

| <p><b>Overview of Proposals for General Conference</b></p> <p>Points included in this document are provided as a summary of the recommendations to the special 2019 General Conference. For more information, please read the entire report from the Commission on a Way Forward.</p> | <p><b>One Church Plan</b></p>   | <p><b>Connectional Conference Plan (CCs)</b></p>  | <p><b>Traditionalist Plan</b></p>   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Local Churches</b></p>  | <p><b>Summary:</b> This plan, preferred by a majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-gender weddings in UMC properties and ordination of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.” It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Most likely would make no changes in practice at the local level.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May rewrite wedding policies to explicitly allow or forbid same-gender weddings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Will covenant with bishop on whether congregation will accept LGBT pastor.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Summary:</b> This plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. All 3 would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can choose affiliation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Still will set wedding policies with churches in the “unity” CC able to set parameters for building use and/or wedding policies in either direction.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Summary:</b> This plan, developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process, broadens the definition of “self-avowed, practicing homosexual”; puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No vote unless the church disagrees with annual conference’s decision to stay or leave the UMC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Churches can leave if they disagree with annual conference’s decision to adhere to Discipline.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Clergy</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can exercise individual conscience.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bishop &amp; Cabinet would take theological convictions into account for appointments.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can transfer to another conference.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ends potential for church trials.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ candidates can be ordained and appointed to local churches that approve and can request transfer of candidacy of conference chooses not to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Will choose a CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transfers subject to approval by Board of Ordained Ministry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ordination would be recognized across all 3 CCs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Security of appointment determined by CC, with emphasis on protecting women and minorities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deacons and full-time local licensed pastors may see fewer opportunities.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must maintain Discipline or leave for “autonomous, affiliated or concordat church.”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Just resolutions from complaints must include commitment not to repeat offense.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> First offense results in one-year unpaid suspension.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second offenses result in surrendering credentials.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Annual Conferences</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No vote is needed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Boards of Ordained Ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> General Conference can craft a way for churches to exit with grace.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jurisdictional conferences will vote to join a CC on simple majority vote.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences who want to join a different CC than their jurisdiction chooses may do so on a simple majority vote.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences could revote every 4 years.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must certify that it will uphold the Discipline.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences that won’t certify are urged to form “autonomous, affiliated or concordat” church, and churches that leave can’t use United Methodist name or logo past 2020.</li> </ul>  |

Overview continued  
from other side

|                               | <b>One Church Plan</b>  | <b>Connectional Conference Plan (CCs)</b>  | <b>Traditionalist Plan</b>  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Council of Bishops</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Council continues as one body providing spiritual leadership.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bishops will be protected if their consciences will not allow him or her to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Funded by connectional conferences at comparable levels.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New bishops would be elected at organizing conference in 2022.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Active and retired bishops must certify they will adhere to Discipline.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bishops who will not certify adherence no longer receive compensation of expenses as of 2021 and will be encouraged to leave for "autonomous, affiliated or concordat" church.</li> </ul> |
| <b>General Agencies</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to operate as they do now.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have to adjust to potential declines in funding, as sustainability issues are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward's task.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jointly funded boards include Wespath, GCFA, UMCOR, Archives, parts of GBGM and the Publishing House.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Task force would evaluate each general agency and propose new model or UMC by 2025.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Program agencies would only serve CCs that desire participation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Justice ministries structures would be determined by CCs, with expected emphasis on sexism and racism.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to operate as they do now.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Related Institutions</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Likely no changes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commission conversations with members of these organizations indicate this plan makes it more likely for most institutions to maintain their affiliation.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Properties owned by annual and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Institutions can choose to relate to one or more CCs, as their bylaws allow.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their own bylaws.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Finance &amp; Pensions</b> | <p>Two petitions are recommended for any of the three plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any church that leaves would have to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clergy would be removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and have accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Same 2 petitions as One Church Plan.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Legal fees to navigate legacy connections.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wespath stays intact and extends to CCs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medical and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wespath will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go to another CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Same 2 petitions as the One Church Plan.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Episcopal Fund</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Salaries and benefits would be paid by each episcopal area.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other expenses would be shared via apportionments.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Salaries and benefits would be paid by each U.S.-based CC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No changes to Central Conference funding.</li> </ul>  |

For resources on this subject, go to [www.greatplainsumc.org/forwardinunity](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/forwardinunity)