Recommendation To Align With Global Methodist Church

horizontal line

To: The Marion Aldersgate Congregation

February 3, 2023

RE: Recommendation for joining the Global Methodist Church post disaffiliation

As our church continues to prayerfully consider the changes coming to Marion Aldersgate we are seeking to keep Aldersgate the fruitful Wesleyan congregation it has always been. The Church Council is recommending that we take a vote to align with the Global Methodist Church immediately following the Disaffiliation vote on February 26, 2023.

Aligning with the Global Methodist Church will give us continuity in ministry. Pastor Lance Leeds will be able to easily transfer his credentials. We will have bylaws in place to preserve the Wesleyan Way; where the Bible is the Word of God, Jesus is our Savior, and grace pursues, justifies and sanctifies. The Global Methodist church will also be a place that helps our continuity of ministry to flow once Pastor Lance Leeds retires. With the GMC there is an appointment system and we forfeit the risk of going months or even years without a pastor. There are apportionments with the GMC, but they are currently expected to be less than ½ of what they are with the UMC. Lastly, there is no trust clause as we had with the United Methodist Church. We believe the Global Methodist Church will be a long term affiliation. We also want to note that if at any time the Global Methodist Church goes “off the rails” as the UMC has recently, there is no expensive toll-way to exit, only a free exit ramp.

The Global Methodist Church stands on Biblical truths and Methodist heritage. It is for that reason that we feel aligning with GMC would be beneficial for Aldersgate. We have a wonderful heritage and pray we can keep our roots while continuing to produce fruit.The main difference the general congregation will notice is the change in logo as the cross and flame will no longer be present on buildings, documents, etc. The UMC owns the rights to the logo. We will still be a Bible believing, Wesleyan congregation. We will continue to be Marion Aldersgate, the family of God we all know and love, with a mission to *connect people to Christ*.

**On February 26, 2023 after the Disaffiliation Vote we will have a vote to align with the Global Methodist Church. This would be a simple yes/no vote that needs 50% + 1 to pass. If the vote to disaffiliate is affirmative, our disaffiliation will be official May 6, after the IGRC Annual Conference vote. If the GMC vote also passes, we will immediately align with GMC, once our disaffiliation is official.**