

## Information about the Global Methodist Church

- The Global Methodist Church (GMC) is a new, orthodox, evangelical denomination being formed out of the United Methodist Church (UMC)
  - The GMC has been *in formation* since 2020, under the direction of a Transitional Leadership Council (TLC)
- The GMC is born out of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA)
  - WCA is a group of conservative, evangelical members & pastors *within* the UMC
  - Members of WCA have covenanted together to maintain Biblical values and standards in our congregations as long as we are part of the UMC
    - Pastor Mike has been an individual member of WCA since its inception in 2016
    - Dayton UMC has been a congregational member of WCA since 2016, as well
    - Therefore members of DUMC are members of WCA
  - WCA is the midwife organization, guiding the giving birth of the Global Methodist Church
  - The WCA will continue to exist within the UMC, seeking to influence the main denomination to adopt fair and amicable legislation for the 2024 General Conference to allow congregations which have not already done so to move to the GMC with their property and assets
- The TLC is made up of WCA leaders, orthodox Bishops and other conservative UM Church leaders
  - Rev Keith Boyette is the President of both the WCA and the GMC
- The GMC will legally launch and become a denomination on May 1, 2022
  - After that time, congregations, Pastors and even Annual Conferences may join the GMC by one of four current methods:
    - **Disaffiliation**, which involves
      - Payment in full of unfunded pension liability to the UMC
      - Payment of all current apportionments, plus one extra year of apportionments
      - Payment of any loans or grants owed to the UMC (DUMC has none)
      - Payment of one year's portion of retiree's health benefits
      - The total of these payments for DUMC is calculated at \$395,000
    - **Transfer by Comity Agreement**, which involves (if moving to the GMC)
      - Transfer of unfunded pension liability to the GMC
      - Amounts negotiated with the Annual Conference in the Comity Agreement
      - Approval of the transfer by the Bishop and by vote of the Annual Conference (both are expected to be favorable in our Indiana Conference)
    - **Closing the Church officially, then buying back the building** at whatever negotiated price agreed upon by the Annual Conference
      - I believe the Annual Conference has set this price largely at the same number as the disaffiliation above, seeking to receive from the church the unfunded pension liability and some extra for cash flow
    - **Lawsuit**, essentially telling the Conference we are withdrawing from the UMC with our building and assets – sue us
  - The Comity Agreement option has not been possible before because the GMC had not launched, unless a congregation wanted to transfer to the Free Methodist or Nazarene or Wesleyan or other denomination

## Key Differences between the GMC and the UMC

|   | Current UMC   | Transition  | Proposed GMC  |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>DOCTRINE</b>   |   |   |   |
| Doctrinal Standards   | Not often enforced  | Mandatory for all clergy to preach & maintain   | Mandatory for all clergy to preach & maintain   |
| Apostle's Creed<br>Nicene Creed<br>Definition of Chalcedon  | Not included in standards   | Foundational documents expressing orthodox Christian teaching   | Foundational documents expressing orthodox Christian teaching   |
| Wesley's 44 Standard Sermons & Notes Upon the New Testament | Stated doctrinal standard, loosely adhered to   | Normative Wesleyan Standard to define Wesleyan teaching   | Normative Wesleyan Standard to define Wesleyan teaching   |
| Scripture   | "Primary source & criterion for Christian doctrine"<br>Often reinterpreted by many  | Primary rule and authority for faith, morals and service, against which all other authorities must be measured  | Primary rule and authority for faith, morals and service, against which all other authorities must be measured  |
| <b>SOCIAL PRINCIPLES</b>                                    |   |   |   |
| Length  | 61 pages, plus 873-page <i>Book of Resolutions</i><br>Takes stands on <i>many</i> social and political issues   | 2 pages   | 2 pages   |
| Abortion  | Balances sanctity of unborn life with life and well-being of mother; rejects abortion as means of birth control or gender selection – likely to be changed to be more pro-choice in post separation UMC (psUMC) | Believing in the sacredness of all life, resists the practice of abortion except in cases of tragic conflicts of life against life. Do not accept abortion as means of birth control or gender selection. all Christians to support women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel or resources | Believing in the sacredness of all life, resists the practice of abortion except in cases of tragic conflicts of life against life. Do not accept abortion as means of birth control or gender selection. all Christians to support women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel or resources |
| Human Sexuality   | God's gift to all persons; affirmed only within covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage – likely to loosen considerably in psUMC  | Human sexuality is a gift of God, affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man & one woman   | Human sexuality is a gift of God, affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man & one woman   |
| Homosexuality   | Affirms sacred worth of all, God's grace available to all; does not condone practice of homosexuality; considers practice incompatible with Christian teaching – likely to loosen considerably in psUMC         | No explicit reference to homosexuality; rejects pornography polygamy and promiscuity; commits to church to be safe place of refuge, hospitality & healing for all experiencing sexual brokenness  | No explicit reference to homosexuality; rejects pornography polygamy and promiscuity; commits to church to be safe place of refuge, hospitality & healing for all experiencing sexual brokenness  |
| Marriage  | Affirms marriage covenant expressed in love, support, commitment & shared fidelity between a man & a woman – likely to be redefined as between "two persons" in psUMC   | Defined as a legal and spiritual covenant of loving and monogamous relationship between one man & one woman   | Defined as a legal and spiritual covenant of loving and monogamous relationship between one man & one woman   |

