

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Statements below are current in BOD)

Church Structure

General Church and Annual Conference and Connectional Funding

Apportionment giving currently remains the same: \$82,000 year for Trinity

TRUST CLAUSE: "Local church owns property, in trust, for the **benefit of the entire denomination**: local church owns property but local church needs consent of any lease, mortgage, or renovation of church property by conference leadership"

Local Church Organization: Charge/Church Conference; Nominations Committee; Staff Parish Committee; Finance Committee; Board of Trustees; others as desired

Bishops: Elected by jurisdictional or central conference for the **duration of their life**

District Superintendents: Appointed by the Bishop, 6 year term, 12 year limit with 2 year extension possible; currently 8 in NC Conference

Adaptability of Book of Discipline: Central conferences **can adapt** certain parts of the Discipline to fit their legal and cultural situation

Annual Conference Structure: Currently inclusive of 19 committees, boards, or commissions

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

(Statements below are being solidified)

Church Structure

General Church and Annual Conference
Annual Conference sets local percentage For local operations; connectional funding May not be more than 10% of local operating income within first 5 year; **Apportionment estimated to be under 50% of current amount, may be lower**

TRUST CLAUSE: There will be no "trust clause" in GMC: **local churches are empowered locally** regarding the lease, mortgage, or renovation of property without needing any additional consent

Local Church Organization: Charge/Church Conference; then a **flexible structure for the following decided by local church**: Nominations; Staff Parish Committee; Finance Committee; Board of Trustees; others as desired

Bishops: Two candidates nominated by **each local annual conference**; **term of office is 12 years maximum...not for life**

District Superintendents: Bishops select one Presiding Elder from candidates **selected by local district**; **Presiding Elder may simultaneously serve as either a local or retired pastor**

Adaptability of Book of Discipline is not adaptable by a central conference, unless a particular provisions states it may be adapted

Annual Conference Structure: **Begins with six committees and boards**; additional ones maybe established by local annual conference as desired

DOCTRINE

Holy Scripture: Primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine; **currently in practice it can be modified or reinterpreted by other sources**

Restrictive Rule: Protects Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith, General Rules, Episcopacy, right to trial and appeal, use of income from UMC Publishing House

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

Currently social principles **are not binding**, instructive or persuasive
Currently social principles are **not church law but intended to be instructive** and persuasive in prophetic spirit

Marriage: Affirms marriage covenant expressed in love, support, and commitment, and shared by fidelity between a man and a woman (likely to be changed in post separation UMC)

Human Sexuality: God's gift to all persons; affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage (likely to be changed in a post separation UMC)

Abortion: Balance sanctity of unborn life with life and well-being of mother and child; rejects abortion as means of birth control or gender selection (likely to be changed in a post separation UMC)

Homosexuality: Affirms sacred worth of all, God's grace is available to all. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. (Likely to be changed in post separation UMC)

DOCTRINE

Holy Scripture: **Primary rule and authority** of faith, morals, and service, against which **all other authorities must be measured**

Restrictive Rule: Protects Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith, and entire doctrine section, **requires 75% vote to edit or change**

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

Social principles will require 75% majority, and **will be binding on all clergy and congregations**; GMC looks to have fewer and more general statements
Social principles will serve as a **consensus vision of faithful discipleship transcending culture**

Marriage: To be defined as a legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous relationship between one man and one woman

Human Sexuality: God's gift to all persons; affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman

Abortion: Believing in the sacredness of all life, resists the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life. Will not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection. All support women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources.

Homosexuality: No explicit reference to homosexuality needed based upon above statements: God's grace is available to all; rejects pornography and promiscuity; church will be a refuge for all