



1548 South Hart St Road Vincennes, IN 47591

812-882-2220

Sunday Worship 9:30am

Sunday School Classes 10:45am

Check out the [Church Calendar](#) on our website.



Public Wi-Fi: communitychurchofvincennes Public Wi-Fi password: CommunityChurch



by Pastor Darren

A weekly video devotional designed to challenge and encourage believers in their daily walk with the Lord.

Thanks for stopping in and may the Spirit of God be with you as you seek his face and grow in the Spirit.

Click [here](#) to watch this weeks Word.

If you have missed any previous "Word for the Week", you can find them on



IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE TURN IN YOUR RECIPES **THIS SUNDAY** FOR OUR NEW RECIPE BOOK. EACH PERSON IS WELCOME TO SUBMIT UP TO 3 RECIPES!!! PLEASE TURN YOUR RECIPES IN TO EVA BENSON OR CHERYL WILLIAMS AND MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON YOUR RECIPE.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS UP AND OFF TO A BLESSED START.

WE HAVE 2 GROUPS:

ONE MEETS ON TUESDAYS AT 1 PM, AND THE OTHER MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 10 AM.

BRING YOUR BIBLE AND JOIN US. WE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE BOOK OF JAMES.

ANY QUESTIONS, SEE CHERYL WILLIAMS.



**May 19
is Pentecost Sunday. Our
President Pro Tem
Rev. Dr. Scott Pattison will
be our guest speaker.
Please wear your church
shirts.**



Sunday, May 19 following Sunday School, our church will be hosting a luncheon for our President Pro Tem Rev. Dr. Scott Pattison. All are welcome to stay, and we will also open this time up to local churches who may have questions about the Global Methodist Church, the Disaffiliation process and so on.

If you would be willing to help with food (SALADS & DESSERTS), please see Cheryl Marvel.

**A signup sheet has been placed on the Welcome Center so we can gauge approximately how many will be in attendance for lunch that day.
PLEASE SIGN UP BEFORE MAY 15TH.**



ICE CREAM PARTY

Thursday, May 23rd 6-8pm at
Community Church of Vincennes

Please RSVP
at 812-677-1052



**OUTSIDE
GAMES**

**Please bring
your family to
meet the mentors**

GIFTS

WE STILL HAVE
NOODLES!!!
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN PURCHASING A BAG OR
TWO...OR MORE,
PLEASE SEE SUE
SEITZINGER, CHERYL
MARVEL, ALICE CARRIE,
ROSANNA STUBBLEFIELD,
OR PATTY DREIMAN. OR
YOU CAN CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE.
THE NOODLES ARE
\$8 A BAG.



The Mountain Mission Truck will be here for
pick-up on Tuesday May 21st.

Items can be dropped off beginning
Monday, May 6, 2024.

The Pavilion will be open Monday-Friday
8 am until 2 pm
May 6-May 20.

They have requested the following items
that they have a very low inventory of:

Bed Sheets, comforters, blankets, pillows, towels, wash cloths,
bedspreads, quilts, Knickknacks, collectibles, socks and
underwear (for all ages), purses, swimwear, crafting supplies,
pots & pans.

UPDATED CAMP INFORMATION
SEE FLIER BELOW!!!



Click on the following links:

[Camper Registration](#)
[Camper Scholarship](#)
[Volunteer Registration](#)

SUMMER CAMP
CAMP RIVERVALE

\$175

GRADES K-2

JUNE 16-18

**CAMPER
REGISTRATION**



\$350

GRADES 3-6

JUNE 16-21

**CAMPER
SCHOLARSHIP**



\$350

GRADES 7-12

JUNE 16-21

**VOLUNTEER
REGISTRATION**





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 10-14, 2024 6-8 PM

It's time to register your kids, grandkids, and neighbor kids and/or sign up to volunteer for 2024 Vacation Bible School!!!

Click on the link below to register or pick up a paper registration copy at the Welcome Center.

Volunteer signup sheet will also be at the Welcome Center!

MONETARY DONATIONS FOR VBS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE PUT THE DONATIONS IN THE OFFERING PLATE AND DESIGNATE VBS. WE WILL BE PROVIDING TSHIRTS FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN AS WELL AS SPECIAL VISITORS ON THE LAST EVENING OF VBS.

