the Book of Discipline.</p>
<p>I do NOT want CUMC to disaffiliate from the UMC.</p>
<p>I do not want our church to split our congregation. I want to keep our building which is vital to our community along with our pastors and congregation, TOGETHER. Not always agreeing, but working toward a strong union that worships one true God and strengthens each other and our community.</p>

I do not want to disaffiliate but remain United Methodist Church. I believe we should be open to all people just as Jesus would have been.
I do NOT want to disaffiliate with the UMC and will move to another UMC church if that happens. I would not be open to affiliating with the GMC.
I do NOT want to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church. In NO way do I want to join the global Methodist church. As to question number 10 above, I do not worship the Bible. I resent the ministry of Central using the pulpit to push their personal agenda.
I do not want to disaffiliate. I want our Church to remain United Methodist Church.
I do not want to leave UMC. I have many questions regarding the financial implications of what is being proposed by our ministers to disaffiliate. I believe all financial questions should be viewed and understood before any decision is made. I believe that those who are unhappy in the UMC should leave of their own accord. I have been a member of Central for 62 years, raised my family there and served as an usher, a greeter, a Sunday school teacher, singer, a trustee, chair of the administrative board, chair of finance, and participated in all the building projects including the two sanctuary fires. The God I know is open to all people. I believe in John Wesley's message - do all the good you can, in every way you can, to everyone you can, as long as you can.
I DO NOT wish for my church to disaffiliate from the United Methodists. I also think Brian Swain needs to go.
I do not wish to go global, I want our church to be open to all and allow them to live their life as they wish. Please keep Central as it has been, I do not see any problem with how it has evolved over the years.....nothing is wrong leave it alone and let it be!!!!!!
I don't think our church needs to turn into the Global Methodist Church. If people are unhappy and don't think gay people are suitable to be leaders they can leave and form another church.
I don't think the issue should need talked about. Jesus commands us to love one another. He does not command us to be judge and jury of our neighbors. We stopped coming due to the staff and clergy's obvious close minded views on this topic.
I don't understand why the people wishing to join the Global Methodist Church don't just leave the United Methodist Church. Paul murdered Christians yet he was fundamental in leading the church. Why do we focus on this sin? Are all Methodist leaders consistent in their messaging about all types of sin identified in the Bible and identify those not suitable as leaders?
I don't want to respond to 9 and 10 because I don't think it matters. What matters is whether I agree with disassociating with the United Methodist Church. Which I do not. I do NOT agree with leaving and becoming part of the Global Methodist Church.
I encourage the Church Council to allow our church to enter the process of disaffiliation. I support disaffiliation.
I encourage the Church Council to let our church enter the disaffiliation process. I support disaffiliation from the UMC.
I favor disaffiliation. I encourage the church council to allow us to go thru the disaffiliation process.
I feel all people should be welcomed into our church. It is my job to love all people and not to judge their lifestyles. I am aware of 2 recent suicides that have occurred due to life style choices and their thoughts of not being accepted. I don't have to personally believe homosexuality is what God wants from me - but I do not ever want a human to feel as if they don't belong at our church.

I feel as though all people have equal rights and we should not be having to vote on something like this.

I feel it is important to enter a period of discernment

I feel strongly that it is important that CUMC should continue to remain as part of the United Methodist Church. I believe in honoring the sexual orientation of all church members. This would include allowing members of the LGBTQ community to be ordained as clergy and preform same sex marriages within the United Methodist Church.

I feel strongly that our church should go through a period of discernment.

I feel that question #9 is somewhat contradictory. I failed to find that exact paragraph in the book of discipline. I feel that all persons are of sacred worth and deserve to feel loved and welcomed by our congregation. Not allowing groups of people to serve in the church and/or celebrate their love of another in our church certainly makes them feel unwelcome and unloved by their church. It is not my job nor my wish to tell others how they are to live and interpret scripture. It is simply my job and wish to love others as Christ commanded. There are so many practices and beliefs written in the Bible about divorce, disciplining children, allowing women in the church, etc. that we do not strictly follow. I don't feel that the subject of homosexuality is any different. I hope and pray that the church leadership does not pursue dis affiliation from the UMC. I have been an active member at our church for 15 years, my children are active in student leadership and very involved with their small groups. My husband grew up attending our church. If our church were to leave UMC to join GMC, we would be forced to find another church home.

I feel the actions of the "Great Methodist Divide" is due to the ever-changing culture and its acceptance by society measures and not scripture. I absolutely feel that the Methodist church has purposely avoided the issue at the pulpit and believe a strong church leadership would not be covered of culture influences, even if some in the congregation are offended. Church needs to preach God's word and not take or add from it. Have been totally disgusted with the Methodist Churches leadership for the past 2 years debating/contemplating/dividing on an issue that aligns with today's culture and not the Word.

I feel the church should not proceed to a vote on disassociation at the present time.

I feel we need to move into a period of discernment. After we leave, I hope we never have to hear that word again

I grew up at Central. Some of my fondest memories are confirmation class and the Turkey Bowles! I made friends in Sunday School and would bring my non-Methodist friends to church, Sunday School and other youth ministries events. I have always been proud of Central until now. I attended regularly with my family and friends until I graduated from the UofA in 2019 and moved to Dallas. I attend church with my family when I am visiting Fayetteville. My confirmation class taught me the Methodist church is for everyone and we are the church of compassion. It bothers me that my home church seems to lead by old, white guys that only like people like themselves. I was concerned when my baby sister who went through confirmation class this year would call me and be upset by unfriendly comments by her confirmation class leader. She said he talked about what marriage can only be and who should be a part of the church. That seems to be way too much to throw at a bunch of 8th graders. I am now in Houston and attending different Methodist churches to find my new home. I will not join one that leaves for the Global Methodist Church and I want my home church in Fayetteville to stay in the United Methodist Church.

I have a desire for our faith to be more inclusive of others, at all levels. While confusing to me at times, I believe the Bible is our guide to life as it explains salvation through Christ & confirms who He was.

I have a homosexual adult grandson. I believe God made him and that he he can't change his sexual orientation. He would prefer not to be homosexual.

I have asked for detailed information on the differences between progressives and traditionalist outside of sexuality.

I have attended the Methodist Church all my life. I would like to remain a member of a church concerned with the following and teaching the of scripture as written, not changing the words to fit the belief that those things were just customs and meant to evolve with the modern world. I would like to join a Global Methodist Church, and I sincerely hope it will be Central.

I have been a member of Central since I was a child. I pray that our church becomes a space that welcomes and radiates love to all communities especially those of the LGBTQ+ community and other diverse groups. I pray that Central United Methodist Church is able to remain a unified congregation and learn together.

I have been a member of CUMC for over 25 years. I was drawn to the United Methodist Church when I lived in Little Rock because I felt it was more inclusive and less conservative than my Southern Baptist upbringing. However, I have sometimes felt that CUMC is much more conservative than I wished. I would welcome a change in the United Methodist Church that does not interpret scripture literally, and that welcomes ALL people (even the LGBTQ+ community).

I have been a Methodist all my life, and have enjoyed the services and activities of the church and had not felt we were slipping away from the teachings of John Wesley. My husband and I were married in Central United Methodist Church 67 years ago and were here one more year before we started traveling the world with his military career. In those years, we joined Methodist churches wherever possible even before they became "UMC". We found no fault with teachings for our family then, and we were pleased to return to Fayetteville and to rejoin CUMC 40 years ago. We have felt that we have had ministers who believed and practiced from the Book of Discipline and have been spiritual in approach to those beliefs. We have been happy with Senior and Associate Ministers we have had, the majority from Asbury, and a few from other seminaries. I believe it would be harder to change to a new denomination of Methodist Church (GMC) where I do not know what their structure will become with no guidelines yet in place. I want to remain in the United Methodist Church.

I have been in this church my whole life and I have felt extremely alienated by this entire process. I am a bisexual woman, and I have felt as if my home church has been rejecting me & telling me that my God-given capacity for love makes me immoral and disgusting. Some members pushing for separation have even accused me and the people I love of being pedophiles. I feel sick that so many of the people in my church seem to hold so much hate for me. I have also been genuinely deeply hurt by the way leadership has reacted. Queer members of this church are also children of God. I am not a bad or evil person for my capacity to love beyond gender & God made me this way with His purpose and love. I have not told anyone this, but I have cried many times over experiencing such vitriol from people who I thought were my church family. I do not think Jesus hates me. I wish fewer Christians did. I have tried going to other churches but they are not my home. I hope this home does not choose to reject me.

I have been increasingly disappointed with the UMC over the past few years. I've watched the church leaders turn a blind eye to those who have chosen to ignore scripture and make up their own rules. The few who have attempted to maintain a strict scriptural standard have been ostracized and criticized. I guess the GMC represents those of us who feel like the UMC has lost its way. It is sad. But it is time for those of us who align more with the Global Methodists to move on. I believe that God expects His children to speak the truth rather than to silently fall in line with those who choose to embrace the world instead of the Word.

I have been Methodist all my life, but maybe not the best one as I did not know this was a portion of the doctrine of the churches I always attended. I strongly believe that God intended us to live in community with everyone. Allowing opportunities for all of us to rest in His love and spread His love despite our sins.

I have deep concerns about the worldly direction our denomination is headed and hope that Central can continue in its tradition of holiness, the authority of scripture, and the uniqueness of Christ.

I have grown in faith through the work of this church and its members...including worship service, small groups, prayer and Bible study. Want to continue to experience this ministry and be a part of this congregation. Praying for our future.

I have had the largest struggle with this, not because of what I believe, I am certain of that, but of how I hoped our church believed. I have a deep relationship with Jesus-through his spirit and his word. For so long, Central has been a part of my life. I feel our church has become much more concerned with the politics of it all and has lost sight of the fact that Jesus wants to and will accept EVERY person as they are-to me the sexual orientation of anyone has nothing to do with the kingdom of God. To me, the idea of saying we are created in the image of God, means everyone is, with no exception. So, while the Methodist Church says they believe that, there seems to be a disconnect with the fact that all are welcome but only to a certain extent. I have many LGBTQ friends and I don't understand how to make them feel comfortable coming to our church when there is an exception made for them. It feels to me like-You can come here but we can't offer you everything the heterosexual people receive. That there is something wrong with this-I can't imagine God sees anything wrong with someone made in his image. I have had a broken heart thinking about how Jesus would have reacted. I know God's grace and love abound in the hearts of so many. I hope ALL of my friends will one day feel welcome with no exception to experience the love and marriage and full acceptance in the Methodist Church. I want Central to stay a part of the UMC and change the language in the book of discipline to affirm LGBTQ marriage and ordination.

I have learned that the first bible did not include the phrase or words related to homosexuality, which is actually now considered derogatory, so the queer community, in my opinion should not be considered incompatible with Christian teaching, what has and should be incompatible is an adult trying to have sexual or intimate relations with a child. An adult within the queer community is just as compatible within the Christian teaching as a heterosexual person.

I have not attended regularly due to the global health pandemic, prior to the pandemic I attended regularly. This question about attendance should not be taken into consideration due to the times we are currently living in, we are still members of the Methodist Church.

I have not been attending because I felt the push to progressive leadership and discharging the core principles of the church and I believe #10 is doing just that. It is stating the belief in the Bible, Old and New Testaments as necessary for salvation but then states that is not revealed should not be established. I understand this to be an out for the progressive ideologies even though the accepting of homosexuality is forbidden and their marriages as well. I'm sorry that the progressive movement is attempting to tear apart this beautiful church and its believers and I'm sorry that they are using the church to push their agenda.

I have not been in attendance due to concerns regarding Covid-19 as well as my complete disgust with the hypocrisy of CUMC. One of my lifelong friends committed suicide in large part due to the way that CUMC made him feel in regards to his sexuality. He had left CUMC and was attending elsewhere, and his family had his funeral at his new church. Despite this, CUMC flaunted their relationship with him and posted about his death on their social media. I can not even begin to state how this made me and my classmates who were aware of the situation feel. We all knew that Caden was raised as a leader in CUMC, and we were aware that he was in such dire anguish over his sexuality and the way that CUMC made him feel that he spent the night of our graduation from high school in a mental institution in Houston. Unfortunately, the situation went from bad to worse resulting in his suicide. CUMC and its leadership needs to strongly reflect on this situation. Being a loving, inclusive community does not lead to one of its own children taking their own life. It is time for the leadership of this congregation to realize that their views do not reflect the views of the congregation. The congregation desires to be a welcoming, loving body. But, honestly, the damage that has been done to my class might be too much to overcome. You have turned many of us away from the church. Be better.

