

**SCMC Affiliation
Determination Process
Town Hall Meeting
Determining the Path We Will Walk**

Vetting Process: Key Determinators

- **Doctrine and Discipline - Must align with Traditional Biblical Interpretation of Scripture and closely align with that of Santa Claus United Methodist historical positions.**
- **Trust Clause - Where Church's assets are required to be held.**
- **Tithing appropriation required by prospective affiliation options**

Vetting Process: Key Determinators

- **Disaffiliation/Separation Policy should a church's membership not align in future.**
- **Inclusiveness of membership and roles within Church body. Not gender or race restrictive.**
- **Progressive vs Traditionalist learnings now and in future.**

Vetting Process: Key Determinators

Other Considerations

- **How Pastor and Staff is placed - Church's voice in this process?**
- **View points on Teetotalism (alcohol use) and membership in associations and societies.**
- **Terms for Leadership of Higher Church (Bishops for instance if applicable).**

What We Are Today:

**Christian, Protestant, Traditional
Wesleyan/Arminian Methodist.**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Catholic**

- **Although the Catholic church of today has had some changes since the beginning of the Protestant Reformation beginning in 1517, stark differences remain between Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations that could take hours to discuss and quantify.**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Protestant (Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Etc.)**
 - **Though there is alignment with some doctrine and discipline, there are obvious differences in those interpretations and accepted belief systems. Open vs closed Communion, Sacraments, Free Will vs Predestination, etc. to name a few.**
 - **Some already have Progressive and Traditional Branches.**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Other Wesleyan/Methodist Options:**
 - **Many Protestant denominations have local churches in or close proximity to Santa Claus for those who want/feel that best aligns with their beliefs.**
 - **Besides Global and United Methodist, There are numerous conferences like the Wesleyan Church, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others which our history does align with in a traditional Wesleyan/Arminian sense.**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Other Wesleyan/Methodist Options:**
 - **In some cases, they tend to be even more conservative within their membership by Race, use of Alcohol (teetotalism), and allowance of membership in societies like masons, etc.**
 - **Many of these branches of Methodism are headed down a progressive vs traditional split in the next 5 to 10 years. All require church assets to be placed in Trust (Free Methodist allows a possible waiver for UMC churches joining).**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Other Wesleyan/Methodist Options:**
 - **Tithing apportionment is equal to or greater than the 11+ percent required currently by UMC conferences.**
 - **There is no current disaffiliation process, should an individual church decide to separate in the future.**
 - **Here, too, there are local options within a reasonable distance from Santa Claus should individuals feel better aligned with.**

Affiliation Options Considered and Eliminated Based on Key Factors

- **Becoming a satellite or branch of another Independent or Non-Denominational Church through affiliation vs association.**
 - **May lose identity as a local church or lose voice all together in decision making, doctrine and discipline.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

**Global
Methodist**

**Independent
Santa Claus
Community Church
or Santa Claus
Methodist Church**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Global Methodist

- **Global Methodist most aligns with Traditional UMC Doctrine and Discipline with some modifications though currently forming and being led under transitional Leadership until their 1st General Conference estimated to be later 2023 or early 2024 thus allowing incoming UMC churches and Conferences to participate in that decision making process.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Global Methodist

- **Tithing apportionment lowered to 6.5% is anticipated.**
- **Traditionalist view of Biblical interpretation of Human Sexuality, marriage, LGTB+ Bishops, Clergy and Church leadership.**
- **No Trust Clause - Individual congregations retain ownership of local church assets not held in trust by the larger conference.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Global Methodist

- **Churches with majority vote can disaffiliate without financial recourse and/or a long, lengthy dictated process.**
- **Term Limits on Bishops.**
- **Local Churches have more say in placement of Pastoral Staff.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Independent Santa Claus Community Church or Santa Claus Methodist Church

- **Total say in Doctrine and Discipline formation.**
 - **The downside is that it will take considerable effort and strong Lay Leadership to retain.**
- **No tithing apportionment. All finances to be used at the discretion of the Local church to fund staffing, Ministry, Missions, and Community Outreach.**
- **Church assets remain the property of the local church.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Independent Santa Claus Community Church or Santa Claus Methodist Church