<https://forms.gle/JknkyZoHrGqeVHXb7>

**Children need to be pre-registered
by May 19 in order
to receive their VBS t-shirt!**



Donation Drive:



NEW Bottles & Sippy Cups

Drop spots:

Sunsational Tans all locations,
Community Church Vincennes, Dot's,
Wild Rose Boutique,
Zip n Sip/♥Icecream, South Knox HS,
Living Gateway Church,
Nicole's Restaurant in Bicknell, Monroe City RV

Update #4 from the WCA (Wesleyan Covenant Association) from the General Conference – UMC General Conference: The African Message

May 3, 2024

by Rev. Dr. Scott Field, President of the WCA

A Historic General Conference in Charlotte...no doubt about it. Today (Friday, May 3) the UMC General Conference concludes. The dramatic shift signaled by decisions made here will take time to unpack.

But first, I'd like you to be aware of the Message from African Delegates that was presented outside the Charlotte Convention Center yesterday afternoon. There was singing, praying, and a public reading of their statement.

Here is what African delegates want the United Methodist Church, the people of Africa, and the rest of the world to know:

We speak as Africans, representing the majority of African delegates and, we believe, the vast majority of United Methodists in the thirty-five annual conferences in Africa.

We have loved The United Methodist Church. We have been grateful for The United Methodist Church. We have joyfully served The United Methodist Church. But now our hearts are troubled.

The postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church has changed the United Methodist definition of marriage – not because the Bible has changed. But because western culture has changed. At this Conference The United Methodist Church has chosen to follow what pleases man instead of what pleases God.

Many African delegates are not here. They desired to be present and had planned to attend. But they were not invited by the Commission on General Conference in time to receive their visas. Over 70 of us from Africa are not present. That is roughly 25% of our delegates. Ten months ago,, we began sending letters and emails and making phone calls, alerting the Commission on General Conference and some of our bishops that there was a problem. Many of these communications never received a single response. It felt as if we were not valued or wanted.

At a past General Conference, we Africans were told that we spoke too loudly and that we should close our mouths. After another General Conference a bishop said we Africans need to grow up and think for ourselves. At this conference many of us were not even provided with the documents we needed to be present.

One mainstream UMC leader wrote that The United Methodist Church should be willing to lose Africa to fulfill its progressive agenda. It is hard for us to believe we are valued as true brothers and sisters within The United Methodist Church. It is difficult to trust that we are seen as equal partners.

The United Methodist Church has changed the definition of marriage. It now defines marriage differently from what God created it to be in the beginning (Genesis 2:18, 23-25). It has changed the definition of marriage from how Jesus described it in Matthew 19 as one man and one woman.

In Africa we do not believe we know better than Jesus. We do not believe we know better than God. We do not believe we know better than the Bible. We must now return to Africa and tell our people that The General Conference did not listen to us, does not value us as partners, and is willing to lose us to pursue its liberal western agenda.

In his sermon to this General Conference, a UM bishop stated that if we cannot get on the UMC train and embrace its destination, we should leave. But what do we do when the train has run over us and left our hearts bleeding with sorrow and pain?

We want the UMC to hear. We want our people in Africa to hear. We want the world to hear. We do not accept a change in the definition of marriage, and we will never accept marriage as anything other than one man and one woman, no matter what the Book of Discipline says. We are devastated now to be part of a denomination that officially contradicts the Bible's teaching on marriage and sexual morality. We return to Africa with important decisions to make regarding the future.

Still, we go home full of hope, confident in Jesus, standing on the word of God, and determined to contend for the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. We return to Africa where the church is growing, nonbelievers are coming to faith and disciples are being made for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the glory! Amen!

Signatories:

Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, Head of Delegation, Liberia Annual Conference
Mr. Prosperous Tunda, Delegate, East Congo Annual Conference
Rev. Dr. Danjuma Judi, Delegate, Nigeria Annual Conference

TALE OF A NEW CHURCH

By Thomas Lambrecht

Rev Lambrecht is still a UMC Pastor and attended general conference to help support those churches that were still looking for a path out of the UMC.

The story of the 2024 General Conference meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the story of a new church being born. Two years ago this month, the Global Methodist Church was born, and it is growing and maturing quickly. This month a new United Methodist Church was born, one that is wedded to a more progressive understanding of the Bible and theology. As the conference ends today, it is appropriate to assess how that took place.

In years past, the UM Church was deeply divided between traditionalists and progressives. The 2019 General Conference in St. Louis demonstrated this divide by approving the traditional understanding of marriage and human sexuality by only 53 to 46 percent. By contrast, the new definition of marriage passed by the 2024 General Conference received 78 percent support.

What caused the shift?

