

3-21-25

Dear Senator/Delegate

Please support Bill 586 (HB 1182) "repeal of the trust clause". This is a bill that lets the State of Maryland regulate a part of our religious freedom that is being used to support unfair practices by the United Methodist Church to prohibit small churches from retaining their property if leaving the conference.

The U.M.C. pays nothing for these properties and assets. Their bureaucracy and fees are making belonging to this conference a real challenge. Each church pays a percentage of their yearly income as an "apportionment" amount as well as the Pastor and staffs yearly salary. Each church pays all their maintenance, utility bills, property & liability insurance and many churches also support a cemetery. Our church does not have a way to leave and there is no negotiating!

This "Trust" is being used to help the larger U.M.C. to subvert and bow to newer social trends that radically changes the Bible's message. These changes many of us find appalling, and definitely against many scriptures in the bible. This is a clear corruption of the trust we (traditional Methodist Churches) had with the U.M.C.

With the amendment, Maryland may be looked at by the other states as leading the way on this injustice to long time places of worship and supporters of their local communities.

God bless you all,

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