



Dear Bishop L. Jonathan Holston,

On behalf of the Church Council of Covenant Methodist UMC Church in Greer, South Carolina, I would like to convey the desire of the Council to you and your leadership staff. It is our desire to see a God-honoring, peaceful, and non-punitive resolution to disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church denomination.

We have read about numerous other Annual Conferences granting varying disaffiliation costs, protocols, and processes for local churches from one dollar to millions of dollars. It is our prayer to see the South Carolina Annual Conference to resolve and communicate the disaffiliation costs, protocols, and process by November 1, 2022.

We acknowledge the difficult, stressful, and uneasy positions you, as Bishop, and we as the local church have been placed. We understand your and our fiduciary responsibilities, however, we would like to emphasize that the local church is where the unchurched are brought into the light of salvation through Christ. Both of our ministries are more important than financial issues. Local churches are about walking along side of the unchurched until they accept the love, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

You are able to release local churches with reasonable conditions through your position of authority and power. We ask you to apply grace and mercy to the front-line servants of Christ through the local churches.

The world is watching how you will resolve the disaffiliation of South Carolina local churches from the United Methodist Church denomination. We urge you to be a witness to the greater Kingdom of God by your grace and mercy.

Our prayers of peace, grace, and mercy are with you.

God bless you,

Bonnie Blackman
Covenant Church Council Chair