

TRUST CLAUSE

Let's talk about finances for a moment. Amid all of the controversies of the 2019 General Conference, an exit clause emerged. It may have been designed for progressives as well as traditionalists, but traditionalists have taken advantage of this unique opportunity. Paragraph 2553, parts 4 a,b,and c of the Book Of Discipline, address the terms of disaffiliation.

In layman's terms, a church who successfully fulfills the terms of disaffiliation can buy the deed from the UMC trust for a predetermined amount, in our case about 1.8 million dollars. The estimated value of this 8 +/- acre downtown property is over 20 million dollars. This unbelievable opportunity will automatically sunset December 31, 2023. Given the fact that hundreds of UMC churches are in the disaffiliation pipeline and the traditional majority of delegates will easily be flipped to progressives in 2024, it makes good financial sense to take advantage of this one time exit clause. Staying with UMC will not guarantee continuance of this clause, particularly since there are very few traditional bishops left in the council.

The United Methodist trust clause is a statement included in legal documents (deeds) declaring that the property and assets of a local church or United Methodist body are held "in trust" for the benefit of the entire denomination.

The basic terms of 2553 call for payment of an existing years apportionment to UMC plus one more year and pension funding for pastors and any outstanding debts. Owning one's property that has been paid for by its members over 200 years gives a greater sense of security and independence. Ending apportionments gives greater control over direction of tithes and offerings. Doing nothing and expecting good results is not a very good option.