

Glossary

Bishop: The bishop holds a senior role in methodism and functions as a superintendent or overseer of the denominations. In the UMC, bishops are appointed for life and represent a specific geographic area. They are administrative and pastoral superintendents of the church. They lack legislative authority on their own but often make statements on important social issues and denominational vision. Perhaps most importantly, they make and fix appointments of pastors.

Book of Discipline: The book of the law of the United Methodist Church. Often referred to as “The Discipline.” Every General Conference amends the Book of Discipline and a new version is published every four years (with exceptions during the COVID-19 pandemic).

Call the Question: In parliamentary procedure, calling the question means closing debate and calling for a vote on a proposal. In this context, Due West must call the question of disaffiliation and determine whether or not to move forward with the process presented by the North Georgia Conference for churches formally exiting the UMC.

Centrists:* In current Methodist jargon, a term used to refer to individuals or congregations who value the unity of the church as the highest priority.

Church Conference: A meeting of the church and members of the congregation in which a predetermined question is discussed and voted upon.

Church of England: The Anglican Church and the primary state church in England. John Wesley was ultimately barred from preaching in the Church of England because of his evangelistic emphasis on conversion and holiness.

Constitution: The fundamental constituting and legal document of the UMC. It establishes a basic outline for the organization of the denomination, including the roles and offices of bishops and a Judicial Council to rule on matters of church law.

Disaffiliation: Literally, the termination of affiliation. In the context of the UMC, disaffiliation is a congregational vote to proceed with departure from the United Methodist Church.

Doctrine: The main beliefs of a church.

Scripture: The sacred writings of Christianity contained in the Bible.

General Conference: By definition provided by itself, The General Conference sets the rules and procedures for nearly every aspect of church life and communicates the denomination's official position on issues and cultural challenges.

Global Methodist Church: By definition provided by itself, the Global Methodist Church is a global church that recognizes and deploys the gifts and contributions of each part of the church, working as partners with the gospel with equal voice and leadership.

Holy Bible: The sacred book containing the Word of God.

John Wesley: An English cleric, theologian, and evangelist who led the revival movement within the Church of England that eventually became Methodism.

North Georgia Conference: The North Georgia Conference of the UMC is comprised of more than 800 churches and 1,300 clergy members. It is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, and overseen by Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson.

Progressives: *Within the Methodist church, progressives do not have a clear, defining vision due in part to an emphasis on scriptural flexibility within this population. Typically, progressives require a "clearly stated sexual ethic" and place emphasis on "resisting evil, injustice, and oppression," including advocating for a churchwide stance in favor of climate change and confronting what one self-identified progressive pastor describes as the church's "white privilege."

Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation: A mediated agreement for separation in the UMC that allows those who want to separate and form new denominations to do so, and those who remain to reform the UMC.

Scripture: The sacred writings of Christianity as contained in the Holy Bible.

Traditionalists: Theologically conservative Methodists may be referred to as "traditionalists." Although this term has become skewed and distorted in popular culture, it generally refers to individuals and congregations who adhere to the longstanding doctrine that the Bible provides the only and ultimate guide to belief and practice.

***These definitions come from uminsight.net**