- **100% say in Church's Pastoral and staff appointments, terms, salary etc.**
 - **Conversely, there is no pool or assistance to place one, either. An Independent Church would be 100% responsible for meeting the Salary, Retirement, Insurance, and Parsonage funding.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Independent Santa Claus Community Church or Santa Claus Methodist Church

- **Opportunity to be more inclusive and/or make disciples of Christ that are not in alignment with portions of the doctrine or disciplines of traditional denominations/conference or synods.**
- **Historically speaking, larger organizations tend to become encumbered with higher church policy and can get increasingly autocratic.**

Final Options Approved for Ballot

Independent Santa Claus Community Church or Santa Claus Methodist Church

- **Can still consider alignment with other like minded Independents or join associations like Independent Association of Methodist Churches (IMA).**
 - **IMA is not a denomination but an association that helps fill in the gaps otherwise offered by the Higher Church body.**
 - **Items like assistance in finding Pastors and Staff. Camps and Retreats. Traditional Methodist publications, etc.**

Voting Process and Methods

- 1. IN PERSON CHURCH VOTE: 10:15 am CST Sunday, February 19th**
- 2. MAIL-IN BALLOT BY REQUEST. A ballot can be mailed to you or can be downloaded from SantaClausUMC.org/Vote. Ballot can be mailed back or dropped at the Church Office. The window of acceptance is open NOW and closes at 4 pm CST on Wednesday, February 22nd**
- 3. EMAIL MESSAGE to vote@santaclausumc.org The window of acceptance is open NOW and closes at 4 pm CST on Wednesday, February 22nd**
- 4. ELECTRONIC VOTING via sli.do on day of in person vote: Sunday, February 19th at 10:15 am CST. This will be explained in more detail at the February 19th meeting.**

Voting Process and Methods

Multiple options were approved to be as inclusive and as accommodating as possible, knowing some may not be able to be in attendance due to travel, family, or work requirements.

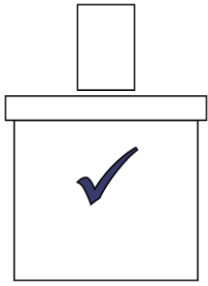
IMPORTANT NOTE: Regardless of means of vote, each person can vote ONCE and ONLY ONCE.

Who Will be Allowed to Vote and Why

- **All currently registered SCUMC Members**
 - **No members have been nor could have been removed from the registry without a lengthy process and Charge conference as dictated by the United Methodist Book of Discipline which we will adhere to until July 1st whereas we will revert to the rules of the Global Methodist Church or a book of discipline established by and Independent Church.**

Who Will be Allowed to Vote and Why

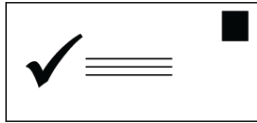
- **Non-Members who are active participants who currently contribute their time, talents and treasures to SCMC or intend to going forward with the newly aligned church.**
- **Must be 7th grade or above (Confirmation age)**



IN PERSON

**351 N. Holiday Blvd.
Santa Claus, IN 47579**

10:15 am CST Sun, Feb 19



MAIL-IN

**By Request or Online at
SantaClausUMC.org/Vote**

Ends 4pm CST Wed, Feb 22



EMAIL

vote@santaclausumc.org

Ends 4pm CST Wed, Feb 22



ONLINE

**More Details Given on
February 5**

10:15 am CST Sun, Feb 19

- **TODAY Sunday, February 5:**
 - **Email, Mail-In/Drop-Off Ballot Window Opens**
- **Sunday, February 19**
 - **In-Person & Online Vote**
 - **Streamed on YouTube**
- **Wednesday, February 22**
 - **Email, Mail-In, & Drop Off Voting Ends 4pm CST**
- **Thursday, February 23**
 - **Vote Certified by Admin Council**
 - **Notification of Voting Results Posted Online**

**This information, along with FAQs,
downloadable ballot, and more
is available online at
SantaClausUMC.org/Vote**