


A Way Forward
CONVERSATION



Commission on a Way Forward
Council of Bishops
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Process



The Purpose



History




The Mission

The Commission will bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other...



The Mission

...and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions.



The Vision

The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible...



The Vision

...that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible.



Scope

We should be open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse and cycle of action and reaction around ministry and human sexuality.



Scope

Therefore, we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment.



Scope

In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering "new forms and structures" of relationship and through the "complete examination and possible revision" of relevant paragraphs in the Book of Discipline.



Scope

We will give consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness.



Commission on a Way Forward



**COB-COWF
Relationship**



Motion

Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the special session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes:



Motion

- All three plans for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council.
- The Council’s recommendation of The One Church Plan.
- A historical narrative of the Council’s discernment process regarding all three plans.



Rationale

In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission have been on, the Council makes all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council.



Rationale

The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends The One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.



Three Plans

- Traditional
- One Church
- Connectional Conference



One Church Plan



One Church Plan

- Removes the restrictive language from our current Book of Discipline
- Maintains the current structure of the denomination



One Church Plan

- Does not require any conference, bishop, clergy or church to act in ways contrary to their convictions



Connectional Conference Plan



Connectional Conference Plan

- Reflects a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services
- Creates 3 values-based conferences in U.S.:
Accountability, Contextuality & Justice



Connectional Conference Plan

- Annual conferences choose which connectional conference to join
- Local churches that wish to join a different connectional conference than their annual conference can vote to do so



Connectional Conference Plan

- College of Bishops in each Connectional Conference
- Redefined Council of Bishops is focused on ecumenical relationships and shared learning



Traditional Church Plan



Traditional Church Plan

- Affirms current language in the Book of Discipline
- Increases accountability



Traditional Church Plan

- Maintains the current structure of the church
- Continues current relationships with general agencies and commissions



Judicial Council Ruling



What's Next?
July 8
All Petitions Submitted



What's Next?
July 8, 2018
All Petitions Submitted
February 23-26, 2019
Special Session of General Conference



What's Next?
July 8, 2018
All Petitions Submitted
February 23-26, 2019
Special Session of General Conference
June 3, 2018 -February 26, 2019
Praying Our Way Forward Phase 3



Praying Our Way Forward
Phase 1



Praying Our Way Forward
Phase 2



Praying Our Way Forward
Phase 3



Praying Our Way Forward

**Phase 3
Weekly Wesleyan Fast**



Praying Our Way Forward

**Phase 3
Weekly Wesleyan Fast
Daily Prayer from 2:23-2:26 am or pm**



What Can Each of Us Do?

Read the Report Carefully



What Can Each of Us Do?

**Read the Report Carefully
Dialogue About Questions You Have**



What Can Each of Us Do?

**Read the Report Carefully
Dialogue About Questions You Have
Pray Our Way Forward Phase 3**



What Can Each of Us Do?

**Read the Report Carefully
Dialogue About Questions You Have
Pray Our Way Forward Phase 3
Participate in District Days This Fall**



A Way Forward

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