

Our View Regarding Questions That You May Have About Staying UMC

- **“Will the UMC believe in the authority of Scripture?”** YES. We affirm that “The Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation,” and we receive the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God.
- **“Will UMC theology go liberal across the board?”** NO. We, like the GMC, stand by the historical creeds (Apostles and Nicene), the Articles of Religion, the Confession of Faith, the General Rules, and Wesley’s Sermons and Notes on the New Testament. Per the Constitution, the Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith cannot be changed by a General Conference, and in fact no such resolutions have reached the floor over the 24 years that Tom Wussow has been attending.
- **“Why won’t the UMC require compliance with the current discipline?”** The disobedience in the UMC is largely with respect to the human sexuality issue and concentrated in a few individuals in a few conferences. Most pastors that would like to perform gay marriages do not. A compassionate view recognizes that those few not following the discipline in this area are following a higher principle in light of what they consider an unjust law – similar to Martin Luther King’s philosophy regarding civil disobedience.
- **“Is the UMC just bowing to contemporary American culture?”** NO. There is much about gay culture that is clearly not compatible with Christian life, as is true of contemporary American heterosexual culture, and these elements will continue to be resisted.
- **“Will pastors be forced to perform gay marriages?”** NO. The current Book of Discipline continues to prohibit gay marriage by our pastors. If this is changed in the future, pastors will continue to have discretion about when to officiate at weddings, as they do now in all cases. Why would a gay couple want to be married by a pastor that doesn’t fully support them anyway?
- **“Will churches be forced to accept gay pastors?”** NO. The current Book of Discipline continues to prohibit the ordination of openly gay people who are not celibate. If that changes, Annual Conferences will remain in control of who gets ordained, and churches will continue to be consulted about the appointment of pastors. It will take a generation before a significant number of gay pastors are ordained in any case.
- **“Won’t all traditional African and other overseas conferences leave?”** NO, not all. Some have already indicated a desire to stay, valuing long-term connections and tolerant of other interpretations.
- **“Won’t we just end up continuing the dissension around human sexuality, interfering with our mission?”** NO – assuming that those on both sides that cannot stay with a denomination that tolerates the other leave the UMC, we believe the center can quickly find common ground and move on.
- **“What about the outliers and weird-o’s in the UMC?”** There have always been outliers in the UMC and every other church. Do I agree with them? Not necessarily. Will I be in a church with them? Absolutely! Diversity of perspective keeps us humble, moving towards perfection in Christ.
- **“Won’t most people just stay with their friends regardless of which way KUMC decides?”** Unknown. For sure, if we stay with the UMC, some that find their beliefs incompatible will leave. Same if we leave – some compatibilists will decide their best witness is with the inclusive UMC and leave our congregation. It seems to me that if one wants to retain as many friends as possible, a big tent will hold more.