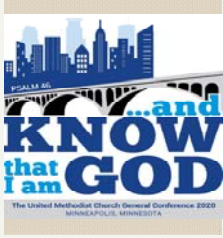


# “...AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD” GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020



TODAY'S PRESENTATION  
Wesleyan Heritage  
United Methodist History  
Denominational Polity  
Issues for 2020

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GENERAL RULE OF DISCIPLESHIP

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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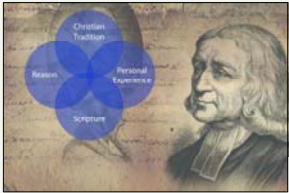
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## Wesleyan Quadrilateral

How We Know God

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience



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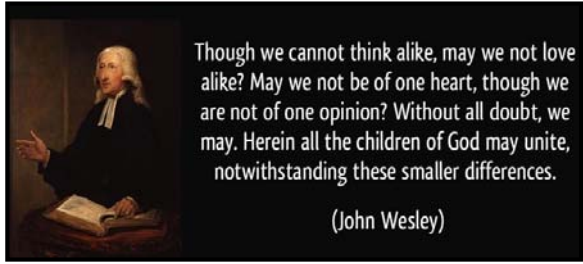
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## It's all about GRACE

John Wesley's House of Salvation Metaphor

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- **1784**  
The Methodist Episcopal Church formed in America
- **1830**  
First major division over roles of clergy and laity: The Methodist Protestant Church formed
- **1844**  
Break on a geographic basis around theological differences regarding enslavement: Methodist Episcopal Church, South formed
- **1939**  
These three merged to form The Methodist Church

## Our UMC History

A BRIEF  
TIMELINE  
ON OUR  
METHODIST  
SIDE

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## African American Methodism

- Mirrored the history of the United States
- Denominational splits
- Continues to impact our polity and relationships today

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**1800**  
The Church of the Brethren in Christ formed

**1816**  
Formal division over ability to preach in native language led to formation of The Evangelical Association

**1889**  
United Brethren ordained women

**1946**  
Merger into The Evangelical United Brethren  
Ordination of women halted

## Our UMC History

A BRIEF  
TIMELINE  
ON OUR  
BRETHREN  
SIDE

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## Wesleyan Family in the USA

- African Methodist Episcopal
- AME Zion
- Christian Methodist Episcopal
- Church of the Nazarene
- Free Methodist Church
- Korean Methodist Church
- Wesleyan Church

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Our UMC Today

**Uniting Conference  
of 1968**

**Organizing  
Conference of 1970**

**First General  
Conference in 1972**

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“

The 1972 General Conference adopted the Social Principles and added the phrase, “We do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider it incompatible with Christian teaching,” to the phrase “persons of homosexual orientation are persons of sacred worth.”

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When you come  
into existence  
with the birth of a  
new country...

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...you take on its governance structure



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS  
Executive Branch



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
Judicial Branch



GENERAL CONFERENCE  
Legislative Branch

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Global or World-Wide Nature of the Church

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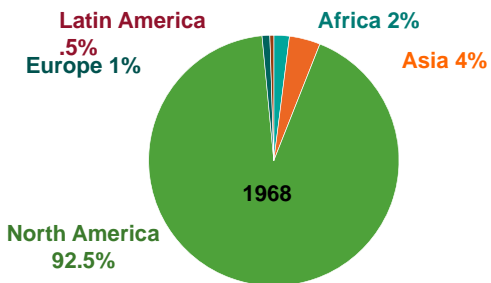
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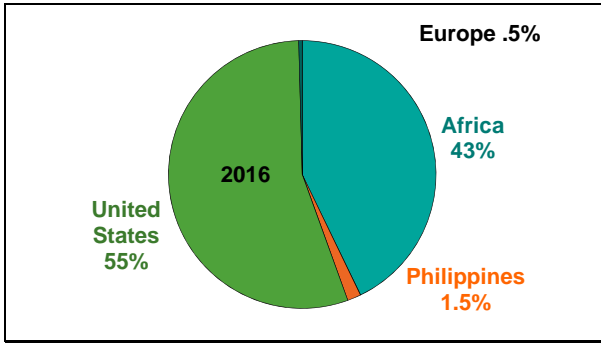
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<p><b>2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 862 delegates</li> <li>• 504 (58%) from the US</li> </ul>	<p><b>VIRGINIA DELEGATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 clergy and 11 laity</li> <li>• 11 female and 11 male</li> <li>• 2 persons of diverse ethnic heritage</li> <li>• 9 persons under age 40</li> </ul>
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<p><b>2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE</b></p>	<p><b>REMINDER:</b> No General Conference decision binds a future General Conference</p>
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**2020  
GENERAL  
CONFERENCE**

