

Discernment & Disaffiliation Resources

General Statement:

The following represents varied and diverse sources of information. It is not intended to be a single reference listing. All RUMC congregants are encouraged to gather information personally in order to make educated decisions.

Information from Local Churches

1. **Grace UMC:** Information from Grace UMC provides a good background of the UMC. It should be noted that this was a Stay UMC event. The information is very informative regarding the timeline of events that have occurred and have led the UMC to where we are today. It also explains why the bishops are not holding one another accountable.

You may choose to watch the entire video. If you would like to only view the history timeline, it is located during the 13:30-44:00 portion of the video.

["Bright Hope for Tomorrow" UMC Informational Event](#)

2. **Vestavia Hills UMC:** Information provided by Vestavia Hills UMC is helpful and applicable to RUMC because we are under the same governing rules as outlined by the Book of Discipline.

[Discernment Information 2022 - VHUMC](#)

3. **Canterbury UMC:** Information from Canterbury UMC as they are just beginning the Discernment Process.

[CANTERBURY DISCERNMENT](#)

Opposing Views Videos

1. **Global Methodist Church** (Rob Renfro):

[Differences That Divide the UMC](#)

2. **Stay UMC** (Adam Hamilton):

[#ProudToBeUMC](#)

Council of Bishops Correspondence

[A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church](#)

Key Information

1. **Cost:** The current cost of disaffiliation is \$787,286. Please note this figure will probably change, but we will obtain an updated number prior to the vote.
2. **Important Dates:** This link details important dates regarding disaffiliation from the North Alabama Conference.

[Official Call for Special Session of the North Alabama Annual Conference on May 11, 2023](#)

Options Other Churches are Considering

In general, there are four basic options. The link below is a UMC/GMC/FMC comparison chart.

[A Comparison of The United Methodist Church, Global Methodist Church, & the Free Methodist Church](#)

1. **Stay UMC:** [A Coalition of North Alabama Methodists Working to Stay in the UMC](#)
2. **Global Methodist Church:** [Global Methodist Church](#)
3. **Free Methodist:** [Free Methodist Church USA](#)
 - a. Bishop Cowart speaking on the Free Methodist Church at Alex City FUMC. [Free Methodist Presentation - Keith Cowart](#)
4. **Independent Church:** Becoming an Independent Church would require additional research and the creation of a new entity.