

April 2024 McFarlin Administrative Council Statement on McFarlin's process of discernment about the future of the UMC.

HOW THIS STATEMENT WAS CREATED:

In April 2022, McFarlin's **Senior Leadership Team** (our three pastors, the Chairpersons of Finance, Trustees, SPRC, and Admin. Council, our two Lay Leaders, and our Business Manager) proposed a statement to our **General Conference Guidance Team** (GCGT). Our GCGT revised it slightly and presented it to our **Administrative Council** for consideration. On April 24, 2022 the council met and unanimously adopted the following statement of guidance for McFarlin related to the postponement of the UMC General Conference to 2024 and the process of our discernment.

THE STATEMENT:

"As you know, General Conference was postponed to 2024. In light of that postponement and the opening of an alternate Methodist denomination called the Global Methodist Church, the McFarlin General Conference Guidance Team (GCGT) will continue to communicate our message of strengthening our unity and connection.

Over the next several months, our pastors are planning to lead us in exploring various biblical interpretations of Holy Scripture selections that are used to shape our understanding of human sexuality. The GCGT will also host forums for conversations on our personal and collective biblical understanding. These are crucial conversations that require patience and listening. The GCGT and McFarlin clergy will be providing training opportunities so that we have the tools to discuss and listen to our different views and other aspects of what is transpiring in our denomination. We will continue to emphasize the reasons why we can remain together as the UMC General Conference process unfolds.

At this time, with possibilities of multiple denominations not yet fully defined, we do not think this is the moment for McFarlin to make a formal decision. Instead, we are committed to guiding our church to patiently discern how God is leading us.

Therefore, we believe that guiding our church family to patiently discern how God is leading McFarlin to be our best course of action at this time."