

FAQ'S

PARTNERSHIP

First United Methodist Church of Brighton
Wesley United Methodist Church,
Whitmore Lake

FEBRUARY 2018



Rev. Fred Hatfield, Rev. Bob Fuchs and Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis met on January 3 at Peaberry Bean and Beats Café in Whitmore Lake. They discussed the ministries of Wesley UMC and Brighton First UMC and planned for upcoming meetings. The clergy celebrated faithful congregation members and prayed for God's guidance.

PLANNING TEAMS

Brighton First UMC and Wesley UMC are currently planning a merger vote in mid-April. Leaders of both churches are meeting to discuss vital issues in preparation for the vote. The goal is to give both congregations a clear picture of the merged congregations for a fully informed vote.

Prayer

Kris Phillips will lead prayer team members who will dedicate themselves to praying for preparation for a merger vote.

Lead Team

A Transition Team will give oversight to planning and offer the final report for merger. This team will coordinate teams and seek answers to key questions about mission and worship. Members include: Ron Matkin, John Phillips, April Schauer, Chris Attarian, Al Weidman, and clergy.

Trustees

The Trustee Team will answer essential questions concerning both church's buildings and assets. Team members include Deb de Laski-Smith,

Jeff Terry, Dennis Leland, Jim Forrest, Rev. Fred Hatfield, Al Weidman, and Marsha Ikle.

Finance

A Finance Team has been formed to propose financial practices for the merged congregation. Team members include John Benkarski, Wendy Carmack, Sheryl Hunt, Art Neff, April Schauer and Faith Wheeler.

Please contact any team member for more information.

GUIDING QUESTIONS: How will the kingdom of God be impacted by this partnership? Can we accomplish more together than separately? Will our communities be better served? Will the partnership result in more opportunities to make disciples for Jesus Christ?



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Town Hall Meeting - Brighton First

Sunday, February 11

9:15 am, 10:45 am, and 12:15 pm.

Other date(s) to be scheduled as needed.

Campus Tour - Brighton First

Sunday, February 25

12:15 pm.

Town Hall Meeting - Wesley

Sunday, March 11

11:15 am.

Other date(s) to be scheduled as needed.

Campus Tour - Wesley

Sundays after 10:00 am worship service

Church Conference Votes

Sunday, April 15

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Receive Brighton First E-news

Send your e-mail address to

wendy@brightonfumc.org

Like Brighton First's Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/BrightonFUMC/>

CHURCH MERGER RESOURCE

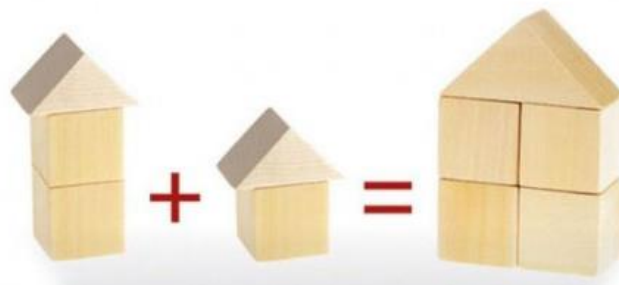
Read a summary of *Better Together: Making*

Church Mergers Work by Jim Tomberlin and

Warren Bird at

[http://www.wcpres.org/uploads/2017/12/](http://www.wcpres.org/uploads/2017/12/Better-Together-Book-Summary.pdf)

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QUESTIONS

How is the United Methodist Church involved in our merger discussions?

Rev. Mark Spaw, the Ann Arbor District Superintendent, is supportive and was present when church leaders first met in December. Bishop David Bard is aware of our discussions and is holding our churches in prayer. The New Church Development Team of the Detroit Conference provides guidance for clergy and considers financial support if merger is approved. In addition, the Ann Arbor District Board of Missions and Extension will consider offering grant assistance.

What has proven to be the most important practice in church merger discussions?

Communication. Clear and accurate communication is essential for church members to make informed decisions. It is essential that plans be outlined for congregation members and that all have an opportunity to ask for clarification.

Currently, we are seeking to communicate merger information through printed handouts, email and presentation in worship. Both churches will hold town hall meetings. In the weeks before the merger vote, congregation members will have access to a document that outlines what merger would look like for both churches.

What meetings have happened so far?

Church officers from both churches met at Wesley UMC in December. Both Administrative Councils voted to continue discussions. In January, a team from Brighton First met at Wesley to tour the building and review potential renovations. On January 21, Pastors Sherry and Bob met members of the Wesley UMC congregation for Q&A time. On February 6, Brighton's Men with Tools group toured Wesley UMC.