



Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

The people
of The United
Methodist
Church®

REGIONALIZATION: WHAT IT MEANS

(and when you'll see changes)

Regionalization enables United Methodists across the connection to serve their unique communities more effectively as they share God's love, make disciples, and transform the world. It provides a pathway to live out the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church—expanding our witness, embracing cultural diversity, strengthening our connection, and empowering ministry in every context.

Now that regionalization is approved, what happens next?

The former Central Conferences have been renamed *Regional Conferences*, and a new *U.S. Regional Conference* will be formed. That means The United Methodist Church will have a total of nine regional conferences: four in Africa, three in Europe, one in the Philippines, and one in the United States.

What happens to The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters?

Between now and the 2028 General Conference, the committee's name will change to the Standing Committee on Regional Conference Matters outside the USA.

How will this affect the 2028 General Conference?

For 2028 only, a United States Regional Committee—made up of all U.S. General Conference delegates plus one lay and one clergy delegate from each regional conference outside the U.S.—will meet just before General Conference opens to address legislation related solely to the U.S. This group will dissolve once the U.S. Regional Conference begins operating.

The *2028 General Conference* will also consider a reorganized General Book of Discipline, identifying which portions each regional conference may adapt and compiling them into a new Part VII.

The General Conference continues to be the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church and will still convene every four years.

How will the General Book of Discipline work?

- **Parts I–VI** will apply to the whole denomination, adaptable only by General Conference.
- **Part VII** will be adaptable by each regional conference to fit its ministry needs.

When do regional conference decisions take effect?

Unless otherwise specified, decisions made by a regional conference take effect when its finalized version of Part VII is published.

Visit ResourceUMC.org/Regionalization to learn more!