



Admin Board Meeting

April 25, 2022

South Campus Choir Room

Admin Board meeting started at 7:09 with opening comments and welcome by Eddie Fletcher. Eddie shared how to utilize the Church Center App to post a Prayer Request and review the Prayer List. Followed by Opening Prayer at 7:10

Minutes from our last meeting on March 28, 2022 were approved.

Next Meeting – May 23rd

Our April meeting was focused on open discussion followed by Q&A centered around **“A Call to Prayerful Discernment for Due West”**. Eddie reviewed the process of disaffiliation and outlined what is involved with moving forward. Pastor David explained “The Protocol” and the potential path for those with fundamental disagreements. ***Attached are the documents of discussion.***

Why have this Conversation now?

As a part of the work done by the 2019 General Conference, a disaffiliation plan was added to The UMC Book of Discipline. If you didn't know, in The United Methodist Church, each local congregation holds their property in Trust for the Bishop and Annual Conference. In other words, local congregations do not own their local property. This disaffiliation plan (BOD Paragraph 2553) gives congregations that want to leave the denomination over disagreements related to human sexuality the ability to do so if certain criteria are met. Some of the criteria are financial and some of them are procedural. An important part of this paragraph, though, is the inclusion of a sunset clause. The terms of paragraph 2553 are no longer viable after **December 31st, 2023**. This means that churches wanting to disaffiliate from The UMC are only guaranteed the ability to do so with property through that date.

The meeting was followed by a 5-question survey taken by our members to gather necessary data on where the Admin Board stands with regards to disaffiliation. The results of the survey will be loaded into an excel spreadsheet to provide meaningful data. The survey taken will be a similar one used, after updates are made based on comments, with the congregation in planed follow on meetings. The updated survey is also attached.

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer at 8:20 by David Campbell

Administrative Board

ATTENDANCE REPORT

First name	Last name	%	Apr 25
Lew Amick		0%	
Christine Salazar		0%	
Tracie Cantrell		0%	
Patti Pass		0%	
Julie Austin		0%	
Susan Robinson		0%	
Amber Wilson		0%	
Courtney Kunkel		0%	
Allison Sligh		100%	✓
Aaron Zerkle		100%	✓
Alicia Iles		100%	✓
Barry Taylor		100%	✓
Bill Coffeen		100%	✓
Eddie Fletcher		100%	✓
Bob Mitchell		100%	✓
David Campbell		100%	✓
Lathem Postell		100%	✓
Lora Parker-Gayler		100%	✓
Kerri Casteel		100%	✓
Butch Gaudette		100%	✓
Sarah Baumhoff		100%	✓
Marianna Drinkard		100%	✓

First name	Last name	%	Apr 25	
Darren	Frost	100%	✓	
Cindy	Knupp	100%	✓	
Adam	Glass	100%	✓	
Larry	Sago	100%	✓	
Mike	Rimer	100%	✓	
Ruth	Henderson	100%	✓	
Kyle	Moore	100%	✓	
Maryellen	Berry	100%	✓	
Gordon	Via	100%	✓	
Teri	Haney	100%	✓	
Shelly	Kubek	100%	✓	
Ron	Moore	100%	✓	
Ron	Lunk	100%	✓	
Fritz	Hutchinson Jr.	100%	✓	
Austin	McMillan	100%	✓	
Mark	Hellman	100%	✓	
Jane	Swanson	100%	✓	
Attendance totals:			31	

Due West UMC Admin Board Survey

1) *On a scale of 1-10 (1 being lowest), how knowledgeable do you feel about issues related to denominational divisions*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2) *If you were making the decision, would you prefer Due West to be a part of The United Methodist Church (more progressive) or the Global Methodist Church (more traditional) or something else?*

The United Methodist Church Global Methodist Church Other Independent

3) *Based on the information you have today, how likely are you to stay at Due West if the church were to remain in The UMC?*

Very Unlikely Unlikely Likely Very Likely

4) *Based on the information you have today, how likely are you to stay at Due West if the church were to disaffiliate from The UMC and join the GMC or another option?*

Very Unlikely Unlikely Likely Very Likely

5) *From your perspective, what would you guess is the theological leaning of Due West as a congregation?*

Very Progressive Somewhat Progressive Centrist Somewhat Traditional Very Traditional

A Call to Prayerful Discernment for Due West

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” -- Jesus John 13:34-35

First and foremost, we want to be known as disciples of Jesus. That means we show love for one another. As we enter into topics where emotions often run high, we want to make sure that everything is said with a spirit of love and respect.

