



# Culpeper UMC Church-Wide Meeting

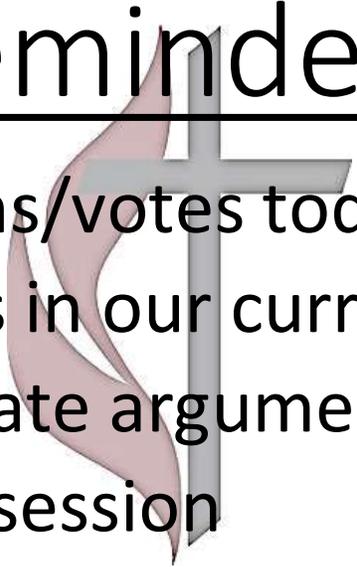
**JUNE 12, 2022**

# United Methodist Church

## **Challenges we are facing**

1. General Conference – date changes
2. Possible Disaffiliation
3. New Denominations (GMC & LMX)
4. Incorporation

# Reminders



1. No decisions/votes today
2. No changes in our current UMC
3. No passionate arguments
4. No debate session

# Reminders



1. Listening Ears
2. Respect and Love for each other
3. Information Session
4. Question & Answer Time

# General Conference



1. May 5-15, 2020 - Minneapolis, MN
2. Aug 29-Sept 7, 2021 – Minneapolis
3. Aug 29-Sept 6, 2022 – Minneapolis
4. 2024 – Dates and Location TBD

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For the 2024 General Conference, we are waiting to hear news from if this will be a “Postponed” Conference or a “Canceled” Conference.

If postponed, then all the legislation from General Conference 2020 will carry into 2024. Also, all the delegates voted to attend General Conference 2020 will attend General Conference 2024.

If canceled, then all the legislation will start fresh, allowing anyone to submit new information to be discussed at General Conference. Also, new delegates must be voted on to attend General Conference 2024.

# United Methodist Church

- Worldwide church
  - USA, Africa, Europe, Philippines
  - 12.95 million members
- 5 Jurisdictions in US
- 7 Central Conferences outside of US
- UMs gave over \$6.3 Billion to all purposes in 2018

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<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodists-at-a-glance>

This website provides many details about the membership of the church (visited 27 May 2022)

US (2018): Lay = 6,448,992; Clergy = 38,308 --- Total = 6,487,300

Africa, Europe, Asia (2017): Lay = 6,452,265; Clergy = 12,866 --- Total = 6,465,131

TOTAL = 12,952,431

Decrease of 373,227

Info from 2017 numbers.

This website provides many details about the membership of the church

US: Lay = 6,806,334; Clergy = 37,009 --- Total = 6,843,343

Africa, Europe, Asia: Lay = 6,471,921; Clergy = 10,394 --- Total = 6,482,315

TOTAL = 13,325,658

Increase of 656,566

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/united-methodists-at-a-glance>

Info from 2016 numbers.