- Budget for 2021-2024
- Wespath plan changes
- Pending reports from previous GC sessions

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**2020  
GENERAL  
CONFERENCE**

- Global Book of Discipline (*on hold*)
- Revised United Methodist Hymnal (*on hold*)
- Wonder, Love and Praise: Sharing a Vision for the Church (*on hold*)
- Revised Social Principles

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**Plans for  
the future  
of The  
UMC**

New  
Denominations  
of United  
Methodism

New  
Expressions  
Worldwide

Next  
Generation  
UMC

Protocol of  
Reconciliation  
and Grace  
Through  
Separation

US Regional  
Conference

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vaumc.org >  
Resources >  
General Conference 2020

TOM BERLIN  
Clergy Head of Delegation and Chair

WARREN HARPER  
Lay Head of Delegation

PINNACLE  
LIVING

Martha Stokes  
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## Structure of the General Church

The structure of The United Methodist Church centers around mission and ministry for Christ. The United Methodist Church is organized structurally as:

- The General Conference which meets every four years (quadrennium) to enact legislation and adopt resolutions and is the only body that can speak for the entire denomination
- The Judicial Council which interprets legislation from the General Conference
- The Council of Bishops which has oversight of the Episcopal areas in the US and the Central Conferences
- Jurisdictional Conferences based on geographical and regional divisions of the United States
- Central Conferences for the Church outside the United States

- Annual Conferences
- Districts
- Local churches and charges.

The General Conference meets every four years and rotates among the five jurisdictions in the United States: 2020 – Minneapolis, MN. The General Conference may modify ***The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*** and adopt resolutions to be placed in the ***Book of Resolutions***.

Legislation is passed by General Conference; however, legislation that would change the Constitution of The United Methodist Church must be affirmed "by two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting..." (§159, *2016 Book of Discipline*.)

The Judicial Council is in attendance during General Conference sessions. When requested to do so, the Council reviews the constitutionality of proposed legislation.

You can view the latest State of the Church Report on-line and share it with others in your church by visiting:

[www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodists-release-state-of-the-church-report-2018](http://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodists-release-state-of-the-church-report-2018)

The annual State of the Church Report is a resource to help evaluate our current realities within The United Methodist Church, to celebrate the momentum of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to identify opportunities and challenges as we move forward in ministry. The report is presented by the Connectional Table (the denomination's "church council") in collaboration with the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration.

## Works in Progress

### All planned to be presented to the 2020 General Conference

#### **Wonder, Love and Praise: Sharing a Vision of the Church**

A document produced by the Committee on Faith and Order (CFO) designed to engage United Methodists in a study of our ecclesiology, that is how we as United Methodists understand what it means to be the Church. The United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order was established by General Conference action in 2008 as "a visible expression of the commitment of The United Methodist Church to carry on informed theological reflection for the current time in dynamic continuity with the historic Christian faith, our common heritage as Christians grounded in the apostolic witness, and our distinctive Wesleyan heritage." Its principle tasks are 1) to resource the Council of Bishops as it carries out its teaching responsibilities, 2) "to lead and coordinate studies commissioned by the General Conference in matters related to faith, doctrine, order and discipline of the Church, and 3) to prepare and provide resources and study materials to The United Methodist Church as deemed appropriate" (2016 BOD, pa. 444).

