



**Methodism 2020 – Session #3**  
**Role of Clergy**

## Agenda:

1. A few of the Clergy affected by UMC's stance
2. How are clergy appointed in the UMC?
3. What are some issues for clergy as the church changes?
4. How will churches find clergy if they vote to disaffiliate?

## STORIES OF HEROES



Melvin E. Wheatley dies at 93;  
Methodist bishop caused a stir  
by appointing openly gay pastor  
in 1982

## STORIES OF HEROES



Rose Mary Denman was the first United Methodist clergy person brought to trial as a "self-avowed practicing homosexual." During her ministry, she served four churches in Maine.

# STORIES OF HEROES



Beth Stroud served as an ordained United Methodist pastor for six years before losing her clergy credentials in a 2004 church trial. In the trial, Beth was found guilty of “practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teaching” because she acknowledged living in a committed relationship with another woman.

# STORIES OF HEROES



Rev. Frank Schaefer, had been an ordained minister in the UMC for 20 years, before he was tried by a highly publicized UMC church



## STORIES OF HEROES



Rev. Anna Blaedel, was charged for “being a self-avowed homosexual and “disobedience to the order and discipline” of the UMC. Her hearing before the investigation committee took place in Des Moines, Iowa on Thursday, August 8, 2019. The committee’s decision was to certify the charge for trial. A trial date has not yet been set.



**How are clergy ordained/credentialed/  
licensed in the United Methodist Church?**



# What are the different credentials a UM pastor needs?

## **Ordination**

**Bachelor's Degree**

**MDiv – Master of Divinity**

## **License**

**High School**

**Local Pastors' School**

**COS – Course of Study**

## **Training as a Lay Speaker**

**Lay Servant Classes**

## **Training as a Certified Lay Minister**

**Lay Speaker + 4 Modules**

# What are the different credentials a UM pastor may have?

**FE - Elder in Full Connection, PE - Provisional Elder**

**AM - Associate Member**

**FD - Deacon in Full Connection, PD - Provisional Deacon**

**FL - Full-time Local Pastor, PL - Part-time Local Pastor**

**RE, RD, RA, RL - Retired clergy person**

**OE, OA, OD, OP, AF - Member of Another Annual Conference**


**OF - Full Member of Another Denomination**

**CP - Co-ordinating Pastor**

**SP - Student Local Pastor**

**SY - Supply Pastor**

**CLM - Certified Lay Minister**



**How does a church get a pastor?  
How are clergy appointed  
in the United Methodist Church?**



## **“Sent” vs. “Called”**

- **UM Clergy are sent, or appointed**
- **Other systems are call systems – clergy are called, or hired**

# **The Appointment Process**

**Who determines when a pastor moves?**

- **The Pastor requests**
- **The SPRC requests**
- **The DS recommends**
- **The Bishop/Cabinet decide**

# **The Appointment Process (cont.)**

**How is a pastor chosen for a United Methodist Church?**

- **Consultation with pastors and SPRCs at Church Conference**
- **The information in the Church Profiles and the Clergy Profiles**
- **Pool of available pastors\***
- **Cabinet discernment**



## **The Appointment Process (cont.)**

**What happens in the UMC after a pastor is named for a church?**

- **DS contacts the pastor, shares information about the church, and asks them to pray about it**
- **DS contacts the church's SPRC to set up a meeting**
- **DS does "take-in" when pastor and SPRC meet and discern together whether this is a good match**
- **The announcement in the sending and receiving churches occurs on the same Sunday**
- **The transition process begins**