This website provides many details about the membership of the church

US: Lay = 6,951,278; Clergy = 44,080 --- Total = 6,995,358

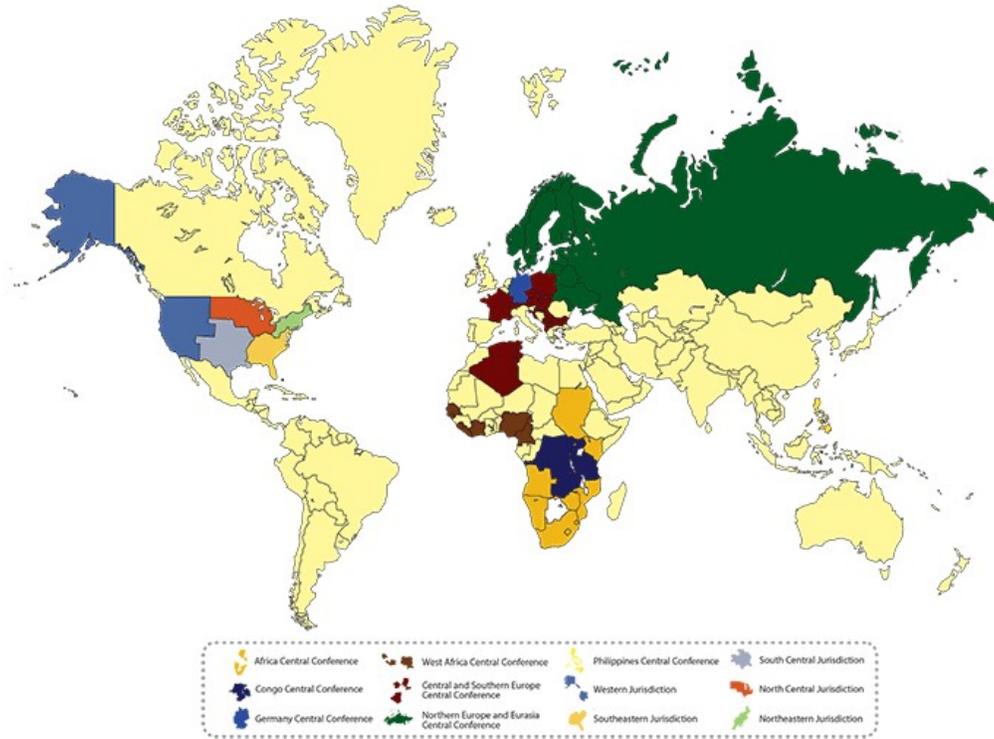
Africa, Europe, Asia: Lay = 5,663,340; Clergy = 10,394 --- Total = 5,673,734

TOTAL = 12,669,092

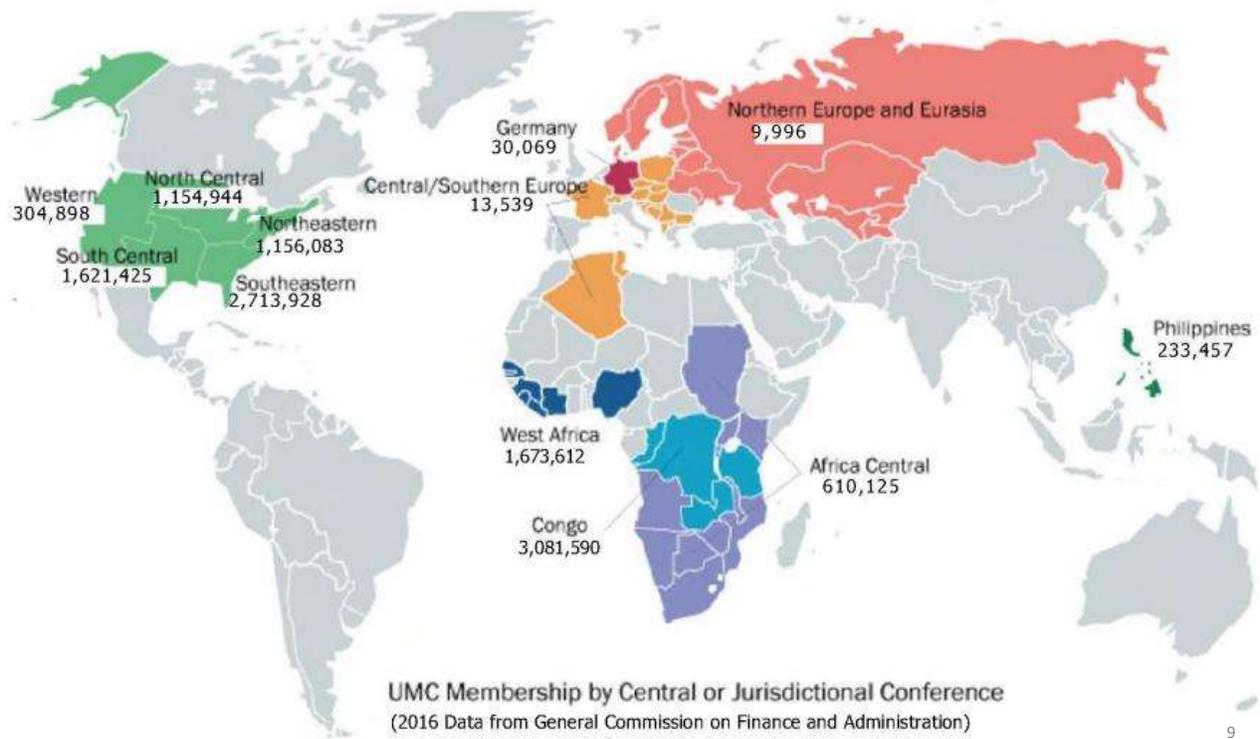
## United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America