Why do we need an information sheet?

For many years, the people of The United Methodist Church (UMC) have struggled to be “united”. Many have felt that the divisions were so deep, the church needed to split. In 2020, General Conference (The church’s top law-making body) was to vote on a plan that would give churches who felt called to leave The UMC the ability to do so with property in tact. That was called “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation”. (Protocol) If you were not aware, it has always been the case that the property of United Methodist Churches does not belong to the local congregation, but to the annual conference. Because of the global pandemic, the General Conference was postponed to 2021, then 2022 and now 2024. With these postponements now official, many of you have asked about the impact on Due West. There are several options that churches can explore, and some congregations have already begun to explore them. This information sheet is provided so that you can begin to understand the options that are before Due West. The goal of this document is to provide clarity and ensure everyone understands the situation.

What’s next?

Our Administrative Board will begin a discernment process with input from the congregation, about where God is calling Due West for the future. We will hold listening sessions in the weeks ahead to hear from everyone. After this period of discernment, the Administrative Board will determine whether to call a church conference, where every full member is eligible to vote. This church conference would decide on our future for continuing in mission and ministry in West Cobb.

What would the choices be?

Due West can choose to remain with the UMC. There is certainly more than one other options, but the most prominent is the soon to be launched Global Methodist Church. Two pages follow making a case for each choice. This is not meant to be the final word, but the beginning of a much larger conversation. As you read the following documents, and as the church discerns a path forward, remember two things. First, Jesus tells us that we will be known as his disciples when we love one another.

These are contentious topics and difficult discussions. As we have hard conversations, may we show the world what it means to speak with love and grace and demonstrate how to respect those with whom we disagree. Second, throughout this time, remember our mission is: "Inviting our community to join us as we gather together, grow in Jesus Christ, and go serve." In light of our mission, take time to prayerfully consider the question: "Where do I think God is leading Due West to best be able to fulfill our mission to our community?"

Why Stay UMC

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.” ~John Wesley

The United Methodist Church is not perfect, and like most denominations, there have been disagreements and decline. The existence of disagreement and decline is not a new phenomenon. One of the things that has made The United Methodist Church unique is our ability to agree to disagree.

For years, The United Methodist Church has used the slogan, “Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.” We have always welcomed everyone to the communion table recognizing that the table belongs to God, not us. We have always acknowledged that all persons are of sacred worth. We have always affirmed that the essence of being a Christian is loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. And in the face of differences, we have always recognized that we are called to worship together and spread the love of Christ.

So why would we stay UMC in the midst of all this turmoil?

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church was supposed to meet in 2020. When the pandemic came about, it was delayed until, 2021, then 2022, and now has been delayed until 2024. It is still possible that the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation (Protocol) may be passed at General Conference in 2024. However, in the absence of such legislation, there are lots of questions as to what choosing another option would entail.

More important than the absence of the Protocol legislation, is that The United Methodist Church is our home. Most of us, were baptized in The UMC. Many of us have grown up in The UMC and supported it. Others have been to summer campers at Camp Glisson and have attended United Methodist colleges and/or were part of a Wesley Foundation. Many of us and our children were confirmed in the UMC, and it is where a lot of us first experienced a personal relationship with Christ. The UMC has always embraced the reality that we don't all think alike. This honesty only strengthens our commitment to Christ and our bonds with each other.

