

# FAQ'S

## PARTNERSHIP

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

MARCH 2018

Third in the Series



## SUPPORT FOR MERGED MINISTRY FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Leadership and Prayers

Bishop David Bard of the Michigan Area, Rev. Mark Spaw of the Ann Arbor District, and the leadership of the Detroit Annual Conference are offering their support for the merger of Wesley and Brighton First. They have affirmed the leadership of Pastor Bob and Pastor Sherry. In addition, they are in prayer for our congregations as we move forward, discerning God's will for our churches and our communities.

### Financial Support

We have received word from the New Church Establishment and Development Committee of the Detroit Annual Conference that we will receive an **initial grant of \$30,000 for 2018** operating expenses and capital improvements. In addition, Wesley and Brighton First have applied to the Ann Arbor District Board of Missions for up to \$30,000 in grant funds. We will know the amount of that grant award by the end of March.

We project that operating expenses beyond the current giving at Wesley and Brighton First will be \$37,000 per year. In addition, technology upgrades and refreshing the Wesley campus will cost between \$50,000 and \$90,000 over the next two to three years. Having secured grants for operating expenses, we are confidently moving forward with new ministry as "One Church in Two Locations". Priorities for capital improvements will be set based on total grants received.

**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 - Wesley

Sunday, March 11

11:15 am

Other date(s) to be scheduled as needed.

### Town Hall Meetings – Brighton First

Sunday, March 18

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

Other date(s) to be scheduled as needed.

### Campus Tour - Wesley

Sundays after 10:00 am worship service

### All Church Mailing

Late March

All members of Wesley and Brighton First will receive information and a merger resolution in preparation for a vote on April 15.

### Church Conference Votes

Sunday, April 15

Wesley – 11:15 am

Brighton First – 12:15 pm

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

### Receive Brighton First E-news

Send your e-mail address to

[wendy@brightonfumc.org](mailto:wendy@brightonfumc.org)

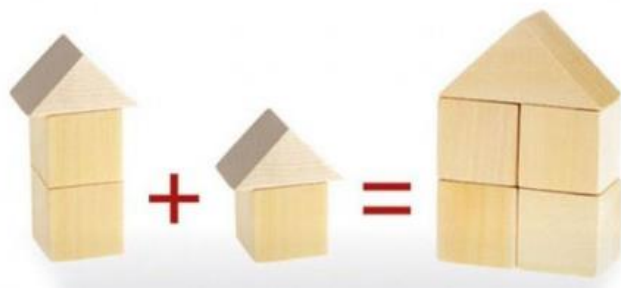
### Like Brighton First's Facebook Page

<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/Better-Together-Book-Summary.pdf>



## MORE QUESTIONS

### Will the church names change?

The initial plan is to use the geographic location as the name for each campus; Whitmore Lake and Brighton. This is the simplest way to answer the question, “Where do you go to church?” A combined team of members will look at the names and bring a recommendation to our church conference in the fall.

### What will Sunday morning worship look like?

As “One Church in Two Locations”, the plan is for Whitmore Lake and Brighton to have four worship opportunities every Sunday; one at the Whitmore Lake Campus and three at the Brighton Campus. Worship format and times may differ from the current schedule at each campus. A worship/music leader will be hired for Whitmore Lake to lead a modern, acoustic worship. Brighton will have two “traditional” and one “band-led” worship service. Pastor Sherry’s and Pastor Bob’s weekly sermons will be consistent across the two campuses, following the same

theme, scripture and application to our lives.

### What are the plans for the Whitmore Lake Campus?

Thanks to the grants from the Detroit Conference and the Ann Arbor District, there will be updates to the Whitmore Lake location; refreshing the sanctuary, new sound equipment, video monitors, and updated signage. Sunday worship and fellowship will continue, with additional small groups and classes. Whitmore Lake will be a site for expanded outreach to the surrounding community, and beyond, seeing the Holy Spirit move in powerful ways.

### How can I help?

Pray, attend the town hall meetings, ask questions, review the merger documents when published, ask more questions, attend the church conference on April 15 at the church where you are a member and vote. Together, we will continue to make disciples for Jesus Christ and grow in the faith.