<https://www.unyumc.org/news/article/the-function-and-role-of-the-jurisdictional-conference>



<https://www.umc.org/en/content/2020-general-conference-delegate-distribution-by-annual-conference-now-avai>



<https://jbenjaminroe.com/jbr/gc-2019/central-conferences/192-a-central-conference-primer>

# 2024 General Conference

- 862 delegates (50/50 clergy/lay)
- 482 US - 380 Central Conferences
- VA Delegates - 11 clergy, 11 lay
  - 30's and older
  - 1 Asian American, 1 Multiracial
  - 11 men, 11 women

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<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/us-elections-see-shift-in-gc2020-delegates>

2020 General Conference

482 US – 380 Central Conferences

22 less from US and 20 more from Central Conferences

6 clergy men 5 clergy women

5 lay men 6 lay women

Clergy                      Laity

Caucasian – 9      Caucasian - 11

Multiracial - 1

Asian - 1

**General Conference Elected Clergy:** Tom Berlin, Lindsey Baynham, Meredith McNabb, Rob Vaughn, Rhonda VanDyke, Mark Ogren, Grace Sun-khil Han, F. Elizabeth Givens, Jason C. Stanley, G. Kirk Nave, Jonathan Page

**General Conference Elected Laity:** Warren Harper, Martha Stokes, Shirley Cauffman, Darlene Amon, Beth Christian, Alison Malloy, Marshall Bailey, Jill Gaynor, Joshua Blakely, Jacob Paysour, Mark Elder

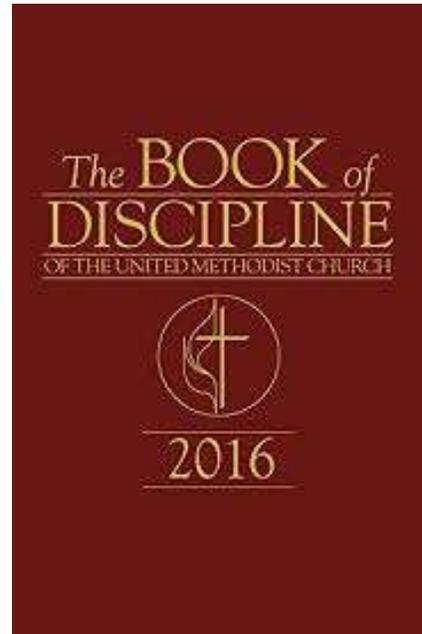
2019 General Conference

504 US – 360 Central Conferences

260 from Africa, 40 from Europe & Eurasia, 50 from Philippians, 10 from “concordant” Methodist Churches in UK, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Caribbean, and the Americas