We acknowledge that The UMC has issues that often get in the way of what we are called to do: love God and love our neighbors. Our focus should be on bringing people to Jesus and being a staple of the community of West Cobb. All denominations have issues that stem from differences among individuals. There will always be these differences of opinions. However, when our focus is solely on God and spreading the message of His love, then nothing is more important.

A new Methodism

Many of us are aware of the debate that has been simmering for decades within The United Methodist Church. Even while the The UMC's stance on human sexuality has not changed, many pastors and bishops in our denomination have ignored the church's teachings on this subject. As a result, we have lost accountability to those things we say we believe. The subject of human sexuality receives most of the press, but it is a symptom of a deeper divide over central theological and institutional issues within our denomination. Some of these issues are: the role and nature of scripture, the centrality of the gospel commission, the process of upholding accountability among clergy and institutional bodies, the function of denominational boards and committees, among much more. It is no wonder that The UMC in the US, is a dying church. During the 10 years prior to the pandemic, worship attendance in the North Georgia Annual Conference declined 20% while professions of faith dropped 46% over the same time period.

This being the case, what is there to do? Is there another option? Even with all the turmoil that engulfs our denomination, we are also witnessing the beginning of a new movement of the people called Methodists. This movement is called the Global Methodist Church. The GMC is a new denomination that will emphasize the characteristics of the Methodist church that have been vital since the time of John Wesley. This includes, but isn't limited to, a focus on discipleship and evangelism as well as the belief that the gospel has the power to transform individuals and families. It will uphold a strong emphasis on helping those in our community and around the world. There will be a focus on recapturing the importance of small group discipleship where people will be accountable to sisters and brothers for their faith. In short, the foundations of The Global Methodist Church are the same things that drew all of us to Due West! Alongside these inherently Wesleyan emphases there are several other important aspects of the GMC you should know:

- 1) The GMC will uphold the current and orthodox view of marriage and sexuality of the church we all joined.
- 2) It will be "Grounded in scripture and the life-giving confessions of the Christian faith found in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds."
- 3) The GMC will eliminate the trust clause. This means local churches will own their own property – something not possible in The UMC.
- 4) There will be an institution of term limits on bishops.

There is so much more to share about this new movement. If you'd like more information, check out their website at globalmethodist.org. The possibilities for mission and ministry in the GMC create an exciting vision for what it can look like to be a vital Methodist denomination in the 21st century and beyond.

For many, leaving The UMC is hard to imagine. But in doing so we would not be the first. Within the last year, roughly 71 churches within our conference alone have moved to disaffiliate from The UMC. With the postponement of General Conference from 2020 to 2024, it is almost assured that more will choose to do the same in the days, weeks, and months ahead. We have seen this same trend in other denominations. For every traditional church that leaves a denomination, they become less and less the church people originally joined. What we want for Due West today is what we have always wanted; to be a church that makes a priority of The Great Commission and focuses on scripture.

The key question for us is this: Where can Due West best fulfill its role as the church God is calling us to be in our community? Surely our future will be focused on being a church that offers Christ to a hurting world. It is time for Due West to decide how we will do that. Those outside of the church are desperately seeking a cornerstone upon which to build their faith, not a theology that conforms to the ever-shifting sands of the world. If we don't cling to the absolute truth of Jesus Christ that sets us apart as believers, how are we any different than the world? We at Due West must be a congregation that welcomes everyone, acknowledges that we are all sinners saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, and pursues the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit that call us into God's plan to re-create us in His image. For those brothers and sisters who may disagree, we are not enemies; we simply view our faith in different

ways that may not allow us to co-exist in the same church. While formally leaving The United Methodist Church may be a painful reality to face, The United Methodist Church actually left us long ago. But perhaps God is once again doing a new thing with the old faith, and perhaps that is The Global Methodist Church.

Due West UMC Detailed Information Sheet

A Brief History of Division within The UMC

Tracing its history to John Wesley and the early Methodist movement in Britain as well as the first official Methodist Church in America, the Methodist Episcopal Church, The United Methodist Church officially formed in 1968. The UMC was the product of a merger between The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. This merger was a momentous and celebrated occasion that represented a new era of Methodism with a vision of being a “big tent” denomination for people of the Wesleyan tradition across the globe.

