



Bascomb United Methodist Church

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January 18, 2023

Rev. Dr. Beth Sanders
North West District Superintendent
North Georgia Conference of the UMC
110 South Pentz Street
Dalton, GA 30720

Dear Rev. Dr. Sanders,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on the UMC BOD ¶2553 and under the North Georgia Conference's (NGC) guidance we are requesting a Called Church Conference for Bascomb United Methodist Church to vote on the issue of disaffiliation under ¶2553.

The Church Council met on October 30, 2022, and voted on a motion presented to the Council to begin the disaffiliation process as outlined in ¶2553 of the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline. This motion was approved by a 10 to 5 vote in favor of proceeding with the steps outlined by the NGC. Based on this vote, the Church Council is requesting to have scheduled a Called Church Conference to proceed with a congregational vote.

This request for a Called Church Conference does not mean our Church wants to disaffiliate, but our leadership would prefer to allow church members the opportunity to decide this issue collectively rather than have the church leadership make such a monumental decision for them.

We understand the recent announcement made by the NGC regarding concerns of a fair, transparent, uniform, and good faith manner and how those concerns have led the NGC to place a pause on these requests. Our church under the leadership of a large diverse group has held a number of town hall meetings to help educate and discuss the issues outlined in ¶2553. In addition our church has not allowed any other organizations to share information nor have we used any information other than that found on UMC.org and "Ask The UMC." In order to fulfill our commitment to our church and based on the considerations above, we ask that the NGC proceed with the Called Church Conference when the pause is lifted.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Smith
Church Council Chairman