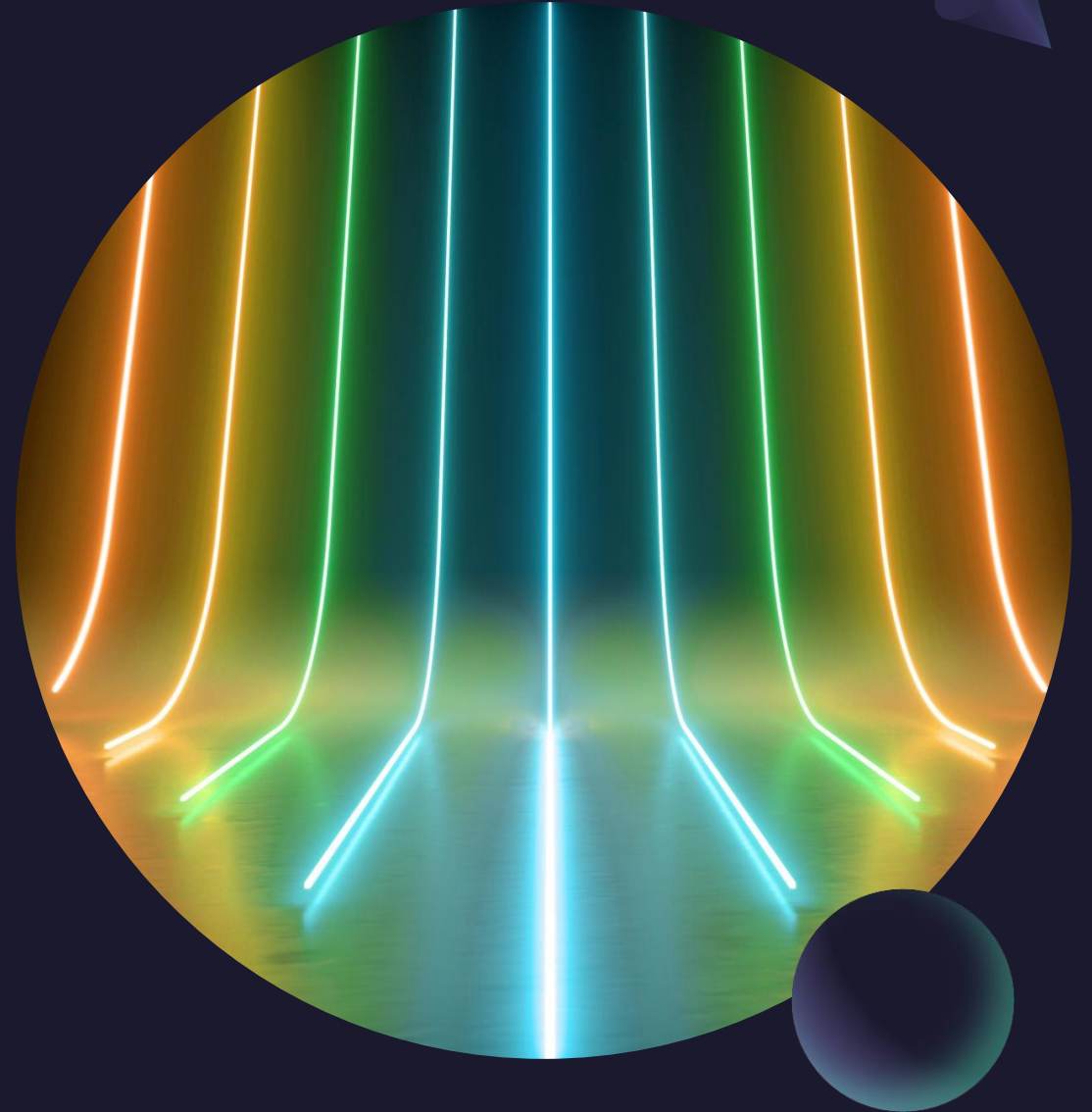


Disaffiliation Information

March 5, 2023

First UMC Fox Hill



What we're hoping to accomplish today

- Educate you on disaffiliation
- What it is, why it's a possibility, what the origins are, what the arguments are for and against

What today is NOT about

- Starting the process
- Taking polls
- Dividing "sheep" from "goats"
- Bottom line - what we do, we want to do it - together

Basic Info:

- **“DISAFFILIATION”** means to disassociate
- to stop affiliation, in this case with the
UMC
- **Paragraph 2553 BOD** - only option to
allow for disaffiliation while retaining
property

History

- All current policies regarding LGBTQ+ date from 1972 BoD.
- 2016 was supposed to resolve it...
- 2019 was supposed to resolve it...
- 2024 may or may not resolve it

Paragraph 2553 - only option

- Applies only to issues of human sexuality, particularly concerning clergy and weddings

Time frame and process

- **Would have to be complete in time for Annual Conference Oct 2023**
- **Church Council has to invite DS to start process**
 - **DS calls for period of discernment and gives rules for it (minimum 30 days)**
 - **(Not clear): Initial church conference, followed by final church conference**
 - **Vote has to be over 2/3rds of members present (66.7%)**
 - **If all done correctly, fee paid to Conference following Conference approval**

Things to note

- **Current UMC policy not different than GMC policy**
- **2024 General Conference may or may not change policy**
- **No change likely in either case in how LGBTQ+ people are accepted into life of congregation**

Current positions (UMC)

- **UM BoD 304.3: "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."**
- **Weddings: UM Pastors may not conduct ceremonies that celebrate same-sex weddings or unions. Such ceremonies also may not be held on church property.**
- **UMC.org "What is the church's position on homosexuality" - "Based on what is known about the delegations to the next General Conference, however, even given attrition in some because of disaffiliations, it still seems unlikely that the current policies regarding human sexuality will be substantially altered."**

Note:

- In addition to outright costs, disaffiliation would also incur:
 - Signage, 501(c)3 status, stationary, etc.
 - Use of cross and flame
 - Hymnals, etc.
- Separate vote on where to go - GMC, nondenominational, Wesleyan, etc.