Four years later, at the 1972 General Conference, the clear divides within the newly formed denomination began to appear. It was at this conference that The UMC adopted the current Book of Discipline language that states “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” However, the church’s adoption of this language in 1972 did not preclude the General Conference from returning to the debate when it met every four years. It wasn’t until 1984 that the incompatibility language of homosexuality was added to the standard requirements for those pursuing ministry in The UMC. This addition stated that “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” were not eligible to be candidates for ministry. A cursory examination of General Conference proceedings from 1972 to today shows an ongoing and repetitive struggle between those committed to upholding the stance adopted by General Conference in 1972 and those who are committed to removing restrictive language related to human sexuality.

The current divisions and disagreements present in The UMC can be traced to the actions of the 2016 General Conference and the subsequent events. Convening in Portland, Oregon, General Conference debates surrounding The UMC’s stance on human sexuality once again bubbled to the surface. After extensive and contentious debate, a request from the floor was made to the Council of Bishops. The request asked for the debate to be suspended and for the bishops to lead in a time of clear division within the church. The Council of Bishops heeded this request and promised to report back to the General Conference after a time of internal discernment. After an evening of discussion, the Council of Bishops returned to the General Conference and proposed the creation of “The Commission on a Way Forward.” This Commission would be comprised of individuals selected by the Council of Bishops who represented the entire spectrum of theological belief within The UMC on the topic of human sexuality. The Commission would meet regularly to discuss potential avenues for moving the church forward on this contentious topic. Any work that was done would be reported back to the General Conference at a special or regularly called session of General Conference. Thus, this commission would be empowered by the General Conference to have the difficult conversations that were necessary to move the denomination forward. The proposal by the Council of Bishops was passed by the General Conference and its work commenced soon thereafter.

The Commission met regularly over the next few years to have difficult conversations about the future of The United Methodist Church. The result of this work was three potential plans for the General Conference to consider. These three plans were 1) The One Church Plan, 2) The Connectional Conference Plan, and 3) The Traditional Plan. The One Church Plan would

have removed the language from the Book of Discipline forbidding clergy and churches from conducting same-sex marriages as well as the language forbidding the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. At the same time, it would have added language intentionally protecting the religious freedoms of pastors, churches, and annual conferences that chose to not bless same-sex marriages or that chose to not ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals. In essence, each church, pastor, and conference, would have the freedom to decide their own theological stance and local practice as it relates to the topic of human sexuality. The Connectional Conference Plan would have replaced the current denominational structure of The UMC with at least (3) “Connectional” conferences. These conferences would be differentiated by their theological stance as it relates to human sexuality (progressive, traditional, and centrist). Pastors, churches, and annual conferences would have the ability to choose the conference with which they would want to affiliate. This plan redefined what it meant to be united and attempted to provide space for differing opinions while maintaining an essentially Wesleyan core. The third option, the Traditional Plan, had the central purpose of creating accountability to the current Book of Discipline language regarding human sexuality. Among many things, this plan would enhance the Book of Discipline language as it relates to human sexuality and require annual conferences and bishops to certify that they would uphold and enforce Book of Disciplines standards of such. This plan would increase accountability measures for the purpose of enforcement. Likewise, those that disagreed with the stance of The UMC, whether as a church or as an individual clergy person, would be provided avenues for withdrawal to join an autonomous, affiliated, or concordant church.

When the Commission concluded their work, they presented the plans before the Council of Bishops. In turn, the Council of Bishops called for a special session of the General Conference to be convened in 2019 for the purpose of considering the report and acting on the work of the Commission. The conference was held in February of 2019 in St. Louis. During the four-day session, the merits of each plan were fiercely debated, and the future of the church was prayed over. Ultimately, the General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which maintained the Book of Discipline language regarding human sexuality. However, because of time constraints, not every piece of legislation related to the Traditional Plan passed.