I have not been informed properly about all of the information regarding this subject due to informational meetings being held when I could not attend. I believe we should include and love everyone. Doesn't mean you have to love the sin, just love the sinner as Jesus would.

I have the same standards for all humans, regardless of race, creed, color or sexual preference. All should be treated equal.

I have trust and faith in our present ministers of CUMC to lead us in our present position.

I have very little respect anymore for our denomination leaders and their decision to ignore the Book Of Discipline and for the others who let them get away with the misbehavior. None of the "leaders" acted in the best interest of the church and now we have to deal with their mess. I would like to enter a time of discernment

I haven't attended Central since COVID, but was especially disheartened that Central doesn't recognize and welcome everyone as equal in God's eyes. I would hope the church will agree that all people are welcome to all positions within the church.

I haven't been to a service or the information sessions due to the staff and clergy's strong stance on this issue. It is too painful right now as I just lost my child last year partly due to the teachings of this church. Please consider the children of God that you are hurting with your actions. Is this what Jesus would want you to do? This church directly contributed to the death of my child. Think about that. Put aside your agenda and truly think about how petty it is to demand this specific doctrine when it's proven to damage and hurt people. Put your own child in this place. Be the person God entrusted you to and put your entire congregation's best interest at heart. Not just the portion that supports your belief. Your belief is not more important than people's lives. LEAVE THE JUDGEMENT TO GOD AND JUST LOVE EVERYONE. It's that simple.

I hope & pray we can come together on some of these current issues that are stifling our church doctrine and embrace the fact that we are all children of God and are blessed in His holy name.

I hope our Central Church will be in an agreement and environment that lifts up the Bible as the authority of our lives and will obey it as such. It is important that our doctrine and worship be in accordance with the Word of God.

I hope that the church begins the process as soon as possible.

I hope that the church moves forward with meetings discussing the current state of the UMC and why we should consider leaving UMC.

I hope the Church Council will enter a formal period of discernment.

I intend to remain a United Methodist. I do not wish to vote that Central would separate from the United Methodist Church. I will not remain a member of Central if it leaves the United Methodist Church. I have not attended in the past 2 years due to discrimination against LGBTQ. I look forward to the day the UMC includes gay marriage and gay clergy. I plan to return to worship once this issue is resolved.

I intend to remain in the United Methodist Church. I DO NOT feel the church needs to have a period of discernment. Those (including ministers) that can no longer support the vows they took as a United Methodist should leave Central and find another church that has the beliefs they want.

I believe Jesus welcomes all sinners into His Church. Jesus would not reject homosexuals. I believe Jesus would harshly criticize us "Righteous ones" who love to judge.

I joined Central with the understanding that it is a United Methodist congregation. I want to remain a United Methodist, and I'm less than thrilled that CUMC is even pondering moving away from the denomination I originally joined. The alternative (GMC) is brand new and unproven. I fully realize that I would have an official vote within the formal discernment process, but I'm very concerned the signal it sends if my church enters the discernment process. I strongly believe that it will hinder our ministry within the Fayetteville community because we will be labeled as a less than loving congregation. We will have further negative effects if the church makes the decision to disaffiliate, but merely entering into the process of discernment is a genuine risk. I grew up in United Methodist churches across multiple cities in the South and Midwest. They always represented loving congregations and had a willingness to accept divergent views of scripture and its interaction with the overall march toward freedom within our country. Please do not move forward with this discernment process—it promises to be destructive and divisive. We have enough of this in our country at this time...I do not want it within the church as well.

I joined the Methodist Church based on the policy of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors". I believe that it shouldn't matter what a person's sexual identity or preferences are in order to spread the word of Christ. As a straight woman, I have spoken with many LGBTQ friends and family members about how the Methodist Church is welcoming to everyone, and is a safe place. Since CUMC's old pastor, Jan Davis, voted NO to allowing us to change the old Book of Discipline wordage, I have not felt comfortable attending church. I miss my church a lot, but I will not take part in discrimination. I am hoping that we can find a way to stay together as a unified congregation that doesn't discriminate.

I just completed confirmation class and seeing adults act this way is confusing and disappointing. My parents have always taught me that God loves everyone and that everyone has worth and a purpose on earth. They taught me that the Methodist church is tolerant of others' views. We respect others who may be different from us. I have family and friends who are gay. I love them and treat them like anyone else. I do not want Central to leave the United Methodist Church. I would like to continue to grow up in the church I know and love.

I just don't see what the big deal is. If the Methodist Church is a "Big Tent", why worry if someone is gay or not. If a pastor does not want to marry gay people, refer them to someone that does. No one asks about my sexual relations with my spouse (we are a man and woman), I will not ask anyone else about their sexual relations.

I just graduated college at an out of state university. I am a lifelong Methodist and was baptized in the church. I wish for central to remain as the United Methodist church and not leave. I am for an all inclusive congregation and clergy regarding the LBGTQ community. I do not think this is reason enough to split a church.

I left the Baptist Church because of what is happening now in the Methodist Church.

I look forward to the day that the Book of Discipline is revised to fully accept ALL God's people into the ministry of the church.

I love my church and I firmly believe that I want to follow the Bible and follow gods word . I feel that our world is slipping away from gods ways in many worldly ways it saddens me. But I do not judge anyone for the choices they choose to live I do not think this is gods want's for us. He created man and women in the beginning and that's what we are intended to be as a couple. This is his plan for us. It say's in the Bible. I feel this is going to weekend our churches going against his word.

I made a commitment many years ago to God, His word, and to the United Methodist Church. I plan to continue to live by that commitment! I believe, as Christians and members of the UMC, we should be able to work out our differences without dividing our amazing church. I am praying for unity and a way forward together!

I need to understand all of the issues that are driving the change in the United Methodist doctrine/Book of Discipline. I am not completely decided on my view of the changes.

I oppose disaffiliation from the UMC

I oppose disaffiliation from the UMC

I oppose disaffiliation from the UMC

I oppose disaffiliation from the UMC

I oppose disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church. I would like CUMC to remain a fully welcoming congregation and remain within the UMC.

I personally feel these questions are overall biased and reveal where the leadership of the church has chosen for its congregation. The Methodist book of discipline is not the holy bible. It is laws that are updated/revised every four years for the Methodist domination. It was written to allow for revisions.

I pray for our leaders and our church members to continue to seek to understand the Love that Christ has for all people. We have had staff who are gay work at CUMC and we also have members and member's family members connected with our church that are gay. The topics of Gay Marriage and Gay Leaders in the church gay should not be a topic of conversation at church. This is an individual's way of life and church sermons and topics should be centered around Christ. This matter of opinion of what's right and what's wrong will never come to an agreement. Just as we don't affiliate with a political party as a church, we don't have to come to an agreement on gay marriage. Let's simply stay Methodist, let's have at least one pastor that would conduct a gay marriage and continue to be a Influential church centered with Christ and move on.

I request a time of discernment to discuss and learn more. I am concerned about our denomination and that we are drifting from our mission. The church has a right to know about what is going on.

I somewhat agree with #10 because I do believe there is room for interpretation and that God gave us a mind so we can form perspectives based on history and based on the larger purpose of the scriptures. This survey doesn't address this specifically, but I support CUMC remaining part of the United Methodist Church and taking a progressive stance in welcoming everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, as members and leaders in our church. I don't understand why homosexuality is such a major issue for us when it was not for Jesus. I think more time and thought needs to go into this discussion. Any decision made will impact the entire congregation and will lead to a split. As a lifelong Methodist, I will be disappointed if we choose not to be inclusive and welcoming to all.

I strongly believe Central UMC of Fayetteville should move into a period of discernment and eventually disaffiliate from the UMC denomination in order to follow Jesus and His Word, the Holy Scripture.

I strongly believe CUMC should remain in the United Methodist Church. I cannot condone the exclusion of individuals based on their sexual orientation. Saying they are loved and accepted but then not allowing them the same privileges as heterosexuals is not truly acceptance. They should not be punished for being who God made them.

I strongly believe in supporting gay marriage. How can we go by a doctrine printed so long ago. Our world has progressed (for better and worse) way beyond what any man could have imagined that many years ago. We've got to "progress"

I strongly believe that Central needs to stay part of United Methodist Church. Just the fact that we are looking at our options is causing great division in our congregation, which at this time like no other, we do not need. Our pastors are not going to be forced to perform same sex marriages if they don't agree, but I feel we should be a fully welcoming church to ANYONE that wants to worship the Lord. Please put an end to this and stay in the UMC.

I strongly believe that CUMC should remain in the UMC and not engage in any process to leave the UMC and join the Global Methodist Church.

I strongly believe that we should not be excluding homosexuals, or anyone that is wrongly classified as "different" from our church. Jesus is love and love means all. I believe it is incredibly sad what our church is going through right now and it does not have to be that way. The majority of our friends want to raise our children in a church (and most are members at CUMC) that is inclusive of all and we feel as though we need to find a new place to worship. I've been a lifelong Methodist and my family goes back generations in the Methodist church. This is truly heartbreaking. Please put love for others first.

I strongly believe the doctrine as written and the Bible is God breathed. If the doctrine is changed to more "worldly" I will have to find another church.

I strongly believe the words of the Bible that tell us we are not to judge other people. God will do that for us. Jesus said we are to love God and our neighbor. Period . The wording in the Book of Discipline is judgmental. Simply stated-we are to love, not judge. I believe that my belief in acceptance and love is directly aligned with Jesus' teaching as seen in Biblical scripture. I have been a Methodist since infancy, sprinkled with a white carnation, and raised in the church. I have served on many committees and was chair of the board at another Methodist church before moving to Fayetteville. The division breaks my heart! However, I will not remain at Central if they vote to leave the UMC and become a judgmental congregation which I believe goes against everything that Jesus taught. I pray that we never have to go through the disaffiliation process!

I strongly believe we are a church of God and are to love all people and need to be open to all believers. All members have the right to participate in all church activities regardless of sexual preference.

I strongly desire for CUMC to move into a period of discernment so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination

I strongly disagree with the current stance of our administration. I believe this administration has been totally obvious in trying to take this body of believers to a new denomination. I believe we are quite capable of functioning well as a church without everyone agreeing on every doctrinal issue. We have served our Lord and ministered to our community with great success for many years and I believe we should continue to do so.

I strongly encourage CUMC's Church Council to vote to approve the process of disaffiliation from the UMC and enter into a period of discernment. I pray that we are within God's will to uphold the biblical balance between grace and truth as we journey forward toward sanctification with Jesus as our SAVIOR!

I strongly encourage the Church Council to vote to approve the process for disaffiliation from the UMC and enter into a period of discernment.

I strongly feel our church should welcome all people, regardless of who they love, and remain a member of the UMC. Jesus never said a single word about gay people. He loved everyone.

I strongly oppose disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

I strongly support our ministers Carness Vaughn, Steve Pulliam, and Greg Gibson.

I strongly support the UMC and do not want to leave. I resent this effort by the staff to disrupt CUMC by trying to lead us into the GMC. I think that the performance of duties by Jan Davis and Carness Vaughan is a disgrace to ministry.

I support a fully inclusive United Methodist Church. I do not believe that any person has the right or the privilege to tell someone else how to live his/her life. That is God's business, not ours. We do not have the right to judge other people or their way of life. What I do is my own business and what anyone else does is his/hers. Jesus loved and accepted all people no matter what. If we profess to be Christians, we should do no less.

I support disaffiliation and encourage the Church Council to allow us to enter that process.

I support My Senior Pastor!

I think CUMC needs to enter a period of discernment.

I think it is a terrible idea for CUMC to leave the United Methodist Church.

I think it is hypocritical to say "We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth" and "We affirm that God's grace is available to all." and yet deny anyone the right to be married in our church. There are many examples of things in the Bible that are OLD cultural rules that we absolutely do not adhere to... We don't keep Kosher etc. etc. Love is the most important issue. I am FOR allowing LOVE to rule the day and FOR allowing homosexual marriages and FOR allowing homosexuals to hold "office" and be ministers.

I think lesbians and gays are the way God made them. God loves them equally with straight people. United Methodists should minister to them equally with straight people and we should let them minister to us fully.

I think our church needs to move into a period of discernment to learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination.

I think our church should enter a time of discernment to learn more of what is happening in the United Methodist Church.

