



As we look forward to Monday’s yearly Church Conference meeting, we want to share with the congregation some background information that will be presented.

**Survey results**

We have the results of the Travis Park Church (TPC) Survey conducted during October and November. In all, 60 people took all or part of the survey. There were 10 questions designed to gauge the trend in the congregation toward disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church and various forms of re-affiliation. A strong majority believe that Travis Park Church should disaffiliate from the International United Methodist Church as it is today. Remember that this survey is not binding but it does give us an idea of how the congregation may vote when the time comes and possibly where more conversation is needed.

A strong majority would like to remain in a church that keeps the Wesley tradition of service, though some chose not to answer and noted they were not sure what that meant. There was not a significant interest in aligning with a different Christian denomination or in becoming an independent church.

There were two questions concerning the building, but recall that the survey was mostly completed before the Youth Building roof collapse. Respondents indicated that they would like to stay in the building but would remain with the church if we should have to move. The main concern was that we have a place to continue our ministry.

The bulk of comments were very encouraging. People want to stay together, keeping both the congregation and our ministries intact. At the Church Conference on Monday, December 16 we will go into more detail with the results. We will also talk more about apportionment payments to the Rio Texas Conference. We hope to see you there!

**Apportionments**

Also at Monday’s meeting, the congregation will be asked to vote on a Church Council recommendation to pay part of our 2019 apportionment, withholding the balance in protest to the UMC’s adoption of the Traditional Plan.

**Apportionment background**

All United Methodist congregations are assigned an annual apportionment amount, which supports the various ministries and administration of the larger church. In response to General Conference’s adoption of the Traditional Plan in February, the Travis Park Church Council voted to withhold payment of our annual apportionment as a sign of protest to this action that we view as incompatible with Christian teaching.

Apportionments serve to fund the UMC’s connectional system allowing local congregations to reach well beyond our walls in service throughout the world. At the time of Council’s decision to withhold our 2019 apportionment, we were under the impression that our apportionment payment would all go to the global UMC. As we have taken time to discern what our ultimate response will be to the global UMC, we have also had time to reflect on how withholding our 2019 apportionment payment would negatively affect those ministries that TPC generally supports. Since then, we have also learned that TPC has the ability to specify where we would like our apportionment payment to go. It’s also important to note that to date, we have received about \$24,000 from sister congregations and UMC-affiliated organizations in response to the recent collapse of the Youth Building roof to help fund our building restoration.

As part of the congregational survey, members were asked whether TPC should pay any of our apportionment payment. While the results of this survey were scattered, it was clear that the vast majority of respondents thought TPC should pay some of our 2019 apportionment, as summarized in this document. Using the survey results as a guide, the Church Council recommends paying \$49,970 (comprising about 54% of our total apportionment), which is due 12/31/19. The following table indicates those UMC funds that would be supported:

<b>TOTAL 2019 TPC APPORTIONMENT</b>	<b>\$93,417</b>
<b>Conference Benevolences</b>	<b>\$19,926</b>
<b>Ministerial Support</b>	<b>\$12,160</b>
<b>Pension &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$8,958</b>
<b>Las Misiones District Causes</b>	<b>\$8,926</b>
<b>TOTAL Recommended Payment</b>	<b>\$49,970</b>

Part of the Council’s recommendation is to not pay that portion of our annual apportionment that supports the “General & Jurisdictional Causes” fund discussed on the attached summary. One of those “causes” that is near and dear to the heart of TPC is The Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. As a sign of our commitment to the connectional system, we will be sending a check for \$5,000 directly to the Lydia Patterson Institute as it continues to “form bilingual and bicultural leaders for the church and society.”