In the aftermath of the special session of General Conference, people from across The UMC who disagreed with the decision began to take action. Many of the individuals who disagreed with the decision of General Conference made clear that they would continue to fight for the removal of the language regarding human sexuality. In the North Georgia Conference alone, many clergy who disagreed with the decision took out a full-page advertisement in the Atlanta Journal Constitution apologizing for the actions of General Conference and promising to work for change. In the weeks and months following the special session of General Conference, it became clear that the disagreements had not been resolved and the church was as divided as ever. Tensions were high in preparation for the regularly scheduled General Conference in May of 2020.

In the time between the 2019 and 2020 General Conference, leaders from across the global connection made a decision to come to the negotiation table. Led by the late Bishop John

Yambasu of Sierra Leone, traditional and progressive leaders met to consider a plan for amicable separation between those who supported the traditional plan and those who desired to see the language regarding human sexuality changed. Famous mediator Kenneth Feinberg helped facilitate the discussions. After serious negotiations, those involved in the mediation agreed to “The Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation.” The Protocol, as it came to be called, was seen as a potential path for those with fundamental disagreements to bless each other and part ways. Among many things, The Protocol agreement would eradicate all of the “incompatibility” language from The UMC Book of Discipline. Furthermore, it would facilitate the creation of a traditional and evangelical Methodist denomination. Churches and clergy who wanted to align with this other Methodist denomination would have been given the freedom to do such under a temporary suspension of the trust clause. Traditional minded and progressive minded individuals across the denomination supported The Protocol. While not perfect for everyone, it was viewed as a reasonable compromise to end the decades long hostility.

As you know, the world was thrown into upheaval in March of 2020 by the COVID-19 virus. Due to the global pandemic, the 2020 General Conference was postponed until 2021. By 2021, it became apparent that the General Conference would not be able to meet, and it was again postponed until 2022. In the early months of 2022, the Commission on General Conference (the committee of the church responsible for planning and implementing the General Conference) made the decision to postpone General Conference once again to 2024. This decision to postpone General Conference again exposed the deep divisions and divide between those who wished to uphold the Discipline’s language on sexuality and those who disagreed with the language. While it is difficult to always paint with such a wide brush, progressive minded Methodists tended to applaud the decision of the Commission on General Conference as the right and just action in light of the ongoing pandemic and the difficulty for people outside the US to receive COVID-19 vaccinations and visas in time for the gathering. Traditionally minded Methodists maintained the decision to postpone was political and pointed to lower COVID-19 infection rates across the globe and the inaction of the General Conference to help international delegates receive access to vaccines and schedule visa appointments in a timely manner as evidence. Likewise, they viewed the global gatherings of other global bodies as an indictment on United Methodist leadership.

The decision to postpone the General Conference from 2022 to 2024 precipitated the announcement that the Global Methodist Church would be launching on May 1st, 2022. The Global Methodist Church had previously announced their intentions to form upon the meeting of General Conference and the hopeful passage of the Protocol language. The Global Methodist Church was prepared to receive churches and clergy that wanted to be aligned with a traditionally minded, Wesleyan, and evangelical denomination. However, according to The Global Methodist Church, the decision to postpone to 2024 necessitated an earlier launch out of concerns that the Protocol might not be adopted by the General Conference.

As you can see, the division and disagreement within the church is vastly layered. From this brief history, you can also see that tension and divide in The UMC since its inception has most often reared its head in the debate over the church’s teachings on the ordination of

individuals who self-identify as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community and same-sex marriages. However, it is important to note that these debates are a part of a much larger divide over the nature and mission of the church. Current arguments over human sexuality are symptoms of a larger divide over fundamental theological and institutional issues. Whatever the cause of these issues, the fractured nature of our global denomination is not in question.

Why have this Conversation now?

