

Why Aulne Church disaffiliated from UMC

This response is to answer the question that some have been asking, as to why the Aulne congregation chose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. And have chosen to remain independent from other denominations that seem to be wrestling with the same issue of the authority of the scriptures. We have separated on good terms and hope that God will have His way in the United Methodist Church.

Throughout the history of God's Church there have been moments that deem it necessary to discontinue the association of bonds in ministry and fellowship due to the matters of conscience, interpretation, and understanding of the role of God's people upon this earth.

The mantle of spiritual leadership for the nations of the earth must have, as its foundation, a deep conviction that all authority for the Church of Jesus Christ to minister on His behalf to the nations of the earth is derived solely from the belief that the Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 tells us, “ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”¹

It is with this conviction of heart that we intend to separate our paths of ministry from that of The United Methodist Church.

The rich history of Methodism will continue to be a part of our church culture as we endeavor to continue the tradition of declaring the distinctive of holiness within the Church, and to the world.

We believe that it is the mandate of Jesus Christ to preach the life transforming gospel message of Salvation and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, which cleanses from sin, and makes the follower of Christ an overcomer, through His mighty power.

We cannot in good conscience continue to be identified as United Methodist when the church leadership insist upon denying the authority and power of the Bible as the foundational source of guidance on matters that are clearly incongruent to God's Holy Word and that go contrary to His creation.

We recognize that all humanity is fallen and in need of a Savior, that is Christ Jesus. We believe that Jesus' life gives us an example in how to live a holy life through the power of God.

Also, that His life provides for us a pattern for winning the lost to God through His saving grace at Calvary.

We also believe that while salvation is instantaneous it is also ongoing in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which cleanses and transforms the life of the saved, such as stated in Romans 12:2, *"do not conform any longer to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God."*²

And through this transformation, makes noble vessels for God's use,

*Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."*³

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

We believe that the scriptures are what the Holy Spirit of God uses to cleanse the hearts of men, and direct their footsteps. We will uphold and defend the orthodox understanding of scriptures.

We shall continue to serve Christ through the caring and compassionate ministry of the Church. We will continue to preach the gospel of Christ and declare the freedom giving truth of the Bible that calls all men from sin.

The ministry of the Church is to all people regardless of who they are, where they come from, or their station of life. We realize that all humanity sin and struggle with living free from sin. We realize that the scripture addresses both the nature of sinfulness and the moral and spiritual righteousness that is set forth in God's Word.

To ignore these due to the cultural mores would be a betrayal of God's Word and to the mission of the Church to be a light of salvation in a lost and sin-filled world.

We must continue our mission to affect change in the culture of the world, not allowing the culture to change God's Word.

Man's perception of truth is subjective to his desires, circumstances, and ambition etc...but God's Word is truth and the truth changes not.

We believe that Jesus is the embodiment of the truth of God, the Word and we believe that the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, is the written truth, the Word.

We will not compromise our relationship with Jesus, the living Word, or the Bible, the written Word, to gain acceptance from a culture in which morality and truth are perceived as subjective to mankind's wants and desires.

So, we stand with our conscience, as the Holy Spirit directs us to, in stark contrast to the will of so many in the Church today, and do hereby declare our conviction to stand with God and His Holy Word as an independent church.