Vision for the Document: [www.umc.org/who-we-are/wonder-love-and-praise-sharing-a-vision-of-the-church-english](http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/wonder-love-and-praise-sharing-a-vision-of-the-church-english)

Small Group Study: [http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_Properties/council-of-bishops/documents/wonder-love-praise-study-guide-en2.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/documents/wonder-love-praise-study-guide-en2.pdf)

#### **Global Book of Discipline**

General Conference in 2012 assigned the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters to assist in developing a truly global ***Book of Discipline***. The hope is that such a book, which will contain the church's teachings and rules of governance, will help the denomination live more fully into its worldwide nature. Unlike U.S. jurisdictions, central conferences currently have authority under the denomination's constitution to make "such changes and adaptations" to the ***Book of Discipline*** as missional needs and differing legal contexts require. The standing committee, in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order, must recommend to General Conference which portions of the Book of Discipline are not subject to adaptation. A draft of a proposed version of Part VI of the ***Book of Discipline*** (Organization and Administration) was available to the 2016 General Conference. It is unsure given the results of the 2019 Called Session if this final work will be brought to the 2020 General Conference.

News Release: [www.umnews.org/en/news/plans-under-way-to-make-discipline-truly-global](http://www.umnews.org/en/news/plans-under-way-to-make-discipline-truly-global)

## **Revised United Methodist Hymnal**

The United Methodist Church is on track to get its first new hymnal since 1989 and this one will be Internet-cloud based and print-on-demand — the first high-tech hymnal for a

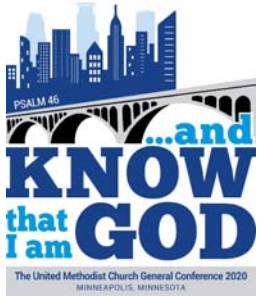
mainline denomination. General Conference 2016 authorized the creation of a 15-member Hymnal Revision Committee. The United Methodist Publishing House and Discipleship Ministries share responsibility for the hymnal. General Conference 2008, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, also approved creation of a Hymnal Revision Committee, but the economic recession caused the agencies to decide not to go forward.

Member Biographies: [www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/2017-2020-hymnal-revision-committee-biographies](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/2017-2020-hymnal-revision-committee-biographies)

## **Revised Social Principles**

The process for the writing of the first United Methodist Social Principles in 1968 was done in a room by 12 men who were mostly scholars and all from the United States. The revised Social Principles, released in draft form April 12, 2018, came after years of listening sessions with more than 200 United Methodists from around the world coordinated by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society's Social Principles Task Force. The work has been underway for 8+ years. The goals are to make the Social Principles more succinct, more theologically grounded and more globally relevant.

Draft Revisions: [www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/social-principles-revision/social-principles-2020/sp2020-english](http://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/social-principles-revision/social-principles-2020/sp2020-english)



**General Conference  
May 5 – 15, 2020 in Minneapolis, MN**

**Virginia Annual Conference Session  
June 18 – 20, 2020 in Roanoke**

**Jurisdictional Conference  
July 15 – 18, 2020 at Lake Junaluska, NC**

Pray for our delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

***General Conference Elected Clergy:***

Tom Berlin  
Lindsey Baynham  
Meredith McNabb  
Rob Vaughn  
Rhonda VanDyke  
Mark Ogren  
Grace Sun-khil Han  
Elizabeth Givens  
Jason Stanley  
Kirk Nave  
Jonathan Page

***Jurisdictional Conference Elected Clergy***

Jeff Mickle  
Doug Forrester  
Leigh Anne Taylor  
Dan Kim  
Tim Ward  
Chenda Lee  
David Vaughan  
Lyndsie Blakely  
Lauren Lobenhofer  
Brian Johnson  
Jennifer Coffey