First, in the aftermath of the St. Louis conference, many U.S. annual conferences made a concerted effort to elect progressive delegates to the next General Conference. This was a reaction to, and rejection of, the traditional direction chosen in St. Louis. It was accompanied by widespread avowals of disobedience to what the General Conference had decided and fostered the realization that the UM Church was in an untenable impasse.

Second, the General Conference was postponed, not once or twice, but three times. The third postponement was widely seen by traditionalists as a ploy to avoid the adoption of a plan of amicable separation. It led directly to the formation of the Global Methodist Church in 2022. In response, over 7,600 U.S. churches disaffiliated, leading to a dramatic decline in the remaining number of traditionalist delegates to General Conference, as many strong leaders exited the denomination.

Third, the General Conference staff did not do the work necessary to gather the information on delegate elections from annual conferences in Africa. Due to a variety of challenges, including the illness of key persons and slowness (or lack of understanding) in responding to requests for forms, the staff did not have the necessary information to send out letters of invitation soon enough to enable delegates to secure visas to travel to the U.S. for the conference. The staff could have done more to gain the needed information, including trips to Africa to meet with leaders there, but declined to do so. As a result, between 70 and 100 African delegates (most of whom would have been traditionalist voices and votes) were not able to obtain visas to attend the conference.

As a result, instead of the previous 53 to 46 percent majority, traditionalists at this General Conference were outnumbered, 78 to 22 percent. This gave the progressive-centrist coalition the votes they needed to run the table on their LGBTQ-affirming agenda.

What changed?

The General Conference has changed the denomination's definition of marriage. Previously, we "affirmed the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman." Now, our *Discipline* "affirm[s] marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith (adult man and woman of consenting age; and or two adult persons of consenting age) into union with one another."

This new, confused definition of marriage allows for multiple options. It preserves the ability of some to say marriage is the union of one man and one woman, while at the same time opening the door to say marriage is between any two people, including those of the same gender. This second definition is a direct contradiction of Scripture (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6). It puts the UM Church in the situation of having conflicting, incoherent definitions of marriage.

The conference made further changes to our understanding of human sexuality and its proper role. Previously, we stated that "Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage." This language was taken out of the *Discipline* at this conference, and it now reads, "We affirm human sexuality as a sacred gift and acknowledge that sexual intimacy contributes to ... nurturing healthy sexual relationships that are grounded in love, care, and respect. ... We further honor the diversity of choices and vocations in relation to sexuality such as celibacy, marriage, and singleness. We support the rights of all people to exercise personal consent in sexual relationships, to make decisions about their own bodies."

It seems the new moral guidelines for sexual relationships are love, care, respect, and consent. Gone is any understanding of the moral purpose of human sexuality to cement the marriage bond and enhance the relationship between husband and wife.

In addition, the qualifications for clergy previously required "fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness." This has now been changed to "faithful sexual intimacy expressed through fidelity, monogamy, commitment, mutual affection and respect, careful and honest communication, mutual consent, and growth in grace and in the knowledge and love of God." While all these qualities are good, this removes the requirement for sexual abstinence before marriage and further dilutes the church's moral standards. It is unclear how "fidelity" or "monogamy" applies to single persons or what the sexual ethic for single clergy persons is.

The chargeable offenses for immorality and not being celibate in singleness or faithful in a heterosexual marriage were removed. There is therefore no formal way to hold clergy persons accountable for committing immorality.

Homosexuality

Previously, our *Discipline* stated, "We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God's grace is available to all."

That language has now been removed, and the church takes no formal position on the morality of homosexual relationships. However, in other changes, the church now allows for “the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in church life,” as reported by UM News Service.

- Married or partnered gays and lesbians may now be ordained as clergy, appointed as pastors, and consecrated as bishops.
- Pastors may perform same-sex weddings and churches may host such services.
- Pastors may not be penalized for performing same-sex weddings, nor may they be penalized for refusing to perform them.
- Church funds may now be spent to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. However, funds may NOT be spent in a way that “rejects LGBTQIA persons” or in dialogues where the traditional perspective is presented. This provision seems to exclude church participation in ministry that seeks to help persons deal with unwanted same-sex attractions, and it certainly inhibits the traditional perspective from being perceived as a viable alternative in understanding Scripture.
- LGBTQ persons must be included in the membership of all general church boards and agencies.

The cumulative effect of all these changes is to change the UM Church from a denomination that stood on the scriptural position that sex is for marriage between one man and one woman to a denomination that affirms sexual relations between persons of the same gender and also outside of marriage.

