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To the Professing Members of Advent UMC:

A Church Conference has been called for Advent United Methodist Church of Simpsonville, SC for February 4, 2024 at 12:00N in the sanctuary. Registration to vote will begin at 11:15AM that day in The Zone. The purpose of the conference will be to decide if Advent should separate from the United Methodist Church.

Only the Professing Members of Advent will be able to vote. If your name is included with the address on this envelope, then we understand that you are a Professing Member. This notice is being sent to every Professing Member of Advent currently on the church roll. If you have joined another church it means that you have moved your membership away from Advent to that church and are no longer eligible to vote at Advent. In that case, or if you wish to withdraw from membership in Advent, please contact the church office.

At the church conference on February 4 a motion will be presented for Advent to separate from the United Methodist Church. A "Yes" vote will be a vote in favor of Advent separating from the UMC. A "No" vote will be against separating from the UMC. (A "No" vote will have the effect of voting for Advent to remain in the UMC.) The motion must receive a "Yes" vote by two-thirds of the Professing Members present and voting that day in order to be approved. If the motion is not approved, the process will end and Advent will remain a United Methodist congregation. If the motion is approved, Advent will remain a United Methodist congregation until June 30 when the process of separation will be completed. In either event, Pastor Tim and Pastor Rachel will remain the appointed pastors of Advent until June 30, 2024.

Provision is being made for those members who are able to be driven to the Advent campus, but for health or mobility reasons cannot enter the sanctuary with a large number of other people. For this limited group and their drivers, voting will be allowed from their vehicle in the church parking lot. However, those members who intend to use this option need to pre-register through the church website so that preparations can be made to accommodate them.

Prior to the congregational vote on February 4, two church-wide information meetings will be held: on Sunday, January 21 at 3:00PM, and on Wednesday, January 24 at 7:00PM. These two meetings will both include the same information and will be led by Rev. Jim Dennis, the Greenville District Superintendent. Each meeting will include: a presentation by church leadership outlining the estimated cost of separation and the voting process that will be followed on February 4, a time for questions and answers, and an opportunity for church members to address those present in order to express whatever may be on their hearts about this decision.

(Speeches will be limited to 10 in favor of the motion and 10 opposed to the motion, with a time limit of 3 minutes each.) Childcare will be provided for both meetings.

On Sunday, January 28 there will be a prayer-vigil in the sanctuary from 3:00 – 5:00PM.

Advent has been providing information through the weekly eNews and on the church website. You can see all of the information by logging in to the church website at <https://advent-umc.org/>, and clicking on the “Denominational News” tab at the top of the page.

Pastor Tim and Pastor Rachel are available to speak with anyone who has questions about this process. Members are invited to call or email the church office to be in touch with them.

Thank you for your interest in and commitment to Advent as we seek to be faithful to God’s leading during this time in our life together.

*Paul Shaw*  
Church Council Chair

*Tim Rogers*  
Senior Pastor