

Called Church Conference for Carrollton First UMC
(for Constant Contact distribution and to go on the church website)

When: Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Where: Carrollton First United Methodist Church

Why: To decide whether or not to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

What is a church conference?

A church conference is a meeting of all full professing members of a local church. This church conference is authorized by the district superintendent after being requested by the administrative council of Carrollton First United Methodist Church.

Who is eligible to vote? >>>UPDATE<<<

All professing members of Carrollton First United Methodist Church as of Saturday, **May 26th** are eligible to vote at the church conference. May 26th was the date that the church conference was authorized, and a hard copy of the membership rolls has been produced as of that date for voting purposes at the direction of our district superintendent. New members are still invited to become full, professing members now and in the future. However, other churches have had instances of what is perceived as persons joining to gain votes rather than to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. For transparency this May 26th deadline is established.

Note: The deadline for membership date has been updated to align with the North Georgia Conference requirements for voting. (July 10, 2023)

What does it mean to be a professing member?

A professing member is a person who has been baptized and made a profession of faith, pledging their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to Carrollton First United Methodist Church. Many members were baptized as infants and then made their profession of faith at the end of confirmation. Many members were baptized as adults and made their profession of faith at the same time. Many members have transferred their membership from other local churches of various denominations.

How do I vote?

All members who would like to vote in this church conference will need to be physically present at Carrollton First United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 20th at 4:00 PM. There will be no absentee or proxy voting. The current standard plan for all voting in North Georgia is the same. The district superintendent will open the Church Conference at 4 pm with a prayer, the election of a secretary and tellers for the voting comprised of local church and district leaders. The district superintendent then authorizes the voting to proceed. Everyone should already be in the location of the voting with a ballot in their hands at 4 pm on that day. The current plan is that the check-in for identification and receiving a ballot begins at 3:30 that afternoon at the church. You must be in line to have your picture ID checked and have a ballot no later than 4 pm in order to ensure that you are able to vote. If you are in line at 4 pm that day, you will receive a ballot. After all professing members with a ballot have voted, the

voting will be closed, and the ballots counted by the tellers. The results will be announced, and the church conference will be closed.

Do I need to bring identification?

Yes. A picture ID is required. Your name on the church roll does not have to exactly match your name on your picture ID.

When will we know the results?

The votes will be counted by the tellers and the results announced during the church conference. The details of the actual voting process may change slightly as voting proceeds at churches (such as the amount of time prior to 4 pm for the check-in to receive a ballot). Until actual voting begins in churches, “best practices” for voting cannot be determined. Any changes will be sent out by Constant Contact and on the church web site several days in advance of August 20, 2023.

What is the voting threshold needed to disaffiliate as a church or remain in The United Methodist Church?

The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference. (paragraph 2553, United Methodist Book of Discipline)

What happens if the church votes to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church?

After a local church vote by a 2/3s majority to disaffiliate from the denomination, The local church trustees would be presented with a Disaffiliation Agreement with the terms set forth by the North Georgia Conference Board of Trustees and available on the conference website and consistent with the agreement terms given to local churches that have already disaffiliated pursuant to paragraph 2553. The North Georgia Annual Conference will then meet on Saturday, November 18th to approve the disaffiliation agreement. The North Georgia conference must vote by a majority to approve the disaffiliation agreement for the local church to disaffiliate. The church would cease to be affiliated with the United Methodist Church after the annual conference approves and once it fulfills all obligations under the disaffiliation agreement.

What is the cost for this church to disaffiliate from the North Georgia Conference?

The cost of disaffiliation is as follows:

Apportionments: \$164,426.33

Pension Liability: \$91,324.50

Grants: \$12,500.00

Total: \$268,250.83

Here is a link to additional information from the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church for your consideration. [CLICK HERE](#).

How do I check on my membership status?

You can email Ann Hladilek at ann@cfumc.com. You can also call the church office 770-832-7069. You can also check the Church Life App.

