

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do we have to decide which denomination our church will belong to in the next three months?

A: No, nothing has to be decided now. There is some concern because ¶2553 on disaffiliation, expires at the end of 2023, but the General Conference will meet in 2024 and will re-establish methods for disaffiliation.

Q: Will the UMC become more progressive?

A: Nothing has changed in the UMC in the past few months and cannot change until 2024, at the earliest. Also, the General Conference of the UMC will remain a diverse decision-making body with many perspectives—traditionalist, centrist, and progressive—influencing any changes.

Q: Is the Global Methodist Church established?

A: Yes and no. The GMC officially founded as an organization on May 1, 2022 but currently has no churches. At the moment, they are operating under provisional rules, and their official Book of Doctrines and Discipline will not be in place for another 12–18 months, when they have their convening conference.

Q: If we join the GMC, will we have a pastor?

A: The GMC has stated that for the first 18 months, you would continue to have the same pastor you have now. After that, things are unknown as they have not finalized their appointment process, but given that they are ending guaranteed appointment, how small churches receive pastors is currently up in the air.

Q: What is different between the Global Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church as we know it today?

A: Both churches currently have the same understanding of Christian marriage. The GMC and UMC differ on some key Wesleyan theology, particularly around grace. The UMC sees itself deliberately as a “big tent” where diversity is valued, whereas the GMC places a higher value on doctrinal conformity with greater enforcement mechanisms around doctrine, denominational rules, and the payment of apportionments.

Q: Who will belong to the Texas Annual Conference in 2023?

A: The Texas Annual Conference and the broader United Methodist Church will remain home to traditionalists, centrists, and progressives. All of these perspectives will be at the table together in 2023 at our Annual Conference and in 2024 at the General Conference.

Q: Is the Global Methodist Church the only denomination you can affiliate with if you disaffiliate from the UMC?

A: No. Former United Methodist churches have disaffiliated to join the Free Methodist Church or the United Church of Christ. Others have gone independent. For our African American churches, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church–Zion, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church remain historic and vibrant expression of Wesleyan Christianity.

Q: Are the Central Conferences of Africa joining the GMC?

A: While not all Central Conferences have made a decision, many have publicly stated that they will remain with the UMC at least until the 2024 General Conference.

Q: In the midst of conflict are there still ministries in the UMC that are building the kingdom of God?

A: Together as United Methodists, we have fought malaria, sent missionaries around the world, worked to rebuild communities after natural disasters, founded and maintained universities, hospital systems and children’s homes, and made disciples for the transformation of the world. That work is ongoing and has not stopped—no matter what other conflicts or conversations have been going on.