

## Claiming Our Identity

### **We are distinctly Wesleyan.**

Our understanding of grace, free will and our ongoing sanctification are rooted in Wesleyan theology. Our beliefs are based on the Bible as our primary source, which is dynamic and informed by our own reason, tradition and experience.

### **We are instruments of good in our communities around the world.**

We are equally committed to personal and social transformation, balancing our love of God and love of neighbor. We are connected to a worldwide community of faith, allowing us to pool our prayers, our resources and our efforts to better serve those in need.

### **We are diverse by design.**

We recognize that all people are created with sacred worth and are recipients of God's grace. We celebrate that diversity – whether theological, political, social, generational or cultural – strengthens our denomination and our witness for Christ.

## Finding Value in Our Connection

Being a part of The United Methodist Church, and specifically the North Texas Annual Conference, brings value and shared resources to each of our congregations, even as total apportionments have declined over the past 10 years. These include:

- Recruitment, training and vetting of pastors
- Continuity in pastoral leadership
- Quality camping facilities and programs
- Grants to catalyze new ministry efforts
- Scholarships for clergy candidates
- Negotiated liability insurance, ensuring adequate protection and affordable deductibles
- Aggregated contracts and cost savings on services like electricity and CCLI
- Equitable compensation for pastoral leadership in times of transition
- Expert support in times of congregational conflict, through CART teams
- Lay leadership training and resources to support the local church
- New church and ministry plants
- Continuous evaluation of the changing mission field
- Intentional cross-congregational responses to emerging needs

## What You Can Do

### In Your Church

- Stay focused on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world in the context where you're called.
- Shine a spotlight on your church's important ministries.
- Lean into the resources and support from the North Texas Conference.
- Pray for your church, its leaders and The United Methodist Church as a whole.

### In Conversation

- Rely on simple, accurate information, making sure to check sources.
- Build relationships across lines of difference within the North Texas Conference.
- Listen and allow for others to share their perspectives openly.
- Move slowly, be intentional and walk in partnership with your church leadership and your district superintendent.

## Disaffiliation Process

While most of the churches in the North Texas Conference will continue faithfully doing the good work of The United Methodist Church, the conference has established a process of discernment for those who would not. Based on ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*, the process is an intentional period of discernment that unfolds over 9-12 months and is conducted in partnership with conference leadership.

Any disaffiliation resolution must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of professing members present at a church conference.

### Basic terms include:

- Local church payments to the North Texas Conference for two years of apportionments
- Payment of the local church's share of unfunded pension liability
- Repayment of any grants received from the North Texas Conference in the past 10 years
- Payment for the costs of any legal work required