I think our purpose is to love and not judge. I think the BOD contradicts itself when it says that homosexuals should not serve or marry in the church then in the next sentence says we should not reject or condemn them. That is exactly what we are doing. Matthew 25:37-46 I do not feel it's our place to judge. We are to welcome and to love without conditions. Luke 6:31-36 Last, I do not understand why we are focusing on this one, what some would call "sin". There are many sins that each of us commit, even the leaders in the church. So why punish this one group of people? Luke 6:42 We should love, welcome and serve ALL people. Leave the judgement and punishment to God. I fear that we are pushing more people away from knowing God's love rather than making them want to be Christ-followers.

I think that it is embarrassing and disgusting that church leadership continues to be homophobic when you all saw a wonderful and dedicated young leader in the church take his own life. do better.

I think that not allowing gay people to be ministers is discriminatory and unchristian. It wasn't so long ago that women were not allowed to be ministers. These boundaries and barriers are not set by Jesus or God; they are set by current politics, prejudices, and insecurities from the people in power. Excluding people from serving the church is not a Christian action.

I think that we should welcome anyone into our church to worship.

I think the church should move into a period of discernment, as we are not all on the same page. That period would give time to be able to evaluate the issues.

I think the church should stay as it is.

I think the way this survey is drafted is not reflective of what was discussed for review by the congregation. This survey actually makes me angry. If you want to know my position regarding the United Methodist Church and the Bible, please review our former pastor, Dr. John Robbins', sermon from May 29, 2022 on this topic. It is available on You Tube. He captures perfectly how I feel about my position in our church and how scripture deals with the subject. If our current pastor believes differently, and the congregation is more in line with Dr. Robbins belief, which I believe it is, perhaps our pastor should find a new church home. I am vehemently opposed to our church leaving to join the Global Methodist Church. If it does, I will not go with it. And if we do not, I may leave anyway given that our church leader holds such a bigoted position regarding faithful LGBTQ Christians.

I think these questions are deceiving and difficult to understand. The question should be direct and to the point of if we should stay United Methodist. I am disturbed that we have to vote. This is very upsetting to the older members of our church. Shame on you!

I think this could have been handled by voting out people rather than going through this. I love my church and have been a member for nearly 50 years

I think we have to be inclusive. Our congregation will not grow if we are not an accepting and loving church. We are all created by god and should be able to worship freely. Inclusion is the trend in every group today.

I think we should enter the period of discernment .

I totally think we should remain part of the United Methodist Church and stop exploring the move to the Global Methodist Church. This is only dividing our congregation.

I truly do not believe that the bible should be taken without a view of bias from human authors. However I was confirmed in the United Methodist Church and would only leave if they committed an outrageous act

I understand that the issue of sexuality is the primary issue confronting CUMC. I, however, would like to receive more information both personally and corporately of the other issues that lie before us, mainly the movement that questions the divinity of Jesus.

I urge the Church Council to vote for us to enter a time of discernment as a first step in disaffiliating from the UMC.

I urge the Church Council to vote to allow us to go into a period of discernment.

I used to attend weekly and have attended both the classic and the contemporary services. I have been deeply concerned about the direction of the UMC and have been looking for a new church home, other than the Methodist Church that we have been members of for 40 years. There is no reason to continue the discussion as progressive "Christians" work to dominate the relationship. It is time to go. I will stay with Central and the larger UMC only if a decision is made soon to protect our Christian faith.

I very strongly believe that the LGBTQ+ community should not be excluded from any rights (marriage or ordination or anything else) in our church. The Book of Discipline says everyone is welcomed and loved. But the LGBTQ+ community is welcomed and loved only up to a certain point. Until they want to get married or be ordained. It's like saying "we love you...but with these limits" and that is directly opposite of Jesus' teachings. His love has zero limits. It is hard for me to believe that Jesus would agree with excluding (from marriage, ordination, etc) an entire group of people like this. I love Central. It has been my church home my entire adult life (20 years) and it is breaking my heart to think that we would vote to deem our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters not worthy of all God and our church has to give. I'm praying that CUMC stays in the United Methodist Church and that the Book of Discipline wording changes to fully accept our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters including in marriage and ordination.

I want Central to be a fully welcoming congregation that remains within The United Methodist Church. I strongly OPPOSE entering into a discernment process that could lead to disaffiliation from the UMC.

I want Central to move into a period of discernment so I can better understand what is happening in the United Methodist church at large.

I want central to remain in the united methodist churches and to be totally inclusive to all .

I want Central to remain United Methodist with full inclusion of all people.

I want CUMC to be an all inclusive welcoming church.

I want CUMC to be fully welcoming and inclusive. I also want Central to remain in the United Methodist Church.

I want CUMC to enter a period of discernment to begin the process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church.

I want CUMC to move forward immediately towards the Global Methodist denomination. Too much time has already been wasted on so much disagreement.

I want CUMC to move into a period of discernment. I am very concerned about the movement of the UMC toward unbiblical stances.

I want CUMC to remain a United Methodist Church. I plan to stay a United Methodist because I think it most closely aligns with my faith beliefs. I can say the Apostles Creed in full agreement. CUMC is currently a United Methodist Church. Those that feel they can not remain in a United Methodist Church should feel free to move to a church and denomination they feel aligns with their beliefs. I do not think they should be allowed to take what is a UMC and turn in into something else. I am in favor of a fully inclusive church. Only God should judge a person. I am not the one to decide if some one is "good enough" to be in my church. Jesus welcome all in love. Who am I to judge? I am not in favor of Central beginning a process of disaffiliation.

I want our church to move in a period of discernment.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination

I want our church to move into a period of discernment so I can have more time to learn about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment, so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination. I fully and prayerfully support our current pastors on staff at Central.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment.

I want our church to move into a period of discernment. I was disappointed that the information sessions did not discuss the matters of theology that are reasons for our church to leave the UMC. These are much more important than the matter of homosexuality.

I want our church to move to a period of discernment so I can learn more about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination. It is time for the issue to be settled one way or another. I am hopeful our church comes out stronger than before and that those who have differing views can find a church that suits them.

I want to be taught only from the Bible. Only from God's word.

I want to continue to be a part of the denomination where I grew up. I believe in order to remain a welcoming church in our area, and continue to attract young adults and youth, we need to remain in the UMC as a moderate progressive church.

I want to enter into a period of discernment to learn more about what is currently happening in the United Methodist denomination.

I want to go where all the pastors are going to go. I have been attending on line every week. I am very troubled about homosexuality because I believe most are born that way, but I know what the Bible says. I am taking the stance Paul talked about in Phil.3:15 that GOD will make it clear to me, and meanwhile trying to live up to what I know.

I want to move into discernment to disaffiliate from the UMC.

I WANT TO MOVE TO A PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT

I want to remain a United Methodist. I do not want to go into a period of discernment. I feel the survey is poorly written and does not ask the questions that it was intended to explore.

I want to remain in the United Methodist Church. I do NOT want our church to enter a period of discernment. I am disappointed in this survey. In my opinion, the questions are vague and indirect.

I want to stay in the United Methodist Church and am not interested in the discernment process at all. I have been a United Methodist my whole life and want to continue to be a United Methodist.

I was raised in our church. I believe God loves us all. I am thankful that he is the one who will judge us when the time comes. When Jesus walked the earth he included people that others thought should not be included. God made each one of us. Thank goodness he made us each different or the world would be a very boring. I am not comfortable saying that someone can't be include in our church. I was raised to be accepting which I learned at home and at CUMC (where I was everytime the doors were open). I hope we make it through all this turmoil and I can return to the church I remember growing up, not the church we have become over the last 8-10 years. I breaks my heart.

I watched the videos by Rob Renfroe and I am disturbed by the progressive views overtaking the UMC and agree we much separate and do it now. I believe the Bible is God's inspired word given to us for guidance and instruction and I believe Jesus is God's son who came to earth to reconcile us to God by his death on the cross and resurrection. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Jesus. The Bible is just as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago because God's Word tells us that God is the same today, yesterday, and forever. We stand firm in the confidence that we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and God's Holy Spirit guides and directs us. I pray that Central UMC will separate into the Global Methodist Church which aligns with God's Holy Word.

I will choose to remain in the United Methodist church, an inclusive Christian home for all.

I will leave Central if they join the Global Methodist Church!

I will remain a United Methodist. I believe God loves all people and we need to be inclusive. Disaffiliation would break our church apart. There will be much financial loss over lawsuits and litigation of property assets.

I wish for Central to remain a part of the United Methodist Church, and I DO NOT support a discernment process that surely will never result in any generally shared decision, but instead almost certainly will divide our congregation and distract us from our mission. I URGE THE CHURCH COUNCIL to not make any decisions about the discernment process on the basis of the extreme examples that carefully select quotations out of context from the statements of UMC church leaders, usually in other states, frequently in other countries, and rarely relevant to any situation here in Fayetteville. And always omitting, of course, how the United Methodist Church, though not perfect, is a wonderful denomination, with churches in communities throughout our state, our nation, and our world, doing remarkable work in sharing the message of Christ. The UMC does not have a divisive issue over "biblical authority." Every Methodist believes the Bible is our ultimate authority. What the UMC does have is an issue of "biblical interpretation."

I wish to remain in the United Methodist Church. I believe all of Gods creation should be able to worship in a church setting and to have the ability to serve in any capacity in the UMC. Full membership for all of God's people.

I wish to say I am am Horrified at what has happened to Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville and the Methodist Church in the U S A. . It seems those in authority have forgotten the teachings of John Wesley. First I feel sorry for Carness Vaughan and Bishop Mueller as they took a vow to the Methodist Church 20 to 40 years ago to be a Methodist minister and all these years they have not believed in what Methodism stood for. How could they keep Maintaining they are Methodist preachers? If the congregationalist Methodist want to break away from the United Methodist Church why do they not break away by forming their own church, raising their own money, writing their own rules of conduct and they need to find a new name. Quit using the name Methodist as it is too confusing. One gets the impression they want United Methodist confused as it makes their story easier. They have said openly they want the property of the Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville for their own. For my parents generation and those who went before them this is unforgivable. I have heard Rev. Vaughan Say this issue is over the acceptance of Gaye People, same sex marriages, LGBTQIA People. That the church and it's ministers Would want to marginalize people , would want to make them feel bad about who they are and would want to make them their lives worse is unforgivable. It is not in the teaching of Christ. I do not wish to vote to leave my beloved church for a BRAKE OFF GROUP. It is with a "Heart of Peace" I Respectively suggest Rev Vaughn and Bishop Mueller and their followers form their own church. I do not understand why this Decision is so Motivated by staff. Also why is the accountant/bookkeeper Brian Swain such a big part of this as he is not a United Methodist minister?

I would hope the church embraces a discernment process and the possibility of disaffiliation. I believe that Central can become a congregation that remains with the Methodist church and welcomes all people to any position within the church.

I would like for CUMC to enter into a time of discernment so that the issues may be made clearer for those who do not understand the complexity of the issues at hand. Human sexuality is only one of the issues we are grappling with.

I would like for each pastor, either individually or collectively, to advise the congregation of their stance on disaffiliation, including former pastors who are members of our church. Pastors play a key role in the formation and shepherding of our congregation.

I would like for the church to enter into a time of discernment

I would like for us to pursue leaving a broken denomination (UMC) and being part of something new.

I would like our church members to get more information on the fact that the current methodist denomination is deviating from the written doctrines.

I would like our church to enter discernment period.

I would like the church to move into a time of discernment moving towards disaffiliation from the united methodist church

I would like the church to remain, as I have always felt it was operating on the premise of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

I would like to be apart of a church who openly welcomes everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. I would hope that everyone could come and feel welcome and not judged by members of the church.

I would like to disaffiliate from the UMC.

I would like to enter a period of discernment.

I would like to have a time of discernment to know more about this and consider leaving the denomination.

I would like to keep the church just as I felt it was when I joined- that all were welcome and we are all equal.

I would like to move into a period of discernment

I would like to remain a United Methodist and I think the church should unequivocally welcome the LGBTQ+ community in ALL aspects of the church.

I would like to see unity in diversity. I believe we can disagree and remain together. I am in favor of a protective clause so that pastors can choose who they want to marry. You say you don't want this to affect Kingdom ministry but it already has and will especially with Genesis. We have not asked for this division. We can do the Lords work and remain together despite difference.

