

Changes are Coming!

Discussed from a Theological point of view and a structural point of view.

If a congregation stays in the United Methodist Church, the structure of the church will NOT change.

- The Trust Clause will remain
- Bishops and the Cabinet will make appointments
- The Bishops serve for life and have incredible power
- There is a limited ability to hold Bishops and Clergy accountable in the current system especially across Jurisdictional and Annual Conference boundaries.
- The Conference provides tons of support to the local churches even taking on the responsibility to launch new churches.
- The District Superintendents are appointed by the Bishop and serve full time.
- The Conference does provide assistance especially during COVID, where the conference provided financial relief from the reserves held at the Conference.
- The current system is funded through apportionments.
- The Social principles are not binding.
- The theological tent is wide and very diverse views are accepted.
- WHAT HAS THE SYSTEM DELIVERED? The United Methodist Church in America has declined every single year since 1968. Consider that when the population has increased from 200 Million people to 330 million people. The population has increased 60% and the UMC has shrunk every single year.
- In the NCCUMC 50% of our church have 0 professions of faith, 25% have 1 Professions of Faith.

If a congregation stays in the United Methodist Church, the Theology WILL change.

- The definition of Marriage will change. This is not just out West, and up North, this has already occurred in a UMC in the NCCUMC. This is no secret.
- In the UMC Theology is supposed to be based on Scripture first, Tradition second, and then Reason and Experience. Theology is changing as Reason and Experience are being elevated at times above Scripture and Tradition.
- The ordination standards will change.
- This shift will occur because many view the ability for a member of the LBGQTA+ person to serve as a Clergy person as a Civil Right. They would argue that in the Past the UMC (really the predecessors of the UMC) originally did not allow minorities and women to become clergy and then later changed this incorrect view. For many, this same situation is what the LBGQTA+ faces today.
- I disagree. Scripture clearly tells us that Jesus valued all ethnicities, especially in His teaching about the Samaritans (Jesus reveals that He is the Messiah first to the Samaritan woman at the well John 4). Women clearly spread the Gospel message and carried the Good News of Jesus' resurrection (Mary was the first one at the tomb and was the first to carry the news of Jesus' resurrection to others. Matthew 28). SO women and all ethnicities should carry the Gospel and the church was initially wrong in withhold this ability and has since corrected it's mistake.

- I do not find a single scripture passage that supports same sex marriage or a person from the LBGQTA+ community that has spread the Gospel...so the claim that the rights of the LBGQTA+ community serving as clergy is not the same, in my eyes, as accepting minorities or women into the clergy.
- And we must note that the denomination does have the authority to establish criteria for who can serve as a member of clergy. In the UMC, if you have a credit score below a certain number you can not serve as a clergy person....might that beg the question...don't they have the civil right to serve.
- I am not saying people in the LBGQTA+ community should not be clergy if they are called by God, I am saying they should serve in a denomination that has agreed with them serving. Right now the Bishop in the Western Jurisdiction is in a same sex union (in open defiance to the Book of Discipline).

If a congregation moves the Global Methodist Church, the things that will NOT change.

- Our Theology. We hold firm to basing our theology on Scripture first, Tradition second and the Reason and Experience.
- The Social Principles will be BINDING to all clergy and Congregations.

If a congregation moves the Global Methodist Church, the things that WILL change.

- The structure, expectation, and expense will change.
- There will be NO Trust Clause, if you want to leave you can, you will have to pay the unfunded pension liability. Membership in the GMC is voluntary.
- There will be a system to hold all clergy, bishops and congregations accountable. If you teach heresy you will be removed.
- Bishops will NOT serve for life.
- Bishops will be selected from a pool of candidates to serve for a term and then they will return to a local church.
- There will be NO District Superintendents. There will be Presiding Elders who serve a local church and will be available to help if needed.
- There will be much less Conference structural, which means less help and less expense.
- One example, Churches will be expected to launch/plant churches...that responsibility falls on us, in the Local church, not other people at the Conference.
- The power of the appointment process will shift and be shared with pastors and churches. That means that is a Pastor is not working hard they can be removed. That means that is a congregation isn't working hard, the Pastor can leave. We will hold each other accountable!

Questions