FAQ's: Church affiliation options after disaffiliation from the UMC

FAQ	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	The Foundry Network of Independent Churches	Independent (full autonomy)
When was church established?	Launched May 1st, 2022	Launched July 2022	Date of disaffiliation from UMC
What are annual costs in apportionments or connectional funding ?	No apportionments. Connectional funding: 2% (1% GMC + 1% Local Conference) of church operating income. Costs are capped at 6.5%.	No apportionments. Network funding has not been defined.	N/A
If we join does it cost anything to leave?	No	No	N/A
What happens to church property if we leave?	Church owns all property. There is no trust clause in the GMC.	Church owns all property. There is no trust clause in The Foundry network.	N/A
Are churches connected?	Yes, full global "Wesleyan" connection.	**Updated:** Not formally, as the network is comprised of very large fully independent churches with smaller independent feeder churches. Local church is highest governing authority.	N/A
Are there Bishops and/or District Superintendents?	Yes, but all are term limited.	**Updated:** No, but there will be some oversight by the senior pastors of leader churches.	N/A
Is there a Book of Discipline for operational governance?	Yes, the GMC Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline. The GMC BoDD will be formally instituted at its first General Conference in 2024.	**Updated:** No, a Book of Discipline will need to be defined for each church. However, in some cases, initial church operation will begin with the UMC 2016 BoD.	Maybe, as all governance and its form is determined by the Local church.
Is there an external accountability process for handling theological issues or other types of conflicts or complaints?	Yes, In the event of conflict or complaint, church order is governed by the GMC BoDD.	No, not at this time. Each church in the network will need to define, organize, and implement its own accountability process. Currently, network governance does not formally exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	No
Is the church a Methodist denomination?	Yes, the GMC is a Wesleyan Methodist denomination. Articles of Religion are defined in the GMC Book of Doctrines and Discipline (BoDD).	No, The Foundry is nondenominational but it is proposed to be organized around Wesleyan theology. A Book of Discipline will need to be defined by each church in the association to set its own Wesleyan theological practice.	No, theology and worship practice is completely determined by the Local church.

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How are pastors acquired?	The GMC will appoint pastors as is traditionally done in a connectional Methodist denomination. The process requirements for education, licensing, and ordination are defined in the GMC BoDD.	Acquiring pastors is the responsibility of each local church. The Foundry has proposed helping member churches with this, but a process for doing it has not been defined.	Acquiring pastors is the responsibility of the local church.
Will the church be able to keep its pastor if they want them to stay?	Yes, the GMC appointment process is defined for pastor retention if both the pastor and church desire.	Yes, pastors are acquired and dismissed by the local church.	Yes, pastors are acquired and dismissed by the local church.
Will there be education requirements for pastors?	Yes, the GMC BoDD requires candidates for ordination as deacons and elders to fulfill basic educational requirements prior to ordination.	**Updated:** No, the Foundry Network will not have education requirements or set standards for the ordination of pastors. Any requirements or standards are to be defined and handled by each local church.	Maybe, education requirements are defined by the Local Church.
Will pastors be licensed/ordained as Methodist after disaffiliation?	Yes, the license/ordination of disaffiliated UMC pastors is recognized by the GMC and reconfirmed through GMC BoDD process.	No, even though The Foundry will start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD, the license/ordination of disaffiliated UMC pastors is not recognized by the UMC. The Local Church must define their process for licensing/ordaining pastors.	No, once a pastor has disaffiliated from the UMC they are no longer recognized as licensed/ordained in the UMC. Theology and worship practice is defined by the Local church.
Will pastors have a retirement?	Yes, Wespath - Personal retirement accounts already established within the UMC will be carried into the GMC.	Maybe, where personal Wespath retirement accounts exist for a pastor, they would be able to use them per account disbursement rules. However, new retirement accounts or pension plans for pastors in the network would be handled by the individual and/or the local church.	Maybe, where personal Wespath retirement accounts exist for a pastor, they would be able to use them per account disbursement rules. However, new retirement accounts or pension plans for pastors would be handled by the individual and/or the local church.

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What kind of transition demands after disaffiliation should be expected?	Minimal, as the GMC is most similar to the way GFUMC currently operates as a fully connectional Methodist church.	Significant, since there is no existing formal governance for network cooperation among churches, there will be considerable demand on the local church to define and implement operational governance which covers all of the gaps. In its 200 year history, Guntersville First has never been involved in a loosely connected network of large independent nondenominational churches.	Demands will vary based on the size of the local church. Needs relative to shared resources and accountability handling are greater in large churches. Church governance must be specifically defined with provisions for handling exceptional issues that would be ultimately owned by the local church. All civil liability issues, whether understood or not, are the complete responsibility of the local church.