I would like to support gay people in allowing them the same rights as we have

I'm absolutely heartbroken that CUMC would even consider the idea of disaffiliation in order to further marginalize an entire subset of the human population. In my heart, I know that Jesus would seek to INCLUDE, not exclude. As a person with coworkers, friends and family that are part of the LGBTQ+ community, I'm ashamed to even admit to them what my church of many years membership is doing. I've always been proud that MY church was welcoming and kind to all. I've heard in the informational sessions that gays will always be 'welcome' even within the GMC. If it were me, knowing the crux of the whole schism, I would not feel that this was a real and honest welcome. The "Church" as a whole has adapted to cultural change throughout the years, often not easily. Think about slavery, abolition, Jim Crow laws, and the civil rights movement....consider suffrage and equal rights for women. How much has "the Bible says so" caused the hiccups and slow movement of cultural change. Instead of focusing on a line or two of scripture that ultimately shuns our brothers and sisters in Christ, we should focus on the love of Jesus. That's it...love of Jesus. Please do not allow CUMC to disaffiliate from the UMC.

I'm disappointed in the videos by Rev. Rob Renfro. He takes a condescending tone and assumes everyone thinks the way he does. In my opinion, the church is a safe place (or should be) where a person can go for guidance and lessons on how to be a good person, how to live a good and decent life and not be torn down or chastised for who they are or what they believe in. That is the spirit of the United Methodist Church I grew up in. The premise behind the move to the Global Methodist Church does not match what I feel and believe.

I'm disappointed that we are not receiving more information about some of the practices happening in seminaries where apportionments are going. To me this issue is bigger than human sexuality, but keeping the focus there alone is not giving our congregation the entire truth of what is going on in the UMC. I answered somewhat agree to #9 above because I don't agree with some of the wording. I believe that the Bible is God breathed and says that homosexuality is wrong but, it also says adultery, alcoholism, stealing, sexual promiscuity, etc. are wrong as well. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. I do agree that I do not want a practicing homosexual ordained or in the pulpit, but first I want to error on the side of love. He who is without sin cast the first stone.

I'm not sure Paul understood homosexuality. He didn't understand the role of women and we ignore his teachings now. Why split the church down the middle when another issue will be "top of mind" in ten years. I remember when Christians didn't want to accept black folks as members. Let's give this more time. Asbury in Tulsa (Tom Harrison took a very hard line), Jonesboro AR and others are going too fast.

I'm very disappointed on how this has been handled. From a community perspective, it appears that we are a very divided church and not welcoming to all. Isn't the mission to bring others to Christ and show them God's love? We can disagree on issues, but at the end of the day none of us are on the committee to judge who should be included or not and to what capacity. There should be no rush on this issue, since the General Conference isn't even meeting until 2024. It appears leadership is in a hurry to split the church. Instead of remaining neutral, they have showed which direction they want to take the church. If they do not agree with the direction of the United Methodist Conference is heading, then they should go start their own church, not try to change the church that we are already members. The way they have handled this has not only divided the church today, they have risked pushing further future generations from the church. I would like to note that question #3 should be irrelevant in this survey. Especially since we have been dealing with covid for the past 2.5 years.

I'm very upset with this survey. I thought the purpose was to gage our feelings towards leaving the United Methodist Church. Instead, the questions are very biased and leading. Question 9 is asking two different things - our church does not allow practicing homosexuals to serve in our church nor does it allow gay marriage. Then, the statement further talks about forgiveness and extending God's grace to everybody. These are two different things for many in our congregation. I believe that homosexuals can serve and their marriages should be recognized, so I strongly disagree with that statement. However, I strongly agree that God's grace is available to us all. That is why I believe in the former. For a survey to be valid, you can not have two questions lumped together. Question 10, I feel, is not asking our opinions, but trying to sway opinions with guilt. And that disappoints me. I believe in the Bible, and I read it daily for support, comfort, and guidance. The Bible states that we must love our neighbor. Of all the statements in the Bible, that is the statement I try to live by the most. In a world full of hate - I repeat this daily. Why is our church trying to isolate a group of God's children from serving and feeling welcome in His house? I've answered them as best as I can, but don't feel these answers are accurate. I don't know how much money was spent on this survey, but you didn't ask the critical questions, so here you go: Do you support gay clergy? YOU BET! Do you support gay marriage? ABSOLUTELY! Do you support CUMC entering a discernment process that could lead to our disaffiliation from the UMC: No, and this would cause me to find a new church home. I will add that my children feel the same way. I don't know if they will be as verbal in their open responses, but they are young and the future of the church. During June I saw a sign from the church across the street that said "This Church loves you." I felt very sad that my church could not say that - that we couldn't hang a sign saying that we, a house of God, loved our neighbors. Because they were gay.

I'll be praying for the church in this matter and that Christ directs his will be done.

I'm a lesbian. I think it's important to be inclusive.

I'm not sure how this survey provides clarity around the direction the church should head. People on either side of the issue could disagree with the earlier doctrine, so I'm not sure what all will be learned.

I'm strongly opposed to Central disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. To do so would destroy what Central has meant to many and to the Fayetteville community as a whole. Central needs to remain a moderate church open to all. Central needs traditionalists, centrists and progressives in the congregation if Central is to flourish in the years to come. If Central decides to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and leaves to become a part of the Global Methodist Church, my intention is to forever walk away from Central except for the occasional funeral or memorial service. I won't join another church and will likely be done with organized religion.

If Central goes Global, we will leave the congregation and attend elsewhere. The person behind the Central Wesleyans email mailings is a holier than thou homophobe, ready to pass judgment like the Almighty. After one email exchange with this person it was apparent that we would no longer be joyful or unjudged in this congregation. We are lifelong Methodists, it is a tragedy that something like this is destroying our church.

If committing one sin even repeatedly makes a person ineligible for service and leadership in the United Methodist Church, then we would have no leaders or members for that matter. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. Grace and Jesus continually forgive us of our sin. And if God created each person in His image and if God is perfect, then each person is perfect the way God created him or her. There are millions of homosexuals in people and in animals. God created them all just like they are. If God is perfect, then he intended them to be just as they are.

If CUMC leaves the UMC for the Global Methodist Church I will not remain a member!

If CUMC leaves the UMC, I will move my membership to another UMC.

If God is perfect and created every person in his own image, then every person is perfect just as they are - heterosexual or homosexual. Just because they are different doesn't make it a sin.

If our church continues to stick with UMC and their acceptance of homosexuality I will be attending another church.

If our church decides it is not accepting of all people in all walks of life we will no longer be members of this church.

If the church changes it's name, I won't be able to go anymore. I'll probably have to stop going to church on Sunday since there won't be another one to go to. If scripture is important, why do churches do Advent and Lent? Neither are in the Bible.

If the church decides to follow the more liberal interpretations being discussed, I will most likely transfer my membership elsewhere.

If there is no modern interpretation of the book of discipline, there also should not be female ministers, we should have slaves, and abusing our children to teach discipline would not be illegal.

If we are all God's children, then we as a Church if God should allow all of his children to participate in all the church's activities. You either need to be against homosexuality completely or fully against. Not half toe into the pool to 'save face'. Make the decision and deal with whatever consequences comes of said decision. Living in a world of unknown is not the answer. Also, I'm not a theologian but grew up in a Methodist church, a Lutheran elementary and a Catholic high school. I have had a high level of education in Christianity. One of the reasons I remain Methodist is it's less than fundamental approach to the Bible. If I believed it to be the more than a guide, I would be a Southern Baptist, Pentecost, or Evangelical. Methodist are different and carve their niche and love all as the Lord says and the Book of Discipline tries to say. The Bible was written over hundreds of years by numerous authors and translated many times thousands of years ago. It is a guide of morality and not the end all. Thank you for listening.

If you agree with 10 you must disagree with 9.

If you are unable to celebrate and accept the love between others, regardless of gender, then you are directly violating the teachings of love and acceptance from Jesus Christ.

In a time when the Church is needed more than ever, all that is being accomplished here is adding more division in our society. I go to Church to build my relationship with God. It is not my place to judge or condemn anyone for how they choose to live there own life. Furthermore, I don't go to our Church because the building is special, I go because the people are special. That being said, If two people that I probably don't even know want to get married in our Church it has no affects on my life whatsoever! On top of that I believe the best practice is to have the most qualified people in place as opposed someone just fits the mold. If the stronger leader happens to be homosexual I don't see why that matters! We should always strive to have the strongest leaders in place. It only makes our Church stronger!

In addition to the statements above, I am most concerned about the inability of the church to teach, enforce, and expect its leaders and members to follow God's word in love. What is the book of discipline with no discipline. ...well beyond these topics?

In case I misread the questions I would like to make sure and reiterate here that I think we are all children of God, and that we should all be treated equally. Therefor I feel that everyone should be entitled to positions in the church and the right to be wed/have ceremonies in the church. Love for fellow human beings is what is most important between humans and I believe we must strive to do that in everything we do.

In my opinion, the wording of the Book of Discipline as stated in Question 9 above is hypocritical. Therefore, I must strongly disagree. Let me explain. I can accept not condoning the practice of homosexuality; not allowing homosexuals in the church hierarchy; and not allowing ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions to be conducted in the church. The Book of Discipline then states that: "We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another...We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." How I interpret the above is that it is acceptable for homosexuals to attend services, take communion, and financially support the church; but not acceptable to be in church management or be married in the church. I feel the wording of the Book of Discipline (relating to matters of marriage and sexuality) as stated in Question 9 above contradicts itself and is hypocritical. Therefore, I must strongly disagree with its wording.

In our family and what I believe Central's family should support is we love all and accept all.

In the sermon a week ago, it was discussed to proceed with Love and spreading discipleship. Although the passive undertones of the message was of bigotry in that we should treat those of certain orientation differently (which is directly opposite of love and discipleship), I do believe the message was correct - it just had the wrong context and leaning. We just are not applying it correctly as a Church family. In the history of Methodism, the official direction used to be of racism, sexism and bigotry, misapplying God's word along the way to support its "mis"beliefs. Thank God, official direction and doctrines were modified to remove racism and sexism. However, bigotry is still condoned. Creep is real in our current society, which it has always been. Creep is why the Church changed to move away from racism and sexism, and it is now time to move away from bigotry. I am embarrassed to be part of a family that condones bigotry and it has torn me in a way that I have to consider do I run a different path or stay with the family I love to show them a different path. Church leadership, which I appreciate in most every way, needs to take a direct stand so we can all determine the correct path for our personal salvation. The passive approach, innuendos, and back-office maneuvering is not healthy, not with Love, and not with spreading discipleship. Even this survey is slanted a direction to supporting pre-disposed views of bigotry.

In this sham of a survey, having been written by those who are locked in the Bronze Age mentality of the Old and New testament, presents in question #10 the most convoluted, one sided expression that few will be able to understand much less answer truthfully. It is reminiscent of the Republican and Democratic solicitations for voter information which is in truth nothing more than a solicitation for money. In this case, a solicitation to influence decision making by the church council ! I stand by what Christ had to say about homosexuality. Which is absolutely NOTHING ! There is only one thing necessary for salvation and it has nothing to do with homosexuality non-practice or a committed same sex marriage. I believe in the Book of Discipline --the one before the self-righteous discriminatory language which was narrowly added to it. I believe in granting the LGBTQ community a full inclusion "life" rather than the "life style" attributed to them! Instead of limiting acceptance of gay community we should be considering what they could do for the outreach of Christ's message to the world. We have been down this road before regarding the ordination of women. And look how much that has truly enriched the spread of the gospel. Good fortune to the "conservatively stacked" church council. I pray those taking a discriminatory stance will not be spiritually disallusioned once you someday figure out your position was on the wrong side of evangelism history.

Interested in exploring the global methodist church.

Is one sin any greater than any other sin? Are we 100% confident our clergy and lay leaders are completely without sin? I don't think we can parse out which sin is worse - the act itself or the act of isolation and rejection of the sinner. If we hope to create a loving and inclusive community, it is important to accept all as they are and for our leadership team to include members who represent the diversity of the congregation.

Issues which may lead to disaffiliation from the church, other than homosexuality, should be presented and discussed.

It has been brought to my attention there is information about homosexuality taught in the newly adopted curriculum for our elementary students of which I strongly disagree with.

It is disappointing that a nonessential has been elevated to a level worthy of divorcing our denomination. Further, it is highly disappointing and distressing that in an effort to hide the centrality of the issue of homosexuality, that primacy of scripture is being used as a way to other those in the denomination who believe differently about that issue, and is being done by raising questions about the sincerity of their faith. The primacy of scripture is not the central issue and has never been the central issue. By binding the two together and presenting it as though anyone who supports inclusion of LGBT identifying individuals also lacks a high Christology (which is incomplete without a full understanding of Jesus' characteristics found in a low Christology, too, since he was both fully God and fully man, neither should be ignored) and don't hold scripture in high regard is dishonest, and I would argue intentionally so. Prior to our previous pastor's divisive sermon that falsely labeled many in the congregation, I attended weekly, served in various ministries, and tithed. Following that I questioned whether there was anywhere for me to belong if I didn't align with 100% of the nonessential beliefs of everyone else in attendance. If I, someone who grew up in Central, returned as an adult with my family, and sought to regularly give back with my time, attendance, gifts, and witness, questioned whether or not I could belong, how can we truly believe we're reaching anyone for Christ? I have high hopes for the people of Central to continue to show God's love unconditionally, but I'm very concerned about the current direction and the negative witness it creates by centering an issue that was never meant to be centered.