# Book of Discipline

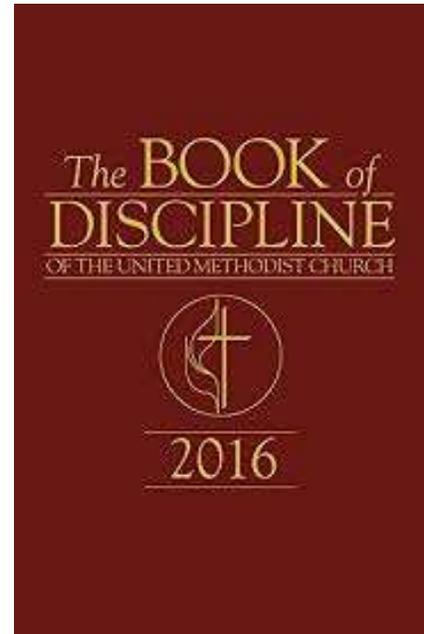
This is the denominational book that explains how we function as a church. It describes our theology (how we view God) and our polity (structure and organization of the church).



# Book of Discipline

“The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Paragraph 161.G, page 113

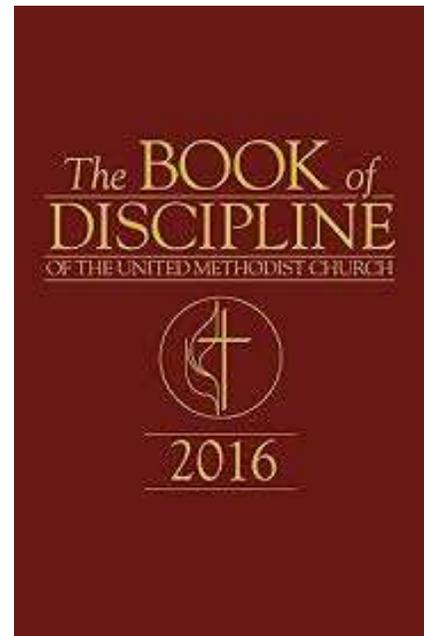
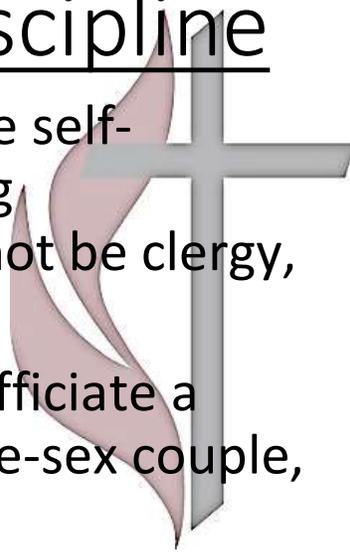


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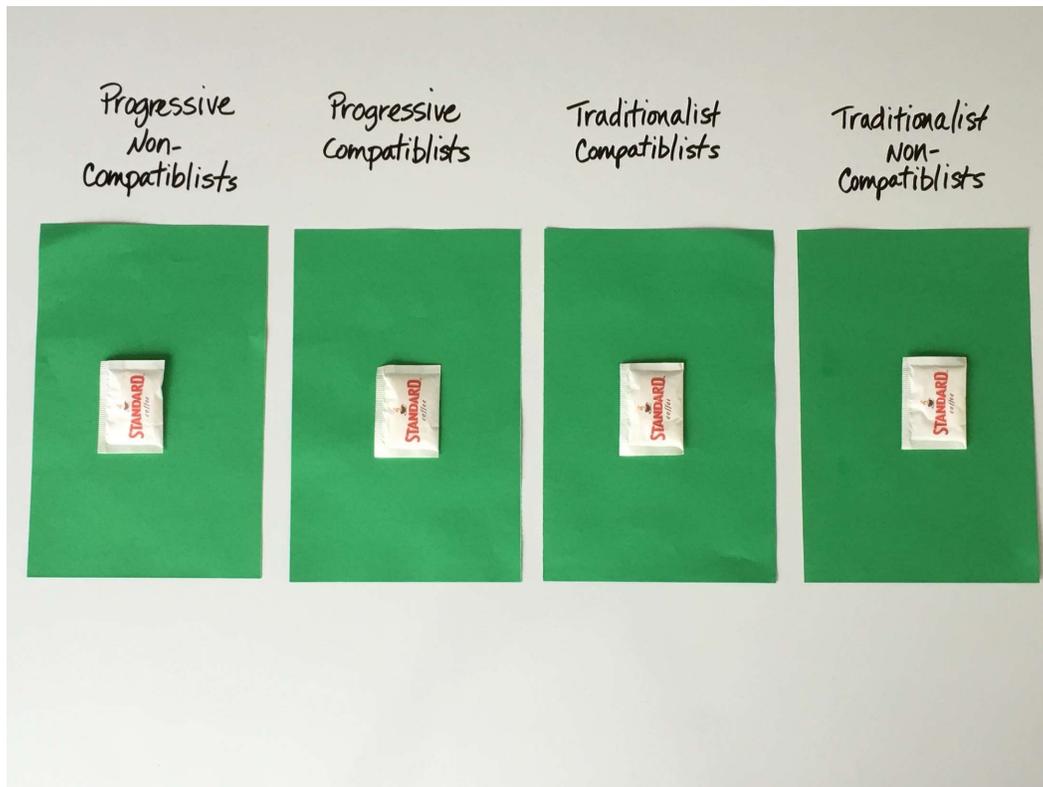
“We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationship with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and church not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.”

