



Lillian Methodist Church Officially Joins the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church by Rev. Daniel W. Randall

On May 7, 2023, the Lillian Methodist Church officially became a congregation of the Alabama Emerald Coast Conference of the Global Methodist Church. After a series of meetings with conference leadership and a time of prayerful discernment the members of Lillian Methodist Church determined that the direction that the current United Methodist Church is heading and not a direction, they felt they could go. The church scheduled a Church Conference on March 12, 2023, with the Pensacola District superintendent of the Alabama West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. All members of the church, active and inactive, were informed of the Church Conference. At the Church Conference, the members present voted 99% to withdraw from the UMC and then 100 % to change our name to Lillian Methodist Church and join the Global Methodist Church. To date 236 of 554 Alabama West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church churches have withdrawn, and the vast majority have joined the one-year-old Global Methodist Church, which was formed out of former members and leaders of the UMC to create a new Methodist, Wesleyan, orthodox denomination. More will be departing this November. For the last 50 years, the United Methodist Church has experienced continuous conflict and is now experiencing a deep, deep division over the issue of its clergy performing same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. It is not about who is or is not welcomed in church. God calls us to love everyone, but that does not mean that we all agree. Lillian Methodist Church's decision to disaffiliate had less to do with human sexuality and more with our convictions and understanding of the authority of scripture, our understanding of who Jesus is, and our concern for effective accountability within a denominational structure. Other than our name changing and our new denominational association we are still the same congregation continuing to reach out with God's love to this wonderful area as we have for the past 43 years. We are still Christian, Methodist, and Wesleyan, and everyone has always been and always will be welcomed at the Lillian Methodist Church. We are all a work in progress and none of us are perfect. I am a perfect example of an imperfect person. Yet, God calls every one of us to a saving relationship through His Son Jesus Christ, to confess our sins and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and then to honor Him in the lives we live in His Holy name. We pray for all our area churches and the service that God provides through so many. To learn more about the doctrines and beliefs of Lillian Methodist Church, please check our church website at www.LillianMC.org.