Regionalization

There is a definite disconnect between the understanding of sexual morality by the progressive-centrist United States and the traditionalist understanding of Africa and the Philippines. Progressives and centrists believe that the way around this is to adopt a regionalized form of church governance. This would allow each region of the church to adopt its own rules and policies, including those related to marriage, sexuality, and clergy qualifications.

In conjunction with our African partners, Good News has argued that this approach is misguided and could lead to the weakening of the United Methodist connection. It certainly imposes a burden on Africans and Filipinos to develop their own *Discipline*, while still being tainted by being part of a libertine denomination.

However, these arguments were rejected by the delegates in Charlotte. They passed the regionalization proposal by a 78 percent margin. It still needs ratification by two-thirds of the annual conference members, which may or may not happen. If ratified, it would go into effect in 2026.

Disaffiliation

The primary goal of Good News at the General Conference was to advocate for an exit path for local churches. Churches outside the U.S. were not given the same opportunity to disaffiliate that we had in the U.S. At the same time, about a dozen annual conferences in the U.S. imposed very high costs for disaffiliation that prevented most churches from leaving. There was also a proposal for a streamlined process for annual conferences outside the U.S. to disaffiliate as a whole annual conference.

Unfortunately, all attempts to include a formal disaffiliation pathway failed. The removal of Par. 2553, the local church disaffiliation pathway, prevailed with 72 percent

in favor. We had hoped that some fair-minded centrists or progressives would be willing to support some form of disaffiliation. In that hope we were disappointed.

There is no question that the UM Church is a new and different denomination today than it was in 2019. The General Conference actions have formalized an evolving consensus among the progressive and centrist parts of the church, and reveals they are completely in control of the denomination. Pastors and church members will need to decide if the new direction of the denomination reflects the church they want to belong to and support. Unfortunately, avenues for disaffiliation that allow churches to keep their property (especially in the U.S.) are limited. Some congregations may need to be willing to walk away from their buildings in order to pursue ministry in the way they feel called by God to do so. The fight may be over in the UM Church, but the struggle to carry on biblically faithful ministry is just beginning.

Thomas Lambrecht is a United Methodist clergyman and Vice President of Good News.



Acolyte Volunteer Schedule

May 12: Everett Dellinger & Daniel Mosher
May 19: Lee Emma Dellinger & Alivia Flaningam
May 26: Sophia Magruder & Maddux VanMeter



Prayer & Praise Volunteer Schedule

May 12: Val Goodman
May 19: Marcy Hays
May 26: Rachel Hayden & Letha Jane Dellinger

Donut Ministry Volunteer Schedule

May 12: John Hedge
May 19: Lori Graham/Youth
May 26: Herschel & Fran Biehl



Transportation
MINISTRY

Church Bus Ministry

May 12: Driver: Ryan Hayden; Chaperone: Dana Wyant
May 19: Driver: Bruce Brown; Chaperone: Bonnie Brown
May 26: Driver: Scott Goodman; Chaperone: Jim Wyant

If you would be willing to Drive the Bus or ride the Bus as a Chaperone
on Sunday mornings, please contact Marcy Hays.



Volunteer Nursery Attendant Schedule

May 12: Karen Farris
May 19: Christine Flaningam
May 26: Val Goodman

*Rev. James F. Bitner
Pastoral Counselor*

*Appointment: call or text 715-581-1981
email: jfbcounselor@yahoo.com*

*Office: Community Church of Vincennes
1548 S. Hart Street Rd. Vincennes IN 47591*



For guides to help you in your
time of prayer

[click here](#)

For online giving click the [Vanco link](#)

You are welcome to mail contributions to the church at:
1548 S Hart St Rd, Vincennes, IN 47591 Atten: Cindy

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE :

[May 5, 2024 Worship Service](#)
[April 28, 2024 Worship Service](#)

To view past Worship Services and Sermons, go to [Community Church web page.](#)

e-mail addresses and contact information

Community Church Office office@communitychurchofvincennes.org(general)

Cheryl Williams: cheryl@communitychurchofvincennes.org

Cindy Lone: cindy@communitychurchofvincennes.org

Pastor Darren Williams: darren@communitychurchofvincennes.org

Jim Bitner: jfbcounselor@yahoo.com

Rex Seitzinger: rex@communitychurchofvincennes.org

Shelly Bitner: shelly@communitychurchofvincennes.org

Lori Graham: lmgraham91@gmail.com

Prayer Requests: prayer@communitychurchofvincennes.org

