



Human Sexuality & the UMC

BREAKING
DEVELOPMENT: A
PROPOSED CHURCH
SPLIT

What's At Issue?

Since 1972, The Book of Discipline (our rule book) has stated that “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

The Book of Discipline bans “practicing homosexuals” from ordained ministry.

UM churches are forbidden to host same-sex weddings.

UM clergy are forbidden to officiate at same-sex weddings.

Special General Conference 2019

THREE PLANS CONSIDERED:

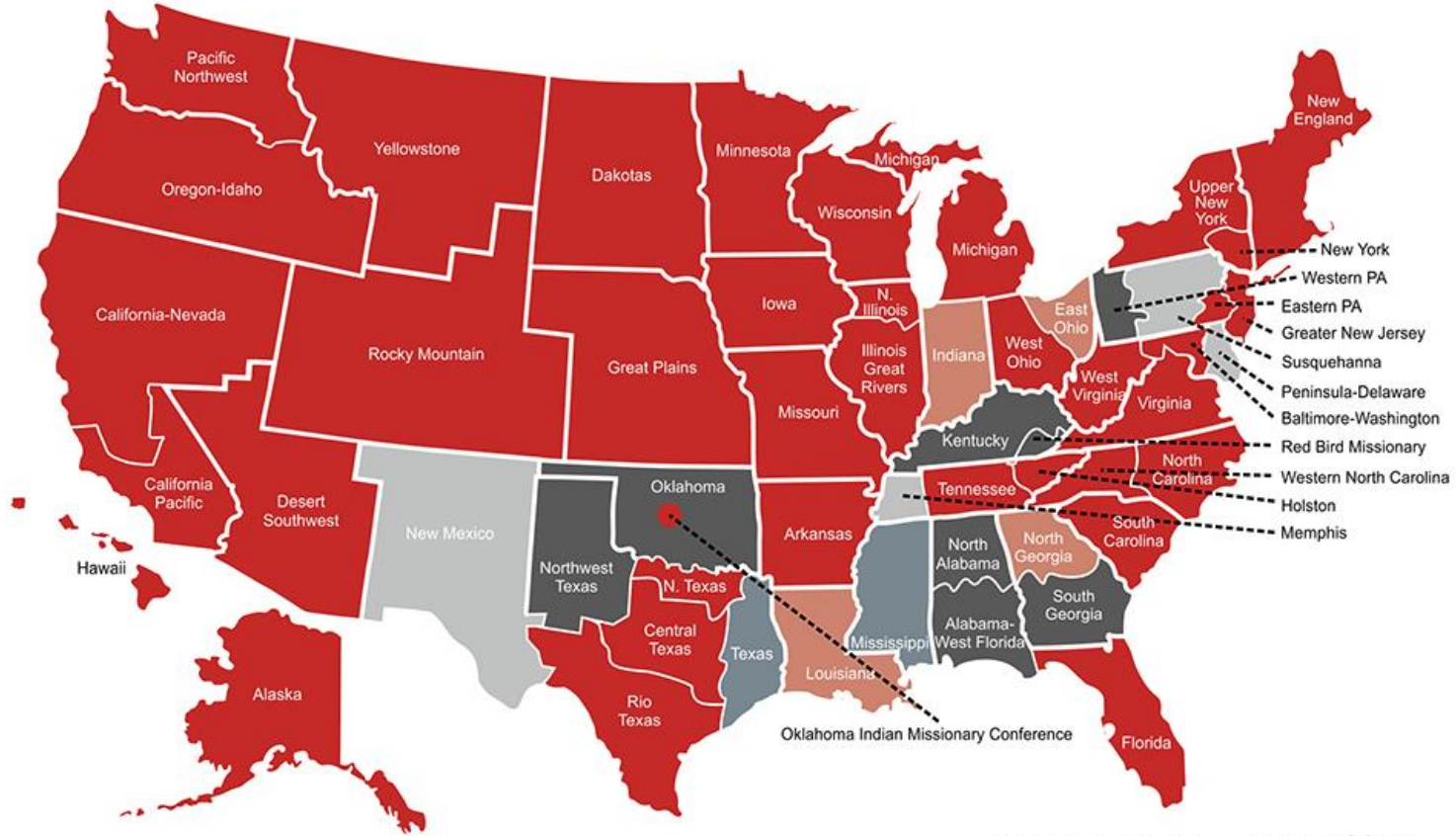
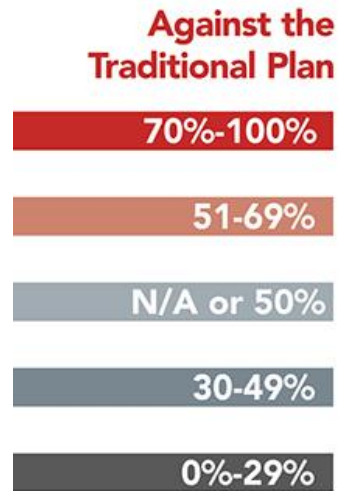
- 1. THE ONE CHURCH PLAN** – Decisions on whether to ordain gay clergy would be left up to Annual Conferences. Local churches would get to decide whether to host same-sex weddings. Clergy would get to decide whether they officiate same-sex weddings. We stay together as a denomination.
- 2. TRADITIONAL PLAN** – Retain current bans on same-sex weddings and gay clergy. Enforce the bans evenly across the entire UMC.
- 3. SIMPLE PLAN** – Do away with the bans on same-sex weddings and gay clergy across the entire UMC.

