

On Sunday morning, January 8, 2023, at 10 am our sanctuary was full as our congregation came together for a spirit-led worship service of music and prayer with the message from District Superintendent Rev. David Thompson.

Following the service, our congregation held a special called Charge Conference to vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. After months of prayer, study, and discussion, the members of Wilmington Island UMC voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church by an 87% majority. The final tally from the 185 votes cast was as follows:

- 161 “yes” votes
- 23 “no” votes
- 1 abstention

As DS Rev. Thompson stated in his sermon, “it wasn’t supposed to be this way.” We wish we didn’t have to make this decision. However, we pray that this vote will allow our church family to move past denominational struggle and focus our attention on making disciples of Christ without the distractions that have plagued the UMC for the last several years.

The disaffiliation will not take effect until after it has been approved by the South Georgia Annual Conference at its special called meeting on May 21, 2023. This decision will not change what all of us have loved about our church. Our ministries, missions, and our loving spirit will be exactly as they were before this vote.

For those who are disappointed by these results, please know that we empathize with your sadness and we care about you and love you. We believe God is going to continue to do great things at our church and we hope that you will continue to be part of that work.

Our discernment committee is researching other theologically traditional Wesleyan denominations so that we may continue to be connected with other congregations and clergy who seek to stand on the truth of God’s Word and maintain our Wesleyan Orthodox Methodist heritage. Any future denominational affiliations will be voted on by the congregation. Please

reach out to the discernment committee if you have questions or would like to participate in this process.

Most importantly, please pray for our church as we move forward that we might continue to grow in faith and love as we fulfill our mission to make disciples of Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

WIUMC Discernment Committee