It is imperative that we move forward into the discernment phase. That is the only way the whole church membership will have a fair voice/choice. If we are unable to move into the discernment phase, a great dis-service will have been done to the membership.

It is important CUMC determine a path forward as soon as possible. A house divided will not stand. I urge you to share the results of this survey with the membership.

It is important for the church to move in the discernment phase so that the members have a voice in this matter.

It is my personal belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. However, I do not believe that the Church can exclude someone based on their sexual preference as much as I may disagree with their choice. It is wise for the Church to enter into a period of discernment to determine what direction we as a community should go.

It is time for our denomination to demonstrate that we, as Christians striving to be Christ-like, welcome and embrace all our fellow Christians and worshippers!

It is time to decide so I support the move into discernment.

It is unfortunate that for such complex issues that you chose not to consider many of the individual beliefs embedded in questions 9 and 10 (potentially as separate follow-up questions). There are aspects I agree with and then others that I do not. It is unfortunate the church has taken the stance to not attempt to understand these many specific aspects and have statements that sounded extremely dogmatic in tone. (This made me at least question if there is any true interest in opinions.) For example, I may personally agree with parts of Q9, but I do not think that hiring of staff positions should be restricted based on what may be underlying psychological drives or feelings that may not have been considered 2000 years ago. Despite the statement "...families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members," this broad statement still comes on to me as judgmental in nature. I do believe the Beatitudes and Matthew 7:1 as important words to live by. I am no longer fully sure about all of CUMC / conservative Methodist leadership. In sum, I do believe in hiring practices for staff in the church that recognize a diverse, equitable, and inclusive world. In terms of Q10, "We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, which reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation," there are aspects in the Old Testament that I guess I don't fully agree with. For example, "the pig is also unclean" - do not eat their meat (e.g., Deut 14:8.) It seems this is clearly a "practice" established by Moses-- do all agreeing with this statement abstain and is it necessary for salvation? In sum, there are many nuances embedded in these statements and I feel CUMC is too rigid, and whether intended or not, the feel I get from this is it is inflexible and "unforgiving."

It is with deep regret that I am even completing this survey. There is nothing positive that can or will come of this moment. The "debate" does nothing to bring others to Christ, to further our Church's mission, or to serve the communities in which we live. It is a "worldly" overreaction to the times. An attempt to find purity of conscience ("My disdain for my neighbor's lifestyle is okay because my church tells me I'm right."), all while ignoring the central purpose of our faith. It is perhaps the ultimate signal to the world that we are here in service of the self--a self that blends and twists the current political environment with church doctrine in an effort to hide or explain our own insecurities or lack of understanding or, in some instances, contempt for those who have been cast aside by most churches. It WILL drive individuals away from Christ. It WILL drive members away from this congregation. There is nothing to be proud of in this moment. These are the petulant disagreements of Man. If history teaches us anything, Man's understanding of God and the Bible are far from perfect. To thrust this issue upon our congregation as though we DO have perfect knowledge lacks the very humility that Christ instructs His followers to display. We have been through so much as a Church in the last two years. I pray this Church can recover and endure following this survey and this vote.

It is wrong for Central to leave UMC for Global church.

It seems to me our church leadership has abandoned its oath to the UMC and is now loyal to the GMC (whatever that is) It appears you are assuming changes that are not certain in putting the cart ahead of the horse.

it seems you are contradicting yourself in saying that United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, yet we are to implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” it seems we are rejecting them if we say they are not Christians. The Bible has been interpreted by many different authors in different ways.

It would be good to have another meeting to go over the options that open to us as a church, clearly and simply stated

It's 2022, the church needs to wake up

It's interesting to include the belief in Scripture while giving an anti-LGBTQ+ message when the term "homosexual" was not part of any translation of the Bible until 1948. Consider that historical context and explore the reason why that was as you move forward.

Jesus had two commandments. Love God with all your heart and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. The biblical interpretation being applied to gay people is not in keeping with these commandments from Jesus. He loved everyone equally. Our current pastors are just dead wrong in their interpretation. I absolutely do not want to leave the United Methodist Church. I am heartbroken by this entire ordeal.

Jesus is the center of my life. I need for my church to stand on the Word (the Bible). I am open to the discernment period. Our church needs to seek options to stay in line with Christ.

Jesus loves EVERYBODY.

Jesus never spoke negatively about homosexuality.

Jesus said, we should love our neighbors as ourselves and I believe Him. Part of that is to witness to the Truth and pandering to lifestyles that draw people away from the gospel is not loving our neighbors, it only enforces their commitment to stray. Pride is anathema to the Word of God and the Pride movement is the same. In celebrating it, we heap coals on us all. Along with this movement, the appropriation of the rainbow, a symbol of God's love is another "in your face" attack on God and believers.

Jesus says, "Love your neighbor." As a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church and a 20+ year active member of Central, I feel strongly that our church should stay in the United Methodist Church and be a fully welcoming church. This means all who are called by God to serve should be fully supported. God's plan for each of us is unique and we are made in God's image. The three listening sessions were held, and we do not need to go through the disaffiliation process which will further divide our church. I hope ALL members will continue to worship at Central as United Methodists. We do not want anyone to leave. Let us focus on faith, hope and love and making disciples for Christ, not division and judgement. We have lost members from actively attending because they do not share the values currently being taught and we have lost children and young adults who have suffered from being cast out and shamed. This is not a church that has shown love or mercy to all members, but judgement and scorn. We should be Easter people and LOVE ALL. I pray that our leadership will consider what they are doing when they claim to be the hands of Christ but are literally closing the doors to people who desire a full relationship with Him. I urge you to end this discussion and let our healing begin so that we can focus again on serving the people of Fayetteville and NWA as disciples of Christ.

Just keep teaching and practicing Jesus.

Keep educating but not bullying the membership. INCLUDE all. Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors includes EVERYONE. STAY United Methodist.

Lack of attendance is due to the church members fading away from core values. I support a move to a period of discernment

Last I checked, we are all humans, created by God and equal among each other. Its sad that the church I started going to as a child and was confirmed at is taking such radical views that go against the grain of God's love and acceptance.

Let the progressives go start their own church and leave the rest of us united!

Let's move into a period of discernment to learn more about issues in the United Methodist denomination.

Let's let Jesus answer. Matthew 22:36-40

Love of God and each other should ultimately prevail over any doctrinal stance one might take. As difficult as that may be.

Love one another. God made us all in his image. We are to treat others as we want to be treated.

Love thy neighbor as thyself.

Love thy neighbor.

Many of these questions are vague and unrelated to the matters at hand. I am disappointed in the questions that were asked. Because I am unsure if my feelings were adequately relayed in this survey, I will clearly define them here: 1) I believe that ALL members of the church, regardless of age, sex, race, OR sexual orientation, should be accepted with love as we are taught by the lord. 2) Rejecting anyone due to their sexual orientation is bigoted, hateful, and completely against my beliefs and values. If the church decides to take this stance I will have no choice but to leave the congregation. 3) Who is the church to make judgements on ones personal choices in life? If you truly believe that homosexuality is a sin, then let God punish them! The rest of us should accept them with love and forgiveness.

Methodist from birth and active in both laity and clergy membership throughout life, the past 50 years+ controversy regarding the authority of scripture and faithful compliance with the Book of Discipline has resulted in a continuing decline in denominational membership, disrespect for our Christian authenticity from outside the church, and far too much attention to our differences as opposed to making disciples for Jesus Christ. We now are burdened by many clergy, episcopal leaders and agency staff who openly deny the beliefs expressed in our creeds and flout immoral behavior, even from the pulpit. Often described as "progressives" such persons not only demand acceptance of their position, but they also demand that traditional Wesleyan Methodists accept and conform to what they would have the denomination profess as acceptable. Going back on commitments to work out an amicable separation from one another, the progressives now, in many annual conferences demand exorbitant payments for local churches to go their own way often utilizing the secular press to label their traditionalist brothers and sisters as evil obstructionists for their chosen lifestyles and beliefs. We are no longer one denomination in practice and in fact. It is therefore past time to make our separation official with each congregation choosing which expression of faith it will make its own, wishing those who choose a different path well, even with our differences. With family having enjoyed membership and employment in and with Central UMC in years past and discerning that appointed clergy at CUMC were faithful to God's Word and obedient to The Book of Discipline, when moving to Fayetteville, I chose Central as my church home. Should Central choose to remain in the UMC, neither I nor my wife will continue in our membership. Instead, we will find and unite with another Wesleyan denomination church such as the new GMC which I support wholeheartedly. Time is of the essence owing to disciplinary provisions and annual conference policy. We need to separate now.

Methodists state that they have open hearts and open minds. Methodists profess that God created us all and loves what He created. How then can we discriminate against members within our own church.

might seek from congregation quality of: prayers, faith-hope-love, and Christian fellowship for potential enhancement, but not to focus on change or direction in platform.

More information should be dealt with outside of these issues.

Move into a period of discernment.

My answers to Q's 8/9/10 about beliefs and membership vows may appear wishy-washy for not being answered with a 'strongly agree' because - although I consider myself more traditional/conservative in my beliefs - I find myself feeling uncomfortable in aligning strongly to the answers in this survey, as the questions appear to be asked with an agenda in mind to draw lines in the sand. I am also puzzled as to why 8 is asked without a prompt / reminder of those vows, when prompts are provided for 9 & 10 from the Book of Discipline, a text few members are likely to feel connected to vs. the Bible (are we being asked how committed we are to this book's claims vs. the Bible's?). It almost feels like a trick question: Aha! People said they are committed to their vows in question 8, BUT then they answered X in question 10! Clearly they are contradicting themselves. Fools! Finally, I don't see how the answers to these questions will help with the discernment process of separation. Honestly, the more I feel pulled into all this legalese being quoted to draw out my viewpoints, the more I want to disassociate from the whole church and process, much less just the UMC governing body. The Bible is the churchgoer's guide, not the book of discipline.

My attendance at CUMC has been down due to my frustration with our church. My hope is that CUMC will remain in the UMC and not disaffiliate so I can continue to grow in my faith in the church and denomination I grew up in.

My Church is my place of inclusion! We are all sinners saved only by the shed blood of our Lord JESUS. As his table is open to all who believe so should each of our hearts. My Church is my hospital where I come for HIS healing and forgiveness by the HOLY SPIRIT! HIS church should be a place of Inclusion and Reconciliation with our eyes always on HIM. I am a sinner saved by HIS Grace!!!

MY GOD LOVES EVERYONE! It is really THAT EASY.

My hope is that Central can remain with the UMC. I would like to see all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, be accepted as full, participating members of our faith family. I believe that the Bible is vague or simply silent where it concerns these matters of who one loves and how one expresses their gender identity. It is the heart that Jesus is concerned with. My gay, lesbian, and transgender friends and family members are no different than those in the cis-gendered community. They love God and are accepted by God. I appreciate the conversation we are having at Central, and I support our Church Council in seeking to discern God's will for our congregation. Thank you for this opportunity!

My hope is that Central will be an open and welcoming church to lgbtq , et al. That we welcome and affirm all. And allow all to express their faith and serve community in concert with one another. We are all of God. And our actions and voices should reflect this blessed, beautiful truth. It hurts me for my two gay siblings - raised in the Methodist church- to feel betrayed and unwelcome in the Methodist church. One has joined an affirming and loving denomination and one has rejected the church all together. We so called Christians, are committing such hurtful wrongs by continuing to deny God's children - made in the divine image- equal access. It is not within me to exclude. And my God does not ask me to and in fact compels me otherwise.

