



SNYDER'S CHURCH

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A Wesleyan Covenant Association Church

It's All About Jesus!

Mark 1:17 - Matthew 28:19

The Bible IS The Word Of God - Jesus IS The Only Way To Salvation

Prayer IS Essential - Evangelism IS Our Mission

Late January & February 2023 Newsletter

Dear Snyder's Church Family and Friends,

We are sending this to you about a week earlier than normal as we want to report to you the results of the membership voting for Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church, and what our next process that involves all of you is.

VOTE TO DISAFFILIATE APPROVED: At the membership meeting on Saturday January 14th, Dr. Kathy Kind from the Conference Office conducted the membership vote. A total of 97%+ voted yes; with only one vote no. Following the vote the Church Council met and approved the Disaffiliation Committee of Darryl Graham, John Weldon, Barb Perkins, Sandy Graeff, Bev Zeigler and since the meeting Gary Dunn has been added to the committee. Pastor Bill and Pastor Jeff are members with no vote.

The Committee has authorized a vote to be taken on **Sunday January 29th of everyone that attends the Worship Service** to vote on:

- Join The Global Methodist Church
- Become an Independent Church
- Other [you will need to indicate which]

After the vote this information will be reported to the Attorney that we have hired to continue completing the requirements for Snyder's Church – all reports, etc must be done by March 31st. Annual Conference meeting May 18-20 will vote on our decision; then completion of all documents are to be done within 60 days of Annual Conference. We will keep you posted. But now we need your presence on Sunday January 29th to vote on our affiliation starting approximately July 1st of this year.

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Messages from God

A few years ago there were billboards scattered throughout the United States with messages from God. Some guy had purchased the space and conducted an advertising campaign for God. Actually, the person responsible for these "Messages from God" chose to remain anonymous. The Smith Agency in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, launched the advertising campaign in September 1998. Andrew Smith, the agency's president, said that an individual simply appeared in their office one day and hired them on the spot. He said that their agreement with this individual prohibited them from releasing his name but he did say that the person is quite well known.

These 15 messages signed by God have appeared on billboards and buses:

1. Let's Meet at My House Sunday Before the Game.--God
2. C'mon Over and Bring the Kids.--God
3. What Part of "Thou Shalt Not ..." Didn't You Understand?--God
4. We Need to Talk.--God
5. Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer.--God (This add is placed in congested Urban areas).
6. Loved the Wedding, Invite Me to the Marriage.--God
7. That "Love Thy Neighbor" Thing, I Meant It.--God
8. I Love You ... I Love You ... I Love You.--God
9. Will The Road You're on Get You to My Place?--God
10. Follow Me.--God
11. My Way Is the Highway.--God
12. Need Directions?--God
13. You Think It's Hot Here?--God (During the Summer)
14. Tell the Kids I Love Them.--God
15. Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be a Test.--God

It's a cute campaign and clever and it would be nice if God actually would spend a little more time advertising his thoughts. But this exposes the fault in us humans. We want a definitive answer. We want some rules to go by and we want to be told how to behave and what we should do. The Ten Commandments do this for us but we slowly found out --through centuries and centuries of countless sins and human atrocities--that we were not able to abide by them.

So what is God to do? Take out an add campaign on our city buses and billboards? No, I don't think so. Instead he does something very different. He says, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." What a difference! Instead of rules written on tablets, buses, and billboards, he says, "I'd like to introduce you to someone special. Here, I want you to meet my son. I love him a great deal. I am so proud of him."

What do you do about that? It's one thing to forget a commandment. It's quite another to slam the door in the face of a relative.

ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DINNER – Our Annual Valentine's Dinner will be held on Sunday February 19th at Hickory Ridge Restaurant, 1400 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle. This annual event for Adults is always a wonderful time of being together! The sign-up sheet is on the glass case near the church office. You can also speak to either Dan or Diana for further information. Plan to be with us.