# Book of Discipline

1. Persons who are self-avowed, practicing homosexuals cannot be clergy, page 226
2. Clergy cannot officiate a marriage of a same-sex couple, page 278



1. Paragraph 304.3, page 226
2. Paragraph 341.6 page 278



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This information was created by Rev. Tom Berlin, Lead Pastor at Floris UMC in Herndon, VA

At the Virginia Annual Conference, I shared a presentation describing some of the conversation that occurred before and during General Conference in meetings called by Bishop Warner Brown, who was the President of the Council of Bishops of the UMC. My goal was to share my observations about where United Methodist are on two issues related to human sexuality: same-sex marriage and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. These issues are important in the life of the church because they apply to real people. These are our children, church members, friends, parents, neighbors and relatives.

This first slide has categories that I first heard from Tom Lambrecht, the Vice-President of Good News. I agree with these broad categories, understanding that they apply in this discussion only to the two issues listed above and to persons in the United States. I think Tom has attempted to create simple frameworks that are not simplistic. Since these issues are unusually divisive, I find the categories useful to understand the views of others.

Here is my definition of these categories:

Traditionalist Non-Compatibilists – Persons in this zone are satisfied with the current restrictive wording of the Book of Discipline on same-sex marriage and the ordination of persons who are practicing homosexuals. They want to see the church live out what they feel are obvious prohibitions in Scripture regarding homosexual acts. For them it is an issue of personal holiness. They are concerned that if these passages are compromised, all passages related to practices of sexual ethics and personal holiness will be compromised. Their concerns about change are of such importance to them that they would rather be in a church where all agree on these matters than feel personally compromised by a church with a diverse view on human sexuality.

Traditionalist Compatibilists – these people hold traditional views on human sexuality but understand that other pastors or churches would like to have the option of performing same-sex marriage. Some Conferences want to have the ability to ordain persons who are practicing homosexuals. While they do not want to be forced into performing such a marriage, they can live in a denomination where this occurs, understanding that there are many issues beyond this where they find unity in our connection.

Progressive Compatibilists – many of these persons have moved from the category to the right into this area in more recent years. They would like to see the church offer ordination to all persons and same-sex marriage to committed Christian couples. They understand that their friends on the right are not where they are and believe that the unity Christ prayed for the church can be upheld despite this difference.

Progressive Non-Compatibilists – Persons in this space have deep concerns for the call of Scripture for justice to all persons and Jesus deferential care of the marginalized. These two points of biblical interpretation, among others, lead them to work for full inclusion in the life of the church.

