

The United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church Compared

Adapted and Updated from a May, 2021 Document, July 2022

	United Methodist Church	Global Methodist Church
General Conference, Annual Conference, and District Structures?	Yes. Annual conference and district boundaries likely will be adjusted in many locations following the separation.	Yes. Annual conference and district boundaries will be new in many places. General Conference will meet every two years while the church is organizing and every four to six years afterward., frequency to be determined at the Convening General Conference
Boards and Agencies?	Inherits the current 13 general boards and agencies.	New, leaner structure with a single connectional operations officer overseeing.
Name?	The United Methodist Church	The Global Methodist Church
Trust Clause on Local Church Properties?	Local church property and assets belong to the Annual Conference.	Local church property owned by the local church.
Global in Nature?	Likely yes (U.S., Western Europe, parts of Philippines, and maybe Africa)	Likely yes (U.S., Eastern Europe, part of Philippines, and Africa). Some former UMC conferences in Latin America and Asia have indicated an interest in joining, too.
Openly Noncelibate homosexual or Transgender Bishops and Clergy?	Yes. Even though the BOD states that openly noncelibate homosexual persons cannot be ordained, there is one openly lesbian Bishop and several conferences have ordained gay pastors	No
Clergy performing same-sex Weddings or churches able to host same-sex weddings?	It is likely that a more progressive UMC will remove Same-sex marriage restrictions from the Discipline, maybe as early as 2024. At the beginning, clergy would be able to choose whether to perform such services and churches could choose whether to hold them.	No

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Position on Abortion?	<p>BoD par 161.k, “<i>Abortion</i>—The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.</p> <p>“But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. We support parental, guardian, or other responsible adult notification and consent before abortions can be performed on girls who have not yet reached the age of legal adulthood. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection or eugenics”</p> <p>NOTE: Both the UM Council of Bishops and the UM General Board of Church and Society wrote open letters of opposition to the US Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v Wade.</p>	<p>TBDD par 203.3, “The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the wellbeing of the mother and the child are at stake. We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of Life to prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources (Exodus 22:23-23, Psalm 139:13-16, James 1:27).”</p>
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Female Clergy at All Levels of Leadership?	Yes	Yes
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Clergy Deployment?	<p>Ordained clergy guaranteed an appointment by the bishop, and the local church guaranteed a pastor of the bishop's choosing -- with consultation.</p>	<p>Collaborative appointment system where church lay leaders have a bigger voice in the appointment. No guaranteed appointments for clergy. Bishop must sign off on the selection made. Minority candidates must be considered.</p>
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Ordination?	<p>Elders and Deacons are separate orders. Commissioning is a step toward ordination in both orders.</p> <p>licensed local pastors have limited sacramental authority and limited voting rights in the Annual Conference.</p> <p>Deacons do not have full sacramental authority.</p>	<p>Ordination to become an Elder will return to the pre-1992 form of the UMC. Candidates will be ordained first Deacon, then Elder.</p> <p>Licensed Local Pastors will be ordained Deacon or Elder depending on their educational process with full sacramental and voting rights.</p> <p>There will also be permanent deacons. Deacons have sacramental authority.</p>
Bishops?	<p>Yes. Bishops for life (in the U.S). Selected by Jurisdictional/ Central Conferences and paid by General Church.</p>	<p>Yes. Term-limited. Called by the annual conference from a list of candidates approved at General Conference. After the term limit, the Bishop will return to local pastoral ministry</p>
District Superintendents?	<p>Yes. Appointed by the bishop. In the Texas Annual Conference, District Superintendency is administrative and each DS has 50 – 70 churches</p>	<p>Presiding Elders (the historic term for DS's) may also serve a local church. They will be selected by the bishop from a nominated slate elected at a district conference. District size will be smaller.</p>
Clergy Appointment Length?	<p>One year at a time.</p>	<p>Open-ended. The bishop's consent is required to declare a pulpit open.</p>
Theology?	<p>How the UMC teaches core tenets of the Christian faith including Primacy of Scripture, Divinity of Christ, Belief in the Trinity, physical resurrection of Christ and Christ's blood atonement for sin.</p> <p>Classic, in the BOD, per Wesley's <u>Articles of Faith</u> and EUB <u>Confession of Faith</u>, Wesley's Standard Sermons and Notes on the New Testament, and the Methodist Restrictive Rules.</p> <p>While the Standards of Doctrine are orthodox, there are seminaries, pastors and Bishops who openly deny many of the core tenets of Christianity. There is no means of accountability for this.</p>	<p>How the GMC teaches core tenets of the Christian faith including Primacy of Scripture, Divinity of Christ, Belief in the Trinity, physical resurrection of Christ and Christ's blood atonement for sin.</p> <p>Classic, in the TBDD, per Wesley's <u>Articles of Faith</u> and EUB <u>Confession of Faith</u>, Wesley's Standard Sermons and Notes on the New Testament, and the Methodist Restrictive Rules. GMC adds texts of the Nicene and Apostle's Creeds and the Definition of Chalcedon.</p> <p>TBDD par 354 provides a way for the GMC to maintain accountability for pastors and churches holding to Standards of Doctrine.</p>

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Apportionments?	Yes, and will likely be higher as more traditional churches leave the denomination.	Yes, but the without the General Boards and Agencies, a church's share will be lower.
Clergy Pensions	Administered by Wespath	Administered by Wespath
Clergy Health Benefits	Currently self-administered through Boon Chapman. All clergy required to participate, plus an apportionment to the local church	Healthflex through Wespath. All clergy required to participate unless they are covered under another plan (spouse). No apportionment added
Clergy Retirement	Mandatory at age 72	No mandatory retirement age