More things to note

Arkansas conference has noted that churches that had over 90% in favor of disaffiliation tended to do well following disaffiliation. If the church conference falls under that percentage, they caution against disaffiliation

Final thing to note

- Churches and pastors are interdependent actors- they influence each other, but do not have to make the same choices

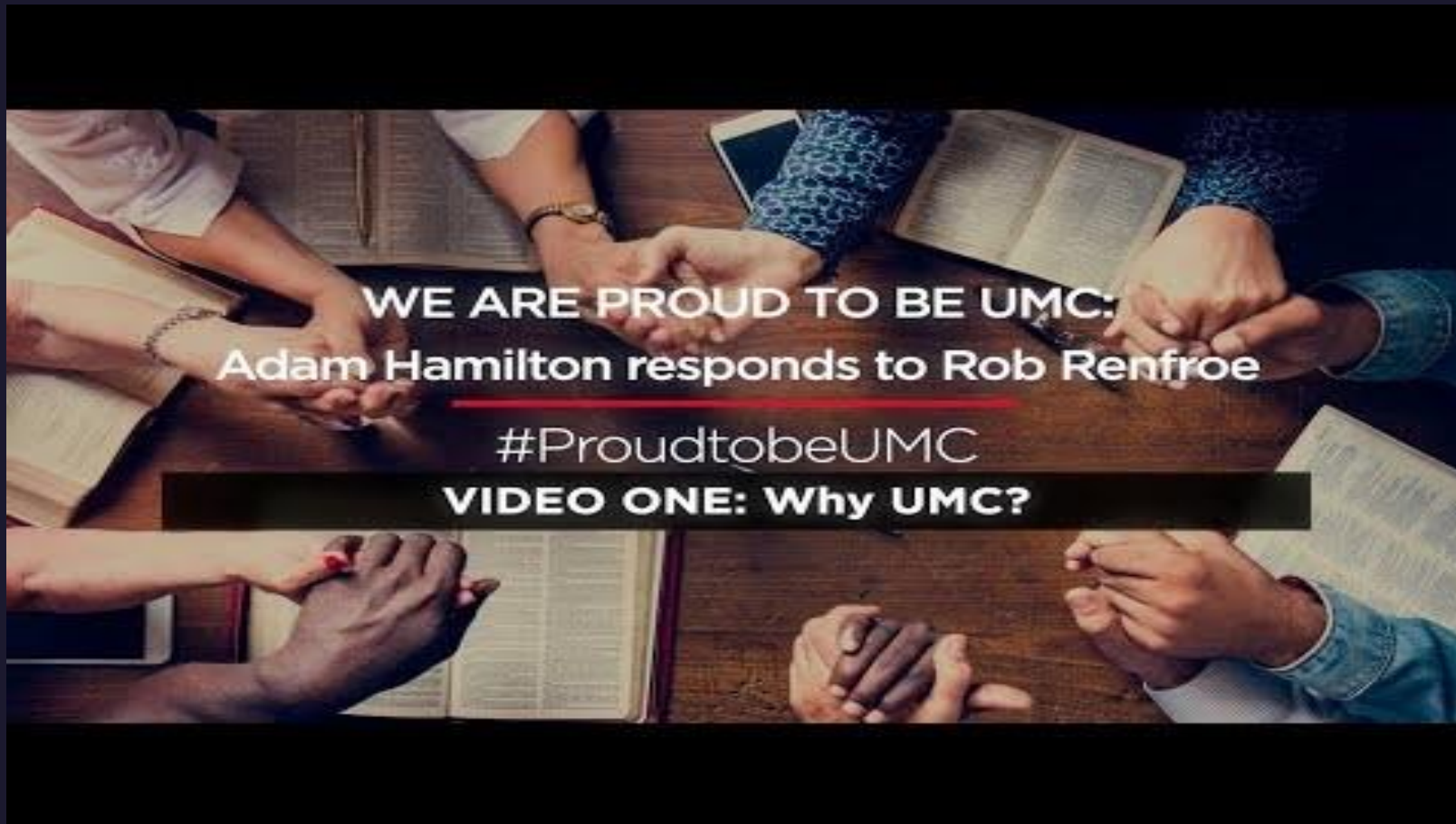
Email with links - will be sent this week

- Rob Renfroe (Good News Network): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g48onYSqg0&ab_channel=GoodNews
- Adam Hamilton: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI0Keo9h5E8&t=2s&ab_channel=%23ProudToBeUMC
- Virginia Conference: <https://vaumc.org/general-conference-2022/>
- Book of Discipline, para 2553: <https://vaumc.org/general-conference-2022/>
- Overview of process: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-should-united-methodist-congregations-know-about-disaffiliation>
- “Skunk on the Table – interview with Bishop Sue: <https://vaumc.org/skunk/> also: <https://vaumc.org/skunk-on-the-table-episode-discusses-disaffiliation/>
- More links: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-discipline-304-qualifications-for-ordination> , <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-churchs-position-on-homosexuality>

Rob Renfroe, Good News Network



Adam Hamilton - proud to be UMC



Bottom lines:

- Provisions of 2553 expire in 2023
- General Conference meets April 23 to May 3, 2024 in Charlotte
- If things change (BoD), there may be a new or reinstated para. 2553, or not
- If we do nothing, we will remain in UMC

From here, what?

- **Keep praying, keep talking**
- **Focus on the core - making disciples for Jesus**
- **Realize there is a long game - what will be our legacy?**