

COWF TIMELINE

MAY 2016

Delegates of the General Conference vote for Council of Bishops to form a commission to explore options to maintain and strengthen unity of the church.

OCTOBER 2016

The Council of Bishops announces the 32 members of the Commission on a Way Forward.

FEBRUARY 2017

The second meeting is held in Atlanta. The Commission pledges to listen and engage with annual conference members, seminary students, ethnic caucuses and unofficial United Methodist advocacy groups.

JULY 2017

The fourth meeting is held in Chicago, with particular attention to the diverse interests and views of United Methodists in central conferences.

OCTOBER 2017

The sixth meeting is held in Nashville. The Commission finalizes the interim report to present to the Council of Bishops.

JANUARY 2018

The seventh meeting is held in Dallas. The Commission edits its original report to send to the Council of Bishops.

MARCH 2018

The eighth meeting is held in Los Angeles. The Commission prepares its final report to present to the Council of Bishops.

JUNE 2018

The Judicial Council rules that petitions to the 2019 Called Special Session may be filed as long as they are in harmony with the stated purpose. Phase 3 of Praying Our Way Forward is launched.

OCTOBER 2018

The Judicial Council will meet to rule on constitutionality.

MARCH 2019

Annual Conferences begin voting on Constitutional Amendments if needed. The voting will continue through April 2020.

AUGUST 2016

Praying Our Way Forward initiative is launched. Its aim is to ask and listen for God's leadership at this critical time in the life of our church.

JANUARY 2017

The initial meeting is held in Atlanta. Commission members establish a covenant and a list of focus topics. Praying Our Way Forward Phase 2 starts.

APRIL 2017

The third meeting is held in Washington D.C. The Council of Bishops calls a Special Session of the General Conference to be held February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis.

SEPTEMBER 2017

The fifth meeting is held in Berlin. The Commission begins to develop models for a way forward regarding human sexuality.

NOVEMBER 2017

The Commission announces the results of their work through the Council of Bishops.

FEBRUARY 2018

The second interim report is presented at the Council of Bishops meeting.

MAY 2018

The ninth and final meeting is held in Nashville. The Commission presents to the Council of Bishops three options for moving the church forward.

JULY 2018

The Way Forward Report is released in four official languages to be presented to the 2019 Called Special Session by the members of the Commission.

FEBRUARY 2019

The 2019 Called Special Session of General Conference will take place in St. Louis.

JANUARY 2020

Any legislation passed by the 2019 Called Special Session will become part of the *Book of Discipline*, unless otherwise specified.