***Clergy Alternates***

Drew VanDyke Colby  
Esther Nanna Agbosu  
Gordon Keith Pruitt  
Joshua King  
Rachel Gilmore  
Andrew Willson  
Lynne Alley-Grant  
Amy Crisp  
Sarah Dumas Locke  
Matthew Benton

***General Conference Elected Laity:***

Warren Harper  
Martha Stokes  
Shirley Cauffman  
Darlene Amon  
Beth Christian  
Alison Malloy  
Marshall Bailey  
Jill Gaynor  
Joshua Blakely  
Jacob Paysour  
Mark Elder

***Jurisdictional Conference Elected Laity***

Karen McElfish  
Andrew Kissell  
Kim Johnson  
Debbie Cali  
Phillip Mohr  
Deborah Angerman  
Shawn Kiger  
Amanda LynnHolmes  
Kenn Speicher  
Neal Wise  
Richard Underwood

***Laity Alternates***

Kip Robinson  
Brenda Brooks  
Carl Moravitz  
Marie Hawks  
Jane Wilson  
Jerry A. Taylor  
Jaydee Hanson  
Maureen McKay  
Michelle Hettman  
Carlos Liceaga

# 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 1/7/20.

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS OF UNITED METHODISM” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN) (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE” (UMFORWARD)	“NEXT GENERATION UMC” (UMCNEXT)	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION” (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE” (CONNECTIONAL TABLE)
PLAN DOCUMENTS	<a href="https://indyplanumc.org/">https://indyplanumc.org/</a>	<a href="https://um-forward.org/the-new-plan">https://um-forward.org/the-new-plan</a>	<a href="https://umcnext.com/legislation/">https://umcnext.com/legislation/</a>	Protocol FAQS	<a href="https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available">https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available</a>
NUMBER OF DENOMINATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 or more global denominations - traditionalist and centrist/progressive</li> <li>The UMC continues through the Centrist UMC.</li> <li>Other denominations may be formed by 50+ local churches or an annual conference(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 global denominations - traditionalist, moderate, progressive and liberationist</li> <li>The UMC dissolves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more - The UMC remains intact with options for new Methodist denominations that continue in relationship with the UMC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more</li> <li>A new traditionalist denomination is formed and others may also be formed.</li> <li>The UMC continues after separation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KEY POINTS: This proposal relates to U.S. structure. It does not address LGBTQ related matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UMC remains intact with a new regional structure for the U.S.</li> <li>Does not call for a major restructure of the UMC.</li> </ul>
WHO DECIDES WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual and central conferences, by simple majority, choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Central conferences may become autonomous.</li> <li>Local churches, by simple majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transitional council develops a plan of separation.</li> <li>Annual conferences, central conferences, clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congregations, clergy and conferences determine affiliations.</li> <li>Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose to separate from the UMC and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual conferences, by 57% majority, may vote to join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>Central conferences, by 2/3 majority, may vote to join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until a U.S. regional conference is formed, an interim committee of the General Conference handles U.S. matters.</li> </ul>