# Six Major Proposals

1. Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation
2. Indianapolis Plan
3. UM-Forward
4. UMCNext
5. U.S. Regional Conference
6. Christmas Covenant

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Helpful chart that describes these five major proposals given to 2020 General Conference

<https://www.umnews.org/>

[/media/UMC%20Media/2020/03/24/13/54/General-Conference-UMC-Plans-Chart-V8](https://www.umnews.org/-/media/UMC%20Media/2020/03/24/13/54/General-Conference-UMC-Plans-Chart-V8)

# 1. Protocol

## Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation

- A. UMC remains
- B. Global Methodist Church (GMC) begins
- C. Perhaps other denominations form

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Churches (2/3), Annual Conferences (57%) and Central Conferences (2/3) can join another denomination by the votes listed in parenthesis.  
\$25 million given to GMC, \$2 million escrowed for other possible denominations

## 2. Indianapolis Plan

- 
- A. Traditional – Centrist – Progressive denominations
  - B. UMC continues through Centrist UMC

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Churches (51%), Annual Conferences (51%) and Central Conferences (51%) can join another denomination by the votes listed in parenthesis.

### 3. UM-Forward

- A. Traditional – Moderate – Progressive – Liberationist denominations
- B. UMC dissolves



Churches (2/3) can join another denomination by the votes listed in parenthesis.

Annual Conferences (51% - ?) and Central Conferences (51% - ?) can join any new denomination

## 4. UMCNext

- A. UMC remains
- B. New Methodist denominations created that connect with UMC
- C. Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions
- D. U.S. will be Regional Conference

Churches (2/3) can join another denomination by the votes listed in parenthesis.

Annual Conferences (51% - ?) and Central Conferences (51% - ?) can join any new denomination

## 5. U.S. Regional Conference

Only changes UMC structure – does not address LGBTQ

- A. UMC remains
- B. U.S. will be a Regional Conference

## 6. Christmas Covenant

Only changes UMC structure – does not address LGBTQ

- A. UMC remains
- B. Equitable Regional Conference structure created worldwide

# Paragraph 2553 - Disaffiliation

1. December 31, 2023 expiration date
2. Church Conference – 2/3 vote needed
3. Must meet with DS
4. 30 Day period of prayerful discernment
5. Meet with DS (and potentially any legal counsel)
6. Must be approved by annual conference

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Inserted into the Book of Discipline in 2019

<https://cdn.cokesbury.com/images/community/cokesburyportals/2016boderrata.pdf> (Viewed on 2 June 2022)

2. Only those physically attending the meeting are allowed to vote. In order to successfully disaffiliate, a 2/3 vote is needed for those in attendance

# Paragraph 2553 - Disaffiliation

1. Apportionments
  - a) Current amounts paid in full
  - b) 12 months paid in advance
2. Property retained by local church
3. Must pay unfunded pension liabilities

23

Inserted into the Book of Discipline in 2019

<https://cdn.cokesbury.com/images/community/cokesburyportals/2016boderrata.pdf> (Viewed on 2 June 2022)

Current amounts paid in full, using priority one figures given by the Virginia Conference. During the pandemic, the Virginia Conference created two categories for apportionments, priority one and two. If a church pays all of priority one, they are considered to have paid 100% of their apportionments. In 2022, CUMC's priority one and two apportionment is \$113,532; 16.9% per the current, approved budget.

# Disaffiliation Options

1. Global Methodist Church (NEW)
2. Liberation Methodist Connection (NEW)
3. One of many other Wesleyan related denominations (Free Methodist, Navarene, Church of the Brethren, etc)
4. Independent Church

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Inserted into the Book of Discipline in 2019

<https://cdn.cokesbury.com/images/community/cokesburyportals/2016boderrata.pdf> (Viewed on 2 June 2022)

Current amounts paid in full, using priority one figures given by the Virginia Conference (this year \$113,532; 16.9% per the current, approved budget). During the pandemic, the Virginia Conference created two categories for apportionments, priority one and two. If a church pays all of priority one, they are considered to have paid 100% of their apportionments.