OUTCOME OF 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. Traditional Plan passed in a close vote (53% for; 47% against). TP received a minority of votes within the U.S. and a majority of votes outside the U.S. (led by Africa).
2. Backlash occurred among progressive and centrist United Methodists. An entire jurisdiction (Western US) and several bishops pledged that they would not enforce the bans. Some Annual Conferences passed resolutions pledging to resist enforcement of the TP.
3. The delegates elected to General Conference 2020 from the U.S. trended more centrist and progressive. Number of U.S. delegates supporting the TP has decreased.
4. Supporters of the TP have continued making plans to leave the UMC and form their own denomination even though the TP passed and became effective 1/1/2020.

US Opposition to the Traditional Plan *has gone mainstream!*

2020 United States Annual Conference Delegate Map



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Map updated June 30, 2019. Mainstream UMC © 2019

In 2019 the US delegates to the United Methodist General Conference were against the Traditional Plan **2 to 1**

Now it is nearly **3 to 1**

78% of money for the Global UMC is coming from Annual Conferences that reject the Traditional Plan.

2018 United States Annual Conference Giving Map

78%
of the budget from those against the Traditional Plan.
\$104,200,000

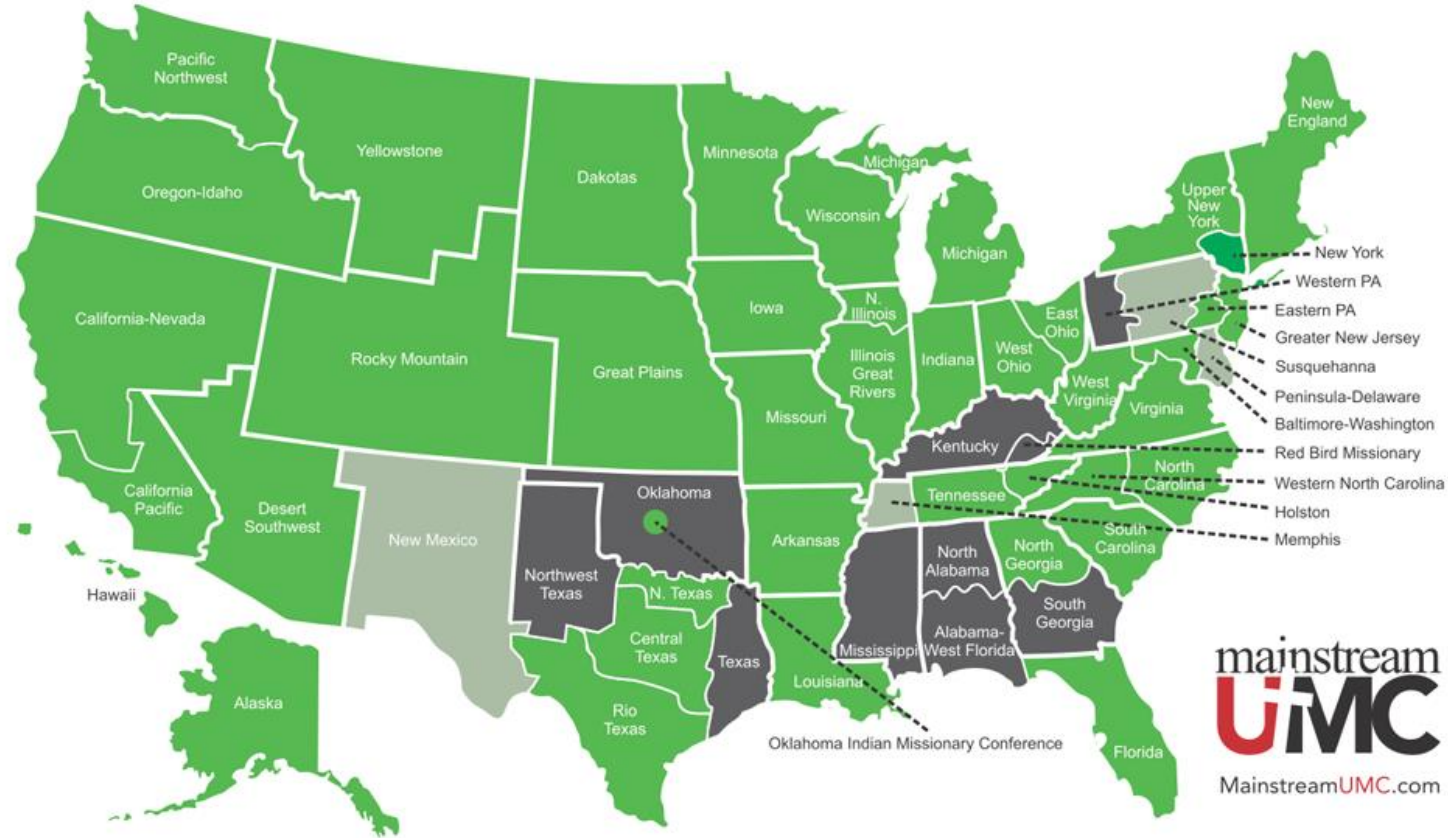
5%
of the budget from those 50/50 or N/A.
\$6,300,000

