



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Resolution 2022-08

Discernment Pathways

1). Can my church choose more than 1 Pathway?

We ask that your church choose 1 Pathway to start. Opportunities will be provided throughout the year for a church to begin a new Pathway.

2). Who will be the consultants to work with churches on the missional Pathways?

As we begin the Pathway program, DSs, Assisting Elders, the DCM and EPA's new Leadership Development Manager will be working 1:1 with churches and in small group church cohorts. As we expand the program, we will engage both lay and clergy as facilitators. In addition, our EPA Team of Trainers will be available to resource congregations in The Path Towards Wholeness Pathway. Outside coaches will be engaged, when needed and where appropriate.

3). What if our church isn't certain of which Pathway we should pursue?

Contact your DS or the DCM to discuss your current needs and possible options.

4). How will we choose a Pathway?

Your Pastor will receive an invitation from your district office in summer 2022 to choose a Pathway. Sign-ups for the first cycle of Pathways will occur through summer 2022 and the program will begin in fall 2022.

5). Is it mandatory to choose a Pathway?

This is an invitation to EPA churches. We want to work with churches that are ready and willing to engage these Pathways. We hope every church will participate, although we will not be able to work with all churches at once, so there will be time to discern the best Pathway for your church. There will be enrollment opportunities throughout the year, so if you miss one open enrollment for Pathways, you can enroll during the next offering cycle.

6). What makes Pathways different from other EPA resourcing?

In the Pathways program, the local church determines both their focus and plan. This is not a one-time workshop or an outside strategy. Your local church will create the plan and guides will work with your local church over the next year on the path to implementation. Pathways offers the tools to create a plan that provides clarity and focus to take the next faithful steps in ministry and mobilize leaders and disciples to world-changing discipleship and ministry. Pathways builds on the work your congregation has already done and offers new directions for being connected and engaged in mission and ministry.