

Resources Related to United Methodist General Conference 2022

“General Conference” is a once every four years gathering of United Methodists from around the world. It is the representative body of our denomination that can set official policy and speak on behalf of the entire denomination. Our “Book of Discipline” is the work of the General Conference.

The 2016 General Conference called for a special 2019 General Conference to act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward, authorized to examine paragraphs in “The Book of Discipline” concerning human sexuality and to explore options to strengthen church unity.

A “Traditional Plan” passed (438 yes/384 no) although some of it has since been ruled unconstitutional by the denomination’s Judicial Council. Read details of what happened here:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-happened-and-what-didnt-at-general-conference-2019>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/2019-general-conference-legislation-judicial-council-decisions>

The expectation was that further action would be taken at the 2020 General Conference with a strong possibility of a denominational split of some kind.

A diverse group of United Methodists got together with a mediator and worked out a “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” agreement to be considered by the General Conference

<https://www.gracethroughseparation.com> – group who negotiated Protocol

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan> United Methodist News article about the Protocol.

This “Protocol” is only one of several plans that may be considered by the upcoming General Conference, and it may also come up with something entirely different. The COVID Pandemic resulted in 2020 General Conference being postponed until Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022, to be held in Minneapolis. No definite action has been taken yet.

Gladstone Memorial UMC is in the Northern Skies District of the Michigan Conference. *The Michigan Conference is represented at General Conference by an elected team of 4 clergy and 4 lay delegates. You can find out who these people are and how to contact them at:*

<https://gc.michiganumc.org/home/gc-2020-delegates/>

Still have Questions? Contact Pastor Cathy Rafferty: pastor@gladstonechurch.org