My husband and I have been a part of CUMC for less than 5 years, having moved here from Illinois. Our background is in the Disciples of Christ church, although we have attended a Methodist church in the past. Frankly, we are completely discouraged about what is happening in the Methodist church right now. If we had had any idea this issue was being debated, we would not have joined 5 years ago. We just want everyone to get along and do not see an amicable way for Central (let alone the Methodist church as whole) to continue to be the vibrant congregation we have come to love. We don't know that many people really (other than the Chancel choir and the Wanderers SS class), but there is obviously much dissension going on. People that we see really aren't talking about it. It is just eating everyone up inside. We understand the reason for acting now with the language in the Book of Discipline sunseting in 2023; however, it would certainly have been helpful to wait until the Conference convenes in 2024 before making a decision as a church. We were weekly attenders before the pandemic and were coming regularly once again. Lately, we have mostly been attending our Sunday School class as we feel so sad and discouraged about what is happening that we really don't want to attend a worship service. We would welcome more opportunity to have discussion as a whole, rather than getting e-mails and seeing Facebook posts from the two individual groups and not being able to speak face to face.

My primary concern is the continuation of our service to the most vulnerable in our community. If disaffiliation impacts our ability to help others, I am against it. I desire the outcome that will empower us to serve at the current level or better. The book of discipline currently holds the view the more conservative members want; why change our status to something else on the chance the wording will change in the future? It seems rushed and fiscally irresponsible.

My wife and I stopped attending services when this schism developed. We would like to start attending again but do not plan to until this is resolved. In my opinion, there is no reason for the church to split. This issue should be able to be resolved without such drastic steps.

na

New Testament and Jesus commandments are to be our guide. Love one another. Do unto others....matthew 25 :35-40. Wesley taught reason and science shows that God made people in many ways. Love and welcome all. We're all children of God!

No where in the New Testament does Christ disavow homosexuality. Christ, is a new covenant for us, and as Christians, this supersedes anything written in Leviticus or the old testament. Christians eat pork, Plant Crops side by side, and at least here in America we don't practice slavery as condoned all thru the old testament. I'm not allowed to sell my daughter into slavery and no one lines up to stone me to death if I work on the Sabbath. Faith needs to be positive and inclusive if it is going to have any credibility and excluding certain groups does not accomplish that. Secondly, the exclusion based on a social construct is a slippery slope. First we exclude LBGtQia+ and then who is next? It wont stop there. There are extreme voices in our congregation that would gladly exclude women from the pulpit and maybe even from worshipping with men. This will be a sickness and lead the church toward hate. I am sure many of you have seen this ugly hate show its face already. Christ was about inclusion. We are all sinners. God loves us all! If our CUMC leadership does not love all people they must reconsider what is driving their faith. God Bless whomever reads this.

none

Number 9 affirms all persons, God's grace to all, and to be in ministry for and with all persons. My Christian beliefs from childhood to the current time remain the same and will not change. Like it or not, we now live in a troubling and accelerated ever-changing world on so many levels. Homosexuality is no exception as it has been going on for years behind closed doors within other denominations, i.e. Catholic, Baptist, and has always been swept under the rug. Unfortunately, the Methodist division and this survey was inevitable. I pray for God's love, direction, and grace.

Number 9 which is referring to the Book of Discipline is very contradictory in that it disallows homosexuals to participate fully in the church, but yet calls for members not to "reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends." So I disagree with first part and agree with the last 3 sentences. ON #7, I don't believe we should be discussing these matters in the biased way that has been presented by the ministers and staff in a hurried and defensive manner. Why not wait until the 2024 general conference? According to a member on the church council, the rush is to make this disaffiliation happen before the Bishop possibly retires. What happened to our motto, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors?" Or "What would Jesus Do? When we get to heaven, God will not ask us about the gay couple down the street....he will ask how we showed them love. I am very disappointed in this poor questionnaire. I am disappointed in our clergy and staff for their handling of this and showing a division to the whole community. I think the question about attendance is irrelevant and is between God and the person and especially not fair in light of our dealing with Covid. I wish those that are wanting to draw a line in the sand and divide this church that has been welcoming for years at the very doorstep of the U of A, would find another church home that more closely aligns with their beliefs. The harmful effects this process is creating will have ripple affects through the years and generations to come that will be immeasurable. Julie Roblee

Offering a worship environment inclusive to all is not excluded by exclusion of ceremonial practices to various groups.

Our appropriations should go to seminaries that teach Christ as the Way to salvation, not to those that teach other beliefs like atheism, and that Christ may not have been the Son of God.

Our church's traditional orthodox stance and current Disciplinary statements above will best be retained if CUMC moves to become Central Global Methodist Church. If we make the move, very little will change in our church except the name out front. If we do not make the move, we will not recognize our church in a few short years.

Our mission is to remain faithful to Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Bible, and 2,000+ years old Christian practices. We should ignore any pressure from modern politics to change, even if large portions of the Central congregation are misguided.

Pinpointing and singling out LGBTQ+ members as unworthy of the full benefits of being a United Methodist does not feel fair. It feels like putting their "sin" above all other sins and holding them to a different standard of holy. We are all sinners and someone loving a same-sex partner is not a greater sin than the others in the Bible. We cannot proprot to love everyone as Jesus loved others and alienate a group of people based on who they love. I can't imagine LBTQ+ Christians will start beating down the doors of the UMC to be married in a place that has told them they are second-class Christains for their entire lives, but wouldn't it be a loving step forward if they even had the option?

Please be bold and forthright in sharing what God's word says about these issues. Most people have I'll informed opinions not based on scripture.

Please do not change our church. There are many places people can go in our area if they are not happy with our church. I have extremely close friends who are gay and I love them dearly. But, do not change our church.

Please do not fall victim to the modern day whims of politics. We should not pick sides on these matters. Let's be a Church that loves everyone and does not single out or exclude a group of people. Also if we agree with question 9, are we saying that homosexuality is a choice people make, like all of other sins (such as dishonesty, greed, infidelity, and violence)? I suspect that is what it means, but please confirm this to the congregation so there are no misunderstandings.

Psalm 139 says that we are beautifully and wonderfully made. I have family members that are LGBTQ. They have been this way since birth. I believe that they are beautifully and wonderfully made by God. Accordingly, I do not believe that God would want us to treat them any differently. I certainly do not believe that they should be treated as second class citizens. I do not read the Bible to say that homosexuality is a sin. And I do not see the role of the church to stand between anyone and their worship of God. There are plenty of historical and cultural matters set forth in the Old Testament that we do not adhere to in modern practice. That is my view of Old Testament verses regarding homosexuality. Many churches were on the wrong side of the slavery question. CUMC should not be on the wrong side of the gay question. Thank you.

Question #9 - the statement is totally in conflict with itself.

Question 3 is irrelevant, especially in the midst of a COVID pandemic. I disagree with the way CUMC has handled the COVID issue so I have seldom attended worship service. I have however regularly attended Sunday School. ALL MEMBERS of CUMC should have an equal voice in relaying their concerns to church leadership, regardless of worship attendance. I STRONGLY feel that CUMC should continue to remain a welcoming and open church when it comes to LGBTQ issues. In NO WAY do I believe that Jesus would exclude unwanted people and I do NOT feel that the church should base its doctrine on Old Testament scripture or solely on Paul's writings. I feel that Jesus has taught us all we need in order to get through this current crisis in Methodism. CUMC should continue as part of the UMC and should NOT join the Global Methodist Church which I view as an ultraconservative offshoot of Protestantism.

Re: 9. 2 laws: Love God with your whole heart. Love people unconditionally. 10. I became a UM because I believed the Wesley Quadrangle: Scripture, Tradition, Reason & Experience are our guides. 11. I wish to remain in the United Methodist Church. I feel like the Global Methodist gambit is folly and an expression of current politics in our country. Christian Nationalism is a clear and present danger.

Religion is a farce that has plagued the world forever.

Romans 13:9 states that all commandments given by God can be "summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NIV). By turning homosexual individuals away and not allowing them to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church, we are doing the exact opposite of what God calls us to do. It is not up to us to judge one another or turn someone away because you believe they have sinned. We are all sinners and we should all be allowed to have the same rights within the church, regardless of whatever sexuality we identify with. God loves each and every one of His children equally, so who are we to treat our Savior's creation with anything but love and respect? To put these rules in place is to question what God has spoken upon us and reject his commandments. As a church, we should follow in the footsteps of Jesus and offer nothing but love, acceptance, and a safe place to people from all walks of life.

Salvation pertains to living by the teachings of Jesus Christ and how he lived his life. The New Testament does not directly address homosexual lifestyles nor how the lifestyle pertains to salvation, discipleship, or ministry. Acceptance of all who believe in the teachings of Christ were what Christ emphasized. There are parts of the Bible describing who was and was not to be included in church leadership--i.e., women. Women are leaders and teachers in the Methodist Church. We are not to "pick and choose" which verses in the Bible from which to adhere and those from which we do not. This separation of ideology in the Methodist church is heartbreaking. I pray for a compromise that does not require splitting into break. Pastors who do not wish to perform marriages for same-sex couples simply should be given the option not to do so. Congregations then should have the choice of whether to welcome ministers who practice homosexual lifestyles or whether weddings can be performed in the church for same-sex couples. Leave these decisions to the individual congregations rather than their becoming part of denominational doctrine.

Seriously consider moving the congregation toward exiting from the UMC.

Since 2002 I have been an aid in SS classes to children who needed extra help for 3 years, my husband and I have taught 5 years of SS, we were married here had our children baptized here, I was raised in a Methodist church and I am disgusted by the way our leadership is pretending it's some vow and masking their bigotry with scripture. Just come out and say it, don't hide behind old scripture. And if you're going to follow old scripture then follow it all not the parts that you can use to further your own agenda. Our childrens church leader posts Qanon and conspiracy beliefs on her social media, one of the church admins posts stuff about election lies and MAGA beliefs. That has zero business coming from leaders and influencers in the church. I say that BOTH ways I don't want to know your political beliefs I want to see you act like Jesus. Leadership is ok with adulterers potentially serving in the church or other sinners but this one particular thing they have an issue with and say it's scripture. Again if you're going way back you need to follow it all. Give me a sermon where Jesus said to discriminate against homosexuals - I'd love to see some references to it. How about we don't worry about who other people love and we just choose to love AND TREAT everyone equally and equitably. If you don't think the damage being done by discriminating, to our gay and lesbian members and even people in our community, is that big of a deal that is way off. Start researching suicide and depression rates in gay and trans people and what we should be doing is supporting people not alienating and make them feel less than...so by discriminating with this our church is ACTIVELY AND KNOWINGLY hurting people. That is NOT who Jesus is. If you want to go join another church do it but leave CUMC alone. Go start another church where like minded people can discriminate together that's what leadership seems to want. For years people have discussed views of certain pastors and leadership - so if you think they're private, they are not. When Jan Davis gave her sermon and used hand gestures saying where her Christology was compared to some other people it made my physically ill. We rarely missed a Sunday in almost 18 years and we have not been back since then. We will always continue to support Genesis and I long for the day I can go back to CUMC and feel like everyone is loved the same. For now we will continue to watch Genesis and Pulaski Heights each week.

Sounds like the inmates are in control of the asylum. Since when do members get to choose what is taught.

Splitting is something Baptists do when they disagree. We stick together.

Stay the course and stay true to scripture. As pastors I implore you to not get confused of what the good things of CUMC are, and think they are better than what the Lord Jesus has for us. Our church may take a hit for this. We may loose many members. It is not good to loose members. However it is better to stay true to scripture and loose members than to bend to the ways of the world... The question I have for those that want the church to go the way of homosexuality is, where does it stop? If we don't hold true to scripture, who makes the rules? It is a rough course but it is what God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit command of us. I leave you with two verses. Psalms 18:30-31: 30As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. 31For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? He is our Rock and our strength. We must follow Him and His word and His Son!

Stop the divisiveness! Quit judging God's children as he made them. We do not want to break with the UMC!!

Strongly prefer to remain United Methodist

Thank you for your leadership during these trying times.

Thanks for opportunity to weigh in.

Thanks for organizing education and surveys.

The "big tent" theory is a big lie. Advocates of gay marriage & clergy act like the dispute is no big deal, we can all serve under a big tent & we should change our long held denominational beliefs BUT YET they are willing to aggressively push for change in the church instead of leaving UMC and they are willing to divide & destroy congregations, relationships & reputations over this issue. Advocates of gay marriage & clergy profess to be all about love BUT YET they act in the most unloving way, hurling hostile words & hateful accusations against people who have remained steadfast in their biblical beliefs. The UMC has earned great distrust by flouting its own Book of Discipline & displaying wavering principles. I pray that our church chooses to remain on the firm foundation of the Bible. I pray that our church leads our congregation to be set apart from the world and not conform to our culture. I pray that our church disaffiliates from the UMC.

