

<p><b>Impact on Local Churches (LC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local church is not required to vote.</li> <li>If a local church wanted to host gay weddings, its church conference would need to take action before the first ceremony. Local leaders have maximum flexibility to discern need and timing for such action.</li> <li>Local Church Staff Parish Relations Committee may communicate their congregation's preferences for appointments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Churches may acquiesce to their Annual Conference's decision to remain or leave the UMC, and they may majority-vote to remain UMC if their AC leaves.</li> <li>Any group of 50 or more Local Churches may form a new Self-Governing Methodist Church and remain quasi-connected via agency partnerships and concordat representation at General Conference.</li> <li>No change to the UMC's current of congregational ministry via general boards and agencies.</li> </ul> <p><i>[Note: Loss of Annual Conferences and Local Churches would reduce congregational giving substantially and thus sharply decrease congregational ministries provided through our General Agencies. However, it is difficult to predict how this loss which is a feature of the Traditionalist Plan would compare to whatever loss may be an unintended by-product of the other two plans or how it would compare to a negative reaction if no changes are made at GC2019. Whatever loss there may be in terms of general agency outputs will be even greater assuming that congregational support for the Episcopal Fund remains constant.]</i></p>
<p><b>Impact on General Agencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change to the UMC's current of congregational ministry via general boards and agencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This plan assumes the various Connectional Conferences have different levels of support – and in some cases no support – for specific general agencies. When these conferences are formed, they will discern which agencies to support. This will mean different levels of general church appointments for each connectional conference.</li> <li>This plan is written so that certain agencies will be supported equally by all the US-based connectional conferences: Wesley, GCEA, Archives and History, UMCOM and some to-be-determined parts of General Board of Global Missions.</li> <li>This plan assumes that certain agencies and funds may not be supported by all Connectional Conferences' apportionment giving: General Board of Church &amp; Society, Discipleship Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Ministerial Education Fund, Black College Fund, and Africa University Fund.</li> <li>This plan eliminates GCORR and GCSRW. However, these would be continued through 2025 to assist the three Connectional Conferences in creating some other approach to fulfilling the UMC's historic commitment to racial and gender equity.</li> <li>Bishops will need to select which Connectional Conference to join.</li> <li>There could be mismatch between number of episcopal areas in a Connectional Conference and the number of bishops choosing to affiliate with it.</li> <li>There could be ideological mismatch between some individual bishops and their currently assigned episcopal area.</li> <li>Primary accountability of bishops will be lodged in ideologically-defined Connectional Conferences' Colleges of Bishops.</li> <li>Clergy will need to select which Connectional Conference to join.</li> <li>There could be mismatch between number of local charges in a Connectional Conference and the number of clergy choosing to affiliate with it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact on Bishops</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change forced on bishops. Their conscience rights are protected.</li> <li>It could be awkward for a bishop assigned to an Annual Conference, so that doesn't share the opinion of the assigned annual conference, so this will be a factor in episcopal assignments.</li> <li>An extra bishop will be provided for the ordination service if needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bishops will be required to certify they support and will uphold the current restrictive language and prohibitions in the Book of Discipline.</li> <li>Bishops will lose some flexibility they currently have in settling disputes within their episcopal area via the Just Resolution process.</li> <li>Accountability of bishops will be partially globalized instead of the currently all regionalized process.</li> <li>Bishops may be forced into early retirement or placed in involuntary leave.</li> <li>Clergy persons will be required to uphold the current restrictive language and prohibitions in the Book of Discipline, and they will face more certain disciplinary actions if they are unwilling to do so. More trials.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact on Clergy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change in practices forced on clergy.</li> <li>Their conscience rights are protected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GC2019 two-thirds vote to modify UMC conferencing structure (General Conf)</li> <li>AC2019 two-thirds vote to modify UMC conferencing structure (Annual Conf)</li> <li>JC2020 majority vote to align with one of three new conferences (Jurist Conf)</li> <li>AC2020 majority vote to align with same or different conference</li> <li>LC2020 majority vote to align with same or different conference (Local Church Conf)</li> <li>CC2022 votes on new adaptable Books of Discipline (Connectional Conf)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decisioning Process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GC2019 majority vote to remove restrictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GC2019 majority vote to add these additional rules</li> <li>AC2019 majority votes to certify upholding all rules related to homosexuality</li> <li>JC2020 votes to remap territory to cover departing annual conferences</li> <li>Possible AC2019 votes to leave UMC</li> <li>Possible Local Church (LC) votes in 2019 or 2020 to leave UMC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Beginning of new era</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final decision Feb 2019</li> <li>Effective date for new rules Jan 2021 (after cooling off period).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final decision for change by March 2020</li> <li>Realignment decisions 2021-2022</li> <li>Organizing new Connectional Conferences Fall 2022</li> <li>New cycle for quadrennial General Conferences 2025</li> <li>Final decision Feb 2019</li> <li>Effective date Feb 2019, and GCEA enforcement begins Jan 2021</li> <li>Enforcement towards uniformly 2021-2023</li> <li>First General Conference with new concordat lepps 2024</li> </ul>