

# The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation and Restructuring

## Overview & Quick Facts

visit [gracethroughseparation.com](http://gracethroughseparation.com) for more information

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE

- General Conference (GC) August 29 - September 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - Originally delayed from May 2020 to August - September 2021
  - Due to COVID travel issues as well as obstacles to virtual conferencing, GC has been scheduled for August - September 2022.

### SOUTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL (SEJ) CONFERENCE

- The originally scheduled SEJ conference has been suspended until further notice
  - Three proposals were to be brought to the SEJ conference before the most recent suspension (due to the 2021 GC being postponed for a second time)
    - Elect no new bishops in 2021
    - Allow 5 eligible bishops to retire
    - Combine episcopal areas for the remaining 8 bishops
    - Note: Eligible bishops can voluntarily retire and episcopal area would be combined

### "THE PROTOCOL" OVERVIEW

- United Methodist leaders from traditional, centrist, and progressive caucuses met together after the called 2019 General Conference to discuss ways to allow for a "win-win" situation over the continued debate over issues related to human sexuality. The decision by this group was to have an amicable separation within the United Methodist Church.
- The team worked with an impartial negotiator and have proposed legislation called "The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation and Restructuring" often referred to as "The Protocol"
- Highlights of the Protocol:
  - Allows for the formation of a new orthodox "traditional" Methodist Church, proposed to be named the "Global Methodist Church" (See [globalmethodist.org](http://globalmethodist.org) for more information).
  - Allows for the "Post Separation UMC" to repeal the traditional plan adopted in 2019 and remove all language related to LGBTQ persons in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
  - Central or Annual Conferences will make the decision whether to separate the UMC and join the new orthodox denomination.
  - If a conference (Central or Annual) chooses to separate from the UMC, all local churches and clergy will separate unless the local church votes or individual clergy chooses to remain in the UMC. If a conference chooses to remain in the UMC, local churches can vote and clergy can choose to join the new denomination.

## "THE PROTOCOL" DETAILS

- The new denomination (Global Methodist Church) will maintain the current stance regarding definition of marriage and ordination related LGBTQ persons.
- The new denomination will assume all appropriate Pension Liabilities.
- Central Conferences (Conference outside of the US) may join the new denomination by a 2/3 vote
- Annual Conferences (AC) may join with a 57% vote
- Clergy (active and retired) disagreeing with the alignment of their AC may decide to join the other denomination by informing their District Superintendent.
- Local Churches disagreeing with the alignment of their AC can by the decision of their Church Leadership/Administrative Board, take a church wide vote to align differently.
- If a vote is held by the local church, the administrative board can decide if the church wide vote (members only) will need a 2/3 or simple majority.
- Clergy joining the new denomination are grandfathered in at the point of their ordination journey.
- Annual Conferences and Local Churches moving to the new denomination shall retain all of their property, assets, and liabilities.
- The UMC is to set aside \$25,000,000 for the new denomination.
- Disaffiliating churches not joining the new denomination shall pay any unpaid apportionments of the past 12 months and an additional 12 months.

## METHODISM MOVING FORWARD

- If the Protocol passes the next General Conference, two expressions of Methodism will form out of the current United Methodist Church:



### Post Separation UMC (psUMC)

The psUMC will inherit the current UMC infrastructure, Boards and Agencies, and will have a progressive viewpoint on theology and human sexuality.



### GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

The GMC (organized by the Wesleyan Covenant Association) will have an emphasis on traditional orthodox theology and a traditional view of human sexuality.

## IF PROTOCOL DOES NOT PASS

- The Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) will launch the new denomination without delay.
- United Methodist Clergy can make their own decision to disaffiliate with the UMC and join the GMC.
- Local churches can vote to disaffiliate from the UMC via church conference, but those churches must comply with the current disaffiliation requirements of their current Annual Conference.

## CURRENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISAFFILIATION MINIMUM PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. The present value of the church's portion of the pension liability.
2. The present value of post-retirement medical benefit.
3. Two years of present year apportionments.
4. The church must complete payment of any current or previous unpaid apportionments, any unpaid direct billing, and any other liabilities.
5. The Conference Board of Trustees have the right to renegotiate these terms to a higher fee or retain property in order to benefit the continuing work of the denomination in that area.