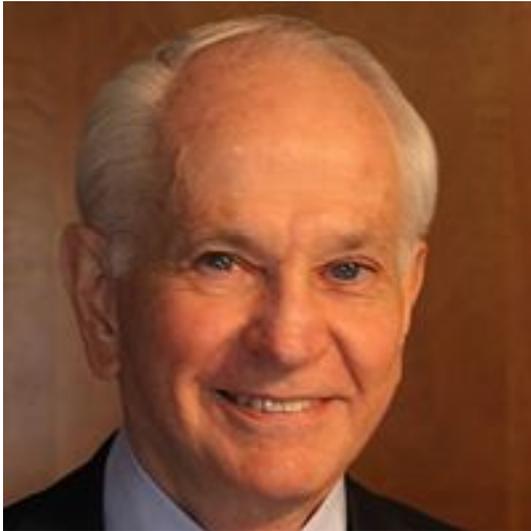


A Friend of the UMC in Africa Asks U.S. Traditionalists to Not Give Up on Renewal and Reform



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Via Facebook on the Conservative Evangelical United Methodists Page

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Dear Friends in renewal:

As to the coming separation--let's please keep in mind our responsibilities to the Africans who had the most votes in God's great victory in St. Louis. Theirs is the trump card, not the Americans, and we should know, respect and respond to their thoughts and feelings for that reason and for other important reasons, such as justice and fairness.

The Africans have said they want to keep the Cross and Flame. They are loyal to United Methodism. This is the symbol they have enjoyed and supported for generations, and it is the name and symbol they have placed on the graves of the missionaries and the pastors they have loved and followed. It is deeply respected in their villages, towns and cities. Given their high mortality rate and birth rate, it is what the vast majority have known of the UMC "brand."

We offered the UMC a well-constructed Gracious Exit program. The liberals kicked us in the teeth, or we would have perfected it in February. We had the votes in 2019 and we will have them again in 2020 and beyond. To give up what the Africans want, deserve and need, in order to accommodate those who mistreated us and who have led the UMC in unscriptural directions is wrong and unnecessary.

Let's remember that the UMC has \$402 million in total reserves; of that number there is \$37 million represented by buildings and land, and another \$268 million awaiting service to comply with various restrictions, leaving about \$87 million in unrestricted liquid reserves.

Let's remember the great needs in Africa; seminaries using out-houses, students cooking their meals on fires, student families growing their corn and veggies, pastors riding on bicycles to serve communion in a distant village with inadequate public transportation, UMC elementary and secondary schools with no printed materials, broken sewing machines and outdated computers in vocational training classes; UM hospitals with broken X-rays, broken lighting in operating rooms, broken bathrooms in the wards, and the list goes on.

We have the majority votes in the legislature, and we can change the numbers of bishops on the Council of Bishops and gain fair representation in that body. We don't need to give away anything. Justice requires a refocus of these powerful resources. Fairness and justice demand the deepest respect for the needs of those with the majority votes within God's winning coalition.

Stick with our Gracious Exit plan and don't invent plans to appease people who have been unjust, unkind, unproductive, and unscriptural. Our loyal allies have greater needs.