The attendance question shouldn't on the survey since we have been living through a pandemic. We should be a fully inclusive United Methodist Church. The way this has been handled has been divisive. There should be no rush to move to GMC. We took our vows of membership to the UMC.

The Bible should be interpreted fluidly with a changing society. That being said, even the Bible written the way it is now has be translated and interpreted for us. Jesus was loving and accepting towards all, and it's just wrong for us to not be the same.

The church is made up of men (and women), passing down translations of scripture made by men, several centuries ago. Some of these teachings and ideals are antiquated, and in need of change. There is plenty of sin among us all. The focus on homosexuality is just a way for straight people to rank their focus on the degree of weight to a particular perceived sin. In the current climate of the world, does the church really want to turn people away, based on the ideals of primarily white men, from centuries ago? If almost every aspect of the world continues to grow and elvolve, why not our church? As a Christian, we are taught to love and embrace our fellow man. Shouldnt we actually be at the forefront of acceptance?

The church is mistaken in their rejection of homosexuality. Many homosexuals I have known are true Christians, and should be admitted as full members in our church.

The church Needs to accept everyone

The church needs to pursue discernment. We need to be following God's plan as set forth in the Bible. The Bible says not to add to or take away from His Word. We need to have discussions and learn about what is going on in the UMC.

The church should not bend to societal pressures, but should continue to rely on the scriptures for guidance.

The clergy has made a sham of the issues and demonstrates the highest level of hypocrisy by conducting secret meetings and misinformation. The current senior pastor and his minions are a disgrace to the cloth and need to be summarily dismissed!

The current book of discipline has remained unchanged for years. It appears we are forcing a split on a vote that has not seemed to have happened yet. Further, it seems that we are speaking out of both sides of our mouths. We cannot proclaim a doctrine of love (as Christ professed) and simultaneously exclude others. I feel that Christ would have welcomed all who are sinners to him. Therefore, I think the scripture should be a source that we reference for guidance but only as it pertains to the teachings of Christ. As Christians we are told to first love God and then one another. I struggle with understanding where there should be limits set on that. -Allen Moseley

The current stance in the Book of Discipline relating to matters of marriage and sexuality is in direct conflict with love of Jesus I know in my heart as received by the Holy Spirit.

The division in our church is very harmful and hurtful! I am most thankful for our ministers and their leadership through this difficult period as they stand firm in their Christian faith. I pray for our church!

The division within the UMC is beyond Central UMC's control and is not of its making, but our congregation is forced to face a decision so that Central's work is not dominated by distraction from making disciples of Christ for NWA and the world. Methodists who disagree on the question of human sexuality may, for now, need to follow separate paths in their pursuit of understanding God's influence in their lives and communities.

The fact that this issue has come into question is really disappointing and a huge setback. I have been a member for several years and am appalled by this terribly inhumane debate and mistreatment.

The God I believe in is open to everyone. There is no difference in anyone. We are all the same in his eyes. That is what matters. So we all need to open our eyes to include everyone.

The issue is disaffiliation or not. This survey does not address that question and is very misleading in regard to Scripture. We are United Methodists who believe Jesus is the Word of God. Therefore, all of Scripture must be seen through the lens of what Jesus told us.

The issue of homosexual lifestyles, including marriage, is not clearly revealed in all the hoopla as to whether the UMC is condoning these activities or if the Global Methodist movement is supporting those activities. It's like the church leaders are not being honest to us. Just let me know which side wants to condone and practice gay marriage and which one does not. I don't condone gay marriage and do not want to belong to a church that does that. Simple enough.

The Jesus I know loves everyone. Who are we to judge?

The last sentence of the "note" (question 10) is very confusing in its wording so not able to agree or disagree.

The majority of the discord in our church is being sown by the staff. The desire for disaffiliation should come from the congregation. There are staff members who are actually promoting the division. So sad!

The New Testament teachings of Jesus teach us to love and accept others as ourselves, not exclude those we don't agree with. If our mission is to be Christlike, then exclusion does not align with that mission.

The only reason I have not attended meetings is because my husband, Daniel Rupp, has attended and reported back to me.

the pastors of CUMC have a personal agenda to leave the United Methodist Church and are not listening to all of the congregation, only the ones that have the "opinion" of the church pastors which is VERY SAD

The reason I checked "somewhat agree" in question #9 is because I want to ensure that we, as a congregation, go out of our way to welcome gay and lesbian members as we would any other sinner (which we all are!). I recognize the importance of repentance of sins and I believe that all sinners surrounded by a group of believers (and the holy spirit) showing love and kindness are more likely to repent in earnest. True repentance can only be judged by our Lord.

The scriptures in the Bible are God inspired and should not be changed or wrongly interpreted (such as "dumbing down" the clear instructions and message that acceptance of Jesus as God's son who was willing to be sacrificed for our sins is the only gate to Heaven and a fulfilling life).

The survey and statements were not very clear at all, so I'm hoping to share my statement here. I do not want to become a global Methodist, I accept all homosexuality and all members of the LGBTQIA+ community and all people.

The time is ripe to formally enter a discernment process related to disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

The UMC has strayed from its beliefs by refusing to hold accountable those who have violated our covenant (Disciplinary provisions).

The UMC was late to allow women to be ordained as ministers and to have leadership roles in the local church. Central was late in fully welcoming Blacks into the life of our church. Central should not be late in fully welcoming homosexuals into all aspects of our church life and should not restrict someone in any way due to his/her sexual orientation from full participation in the church in all the ways heterosexuals can participate in the church.

The unifying Church is excluding people because they are sinners?

The vast majority of scientists believe that people are born homosexual or bisexual. They believe hormones and genes are the largest factors in determining sexuality. I agree with the science. I believe people are born gay. I don't believe the Methodist Church should punish or treat gay people different than other people.

The way Central has gone about this is embarrassing and shameful. The narrative that has been distributed is misleading and judgmental. We are called to love, first and foremost, and this process has been the complete opposite. To separate the church over the INTERPRETATION of the bible is absurd. Separating will not bring people to Christ but will do the exact opposite.

The way to eternal life is thru Jesus and only Jesus and any other view is totally wrong.....

The word of God through the stories in the Bible are interpreted in different ways at different times. Many examples exist that show the differences as Mankind has evolved. Given the limited numbers of people who will ever want to be married in our church we should embrace them in the love of Jesus. They do not sin as much as I. The final judgement lies in the hereafter and it is not for me to decide.

The Bible is our guide.

There are a lot of subjects discussed in the Bible. I believe we are opening Pandora's box by highlighting this one issue. It clearly states that anyone marrying someone who is divorced is committing adultery. Are we going to single out all the divorcees next? Just asking a question.

There are lots of issues in the Bible that the current church chooses to work around. If we truly believe the open hearts, open minds we would not be here. What would Jesus do, that is what we should follow and he would not turn people away. There should be a straight forward question in this survey. Either you are a Methodist or you are really just Baptist but like to drink in public.

There are old testament traditions that I do not believe are appropriate practices today.

There needs to be a time of discernment on the course our church CUMC will take in this decision.

There were only two questions concerning the schism in the United Methodist Church. I believe all of them should have been addressed.

~~These statements have been changed from previous versions of the Book of Discipline to promote~~
active hate, fear and outright discrimination against one group of sinners for one type of sin, yet fails to address every other type of sinners & their sins. Previous versions of the Book of Discipline stressed UMC's overall objective: The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶⁴ Amended 1992.⁵ Amended 2000. This is the Book of Discipline I vowed to follow. I believe the International Conference has changed the Book of Discipline in a way that violates this paragraph so that the UMC can parcel out Grace as it's broken human emissaries see fit ignoring the very nature of God's Grace and the example Jesus Christ gave us when He walked among men. I strongly disagree with everything about the process we are going through in this "Homophobic Church Divorce". CUMC pastors have not been honest with the congregation. CUMC Pastors are not allowing the opposing side present the pros & cons of the opposing position and options. It seems obvious that the Church & CUMC Pastors are doing everything they can to keep the congregation blind to the real substance of the issues and the financial costs of both options. The CUMC Pastors don't want to have to perform Gay Marriages, pastor Gay, Trans, Lesbian, or any other divergent type of person. Treat them like Lepers. That kind of Faustian Bargain always exposes the sins in the evil hearts of those who make that deal. Yes- I'm saying the current CUMC Pastors creating this questionnaire & carefully guiding this process have evil in their hearts & they are trying to "guide" us like sheep to one certain vote to keep Gay Marriage out of our church. They are elevating one kind of sin (homosexuality) above all others (pridefulness for a start). As far as I know, sin is sin- no matter who is guilty of it. We are all guilty of it. We all need God's Grace to forgive us. The CUMC Pastors need the same Grace that the Gay person

This entire notion to leave United Methodist is ridiculous. If people want to leave CUMC to follow Southern Baptist beliefs then by all means move to a Southern Baptist Church. They would love to have each and every person who wants to follow their archaic interpretation of the Bible. But Methodism has always been about our doors are open to everyone, without any caveat whatsoever. Our leadership wants to say that we are, but at the same time they want to put limitations on gay and lesbians. There is no need to discriminate. And this survey was a complete waste of time and money. There is only one question that is even relevant. Can't wait to see how our leadership try's to spin these results.

This entire survey has truly offended me. I have attended this church for nearly 17 years, I have served in the church during services, and have served in the student ministries. I had my own "church family" if you will. But in the span of a 3-5-minute survey I have never felt so aggrieved and so detached from a church I used to feel comfortable in. I am saddened by the fact that this is a survey our congregation is even having to fill out, the fact that this entire thing is even a debate. We are not true Christians if we do not welcome everyone. I think Jesus would be embarrassed right now of how some of the congregation is wanting to push people away from him just because they love someone that isn't of the opposite sex. Jesus welcomed everyone to his table no matter what made them "unclean". Are we going to throw out divorced people next? What about the people who had secret affairs? Or how about anyone that eats shellfish? (Before you say that can't be a thing-look it up). I hate to think about not being a member of this church, as it is a place that I have grown up in and established my own faith in. I am a part of the LGBTQ+ community, I have grown up in this church and do not want to leave it. But I will if it comes down to me having to choose between who I am and a congregation that no longer accepts me.

This is a mess, that should not have reached this point!

This is a political issue that is being disguised in the church as biblical issue. You say you don't want this to affect kingdom work but the ministry work we are doing is being affected by this and will be affected even more if we allow a schism to occur in the church. It is revealing the real priorities here and it is devastating.

This is a poorly written survey. The wording is vague and can be construed many ways. I personally do not believe the bible specifically states that homosexuality is a sin, however I know that people do interpret the scripture in Leviticus to read that way. Therefore, question 10 is very unclear. I defer to Dr. John Robbin's recent sermon from his church in Little Rock on how the church views homosexuality. It's not expressly written and therefore we should not write an article of faith against it. This survey does not account for the enormous financial impact that is at stake. As stewards of our tithes, it should be spelled out that we accept or reject the financial implications of these decisions. It's simply not a decision of accepting homosexuality or not. There is more to this issue that needs to be accounted for and agreed upon. Also, why does it matter which service I attend? That's not a factor in any way towards my personal beliefs around God's view of homosexuality or the church's decision on our future. I simply cannot be part of a church that doesn't put God's love of ALL people and our call to share that love above passing judgement on some fellow Christians.

This is a silly argument which divides the church. Everyone should be welcome

This is a very difficult issue. I find the view of the Holy Scripture as the most critical issue. I am very troubled by the less than Christ-like speech from persons from both perspectives. I am a life long Methodist but am not sure I will be able to continue to be a member of either the UMC or The GMC.

This questioning is entirely misleading. I am so disappointed in Central United Methodist Church. This is about moving to a Global Methodist Church as a congregation. Instead, we got wording using the United Methodist Church and the Book of Discipline (which I assure you very few members have read). This is sneaky and not honest of our leadership. The Book of Discipline is our man-made book of rules, NOT our DOCTRINE. How these questions have been worded leads me to believe that leadership plans to manipulate whatever outcome to their personal preference. And shame on you for taking my "personal beliefs" and trying to taint them into something sinful.

This seems to be a social issue, who did Jesus turn away? We, as a church, don't have the right to make the decision who is welcome and who is not. CUMC should welcome anybody who chooses to come to our church. I really don't get it, we are all made in the image of Jesus, and our church should be open to everybody. I am not for turning our current CUMC into the Global Church idea.