As a part of the work done by the 2019 General Conference, a disaffiliation plan was added to The UMC Book of Discipline. If you didn't know, in The United Methodist Church, each local congregation holds their property in Trust for the Bishop and Annual Conference. In other words, local congregations do not own their local property. This disaffiliation plan (BOD Paragraph 2553) gives congregations that want to leave the denomination over disagreements related to human sexuality the ability to do so if certain criteria are met. Some of the criteria are financial and some of them are procedural. An important part of this paragraph, though, is the inclusion of a sunset clause. The terms of paragraph 2553 are no longer viable after December 31st, 2023. This means that churches wanting to disaffiliate from The UMC over matters of conscience related to human sexuality are only guaranteed the ability to do so with property through that date.

Ultimately, as is hopefully clear, the decision to remain a part of The UMC or to disaffiliate and join another Wesleyan denomination (like the GMC) falls solely on the members of Due West. Many of you may wonder: would it not be beneficial to wait until 2024 and hope for the passage of The Protocol? And to be clear, the terms for exiting the denomination under The Protocol are certainly preferable to those available under paragraph 2553. However, it is not clear whether The Protocol has a viable chance to be passed at the 2024 General Conference. Many Methodists around the globe do not believe that The Protocol will be passed in 2024 – and that is evidenced by the recently announced intention of the Global Methodist Church to officially launch in May of 2022. Likewise, with the sunset clause that is included in the current disaffiliation plan, it is not clear whether the disaffiliation plan currently set forth in The Book of Discipline would be renewed. Because of all of this, it is clear that we as a church must have this conversation now. Because, if it is ultimately determined that the will and desire of the church is to disaffiliate, the only time that we can be guaranteed the ability to do that is now.

Financial Implications

Pursuant to paragraph 2253, the decision to disaffiliate brings financial implications. According to this paragraph and the process for disaffiliation as outlined by The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church, churches that vote to disaffiliate are responsible for paying their portion of the denominational unfunded pension liability as assessed by Wespath Pension and Health Benefits. This figure is market-dependent and updated quarterly. On top of this, churches are expected to complete the current year's worth of apportionments plus one additional year. All of these monies must be paid in full prior to disaffiliation. A dashboard has been provided to clergy of the North Georgia Conference to indicate the real-time cost of disaffiliation. As of 4/20/22, the total figure required to be paid by Due West UMC to disaffiliate would be: \$228,280.00. The pension liability assessed to Due West totals \$100,743.50 as of the calculations dated 4/1/22. The outstanding apportionment payments that would be required total \$127,536.50. It is important to note that the apportionment portion of this total disaffiliation payment obligation is not an increase to the expected operating expense of the church. Due West is required to pay apportionments regardless of any decision to disaffiliate. Choosing to disaffiliate simply requires the totality of the apportionment payments billed to the church be paid in a lump sum.

A financial reality of disaffiliation would be the ownership of church property. Currently, all church assets, liabilities, and buildings are held in trust by the church for the annual conference. Disaffiliation from The UMC under paragraph 2553 would transfer ownership of the church property, assets, and liabilities, to Due West. As reported in the 2021 Charge Conference of Due West UMC, the local church property and assets totaled \$11,526,451. As reported in the 2021 Charge Conference of Due West UMC, the church liabilities in the form of debts secured by physical assets totaled \$3,912,823.