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| <b>LOCAL CHURCH</b>   |  |  |  |
| Mission of the Church                                       | Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world   | Make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly & witness boldly   | To “spread scriptural holiness across the land”  |
| Membership Categories                                       | Baptized & Professing  | Baptized & Professing  | Preparator & Professing  |
| Rebaptism   | No   | No   | No   |
| Baptism of Infants/children                                 | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  |
| Confirmation  | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  |
| Accountable Discipleship Groups                             | Encouraged of each member  | Expected of each member  | Expected of each member  |
| Local Church Organization                                   | --Church Conference<br>--Church Council<br>--Nomination & Leadership<br>--Staff/Parish Relations<br>--Finance Committee<br>--Board of Trustees<br>--Other Committees as needed | --Church Conference<br>--Church Council<br>Flexible structure for all other functions:<br>--Nominations<br>--Staff/Parish<br>--Finance<br>--Trustees<br>--Other Committees | --Church Conference<br>--Church Council<br>Flexible structure for all other functions:<br>--Nominations<br>--Staff/Parish<br>--Finance<br>--Trustees<br>--Other Committees |
| Church Property   | Held in trust for the denomination   | Owned by local church<br>Pension liabilities owed where applicable, secured by lien on property  | Owned by local church<br>Pension liabilities owed where applicable, secured by lien on property  |
| Voluntary disaffiliation by local church retaining property | 2/3 vote of congregation<br>Majority vote of Annual Conference<br>Payment of 2 years apportionments & all pension liabilities  | Majority vote of congregation<br>No payments except pension liabilities where applicable, secured by lien on property  | Not stated, yet  |
| Connectional Funding  | Amounts to 7-15% of local church budget  | 1.5% of local church income for General Church<br>5% of local church income for Annual Conference  | Not yet determined   |
| <b>BISHOPS</b>  |  |  |  |
| Election  | Elected by Jurisdictional Conference for life  | Election process not stated<br>Term of office to be determined by General Conference<br>TLC appoints President <i>pro-tempore</i> in new Annual Conference with no Bishop  | Two candidates nominated by each Annual Conference<br>GC elects pool of potential Bishops<br>Term of office = 12 years maximum   |
| Deployment  | Deployed by Jurisdictional Conference Episcopacy Committee   | Assigned as necessary by TLC for transitional period   | Annual Conference Episcopacy Committee conducts search from Episcopal pool, selection affirmed by Council of Bishops & General Episcopacy Committee                        |
| Compensation  | Salary & benefits set by GCFA, paid by Episcopal Fund from apportionments  | Salary & benefits set by TLC, paid by Annual Conference  | Guidelines for salary & benefits set by General Episcopacy Committee<br>Actual salary set by & paid by Annual Conference   |

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|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| District Superintendents  | Appointed by Bishop<br>6-year term<br>12-year limit                    | Presiding Elder appointed<br>by Bishop in consultation<br>with District leaders<br>Term of office TBD by<br>Convening General<br>Conference | Bishop selects one<br>Presiding<br>Elder of three candidates<br>elected by District to serve<br>12-year limit<br>May simultaneously serve<br>as local church pastor or<br>be retired<br>Recommend 20-30<br>churches per District<br>(Indiana AC has 100+<br>churches per District)  |
| Accountability of Bishops | College of Bishops at<br>Jurisdiction where elected                    | Transitional Leadership<br>Council  | General Episcopacy<br>Committee   |
| <b>APPOINTMENTS</b>       |  |   |   |
| Retirement of Clergy      | Mandatory at age 72  | No mandatory retirement<br>May choose Senior Status<br>(releases one from<br>obligation to accept an<br>appointment)                        | No mandatory retirement<br>May choose Senior Status<br>(releases one from<br>obligation to accept an<br>appointment)  |
| Guaranteed Appointment    | Yes  | No—written rationale<br>given when no<br>appointment made   | No  |
| Appointment Process       | Bishop and Cabinet<br>appoint after consultation<br>with clergy & SPRC | Maintain existing<br>appointments during<br>transition, if possible<br>Appointment after<br>extensive consultation<br>with clergy & SPRC    | Church Council decides<br>whether to do its own<br>search or request<br>candidates from Bishop<br>Transition Team interviews<br>candidates, makes final<br>recommendation<br>Approval of Bishop,<br>Presiding Elder, Transition<br>Team & clergy needed to<br>set appointment<br>Candidates interviewed<br>must include at least one<br>female and one cross-<br>cultural candidate |