

Plans and Ideas for the Future of The United Methodist Church

Modified Traditionalist:

The UMC continues; provision for exit of congregations and clergy; continued LGBTQ restrictions on clergy, no same sex marriage, mandatory trials and penalties, no funding for "acceptance of homosexuality"; certification requirements

UMC Next ("NextGen UMC"):

The UMC continues; repeals Traditionalist Plan; commission for new constitution and organizational model with special GC session 2023; regional contextualization; immediate modifications to BoD removing discriminatory language about LGBTQ persons, marriage, ordination and episcopal consecration restrictions, funding ban; moratorium on complaints and trials; immediate local church exit provisions; provision for New Denominational Expressions of Methodism and affiliation procedures

Indianapolis:

The UMC continues with its current structure and polity for centrists in the USA; provision for additional new, entirely separate denominations for traditionalists, progressives, and others; annual conferences and local churches could vote by majority to align with these denominations; no annual conference approval needed for local churches to leave; default for U.S. conferences is the Centrist UMC, and for Central Conferences is Traditionalist UMC. Some General Boards continue as separate 501(c)(3) serving all UM denominations, while most remain under the Centrist UMC.

Bard-Jones:

Dissolution by 2025 into at least three denominations, traditionalist, centrist, progressive, with default being centrist; only legislation known is petition 90041 from GC19, declared constitutional, section 9 governing separation of annual conferences; vision of denominations in full communion, sharing much of the BoD at the start, with Progressive not only based on the Simple Plan, but affirming of LGBTQ people; centrist based on the Simple Plan; traditionalist keeping current BoD; suspension of trials during transition to 2022; general boards accountable to centrist church, providing services to others; GCFA becomes default umbrella til assets divided

New Expressions Worldwide (N.E.W.):

The UMC dissolves and gives birth to four denominations: traditionalist, centrist, progressive, liberationist in new BoD section between Par. 125 & 126; transitional council develops plan of separation for special GC; anticipated principles: moratorium on charges, complaints and trials based on LGBTQ issues; provision for affiliation of clergy, bishops, annual conferences, and local churches; general agencies all new non-profits;

Plain Grace:

Unlimited new Methodist expressions or denominations in full communion, in addition to The UMC; no default BoD; Full Communion, Gracious Affiliation, Dispute Resolution Agreements with a "common core" of beliefs with The UMC (The Apostles' Creed, the Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith, the General Rules, the Wesley Hymns and a Connectional Way of Life that includes Superintendency, Itineracy, and Conferencing). General Boards & Agencies continue. Non-US local churches, ACs, Central Conferences, clergy and Bishops treated the same as US counterparts. Immediate "Gracious Exit" provisions. No constitutional amendments.

Filipino:

The UMC, with global BoD, equality of regions, contextualized mission and ministry to regions; Connectional Table and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters jointly study and submit report to next GC of a restructured polity that affirms and values broad contextual ministry policies and practices, including parity in contextual authority among existing central and jurisdictional conferences

Methodist Communion:

The United Methodist Communion of Churches with a new constitution with unlimited new Methodist expressions or denominations; done by 2028;

"Ideas"

US Regional Conference

Developed by Connectional Table with CC input, US Regional Conference covers all matters pertaining only to the USA; Jurisdictional Conferences continue; Authority to contextualize the "adaptable" sections of the BoD to the United States, same as Ccs; General Conference only deals with General BoD; Constitutional Amendments required

Autonomous Annual Conferences (Weems)

Annual Conferences disaffiliate to become independent with possibility to affiliate with other conferences or denominations

ACs organized/defined by WJ by affinity

ACs may reorganize into multiple annual conferences and/or organizations by affinity within their bounds within the Jurisdiction (affinity of theology, stances on sexuality, biblical interpretation, etc.)

Missionary Conferences

Progressive and/or Traditionalist churches and clergy may organize themselves as a missionary conference of the main UMC conference to which they are attached

Fluidity Constitutional amendment

Revised Paragraph 41 to give annual conferences, central conferences, and jurisdictional conferences the right to do ministry anywhere they feel they can be effective: any local church may transfer to any annual conference from which they can secure a letter from the cabinet saying that they are willing to receive and supervise them.

More information: <https://bit.ly/2nxpj2n> and <https://jbenjaminroe.com/jbr/gc-2020/the-plans/270-a-look-at-the-plans-so-far>

By Ben Roe, 10/16/2019