More Information

Pro-UMC Links to Information

- The United Methodist Church Website – <https://umc.org>
 - The UMC recently launched a campaign titled #BeUMC. This hashtag encourages individuals to share their stories about the impact of The UMC in their life and their reasoning for choosing to remain a part of the UMC. The hashtag can be searched on any social media platform. A collection of these stories, as well as the ability to share your own, can be found at <https://umc.org/beumc>.
- The UMC Council of Bishops - “A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church” www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/a+narrative+for+the+continuing+united+methodist+church..pdf
 - This document was produced by the Council of Bishops and was released in November of 2021. In this document, the bishops encourage the church to look past the differences that are dividing the church and offer the world a vision of Christian unity between people commonly rooted in their love of Jesus and Wesleyan tradition.
- UMCNext - <https://umcnext.com/>
 - UMCNext is a coalition of United Methodist leaders committed to the continued mission of The UMC. A list of their core commitments is listed on the website.
 - The UMCNext coalition submitted a group of petitions to the 2020 General Conference titled “UMC Next Generation.” This set of petitions can be found at this link:
<https://umcnext.com/legislation/#:~:text=The%20Next%20Generation%20UMC%20legislation,discriminates%20against%20our%20LGBTQ%20siblings.>
- Out of Chaos...Creation - <https://www.umc-outofchaos.org/>
 - This group is committed to The UMC and recognize that the church is at a crossroads. Their website states that they hope to use this time “provided by the postponement of General Conference to imagine a new way of conferencing and anew vision.”
 - This group created a vision plan for their hopes in The UMC titled “Out of Chaos, Creation: Imagining A Better Way of Being United Methodists.” This document can be found here:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ece9a1d3e465434702ee8ba/t/602f1ed0630a906ee6072fc7/1613700817982/OOC+EN+Final+Official.pdf>
- Reconciling Ministries Network - <https://rmnetwork.org/>
 - According to their website, Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) “equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. The language of our mission comes from the United Methodist baptismal vow, and that’s our charge. Simply put, we work to advance justice and inclusion for all LGBTQ people in The United Methodist Church and beyond.”

- RMN released a statement following the postponement of General Conference to 2024. You can find that statement here:
<https://rmnetwork.org/2022/03/03/regarding-postponement-of-general-conference-to-2024/>

Pro-GMC Links to Information

- The Global Methodist Church Website – <https://globalmethodist.org>
 - The Global Methodist Church regularly posts articles related to the formation of the new denomination. In an article dated March 7th, 2022, the process for congregations to join the GMC is outlined. This only outlines how churches would join the GMC and does not outline the prerequisite process of choosing to disaffiliate with The UMC. This article can be found here:
<https://globalmethodist.org/the-process-for-congregations-to-join-the-global-methodist-church/>
- The Wesleyan Covenant Association - <https://wesleyan covenant.org/>
 - According to their website, “The Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) connects Spirit-filled, Orthodox churches, clergy, and laity who hold to Wesleyan theology. It is an association of individuals and congregations who share a common understanding of our Wesleyan doctrine and a desire to become a vibrant, faithful, growing 21st century church.”
 - The WCA released an article upon the announcement of the Global Methodist Church’s intention to form. It interviews several of the 17 members of the Global Methodist Church’s Transitional Leadership Council.
<https://wesleyan covenant.org/2021/02/26/the-global-methodist-church/>
- Good News Magazine - <https://goodnewsmag.org/>
 - Good News Magazine identifies itself as “the classical evangelical witness and ministry for renewal and reform within The United Methodist Church.”
 - Rob Renfroe, the President of Good News Magazine, responds to the postponement of General Conference in this video. Their website states that “The Good News Board of Directors fully endorses the formation of the Global Methodist Church” and in his response, Renfroe encourages traditionally minded churches to leave The UMC. You can find the video here:
<https://goodnewsmag.org/2022/03/14/246347/>
- The Confessing Movement - <https://www.confessingumc.org/>
 - The Confessing Movement understands itself as existing “to help The United Methodist Church retrieve and celebrate its classic doctrinal identity and to live it out together as disciples of Jesus Christ.” While historically a renewal movement within The UMC, the Confessing Movement affirms the Global Methodist Church as the future of the Wesleyan movement.
 - The Confessing Movement publishes a podcast titled “Beliefs Matter.” This podcast, hosted by the president of The Confessing movement Rev. Dr. Maxie Dunham, shares insights from leaders in Christian orthodoxy and Wesleyan faith

and practice. You can find the podcast here:
<https://www.confessingumc.org/beliefs-matter-podcast>

Other Helpful Resources

- Two Methodisms: A Comparison Chart (v. 1.5) -
<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2021/05/24/two-methodisms-a-comparison-chart/comment-page-1/>
 - Created by Rev. Dr. Chris Ritter, a clergy person of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of The UMC, this document seeks to compare The UMC and the GMC on major points of governing structure, and theology.