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION – Continues thru at least the end of March as we look at a chapter each week. Join us on Monday evenings 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Social Hall. Chuck Bretz and Ron Manley are leading this group of over 30 as we study the end of times according to the Bible. Refreshments are always available.

FINANCIAL REPORT – By now you should have received your End of the Year Giving Report from Sandy Graeff; if not speak to her. Enclosed in this newsletter as we do each month you will find 2 self-addressed envelopes that you can use to send your tithes and offerings if unable to be with us in person. The Committee on Finance expresses appreciation once again to all in the church family for their faithful and cheerful giving in 2022 and we count on your continued support in 2023. A report on what to do with your church envelopes after the Disaffiliation will be shared later in the spring season.

COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – Held the fourth Sunday of each month. Meeting on Sunday January 22nd with Pastor Jeff leading in the Adult classroom near the Sanctuary. February 26th is the date for February. All adults of Snyder's Church are invited to attend.

SODA TABS – Save your soda tabs from the aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House. There is an orange container on the cabinet near the church office.

USED EYE GLASSES – Being collected in the box on the coat rack at the entrance door; this project is sponsored by the Ickesburg Lions Club and is an on-going need....just bring them and put them in the box and then Beryl Hansbury will deliver them for us.

STAMP COLLECTING – Collect your used/canceled stamps off all of your mail. We are supporting Alliance Stamp Ministry in Florida that generates income for material in South America, Central America and even the USA. Carefully trim the stamps leaving a border around the stamps of ¼" to 1/3" and put them in the box that is near the church office on the stand under the mail-boxes of church officers.

LADIES AIDE ITEMS FOR SALE – The Ladies Aide always have Greeting Cards and Vanilla for sale. See Bev if interested for prices and any questions.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – The first meeting of 2023 is Thursday February 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Adult Classroom. Reports are due to Lisa on Sunday January 29th to be included in the packet for the meeting.

Statement Regarding Bishop Mark Webb

January 4, 2023

Siblings in Christ,

It was announced earlier today that Bishop Mark Webb has resigned from the episcopacy and withdrawn his membership from The United Methodist Church to join the newly formed Global Methodist Church.

Bishop Webb submitted a request for retirement in August of 2022 and officially retired on December 31 after serving ten years as the residential bishop for the Upper New York Annual conference. The Northeastern Jurisdiction celebrated his retirement at the jurisdictional conference held in November.

“Bishop Webb and I were both elected in 2012 and in that year, we became episcopal colleagues. It was not long after we also became good friends and remain good friends,” Bishop Sandra Steiner Bell reflects in response to this announcement. “Bishop Webb has shared his God given gifts with The United Methodist Church for many years. I give thanks for his servant leadership with The United Methodist Church and the ways he was able to touch people with the light and love of Christ.”

“He has been called into a new season of service,” Bishop Steiner Ball adds. “I respect his discernment. My prayer for him and for all of us who respond and follow God’s call is that God’s Spirit will continue to melt us, mold us, fill us, use us; and that the Spirit of the living God will continue to fall afresh on us.”

Bishop Webb’s ministry is deeply rooted in the Susquehanna Conference and his impact as a pastor and district superintendent was significant and meaningful. Because of this connection, we recognize that some may be feeling complex emotions and grief at this news. We validate and hold space for these emotions. The well-being of the clergy and laity in the Susquehanna Conference remains a top priority and support from the Bishops’ Care Team will be available to individuals and congregations upon request to their district superintendent.

The United Methodist Church always has been and always will be a place for people with differing theological perspectives. The Susquehanna Conference cherishes and celebrates its diversity and for this reason we remain hopeful about the future.

“We rejoice in the new things God is doing in our conference,” encourages Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. “We remain focused on our main thing - being and making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Snyder's Church
Reason For Disaffiliation From United Methodist Church
January 14, 2023

Since 1814, now 209 years later, Snyder's United Methodist Church, along with all the previous denomination affiliations of Methodism, has remained faithful to the teaching and example of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We have been serving this part of Perry County now for over 200 years and have a long history of being faithful to the Scriptures, our Wesleyan Heritage and our calling to be Disciples of Jesus Christ.

