

COMPARISON OF PROPOSALS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

This summary compares proposals from various groups, in alphabetical order, about the structure of The UMC. It does not include proposals from individuals. Further details are in the documents and legislation. All proposals will be open for amendments at General Conference and may be subject to Judicial Council review. Updated on 2/24/20.

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS OF UNITED METHODISM” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN) (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE” (UM-FORWARD)	“NEXT GENERATION UMC” (UMCNEXT)	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION” (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE” (CONNECTIONAL TABLE)
PLAN DOCUMENTS	https://indyplanumc.org/ Plan developers support the Protocol.	https://um-forward.org/the-new-plan	https://umcnext.com/legislation/ Plan developers support the Protocol.	https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/	https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available
NUMBER OF DENOMINATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 or more global denominations - traditionalist and centrist/progressive • The UMC continues through the Centrist UMC. • Other denominations may be formed by 50+ local churches or an annual conference(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 global denominations - traditionalist, moderate, progressive and liberationist • The UMC dissolves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or more - The UMC remains intact with options for new Methodist denominations that continue in relationship with the UMC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or more • A new traditionalist denomination is formed and others may also be formed. • The UMC continues after separation. 	<p>KEY POINTS: This proposal relates to U.S. structure. It does not address LGBTQ related matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UMC remains intact with a new regional structure for the U.S. • Does not call for a major restructure of the UMC.

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE”	“NEXT GENERATION UMC”	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION”	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE”
WHO DECIDES WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual and central conferences, by simple majority, choose to join any new denomination. Clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination. Central conferences may become autonomous. Local churches, by simple majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A transitional council develops a plan of separation. Annual conferences, central conferences, clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination. Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregations, clergy and conferences determine affiliations. Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose to separate from the UMC and retain property, assets and liabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central conferences, by 2/3 majority, may vote to form/join a new Methodist denomination. Jurisdictions are not addressed. Annual conferences, by 57% majority, may vote to form/join a new Methodist denomination. Local churches, by either a simple or 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than that of their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities. Clergy remain members of their annual conference, unless they choose otherwise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until a U.S. regional conference is formed, an interim committee of the General Conference handles U.S. matters.
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets interim exemption from LGBTQ prohibitions for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy. Sets interim suspension of complaints and disciplinary actions related to LGBTQ bans for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy. Mandatory retirement for U.S. bishops waived until 2022. U.S. bishop elections may be postponed until 2021 or 2022. Central conferences elect bishops as determined by General Conference 2020. Trust clause suspended for denominations other than Centrist. Does not indicate constitutional amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes an immediate moratorium on charges, complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions. Does not indicate constitutional amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions. A moratorium on new or pending complaint proceedings and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions takes effect at the close of General Conference 2020. A special commission proposes a new constitution and governance structures. A special called General Conference makes constitutional amendments or adopts a new constitution proposed by the special commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Methodist denominations must meet qualification standards, including expressed intent to join from 100+ UM churches. Moratorium on all complaints related to LGBTQ prohibitions takes effect at the end of GC 2020. Local churches affiliating with a new denomination must maintain connectional responsibilities until separation. Separating churches/entities do not retain rights to use the UM name, cross and flame, or other intellectual property. Any provision deemed unconstitutional or invalid does not affect the status of the remaining provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires constitutional amendments (2/3 majority vote by General Conference and annual conference members). Amends Part VI, Chapter Four, of the Book of Discipline to authorize and organize a U.S. regional conference.

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FINANCES/ ASSET DIVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of clergy pensions through each new denomination. Apportionments paid by all denominations through 2020. All denominations support funding for central conference ministries through 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General church assets divided equitably. Provides for arbitration. Establishes financial investments in historically marginalized and vulnerable churches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Conference includes grant funding for new denominations in relationship with The UMC in the 2021-2024 budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$25M over four years is paid to qualified traditionalist denomination(s) with no further claims to United Methodist assets. \$2M is escrowed for other possible new denominations. \$39M is allocated over eight years to support ethnic ministries and Africa University. Property, assets, and liabilities of annual and central conferences are retained by those entities regardless of affiliation. Pension liabilities, per Wespeth provisions, health insurance and property insurance will be paid or assumed by the new denomination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed regarding general church assets or agency structure.
STRUCTURE AND AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance. Wespeth, UMCOR, UMW, UM Men, UMPH become independent to serve any denomination. Archives and History retains assets and liabilities and financially supported by each denomination. All other agencies become part of the Centrist UMC with the option to serve other denominations. Jurisdictional or annual conference institutions may change affiliation or become independent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New denominations determine their own policies, structure and processes. General agencies become independent 501(c)3 organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a U.S. regional conference and a U.S. regional committee of the General Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UMC and new denominations may enter into ecumenical agreements. New Methodist denominations may contract for services or establish missional agreements with UM agencies. Clergy and lay members serving as delegates or agency board members (other than Wespeth) must resign immediately upon their central/annual conference or local church vote to separate, unless they choose to remain in the UMC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Stage I) Creates an interim U.S. regional committee of the General Conference to handle U.S. matters. (Stage II) Creates a U.S. regional conference comprising the current jurisdictions, which continue with the same powers and geographic areas.

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TIMELINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective at the close of General Conference 2020. • Aug. 1, 2020 - Interim new alignment begins. • Jan. 1, 2021 - Default alignment with Centrist UMC if no choice made by an annual conference. • Mar. 31, 2021 - Default alignment with Traditional UMC if no choice made by a central conference. • Fall 2021 - Inaugural General Conferences held. • Jan. 1, 2022 – New denominations fully established. • 2028 - Opportunity to choose a denomination remains open until at least this date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective at the close of General Conference 2020. • Prior to 2024 - Special General Conference held to approve plan of separation from the transitional council. • Transition time for local churches extends until the Special General Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug. 1, 2020 - Commission on a 21st Century Church begins work. • Fall 2023 - Special General Conference meets. • 2025 - Local church disaffiliation provisions expire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 15, 2020 - All provisions take effect. • Jan 1, 2021 - Legally constituted new denominations may begin to function. • May 15, 2021 - Deadline to register intent to form a new Methodist denomination. • July 1, 2021 - Deadline for U.S. annual conference votes and U.S. clergy to express intent to align with a different denomination from that of their annual conference. • Dec 31, 2021 - Central conference deadline to vote to affiliate with a new denomination. • July 1, 2022 - Deadline for annual conferences and clergy outside the U.S. to choose to align with a different denomination than that chosen by their central or annual conference. • Dec 31, 2024 - Local church deadline to vote to affiliate with a different denomination than their annual conference. • June 30, 2026 – Deadline for completion of all local church separation agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-2024 - Interim committee plans a new U.S. regional conference. • 2024 - New U.S. regional conference convenes.