



200 Frederick Street, Hanover PA 17331 • (717) 637-1574 • www.firstumchanover.org

Congregation of FUMC
Hanover, PA

October 15, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Over the past several years you may have heard about the possible split of the United Methodist Church into multiple denominations. It has also been in the news recently. The time has now come for the members of First United Methodist Church (FUMC) to decide our future direction.

The deadline for our actions has been accelerated by the Council of Bishops. Our reason for communicating with you today is to advise you of the significantly shorter timeline and to share what has taken place thus far. We will keep you fully informed and we will provide opportunities soon to answer any questions you might have. All members of the congregation will have the opportunity to provide their input. There will be occasions in the near future for everyone's voice to be heard. In fact, it is you, the members of the congregation who will make the final decision regarding our future.

On Sunday evening, October 16th, members of the FUMC Church Council will meet with our District Superintendent, Rev. Cathy Boileau, and a representative of the Susquehanna Annual Conference, Rev. Dr. Kathy Kind, Director of Connectional Ministries, to discuss the options available to FUMC and the possible financial costs of any decision we, the congregation, might make. Attendance at this meeting by members of our Church Council is required by annual conference protocol as a part of the decision-making process and is limited to members of our Church Council.

The entire decision-making process will be led by the laity of First United Methodist Church. Pastor Mike Brossman will serve only as a neutral advisor, as required by protocol. He will, of course, continue to provide ongoing spiritual support and guidance to the congregation. His leadership skills and years of experience will be very valuable as we work together through this process.

To spearhead our activities, a Navigation Team, made up of mostly Church Council members, has been formed to help gather information and facilitate

“Caring for Our Neighbors as Jesus Would”

our process. The Team includes Dale Gordon, Dennis McGough, Raquell Bevens, Steve Bortner, Holly DeFilippo, Rusty Elsner, Donna Leese, Donna McGough, Barbara Miller, Claire Rankin and Rob Simmons. Their task is to gather data from legitimate, verifiable sources and share it in a nonbiased way, with you, the members of the congregation. The Church Council will also be directly involved. We are gathering resources and will share them with you shortly.

Ultimately it is you, the members of FUMC, who will decide our future direction as a church. This will be accomplished by a vote of the congregation at a special church conference, to be held on a date to be determined, probably January 2023. Please make sure to watch your inbox/mailbox for updates and information. The best way for us to make a good decision is to be fully informed.

Finally, we ask that you pray for FUMC and all its members as we travel down this path. It is only with God's help that we will arrive at the best outcome. Please pray every day for God's guidance. May God show us the direction He wishes us to travel.

Sincerely,

Dale Gordon & Dennis McGough

“Caring for Our Neighbors as Jesus Would”