

Frequently asked Questions and GMC Information

The Global Methodist Church has been called a “hard reset” on our Methodist heritage. It is for that reason that we feel aligning with them would be beneficial for Aldersgate. We have a wonderful heritage and pray we can keep our roots while continuing to produce fruit.

Why did we choose to pursue affiliation with the Global Methodist Church?

Although there are many reasons, the short answer is that the Global Methodist Church (GMC) aligns very closely to our current Wesleyan doctrine and theology as well as our Methodist heritage.

Although there are many highlights about the GMC, here are some notable ones:

- A smaller, more fluid structure with an **emphasis on the ministry of the local church** rather than boards and agencies.
- **No trust clause** – We would own our property and assets and, if desired, could leave the GMC at any time with no penalty.
- **Lower apportionments** – With a leaner structure, more money can stay with the local church and go directly to missions.
- We will have a **seat at the table** in the formative years of a new worldwide Methodist movement that we hope bears excellent fruit for generations to come.
- Many of the items that an independent church would have to **create on their own** have already been done and are a part of the GMC denomination.
- The **connectedness** of being a part of the GMC allows our local church to accomplish larger missional and service work than it could by being an independent church.
- A process is in place for pastoral transitions when the need arises for Aldersgate.

What practical changes would joining the GMC require of our church?

The short answer is that nothing about our local mission and ministry must change because of joining the GMC.

- We would have to drop the “United Methodist” from our name and also all occurrences of the flame and cross logo.
- The local church structure in the GMC is essentially the same and uses the same language we are already familiar with in the UMC. However, there would be more local flexibility in the GMC to restructure around our unique mission.

- The GMC has “connectional giving” (called “apportionments” in the UMC) to support our shared ministry beyond the local church. We anticipate that connectional giving to be about half of our current denominational obligations.

When will we vote on affiliation with the Global Methodist Church?

- A Church Conference has been called for Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. At that time all members present will vote on whether to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. To pass, at least 2/3rds of our members present must vote to disaffiliate.
- If that vote passes, we will take a short break before inviting all members present to vote on whether to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. To pass, a simple majority (50% + 1) of votes cast is needed to affiliate.
- We would actually formally become members of the GMC on or about May 6, 2023 after the IGRC ratifies our disaffiliation.

What will our church name be if we disaffiliate?

Our formal name for legal purposes would be Marion Aldersgate Church, but informally it will be known simply as Marion Aldersgate.

How will my membership be affected?

If our membership votes to disaffiliate from the UMC and affiliate with the GMC, that will be effective approximately May 6, 2023 as mentioned above. After our vote on February 26, 2023, our leaders will attempt to contact every member of our church to inquire about your intentions.

- For those wishing to continue as members of Aldersgate, your membership will transfer to the GMC.
- For those members wanting to continue to worship with your Aldersgate family, but not become members of GMC, that’s ok. Membership has never been a condition to worship with your Aldersgate family.
- While we certainly hope it is not the case, if you decide to no longer retain your relationship with Aldersgate, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference requires that we pass on your information to them so they can help you, if you so desire, through the transfer process, to an area United Methodist congregation.

What happens to our pastor and staff if we join the GMC?

Lance has stated he plans to leave the United Methodist Church when we do. Staff Parish Committee will work with our staff for a smooth transition.

When will the congregation receive more information?

- **Informational Meeting:** On Tuesday, February 21st at 6 p.m., Bob Phillips a representative to the Wesleyan Covenant Association will be here to speak to us regarding the GMC. The Wesleyan Covenant Association is the group that created/birthed the GMC.
- You are welcome to chat with any member of the Transition Team regarding the GMC and where you can get more information.
- A couple of brochures regarding the GMC will be available on the tables as you enter the church.

Information available about GMC on the Web

- On the Transition Team section of the Marion Aldersgate Website, click on the Rob Renfroe Videos and watch the 6th video entitled **Where Should We Go**.
- On the Transition Team Section of the Marion Aldersgate Website, click on FAQ's and GMC information.
- The following are helpful website links that will give you an abundance of information about the GMC.

<https://globalmethodist.org/>

<https://wesleyancovenant.org/2022/07/06/ten-reasons-why-ill-join-the-global-methodist-church/>

<https://goodnewsmag.org/reasons-for-affiliating-with-the-global-methodist-church/>