**But note: we will have paid all but about \$19,000 IF WE VOTE to disaffiliate before Sept 29. If we vote to disaffiliate in 2023, we are unsure about the apportionments for 2023 and 2024.**



# GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

- Officially launched May 1, 2022
- Birthed from WCA (Wesleyan Covenant Association) – Traditional group from UMC



# GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

- No Trust Clause
- Bishops – not lifelong service
- Clergy appointed – not guaranteed
- Marriage between one man and one woman

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<https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

## 902. Stewardship of Assets

There is no trust clause for property held by local churches, annual conferences, regional conferences, connectional commissions, the Transitional Leadership Council, or any of their entities. Each local church, annual conference, regional conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed of in the event of the entity's dissolution.

## 307. Legal Definition of Church

Affirming the spiritual dimensions of the ministry of all Christians, it is recognized that this ministry exists in the secular world and that civil authorities may seek legal definition predicated on the nature of the Global Methodist Church in seeking fulfillment of this ministry. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the meaning of "Global Methodist Church," "the general Church," "the entire Church," and "the Church" as used in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline should be consonant with the traditional self-understanding of Methodists as to the meaning of these words. These terms refer to the

overall denomination and connectional relation and identity of its many local churches, the various conferences and their respective councils, boards, and agencies, and other Church units, which collectively constitute the religious system known as Global Methodism. Under the procedures set forth in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the “Global Methodist Church” as a denominational whole is not an entity, nor does it possess legal capacities and attributes. It does not and cannot hold title to property, nor does it have any officer, agent, employee, office, or location. Conferences, councils, boards, agencies, local churches, and other units bearing the name are, for the most part, legal entities capable of suing and being sued and possessed of legal capacities.

#### 501. The Nature of Superintendency

We share John Wesley’s conviction that bishops and elders are part of the same New Testament order. Therefore, bishops in the Global Methodist Church represent a specialized ministry rather than a separate order and are consecrated rather than ordained to their office. The role of bishop is a sacred trust held for a time as the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of our church allows. It is not a lifelong office.

#### 512. Clergy Effectiveness and Clergy Assurance

Accordingly, within the Global Methodist Church, neither elders nor deacons shall have the right to a guaranteed appointment.

#### 202. Our Witness to the World

7. We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman (Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:22-33).

8. We are saddened by all expressions of sexual behavior, including pornography, polygamy, and promiscuity, that do not recognize the sacred worth of each individual or that seek to exploit, abuse, objectify, or degrade others, or that represent less than God’s intentional design for His children. While affirming a scriptural view of sexuality and gender, we welcome all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus and are committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20).

#### 405. Basic Qualifications of the Ordained

Those to be ordained must meet the following qualifications:

2. Nurture and cultivate spiritual disciplines and patterns of holiness consistent with the General Rules, including responsible self-control by exhibiting personal habits that are conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all relationships, fidelity in a Christian marriage between one man and one woman, chastity in singleness, social responsibility, and the knowledge and love of God.

**Liberation**  
METHODIST CONNEXION



(LMX)

- Launched in November 2020
- Birthed from 2019 General Conference – Progressive group from UMC
- Loose connection of people, no official non-profit status

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<https://www.thelmx.org/about/>

## Incorporation

- Not necessary under UMC Book of Discipline
- Protects and exempts individuals from legal liability
- UMC has Trustees
- Our legal counsel recommended not to incorporate while in the UMC

# United Methodist Church

## **Challenges we are facing**

1. General Conference – date changes
2. Possible Disaffiliation
3. New Denominations (GMC & LMX)
4. Incorporation

## OUR MISSION

1. **BE** disciples of Jesus Christ
  2. **MAKE** disciples of Jesus Christ
- 