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE”	“NEXT GENERATION UMC”	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION”	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE”
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets interim exemption from LGBTQ prohibitions for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.</li> <li>• Sets interim suspension of complaints and disciplinary actions related to LGBTQ bans for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.</li> <li>• Mandatory retirement for U.S. bishops waived until 2022.</li> <li>• U.S. bishop elections may be postponed until 2021 or 2022.</li> <li>• Central conferences elect bishops as determined by General Conference 2020.</li> <li>• Trust clause suspended for denominations other than Centrist.</li> <li>• Does not indicate constitutional amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes an immediate moratorium on charges, complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions.</li> <li>• Does not indicate constitutional amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions.</li> <li>• A moratorium on new or pending complaint proceedings and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions takes effect at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>• The special called General Conference makes constitutional amendments or adopts a new constitution proposed by the special commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register intent to form a new Methodist denomination by May 15, 2021.</li> <li>• Requests holding in abeyance all administrative or judicial processes related to LGBTQ prohibitions and some church closures.</li> <li>• Local churches affiliating with a new denomination must maintain connectional responsibilities until separation.</li> <li>• ¶12553 applies to disaffiliating churches that do not join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>• Provisions are not severable. If any provisions are deemed unconstitutional by the Judicial Council or illegal by civil courts, the entire protocol will be null and void.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires constitutional amendments (2/3 majority vote by General Conference and annual conference members).</li> <li>• Amends Part VI, Chapter Four, of the Discipline to authorize and organize a U.S. regional conference.</li> </ul>
FINANCES/ ASSET DIVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of clergy pensions through each new denomination.</li> <li>• Apportionments paid by all denominations through 2020.</li> <li>• All denominations support funding for central conference ministries through 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General church assets divided equitably.</li> <li>• Provides for arbitration.</li> <li>• Establishes financial investments in historically marginalized and vulnerable churches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Conference includes grant funding for new denominations in relationship with The UMC in the 2021-2024 budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25M over four years is paid to a new traditionalist denomination with no further claims to United Methodist assets.</li> <li>• \$2M is escrowed for other possible new denominations.</li> <li>• \$39M is allocated over eight years to support ethnic ministries and Africa University.</li> <li>• Property, assets, and liabilities of annual, jurisdictional, and central conferences are retained by those entities regardless of affiliation.</li> <li>• Pension plans for all current clergy and lay employees remain in place, regardless of affiliation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes proposed regarding general church assets or agency structure.</li> </ul>

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE”	“NEXT GENERATION UMC”	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION”	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE”
STRUCTURE AND AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance.</li> <li>• Wespath, UMCOR, UMW, UM Men, UMPH become independent to serve any denomination.</li> <li>• Archives and History retains assets and liabilities and financially supported by each denomination.</li> <li>• All other agencies become part of the Centrist UMC with the option to serve other denominations.</li> <li>• Jurisdictional or annual conference institutions may change affiliation or become independent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New denominations determine their own policies, structure and processes.</li> <li>• General agencies become independent 501(c)3 organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates a U.S. regional conference and a U.S. Regional Committee of the General Conference.</li> <li>• A special commission proposes a new constitution and governance structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UMC and new denominations may enter into ecumenical agreements and participation in agencies or mission activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Stage I) Creates an interim U.S. regional committee of the General Conference to handle U.S. matters.</li> <li>• (Stage II) Creates a U.S. regional conference comprising the current jurisdictions, which continue with the same powers and geographic areas.</li> </ul>
TIMELINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>• Aug. 1, 2020 - Interim new alignment begins.</li> <li>• Jan. 1, 2021 - Default alignment with Centrist UMC if no choice made by an annual conference.</li> <li>• Mar. 31, 2021 - Default alignment with Traditional UMC if no choice made by a central conference.</li> <li>• Fall 2021 - Inaugural General Conferences held.</li> <li>• Jan. 1, 2022 – New denominations fully established.</li> <li>• 2028 - Opportunity to choose a denomination remains open.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>• Prior to 2024 - Special General Conference held to approve a plan of separation.</li> <li>• Transition time for local churches extends until the Special General Conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aug. 1, 2020 - Commission on a 21st Century Church begins work.</li> <li>• Fall 2023 - Special General Conference meets.</li> <li>• 2025 - Local church disaffiliation provisions expire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD - UMC Special General Conference to create regional conferences.</li> <li>• TBD - U.S. regional conference meets to address Book of Discipline changes.</li> <li>• May 15, 2021 - Deadline to register intent to form a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>• July 1, 2021 - Annual conference deadline to vote to affiliate with a new denomination.</li> <li>• Dec 31, 2021 - Central conference deadline to vote to affiliate with a new denomination.</li> <li>• Dec 31, 2024 - Local church deadline to vote to affiliate with a different denomination than their annual conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021-2024 - Interim committee plans a new U.S. Regional Conference.</li> <li>• 2024 - New U.S. Regional Conference convenes.</li> </ul>