

What Remains? Everything Else!

Our Mission:

To live in God's grace and abundance as we lead a re-energized peaceful and compassionate movement to claim the life-changing love of Jesus Christ for ALL people.

We will do this by:

- Renewing and establishing vital congregations
- Developing leaders who are gifted at empowering local churches and laity in the Church's mission
- Establishing new faith communities to meet the needs of our unique mission field

Our Values:

- Accountability, inclusivity, collaboration, outwardly focused, simplicity with transparency, breaking barriers and building bridges, and honoring diverse voices and ideas
- Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!
- Church ownership of property
- Guaranteed appointments
- Appointive process
- Clergy benefits

Our Goal:

97 percent of the 378 conference churches, and the clergy who serve them, covenant together to create a new connection. The focus of this new connection would continue to "live God's grace and abundance as we lead a re-energized peaceful and compassionate movement to claim the life-changing love of Jesus Christ for ALL people."

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to clergy pensions?

Wespath assures clergy that their benefits are secure. In the future, they intend to work with all Wesleyan related churches for health and pension benefits.

What happens to UMCOR?

This is an extremely valued ministry. But only 20% of their budget comes from General Conference apportionments. They are very willing to accept donations from everyone

What about UMVIM, GBGM, The Upper Room, and other General Boards and Agencies?

Some already work ecumenically. Others are in the process of following the example of Wespath and forming independent organizations to serve Wesleyan churches and conferences.

“*The General Conference is broken and appears unable to fix itself, at least in the short term. But we have an alternative in our heritage not based on the corporate centralization of the 20th century. It is the annual conference as the basic unit of the church. If we have seemingly irreconcilable differences, then let the annual conferences set their paths until God's wisdom for the future is more clearly revealed. It's time to devolve most decisions beyond doctrine, mission and values to the annual conferences.*

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Senior Consultant at Lewis Center for Church Leadership, Professor of Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary, and author of several books on church leadership.

The Future of the



“General Conference is Broken. Annual Conferences are not.”

Lovett H. Weems, Jr.
Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Wesley Seminary Professor
Leading Ideas, 4/9/19

<https://www.churchleadership.com/focus/general-conference-is-broken-annual-conferences-are-not/>

General Conference has proven to be incapable of leading a 21st century, global church. There is no indication that General Conference 2020 will be different.

The Council of Bishops is structured in such a way that it cannot effectively lead the church. Despite years of prayer and conversation, the Commission on the Way Forward was incapable of finding the path to unity.

If GC2020 continues the pattern of GC2019, then **we intend to create a new Methodist connection** that preserves the best of the Wesleyan Movement and the United Methodist Church while gaining the freedom for vital, inclusive ministry in the 21st century.

The Best of the Methodist Movement

- Grace filled: Preventive, justifying, sanctifying
- Inclusive
- Vital Piety
- Social Holiness
- Holy Conferencing
- Open Communion
- Small Groups: Bands, classes and societies
- Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience

The Best of the United Methodist Church

- Episcopal
- Connectional
- Clergy:
 - Ordained and Licensed
 - Appointed
 - Itinerant
 - Guaranteed appointments for Elders
- Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

What Changes?

The Annual Conference defines our covenant instead of the General Conference.

Instead of Jurisdictional Conference, the Annual Conference elects our bishop.

The Discipline would be written by the Annual Conference. At the beginning, the restrictive language around human sexuality, added since 1972, would be removed. This would allow local churches and clergy to determine how they wish to approach same gender marriages. The Board of Ordained Ministry would decide who shows the gifts, graces and calling for ministry. References to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference and general boards and agencies would be removed, reducing the size of the Discipline by approximately 50%. Everything else remains the same at the beginning.

Over a period of time, the Discipline would be carefully simplified and abbreviated. It would contain our shared covenant and support our vision, values and mission for the future.

New relationships would then be developed between The Mountain Sky Conference and other conferences, denominations, boards and agencies, self-organizing churches and Central Conferences.