



Creating Covenant Relationship with Stay UMC Response Team

Purpose of the Stay UMC Response Team: To walk alongside congregations and their leaders as they transform in a new context as a result of disaffiliation conversations, votes, and actions.

Ways to Engage:

- Pastor of a congregation reaches out to a member of the team
- District Superintendent or bishop alerts the team to a need and a member of the team reaches out to pastor of the congregation
- If a member of the congregation contacts Stay UMC Response team, the pastor will be engaged and included immediately by the Response team.

Expectations

Expectations for the Stay UMC Response Team:

- Pray for the affected congregations and their leaders
- Maintain a humble posture
- Assume the Holy Spirit is at work healing congregations already
- Listen to the needs of the congregation and its leaders
- Ask good questions
- Act with thoughtful urgency
- Connect the congregation with resources: spiritual, strategic, financial, emotional, connectional
- Decide on allocation of funding and other resources
- Honor our team covenant

Expectations for Congregation:

- Develop a small group of leaders who will walk through the process with the response team
- Listen and discern God's calling for the congregation
- Assess and articulate current context related to disaffiliation
- Provide documents and contextual information requested by response team
- Share complete historical and projected financial information including a balance sheet and income statement



- Provide details of debt for the church
- Provide details of the church's property/assets
- Communicate current congregational needs to response team and updates with this process to the congregation
- Refund financial resources received if disaffiliation occurs in the future
- Explore and discern implementation of resources offered by the response team

Both parties will adapt and agree on the covenant of expectations that is created for the process.

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TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE