



Stay UMC Response Application

Thank you for applying to develop a covenant with the Stay UMC Response Team. Answering the following questions will begin the conversation with the Stay UMC Response Team. Each congregation has its own needs as it responds to a new context as a result of disaffiliation conversations, votes, and actions. Because we are a connectional church there are resources and relationships that can help in this new context.

Please read the one page description of the Stay UMC Response team, resources, and expectations.

Develop a small team (5-7 people) who can connect with the Stay UMC Response team and who also is connected to different parts of the congregation.

Answer the following questions together. The Response Team wants to be in conversation with you.

1. Where do you currently see God at work in your congregation? What spiritual growth is taking place?
2. What response actions have been taken by the congregation and/or its leaders to address the new context already (spiritual, strategic, financial, emotional, connectional): *Right sizing staff? Adjusting budget? Volunteer leadership changes? Healing Worship Services? Outside strategic consulting? Groups for processing grief?*
3. How would you describe the trauma impact of the past months on your congregation?
4. Have there been any changes in worship, Sunday school, small group, or missions attendance? If so, what has that been? Provide accurate statistics if possible - % changes or raw attendance data.
5. Has there been any change in tithing and financial stewardship? If so, what has that been? Provide accurate statistics if possible - % changes or raw attendance data.



6. Has there been any change in staff? Departure or replacement of key staff members?
7. Please describe the current posture of the congregation. What is the readiness for a new mindset or innovation? Please share stories or give examples. If this readiness is unknown, is there a current need to discover this?
8. How would you describe the impact of the past months on the well-being and spiritual health of your leaders?
9. What are the needs of your congregation right now? How urgent are these needs?
10. What else would you like to share with the Response Team? What is important for them to know about your context?