

Dear Soapstone Family,

On Saturday, November 19, the North Carolina Annual Conference will meet at a Special Called Session to decide to approve or disapprove the requests of a number of churches to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church “for reasons of conscience over issues involving church doctrine or practices regarding homosexuality” following the process as outlined in paragraph ¶12553 of the Book of Discipline. Specifically, this is the only reason that disaffiliation from the UMC can be granted.

For a church to disaffiliate, a motion to conduct a church-wide (Church Conference) vote must be passed by the Church Council lay members. Soapstone’s Church Council has prayerfully discussed this issue and we do not plan to pursue disaffiliation. We believe that an overwhelming majority of Soapstone members are committed to remaining a part of the United Methodist Church. Therefore, Soapstone's Church Council has not considered any motion to disaffiliate.

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to visit the ["State of the UMC" section](#) on our website that includes links to additional resources to learn more. Or please feel free to contact me or any Church Council member to discuss. We also ask that you join us in praying for all churches during this emotional time of change.

Blessings,

Nathan Scarlett

Soapstone UMC Church Council Chair

Church Council Members

Staff Liaison: Mitzi Johnson

Chair: Nathan Scarlett

Vice-Chair: Laurie Rose

Secretary: Beth Dennison

Lay Leader: Dana Tiller

Lay Member to AC: Kelly Hodges

Finance Chair: Ann Jones

Lay Treasurer: Kim Miller

SPRC: Sarah Lancaster

Trustees: Don Keller

At-Large: Blair Roberts

At-Large: Michael Woodward

At-Large: Gwen Cox