

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

PRESENTATION

GENERAL CONFERENCE

INFO SESSION



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU!

#BeUMC


CENTRAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FULL COMMUNION

with the Episcopal Church, USA



What does this mean?

Full Communion describes a relationship between differing denominations who agree on certain essentials of faith. Through this relationship both clergy and laity are invited to preside and/or participate at the communion table in both worship settings. It also allows for clergy to be cross appointed to serve in the other denomination if needed.

Currently, the United Methodist Church is in full communion with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, African Union Methodist Protestant Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Uniting Church of Sweden, the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Moravian Church

The Episcopal Church, USA will vote to approve full communion with the UMC in 2027 at their denominational gathering.

REGIONALIZATION

Central Conferences

Regionalization has been, in part, around for years. Outside of the US, the global church has been broken into Central conferences that allow them to adapt the Book of Discipline to their contexts.

Until now, the UMC in the US has not had this freedom. The vote for regionalization now puts all of the conferences on equal footing, and allows the General Conference gathering to address truly global matters (e.g. instead of having the world vote on pension plans that only impact clergy in the US).

Because regionalization requires an amendment to the constitution of the UMC, it must be ratified by 2/3 of Annual Conferences by a 2/3 vote.



DISAFFILIATION + REAFFILIATION



The General Conference eliminated paragraph 2553 concerning disaffiliation (which had sunset at the end of 2023). The body also introduced channels for pastors and churches to reaffiliate (return) with the UMC, as long as returning churches agree to the UMC Trust Clause governing church property.

FINANCES



General Conference discussions have centered on a new general church budget, expected to be substantially reduced, and the adoption of a new clergy retirement plan called Compass. These changes are an effort to address lower apportionment receipts and ensure greater financial sustainability.

The apportionment percentage was also reduced to lighten the burden on Annual Conferences, and allow them to focus more financially on the local church.



SACRAMENTAL AUTHORITY FOR DEACONS



The General Conference body voted to approve sacramental authority for United Methodist Deacons. This means they now have the ability to preside at the table as well as baptize in the local church without obtaining special permission from the bishop.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

do no harm. do good. stay in love with God.

01

Removal of Prohibitions

General Conference voted to approve legislation removing language prohibiting the ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy

02

Removal of Chargeable Offenses

General Conference also voted to remove performing same sex marriages as a chargeable offense and changed the language to marriage between “one man and one woman or two consenting adults”.

03

Returning Autonomy to the Local Church

The decisions made at General Conference return autonomy to the local church and individual clergy to act according to their context and convictions.

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER


CENTRAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

and
KNOW
that
GOD

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU!

#BeUMC