17%
of the budget from those supporting the Traditional Plan.
\$22,300,000

0.6%
of the budget from all conferences outside the US combined.
\$788,000

Total 2018 Global UMC Budget: \$134,000,000

All numbers from 2018 General Council of Finance and Administration Report



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Map updated: 07/15/2019 Mainstream UMC © 2019

80% of Annual Conferences that support the Traditional Plan paid less than 90% of their global apportionment.

80% of Annual Conferences that reject the Traditional Plan paid more than 90% of their global apportionment.

Protocol for Reconciliation & Grace through Separation



Effort was initiated by Bishop John Yambasu, Sierra Leone, Africa;



Mediation was led by Kenneth Feinberg, Esq. (known for work with 9/11 Victims' Compensation Fund);



Lay and Clergy leaders of key progressive, centrist and conservative UM groups



Goal of getting all sides behind one plan to resolve our differences at GC2020.

Financial Elements

1. Traditionalists who want to maintain the bans on gay clergy and same-sex marriage would leave the UMC and form a new denomination. The UMC would provide **\$25 million**, over four years, toward the creation of this new denomination. The new denomination would give up further claims to United Methodist assets, including those of general boards and agencies.
2. The UMC would escrow **\$2 million** to help other potential new denominations.
3. To support communities historically marginalized by racism, The UMC would allocate **\$39 million** over eight years to strengthen Asian, Black, Hispanic-Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander ministries, as well as Africa University. Of that total, \$13 million would come from funds the separating traditionalist denomination chose to forgo.

What Happens to the LGBTQ Bans?

The post-separation UMC would be free to hold a Special General Conference to do away with the Book of Discipline's current bans on same-sex marriage and ordination of gay clergy.

The new traditionalist Methodist denomination would hold a Convening Conference to adopt its own Book of Discipline, retaining the bans on same-sex weddings and ordination of gay clergy.

What Happens to Annual Conferences?



Annual Conferences may choose to vote on whether to affiliate with a new Methodist denomination pursuant to the Protocol.



If an Annual Conference does not take a vote on affiliation, it remains part of the post-separation UMC.



A vote must be held if 20% of those voting at an Annual Conference session support a motion to conduct such a vote.



Such an affiliation vote must be taken before July 1, 2021.



In order to affiliate with a new Methodist denomination pursuant to the Protocol, the vote to affiliate must be supported by 57% of those voting.

What Happens to Local Churches?

- Local churches which desire a different affiliation than its Annual Conference may conduct an affiliation vote to consider a different affiliation. If such a vote occurs, the church council (e.g., its Administrative Board or Council or its Leadership Board) shall determine a voting threshold of either a simple majority or two-thirds of those present and voting at a duly called church conference in order for the motion to opt for a different affiliation to be adopted.
- The vote on a motion to opt for a different affiliation shall occur in a church conference held not more than 60 days after the request for such a vote is made by the church council. Decisions about affiliation by a local church must be made by December 31, 2024.
- If a local church does not vote, it remains a part of the Methodist denomination selected by its Annual Conference.

What Happens to Local Church Property?



Currently, under the “Trust Clause,” local churches don’t own their buildings and assets. They are held in trust for the Annual Conference.



Local churches that leave the UMC or their Annual Conference for a denomination formed under the Protocol will get to keep its assets. The Annual Conference will waive the Trust Clause.



Local churches that leave the UMC or their Annual Conference for a denomination other than those formed under the Protocol will lose their property to the Annual Conference.



Documented loans to local churches from the Annual Conference must be repaid if the local church leaves. No other sums (such as unpaid apportionments) must be paid.

What Happens to UMC Agencies?

The agencies (such as UMCOR, UMW, etc. shall stay with the post-separation UMC, but...“The Council of Bishops of the post-separation United Methodist Church shall offer to enter into ecumenical agreements with Methodist denominations formed under this Protocol. Such ecumenical agreements may include participation in Boards and Agencies, continuation of various mission activities, or any other matters within the scope of ecumenical agreements.”



What Happens to Pensions?

The pension plans of The UMC will remain in place for all current clergy and lay employees affiliated with The UMC, regardless of the Methodist denomination under this Protocol with which they affiliate. The liability of Annual Conferences and local churches for pension benefits shall transfer with such entities to the Methodist denomination pursuant to the Protocol with which they affiliate.



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This Is Not A Done Deal...

The Protocol would have to pass at the 2020 General Conference being held in May in Minneapolis, MN.