This such a hard topic. We all know and love someone who is homosexual. We never want them to feel less, unloved or excluded. God's word is completely clear on marriage and establishing it for one man and one woman. I feel we risk great danger if we start compromising or taking liberty with God's Holy scripture. I know God created each person uniquely and wonderfully to live in relationship with Him. It's hard to understand why God creates some as homosexual and then asks them not to act upon it. We aren't in God's realm of understanding. He's given us His Word, and we are to live by what it says. I hate the position we find ourselves. Lord please allow us to make the decision you would have us to make. Amen.

This survey disappoints me. Why didn't it ask outright whether we believe Central should stay with the UMC or not?? It should stay with the UMC, and further, homosexuality should not be an issue for anyone who is called to preach the word of God, nor should the church be a hindrance to anyone building a loving relationship with another person through marriage. I am saddened by that language in our doctrine and hope that the UMC will someday chose to strike it. Moving to the Global Church, which hardly even exists at this time, would be a huge mistake for Central and its reputation in this community. Not even a mile from the U of A campus which advocates inclusion and diversity in all its forms, this church would cease to be a place where young people, and many faculty would want to attend. Young people will not tolerate this kind of discrimination! Jesus only taught love, forgiveness and acceptance for anyone who would chose to follow his teachings. Do we honestly believe that he would exclude a person who is gay? I don't believe so! Central needs to continue to be a moderate church with members from all walks of life, who can love and support each other even as we don't always agree with each other's personal beliefs. I believe that if you cause a church to be too narrow in scope, it will wither in our society today. We should be encouraging everyone to attend and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. The rift that this issue is causing in our church community is heartbreaking and so very disappointing!

This survey does not necessarily ask the question of disaffiliation from the original United Methodist Church. I believe the Bible is open to interpretation. I also believe the Bible can be taken literally, however I believe what stands above all is the notion, "God loves all." Personally, I believe in staying with UMC and not disaffiliating. I was born and raised in the Methodist church and believe it is paramount for the church community and church itself to remain UMC.

This survey doesn't fully address the disassociate issue with the church. As an active member, I fully support CUMC remaining associated with the UMC and welcoming everyone in our community as both leaders and members. I also think more discussions need to occur within our congregation about this topic before church council makes a final decision that effects the entire church body.

This survey is confusing and clearly tilted towards those who wish to leave the United Methodist Church. It omits the main question our church council should be asking our members, which is *whether Central should enter a discernment process that could lead to our departure from the UMC.* Our congregation already has enough information to know that we should *not* take that step. We can best serve our primary mission field of Fayetteville, Arkansas, by proudly *staying* in the United Methodist Church, and move towards fully including all those who wish to know and serve Jesus, regardless of sexual orientation. That is the best way for us to share the love of Christ with all who are desperate for encouragement, hope, and forgiveness, and attract and retain the young people who are the future of our church. Entering into a discernment process will not result in departure, but will damage our reputation in the community and cause even deeper division and harm to our congregation.

This survey is very poorly written, and doesn't show the real meaning of the what the church is trying to do. This is an issue I feel strongly about. Being gay is not a choice nor a sin and Jesus never even spoke of it. At least one of our church members died because he was told he was sinning by being gay. This must never happen again.

This survey was a total waste of church money! It says and proves nothing. I wouldn't be a member of the Methodist Church if I didn't believe and agree with the questioned issues. We should wait until the 2024 Conference to see what is actually recommended then. Be still and wait for God's directions.

This survey was designed to be able to manipulate the data as staff sees fit. I don't attend as I strongly disagree with the use of the pulpit and position to skew the congregation to their close minded views. A minister should have the whole congregation's best interest at heart. Not their own agenda. They should be neutral and allow a non-biased vote (even though it shouldn't need voted on at all.) These are people's lives we are voting over. Judging who we treat as our equal is not our job, especially as a Christian! It shames me greatly that this is taking place. Children and adults are being hurt by these actions and steered away from church and God by those leading this fiasco. Some are hurt to the point of losing their life. How can anyone that dedicated their life to preaching the word of God be ok with being a part of someone ending their life over being taught that they are not worthy? Stop thinking of this as a fight to win and realize this is about real people that are being hurt terribly.

This survey was written very poorly. I'm not sure what the point is that you are trying to make with these questions. Just come out and ask if we are for a loving church that is inclusive to all or if we are not. I highly suggest that you watch the the May sermon by Dr. Robbins in where he addresses this topic so eloquently. It was absolutely riveting and awe inspiring truth. Watch it again and again so that you know living God!! So disappointed that a great deal of money was spent on such a poor survey. As a church you have not properly communicated or listened to your congregation regarding this topic. So many mixed signals. Do better.

Times have changed. Within the last century it was acceptable to segregate churches and probably written in the doctrine. If we claim as Christians to be Christ-like, then we must love, accept and include everyone.

Too much time has already been wasted. It is time to make a change to the Global Methodist denomination. No church should take it upon themselves to tell you to wear a mask and take an experimental vaccine. We are perfectly capable of making our own medical decisions. More emphasis should be placed on trusting in Jesus, worshiping God, and studying His true word, the Bible! There are other churches that do not waste time on foolish matters. You need to figure it out before the whole congregation has left the church. Sorry if this sounds mean. It is not meant to be. Only trying to get my point across. Thank you so much!

tough issues...good luck

Transparently, I've grown disillusioned and disgusted with the establishment of our church in recent years due to abject failures of our leadership regarding these issues. Push comes to shove, the Bible says that God extends his love to all, and it is of the utmost importance that in these socially transformative times, our church remains Godly. Let me make my position abundantly clear: Our church must be welcoming to LGBTQ+ members, along with anyone else that conservative propaganda has convinced the less intuitively gifted "Christians", *cough* Carness Vaughn *cough* to turn away. I have little faith that our church ends up on the right side of this or the right side of history due to the behavior of our establishment, but I hope you all prove me wrong.

Variations in translations and interpretations of the gospels as codified in the Bible show that we don't have a precise understanding of the word of God and the teachings of Christ our Lord. I believe that an important tenants of Christ's teachings include acceptance, inclusion, and loving thy neighbor.

Want to keep central like it is currently

We are all sinners. No one sin is greater than the other. The church will celebrate and honor the unions of know adulterers and criminals. We should do the same for homosexuals who only want to live a peaceful, happy life full of sin like the heterosexual sinners in our congregation.

We are condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past if we do not educate and learn from the mistakes of our forefathers.

We are His children & should be respected for His beliefs and no one should be questioning His Word.

We are not fundamentalist radicals who seek to judge others in this manner. Go join a baptist or nondenominational church.

We are not regularly attending because we've moved out of state

We can love and accept every person as Christ does, but this does not mean we are taught to condone the sins we are all of us guilty of committing. I am no better than any other person in God's eyes because I sin as we all do. This does not mean my sins should be accepted, much less celebrated, by my brothers and sisters in Christ. This is not what Christ teaches, but he does teach us to love one another. "...for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers- -and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine" - 1 Timothy 1:10 "When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.'" - John 8:7

We cannot accept exclusion of people as they are just as we cannot accept stoning, sex with slaves to bear children when a wife is infertile, and other practices that were acceptable in the era when the Bible was written. If that is who the United Methodist Church chooses to be, a people of exclusion, that is not Christlike.

We do not need a period of discernment for disaffiliation. Disaffiliation would cause financial ruin to our church which we have all dedicated to building.

We have 3 choices right? 1) go progressive Methodist 2) go Global Methodist (conservative) or 3) disaffiliate and become non-denominational? I believe the Bible is the truth and I think we should go non-denominational, keep our staff and property and watch our church grow like crazy.

We have not attended regularly due to this turmoil. During this time CUMC has not been a place of solace to me and my family. Unfortunately, the leadership of CUMC that wants to leave the UMC for the GMC is misguided and is not following the loving example set by Christ. This talk of "high Christology" is judgmental which goes against the teachings of Christ. The Holy Bible does not define marriage as between one man and one woman; that is a construct of humans. If CUMC leaves UMC for GMC I will be leaving Central, as will my tithes, offerings, and talent. Furthermore, the leadership of CUMC via their judgmental stance on homosexuality is directly responsible for the suicide of one of my daughter's friends and classmates. The Great I AM is love. It is not judgment.

We may not condone gay marriage but those persons should not be prohibited from serving in high positions

We need to be inclusive. We need to remain a United Methodist Church. This would have to be the new mission statement of Global Methodist Church - Making Christ central to life for only the people we deem worthy of NWA and around the world. Doesn't sound very good. Disaffiliation will tear our church apart. We need to spread God's word, not tear our church apart, tear our congregation apart, spend millions of tithes that should go toward God work on splitting apart.

We need to move forward and have every member make their choice. We can no longer stay on the "Proverbial" fence as God clearly communicates what His action will be for people do not declare their convictions.

We need to move to the New Global Methodist Denomination to continue following the historical Wesleyan teachings.

We need to offer our congregation the opportunity to vote on disaffiliating. By not offering the vote, you are deciding "no" for our entire congregation.

We need to offer our congregation the opportunity to vote on disaffiliating. By not offering the vote, you are deciding "no" forget our entire congregation.

We need to proceed with welcoming ALL, homosexuals, gay, lesbians, trans, whatever whomever. We are not on this heavenly earth to judge. We need to move forward with these times and if a gay person wants to marry and be blessed, they should FOR SURE have that blessing and rejoice with happiness and have the church blessing and not to question, period. The future of the church is our youth and If CUMC choses differently the church will die a slow death.

We say we are a church of love. How can you say ALL are welcome BUT... If people attend our church and identify sexually other than heterosexual we say you are welcome BUT... At the meeting, which I felt was one big manipulation, we were told there are many theological issues that are not being followed. Seems terribly wrong that this survey identified ONLY sexuality. This survey was difficult to answer as I spent my time trying to figure out what we were being manipulated into answering. Someone is not being forthright and transparent, and I believe it is some of the leaders from the Bishop down. Money was certainly talked about and numbers were thrown at us about what will need to be paid. This involves church property, debts, asseto, and much more. Why are we rushing forward in this when others are not in our state? Yes, I believe in scripture and the doctrine. I also believe if you can't agree within yourselves as clergy, then why are you tearing a whole church apart?

What would Jesus do with the LBGTO who may be wanting to disciple the message of personal salvation? That's all that needs to be asked.....

What would Jesus do? He would treat all people the same no matter how they were made.

When it comes to preaching /teaching and helping explain biblical concepts our church is exceptional, as is many of the ministries within the church. The hearts and love for Christ is apparent in all leadership in both genesis and central. When it comes to current political and social world view my church has been disappointing. I am conservative and Genesis leadership is very liberal. From the pulpit i have heard encouragement to support BLM, CRT Principles and labeling police and our country as systemically racist and often repeating sound bites from liberal news outlets that are extremely biased and often not true at all . I have made my concerns known to leadership in the most polite respectful way I know but do not received any feedback so wondering if I do not belong at genesis.

When we moved here 4 decades ago, we wanted a church family with our four children that was accepting of all people, no matter their race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or political stance. We felt that CUMC was that church.....demonstrating AGAPE love which it did, until recently. Our children were active participants in youth choir, youth group, acolytes, and other youth activities through the years. Between the two of us as parents, we have served on every committee and in other leadership positions as well. A movement to separate CUMC from the United Methodist Church is a prospect of complete heartbreak. It is evident that the current leadership is on a path, barely-cloaked, to move in that direction, while using the slightly-veiled power of the bully-pulpit. When community members have inquired of me about this surprising possibility by CUMC, many ask, " Why are those desiring to leave CUMC not just leaving?" Their inquiries also have proposed (quite correctly) that the position of the "separating group" also is clearly a property-grab of CUMC's hundreds of years as a United Methodist Church. "Leadership", as currently presented by the clergy and the separator group, is clearly negatively divisionary and prejudiced in intent and action. Indeed, lost in this power-grab is the consideration of WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)? There should have been opportunity to comment on each of the questions 6 through 10.

Why can't we all just get along and except each other for who they are?

will stay with the Central Methodist if it continues to follow the current book of discipline. Do not intend to follow a more liberal set of disciplines.

Would like more conversations from both sides with equal representation from both the UMC and the GMC.

Would like pastors to address their concerns from the pulpit and provide leadership towards disaffiliation, making sure our congregation is fully educated.

Would like to keep our church like it is

You are saying that you do not accept certain people; and then turn around in the next question that we still welcome, love, and accepting other people. Per God and Jesus have us do. That is being a bigot.

You gotta take the Bible with a grain of salt.

You need to accept everyone. It's the church's part to accept everyone. It's ridiculous in 2022 we are having this discussion. There are too many young people that are not being accepted by the church. You have seen staff leave because they do not feel accepted. The church is a place to accept everyone and not judge!