

Bascomb Family,

Today we come to you with a difficult message. As you may or may not be aware, **some 70 churches disaffiliated from the North Georgia Conference**. For more than 50 years, the UMC has had much internal debate over human sexuality. This debate has escalated over the past 12-16 years at the General Conference level. The lack of enforcement of the Book of Discipline in regards to human sexuality is central to the conversation.

There will be time for us to delve into these topics over the next few months. Today's message is not for that. Today we want to let you know, "We hear you." We have been approached by many of you, asking "What is Bascomb going to do?"

After much prayerful consideration, the admin council has formed a leadership group to shepherd Bascomb through this process **as we discern a path forward. We want to be clear that no decision has been made for Bascomb. As a leadership group, we feel that open, honest, and loving conversation is the only next step that we should consider at this point.** Kevin Smith, as the chair of the admin council will lead this group. This group has committed to presenting unbiased, factual information as it pertains to the matter at hand. This group will facilitate a series of town hall meetings. The format and dates of these town hall meetings are still in the works. In the meantime, if you have any questions for this group, or about the process, please reach out to any member below.

As mentioned earlier, this debate is not a new one, and many have asked, "Why now?". This will be covered in depth at a town hall or in another communication. What is important to know is that there is a timeline that exists if disaffiliation is the path forward. That timeline gives us until early next year to complete this process with the due diligence and thoughtfulness that is required. Under this timeline, Bascomb has not missed any deadlines, nor is it too late for us to start this conversation.

Over the next few weeks, you can expect to hear more from this leadership team. We will communicate with the church via announcements like this, the newsletter, emails, website, and printed copies. If you need to be added to an email list please reach out to Tammy Smith in the office ([office@bascombumc.org](mailto:office@bascombumc.org)).

We would leave you with this. The next few months will be difficult for our Bascomb family. If you do nothing else, pray. This entire process must be bathed in prayer if we are truly to find God's will for Bascomb. Please be patient with each other. If this is the first time you are hearing about this, ask questions. If you've made up your mind, be a listener. Always, act in love.

Matthew 22:37,39

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And the second is like it, Love your neighbor as yourself.*

In Service to You

Bill Andre	Tim Grady	Mike Oaks
China Allmon	Roger Heberer	Macie Pittman
Linda Biddy	Libby Kasper	Allison Smith
Steven Boggs	Ryan Kasper	Tammy Smith
Shirley Bryant	Mollie Kreider	Kevin Smith
Susan Croft	Jaime McLemore	Kathi Underwood
Brenda Crump	Sandy Moore	Steve Underwood
Cyndee Fetzer	Lynn Nolan	Dennis York