



Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Our beloved Church is in a time of deep struggle with possible division among us. Yet we are called to be in ministry in and through The United Methodist Church. We cherish this calling and the covenant that we share together. As members of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church, we share a special bond of shared history and relationships.

With the challenges before us, we affirm [A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church](#) from the Council of Bishops and appreciate the [#BeUMC resources coming from United Methodist Communications](#).

In harmony with the themes from these resources, we offer the following affirmations:

1. First and foremost, we affirm the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We remain committed to fulfilling this mission through a Wesleyan theology of grace which is anchored in Scripture and based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We seek to be open to the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.
2. We want to cultivate a church where all may belong and be loved, where all will be heard, respected, and engaged, where all will be free to develop their personal relationship with God and to serve fully in the ministries of the church.
3. We appreciate our shared mission, built over generations of faithful service. With more than 12 million members across the globe, The United Methodist Church is a powerful connection that makes a difference in the world. We remain committed to work for global health, education, creation care, child welfare, disaster recovery, and countless other efforts.
4. We continue to embrace a Church where we have experienced our triune God in personal and community relationships. The United Methodist Church has transformed our lives, many lives around us, and the entire world.

We know that there are pastors and laity within the Annual Conference and beyond who are committed to the life and vitality of The United Methodist Church. If you feel as we do, please help our cause by doing three things:

1. **Sign** this document as an affirmation of solidarity and support for those who want to stay United Methodist.
2. **Visit** the “Arkansas Uniting Methodists” Facebook page for news, updates, and conversation about what is going on in our Church. We will be sharing more as the days progress.
3. **Speak** the truth in love. Share your feelings with the leaders of your local church—with your pastor, lay leadership, friends, and family members. There is great blessing in knowing we are not on this road alone.

This letter has been prepared by the joint efforts of Ken Pearson, Patti Butler, Roy Beth Kelley, Claire Caldwell, Michael Roberts, and Bud Reeves. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if we can provide information or assistance in your discernment. May God’s blessing come as we work together on the path toward ever-increasing faithfulness and fruitfulness as United Methodist Christians.

Grace and Peace,

Signatures:

Name

Clergy or Lay

Church (If First UMC, include location)

Annual Conference