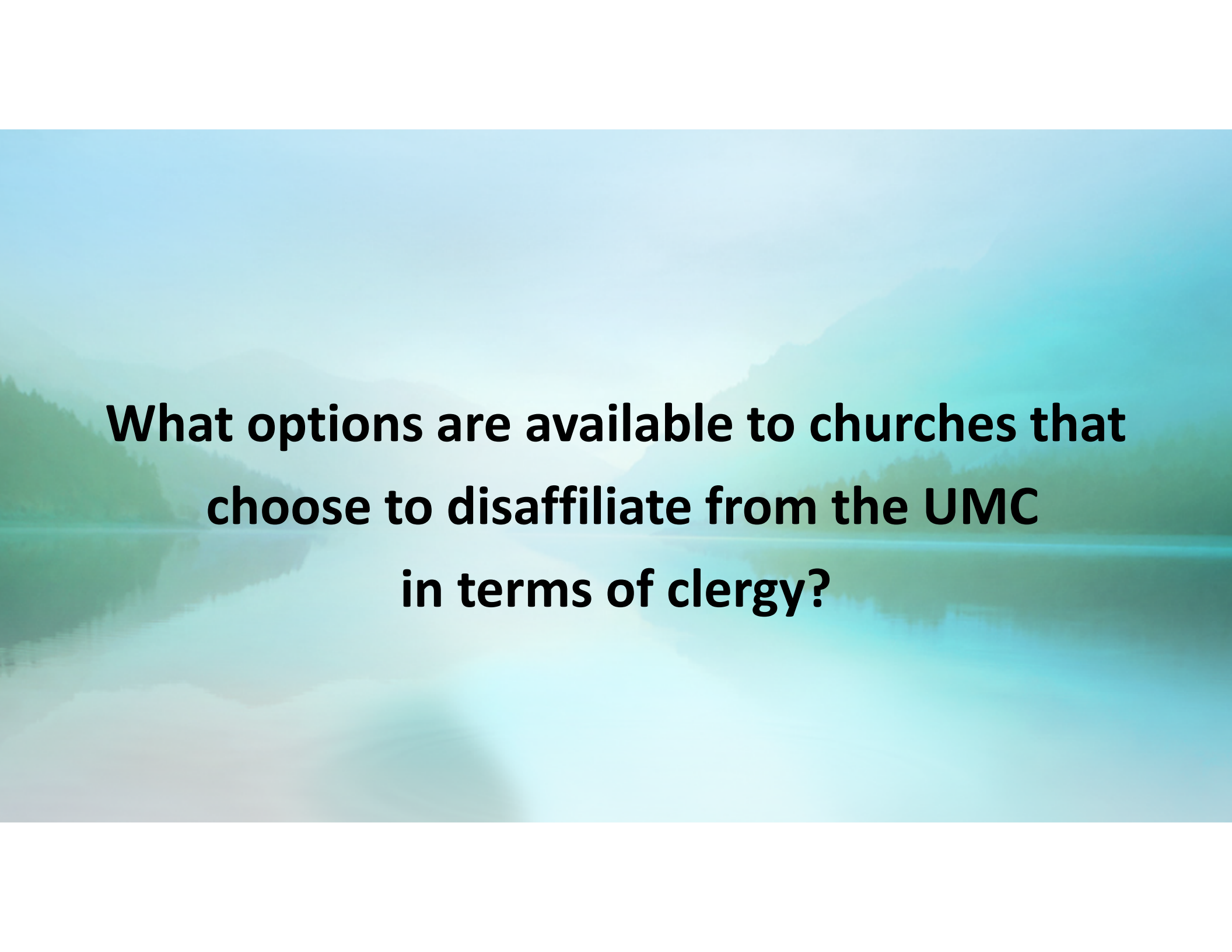
# OTHER COMMENTS ON THE ITINERANT SYSTEM

1. Appointments are effective at the beginning of the appointment year (July 1).
2. When vacancies occur within an appointment year, “interim” appointments for the remainder of the year are the norm.

# Concerns for Clergy if they leave UMC

- **Credentials are no longer valid**
- **No oversight, no connection**
- **Future of pension program is uncertain**
- **Finding a job is uncertain**
  - **particularly for women, ethnic minorities, ...**
- **Lose availability of the many denominational resources**





**What options are available to churches that  
choose to disaffiliate from the UMC  
in terms of clergy?**



## Options for finding clergy:

**Do their own Pastoral Search process**

**Connect with a denomination that has a search process in place**

**Search online, etc.**

**Stay in touch with UM Clergy going through transition**

**...**

**UNLESS OR UNTIL A NEW ORGANIZATION IS CREATED...**

A serene landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the background, there are misty, rolling mountains and hills, creating a sense of depth and tranquility. The sky is a soft, hazy blue, and the overall color palette is dominated by cool blues and greens. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**Will credentialed United Methodist clergy  
continue to serve?**



# Options for UM clergy to serve if their church disaffiliates:

**If they stay in the denomination:**

“Cross-conference” appointments, or appointments beyond the local church, or go on leave for a time

**If they leave the denomination:**

Local Pastors no longer licensed

Elders are no longer members of the conference

They may need to be amenable to a new “call” system

**UNLESS OR UNTIL A NEW ORGANIZATION IS CREATED...**



**Other questions yet to be answered:**

**Who will serve as clergy for churches that  
choose to disaffiliate?**

**Are there clergy who are prepared to serve in  
this way?**

A serene landscape photograph with a teal and light blue color palette. The scene features a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the middle ground, there are forested hillsides. The background is dominated by large, misty mountains that fade into the distance. The overall atmosphere is quiet and ethereal.

**QUESTIONS?**