

Brief History on how we got here. UMC 1968-2021

April 23, 1968, Dallas, TX, Constituting General Conference between EUB and ME formed United Methodist Church. Created a Social Principles Study Commission to report to 1972.

April 16-28, 1972 Atlanta Georgia, General Conference

Wesley Quadrilateral: Scripture, Experience, Tradition, and Reason equal authority in our Theological Task.

Social Principles: “We do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian doctrine.”

1988, Corrected understanding of Biblical foundation for our theology

“We interpret experience in light of Scripture norms.”

June 2003, Side note:

Episcopal Church of America elected their first gay Bishop.

Led to an avalanche of Episcopal Churches leaving to unite with other Anglican regions.

2003 to present, Lawsuits concerning property, EC \$42 million, Separatists \$18 million, (Totaling over \$60 million in legal fees.)

2012, 2016, motions to put term limits on bishops fail.

2016 Contentious General Conference in Portland, OR

Motion to end debate on Human Sexuality and have Bishops lead us through this impasse. (Vote narrow passed 428-405)

2016, WCA created and first Global Gathering in Chicago, Oct. 5.

2017, 2nd WCA Global Gathering, Oct. 14, Houston, TX, (first Simulcast.)

2018, 3rd Global Gathering, Nov. 3, Marietta, GA, Global Assembly

2019 Special Called Gen. Conference, Feb. 23-26, St. Louis, MO

- Three plans: One Church Plan (go Liberal),
- Connectional Conference Plan (3 conferences, go your own way, but call it united),
- Traditionalist Plan (Strengthen our Biblical stands and better enforce the BOD).

2019, WCA 4th Global Gathering, Tulsa, OK

Authorized 6 Task forces to report back next year.

1. Accountable Discipleship
2. Church Multiplication
3. Church Revitalization
4. Global Missional Partnerships
5. Missional Ministry in the Margins
6. Ministry with Young People and Young Adults

2019, Dec. 17, Protocol agreement

(Kenneth Feinberg, negotiator. Bishop John Yambasu, convener)

2020, WCA Global Assembly postponed.

2020, General Conference postponed.

2020 March, Transitional Leadership Group meets in Atlanta, GA.

Representing all Methodist reform groups and three Bishops. (Bishops Eduard Khegay, Mark Webb, and Mike Lowery)

2021 Feb-March, Council of Bishops call for and cancels a specially called General Conference.

2021 March 1, formation of the future Global Methodist Church is announced. After Protocol passes or support for protocol dwindles.

2021, WCA 5th Global Gathering, Montgomery, AL.

- Condemned the actions of Bishops against conservative pastors and churches.
- Supported the Protocol.
- Celebrated the future GMC
- Received reports and recommendations from 6 task forces

2022, proposed General Conference, Aug. 29-Sept. 6. Minneapolis, MN.

2023, Earliest West PA could vote on GMC is Protocol is passed.

Why do we have leave, it we won the vote?

- We could stay and continue to fight a dead end debate.
- WCA long term goal to remove the trust clause.
- UM is a top heavy organization that is remote from the local church
- UM leadership does not reflect our core values.
- We seek a church that is more flexible, less costly
- We want to be united around our core values.

Why stay? Why not leave now?

- Protocol is the only agreement that deals with the financial concerns.
- Best possible option for a soft, civil parting. (EC, \$60 million in lawsuits)
Trust Clause follows to GMC, then will be removed.
- Disaffiliation is costly, BOD para. 2553, benefits progressive and psUMC.
Pays hefty moneys to psUMC, funding existing overhead and episcopal leadership.
- Leaving early reduces conservative voting power and unity
Stay and stand with conservatives in liberal annual conferences,
Stay and stand with the global church: Philippines, Africa and parts of Eurasia.

Contend earnestly for the faith.

Jude 1:3, *I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*

1. Wait for the vision. Habakkuk 2:3, *“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.*
2. Go make disciples. Dr. Tim Tennant, “If the brand name United Methodist is causing you problems, take the sign down and get on with God’s mission!”