In this post-pandemic era that we live in, our purpose at Snyder's Church has been once again clearly defined:

- The Bible Is The **WORD** Of God
- Jesus Is The **ONLY** Way To Salvation
- Prayer Is **ESSENTIAL**
- Evangelism Is Our **MISSION**

We as a denomination are at a cross-road where it is apparent that the Progressives will now set the Agenda and the Traditionalists will be vastly in the minority. Our hope and prayer at Snyder's has been that since every General Conference for the past forty plus years has affirmed our position that homosexuality is incompatible with the Scriptures, that we do not allow our Pastors to perform same-sex weddings in our churches, and that we do not ordain self-avowed homosexuals.

We look at the Scriptures and in Genesis 19: 4 -11; Judges 19: 22 – 25; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1: 24 – 27; I Corinthians 6:9; and I Timothy 1:10....and we read that the Scripture does not tolerate the practice, nor condone it.

Now with the **Judicial Council Ruling** that the delegates elected for the 2020 General Conference will serve in 2024, it most likely means that traditionalists will not have a majority at the Charlotte, North Carolina denominational meeting. That further likely means that centrist and progressive leaders will be able to change the 6,000-year Judeo/Christian definition of marriage, change the ordination standards, repeal the parts of the traditional plan passed in 2019, and make other liberal changes. With centrists/progressives getting everything they've always wanted, there is little incentive for them to work with theological conservatives.

This was made even clearer when in November 2022, during the Jurisdictional Conferences, Cedrick Bridgeforth was elected as a bishop despite being married to another man. There are now two bishops that are now married to the same genders in the Western Jurisdiction.

In the Northeastern Jurisdiction, of which our Susquehanna Conference is part of, there was a close vote on electing a person as bishop who is in a same gender marriage. Bishop John Schol stated that those in good standing could be voted for bishop, meaning that self-avowed

practicing homosexuals can be consecrated as bishop if their Annual Conference considers them to be in good standing.

These examples, realities, show us that the Book of Discipline is not being followed and enforced in many places within the denomination. Based on our rules, the two in the Western Jurisdiction should have been determined to be not eligible to being elected and assigned as a bishop of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Schol should have ruled that the nomination is in violation of the Book of Discipline.

The United Methodist Church's failure to enforce the rules of our Book of Discipline mean that it has broken among other things the covenant and principles agreed to in the union of both former Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations.

We at Snyder's Church were hoping that "The Way Forward" regarding these issues was an acceptable way for the denomination to separate. Now with the majority of the signers of that agreement having withdrawn their support, we have made our decision to Disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church, and prayerfully hope that the Susquehanna Conference meeting May 18, 19, 20 in 2023 at Williamsport will accept our decision.

We feel that the direction of the United Methodist Church is a continuation of violating what we believe to be the view of the Scripture, and our Wesleyan heritage.....as a less than fully inspired and authoritative plan for the Church.

We believe that homosexual persons are persons of worth as are all persons. However we at Snyder's Church will never accept or welcome a practicing homosexual person as our Pastor, as our District Superintendent, or Bishop of our Annual Conference, based upon our understanding of the Scriptures as the Word of God.

We believe that we will continue to be faithful to the Scriptures and will serve the Lord in our section of Perry County as faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ. We also pray for those who will remain in the United Methodist Church and by the grace of God we can both build-up the Kingdom of God as Jesus instructed His Disciples to do. The last command of Jesus found in Matthew 28:19 tells us that we are to "Go and make Disciples." The first command of Jesus was Mark 1:17 when He said, "Follow Me!" And as we read in Joshua 24:15 that says "choose this day whom you will serve....." and the response "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." So let it be for all of us!

The Church Council of Snyder's Church has agreed to the above statement at a special meeting held on January 14, 2023.