

# Mount Pisgah Disaffiliation Historical Archives

## Discerning the Way Forward with Hope

Please note the Mount Pisgah Church Council Executive Committee has prepared this webpage reflecting the facts and information as presently understood and communicated by the United Methodist Church. This situation has been dynamic, evolving, and changing over the course of the past several years and even as recently as the June 2023 North Georgia Annual Conference. As new information and guidance from the United Methodist Church is provided, if any, additional steps and considerations may come to bear. We will update this webpage as appropriate to continue to proactively inform the people of Mount Pisgah.

### Update - October 4, 2023

As we look ahead to embrace God's Vision Forward for Mount Pisgah, it is wise to first look back to how far God has brought us. We thank God for the four denominational connections we have been blessed by in our nearly 200-year history. God has given us a foundation built on the authority of scripture and the power of the Gospel in both word and deed to set people free in Christ.

These past two years have been some of our most challenging. Covid 19, the United Methodist Church's vision and decisions, and the pause/vote for disaffiliation were all tests of faith. But these tests and trials bore much fruit and our mission remained the same throughout: ***to make disciples of Jesus Christ here, there, and everywhere.***

Within those two years, we have given thanks for and celebrated a Rise Initiative that was fully funded and saw hundreds of new people join our church. Many of them were first time professions of faith and were baptized. We have seen growth in our student ministry, expansion of our community outreach and a marked improvement in our hospitality and disciple-making ministries. Many new ports of entry were created for people in our community to find a place to call home that they genuinely love. All continue to be welcome at Mount Pisgah. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's mission and ministry at Mount Pisgah which has positioned us for a bright future.

As we anticipate the vote by the North Georgia Conference on November 18th to approve Mount Pisgah's disaffiliation, we have formed several task forces to lead us through this next season:

The Disaffiliation Task Force includes members of the Board of Trustees and Mount Pisgah staff and is responsible for ensuring we are prepared to meet all financial and logistical obligations related to disaffiliation as mandated by the North Georgia Conference. They are also responsible for developing plans for governance and bylaws. The Next Steps Task Force is responsible for gathering information regarding the pros and cons of the various options regarding the type of church Mount Pisgah will become after disaffiliation. This task force is comprised of members of the congregation, executive committee, and staff leadership team. The results of the work of these two task forces requires the approval of Mount Pisgah's Church Council and are contingent upon the decision made on November 18th by the North Georgia Conference.

God is calling us to a Vision Forward and we are well positioned to answer that call with passion and power to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go.

- Gather people to Jesus through worship, community building events, and hospitality
- Grow people and families in their relationship with Jesus through life-on-life discipleship
- Give and steward our time, talent, resources, and relationships to build God's Kingdom
- Go to love, serve, and equip others to build God's Kingdom.

## Progress Update – July 7, 2023

As you know, the June 7th vote to disaffiliate passed by a 92% margin. There are several North Georgia Conference requirements/obligations that must be met as we approach the November 18th Called Annual Conference. Task forces have been formed to handle the logistics of these requirements/obligations and will provide continual updates as we continue living out our mission ***to make disciples of Jesus Christ here, there, and everywhere.***

The following link provides information, including the process and list of those obligations.  
[https://www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information.](https://www.ngumc.org/disaffiliation-process-and-information)

### RESULTS OF THE VOTE

JUNE 7, 2023

After careful consideration and prayer, members of Mount Pisgah UMC have voted to proceed with disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. 92% of members present for the vote cast ballots in favor of disaffiliation. There were 513 votes in favor of disaffiliating and 44 votes for remaining UMC.

We want to express our gratitude to all those who have been praying for guidance and discernment during this process. While our vote represents a significant step forward, it is important to note that Mount Pisgah will continue to be a United Methodist Church as we progress toward our expressed desire for disaffiliation. According to the terms prescribed in the UMC disaffiliation contract, the process is not complete until there is a majority vote at the special North Georgia Called Conference on November 18, 2023.

We want to assure our congregation and the broader UMC community that our decision is rooted in our deep love for Christ and a desire to faithfully serve Him. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to praying for God's blessing over the United Methodist Church and our congregation, as well as other churches facing similar decisions. We believe that through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can continue to build bridges and foster understanding among all believers.

Please join us in seeking God's wisdom, guidance, and unity as we move through this process. We are grateful for the love and fellowship we have experienced as a part of the United Methodist Church, and we are committed to honoring our shared history. As we move forward, we will continue to welcome, appreciate, and love all at our church. Our mission remains the same: ***to make disciples of Jesus Christ here, there, and everywhere.***

### North Georgia Annual Conference Summary

June 5, 2023

A summary of the actions taken during the North Georgia Annual Conference in Athens, GA June 1-3, 2023.

### Church Council Meeting – October 20, 2022

The Church Council met for the regularly scheduled meeting on October 20, 2022 via Zoom. As part of the agenda, the vote to request a Called Church Conference for considering disaffiliation was taken. The result of the vote was 29-2 in favor of proceeding with submitting the request. As appointed clergy both Pastor Steve Wood and Pastor Mike Broome abstained. According to the North Georgia Annual Conference guidelines, the formal request will be sent to the District Superintendent between January 1 – February 28, 2023. The date for the in-person Called

Church Conference will be between March and April 2023, following a formal request to the North Georgia Conference in January 2023, as required under Book of Discipline Paragraph 2553.

If you have questions, please send them to [churchcouncil@mountpisgah.org](mailto:churchcouncil@mountpisgah.org)

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