

Susquehanna Conference Bishops Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Sandra L. Steiner Ball have ordered a Harrisburg-York PA area congregation to delay its vote on disaffiliation after concerns were raised about the fairness of the process and disinformation being used to argue for leaving the UMC.

"It is important for us to ensure that the information that you are using in your discernment is accurate so that your vote is valid," York District Superintendent the Rev. Catherine E. Boileau, wrote in a letter sent to members of the Fishing Creek-Salem congregation on Thursday, Feb. 2.

Concerns were raised with the bishops following an informational meeting that was held for members of the congregation in late January. In that and an earlier informational session, the church's lead pastor said he already decided to move to the breakaway Global Methodist Church.

Other information was presented that was inaccurate, according to persons who attended the meeting.

After the second informational session, a vote on disaffiliation was scheduled for Monday, Feb. 6. Rev. Boileau told members of the congregation that the vote that night was cancelled. Instead, at the same time on Monday, another informational session will be held, led by the conference's director of connectional ministries, the Rev. Dr, Kathleen Kind.

"Rev. Dr. Kind will be clarifying the information which was

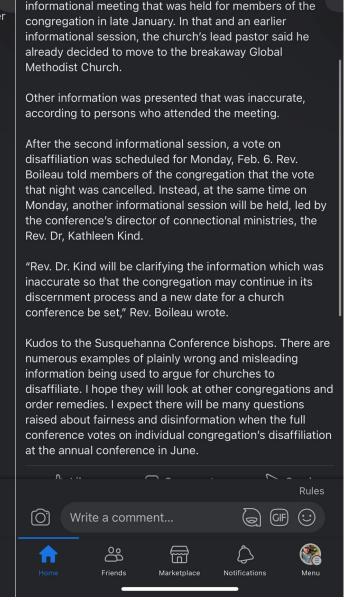
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