

What does the Global Church believe? Authority of Scripture. Relationship of God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Will the bishops be able to do as they please without consequences? i.e. How are they held accountable? Should I trust the Global Church's leadership? I've been misled by the UMC leadership.

From the Global Methodist Church website (<https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>):

Since its inception, God's Spirit has enlivened the Methodist movement. In the 1720s John and Charles Wesley and friends at Oxford University met together to deepen their Christian faith through daily, practical spiritual disciplines. Derided by others as a "new sect of Methodists" for their "methodical" ways of practicing the faith and holding one another accountable to it, the small group embraced the insult and persevered in their fellowship. And so, they and the millions who followed after them have ever since been known as "the people called Methodists."

In that spirit, this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church is intended to serve as a resource for all who wish to join in a "methodical," practical, and warm-hearted pursuit of loving God and serving others as Jesus' disciples in the world. Beginning with confessions rooted in Scripture and shaped by the great teaching of the Church universal, the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline provides the essential structure for the Global Methodist Church from its official launch on May 1, 2022, until its convening General Conference twelve to eighteen months later. It is offered with the prayer that it will help guide us in a new season of the church's life as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. You may search for any term in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline by entering the term in the search box immediately below and pressing Enter on your keyboard. To restore the entire Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, clear the search box of text and press Enter on your keyboard.

The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline was updated effective November 1, 2022, to amend the following provisions of the TBD&D for the reasons stated:

- To remove provisions from the TBD&D related to annual conferences formerly associated with The United Methodist Church joining the Global Methodist Church. Such provision was removed because the UM Church is not permitting its annual conferences to withdraw as a whole. The following paragraphs have been changed from the preceding version for this reason: ¶349.4, 355, 506.1, 516.1 and 613.
- To amend for the sake of clarity. Paragraph 497.3a was changed from the preceding version for this reason.

Who determines the fee assessed for leaving? How is it determined?

The Annual Conference determines what a Local Church will pay upon disaffiliation. Our Annual Conference has set that as a Local Church must pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months immediately prior to disaffiliation and an additional 12 months of apportionments. It will also have to pay unfunded pension obligations, repayment of any vitally grants receive by the Conference or District in the last 10 years and legal costs. Working with Wespath (the company that handles retirement plan for the UMC), the Western North Carolina Conference has calculated the amount of the unfunded pension liability attributed to each church. If a church requests a Church Conference to vote on disaffiliation, the congregation will know the unfunded pension amount before taking the vote.

The District Superintendent said our total will be \$670,000. However, when ORUMC pays our full apportionment amount for 2022, our cost will be approximately \$560,000.

What are the best resources to read to get the most accurate information to make this big decision?

- The United Methodist Church (UMC)
 - <https://www.umc.org/>
- Ask the UMC Series: Is the United Methodist Church really...?
 - <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-series-is-the-umc-really>
- Western North Carolina Conference The United Methodist Church
 - <https://www.wnccumc.org/>
- The Global Methodist Church (GMC)
 - <https://globalmethodist.org/>
 - <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>
- Wesleyan Covenant Association
 - <https://wesleyan covenant.org/>

(The Wesleyan Covenant Association is the group putting together the proposed framework for the Global Methodist Church. The Wesleyan Covenant Association will dissolve at the creation of the GMC)

How and why did paragraph 2553 come into existence?

At the 2016 General Conference, discussions about policies on human sexuality became so disruptive, they were tabled until a Special General Conference could be scheduled. The Special General Conference was held in 2019, and resulted in upholding and strengthening the Book of Discipline's stance on homosexuality (that it is incompatible with scripture) by a vote of 53% to 47%.

After the 2019 Special General Conference, it became clear a split of the UMC would occur, and a new paragraph was added to the Book of Discipline (paragraph 2553) that created a general path for disaffiliation from the UMC. This path was temporary and expires on 12/31/23.

However, instead of disaffiliation, some leaders came out against portions of the Book of Discipline, or delayed acting against those that did, until after the 2024 General Conference, in the event rules change.

These actions, as well as concerns over previous statements made by some UMC leaders, that traditionalists say challenges the authority of scripture, divinity of Christ, and goes against basic Christian doctrines, have caused more traditional congregations to disaffiliate from the UMC. Many of these traditional churches have stated they welcome the LGBTQ+ community with open arms, and their decision to disaffiliate has nothing to do with human sexuality.

<https://www.wnccumc.org/disaffiliating-churches-2021>

How long will elders serve?

These answers are authored by the UMC and GMC respectively.

UMC answers in red

Global Methodist Church in blue

	Clergy	
Can a local church select its own pastor(s)?	No; all clergy are appointed by the bishop in consultation with the local church. from ¶425 and ¶426 "Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part....Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or district superintendent confer with the pastor and committee on pastor-parish relations.... Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory."	No; all clergy are appointed by the bishop in consultation with the local church. from ¶509 and ¶510 "...clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part. ...Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or presiding elder (district superintendent) confers with the pastor and pastor-parish relations committee, ...Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the pastor-parish relations committee is advisory..."
Are all clergy guaranteed an appointment?	Yes, for elders only. from ¶337 "All elders in full connection who are in good standing in an annual conference shall be continued under appointment by the bishop..."	No. from ¶512 "Clergy must be effective in their leadership and ministry. Accordingly, within the Global Methodist Church, neither elders nor deacons shall have the right to a guaranteed appointment. If a bishop chooses not to appoint a clergy person, the bishop must provide a written rationale for that decision to the individual involved. Clergy are free to seek an appointment in an annual conference other than their own. Deacons and elders who are not under a current appointment shall be considered inactive (¶¶ 409.3, 410.3 respectively.)
Do non-appointed clergy retain voting rights?	Yes, if in good standing. from ¶329.2 and 334.1 "The deacon [and elder] in full connection shall have the rights of voice and vote in the annual conference where membership is held; ...The deacon in full connection shall attend all the sessions of the annual conference and share with elders in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶ 334.1).	No. from ¶409.3 and ¶410.3 Deacons are clergy members in full connection of the annual conference with full voice and vote on all matters except the ordination and conference relation of elders. Deacons not serving under appointment shall be classified as inactive and shall have no voting rights in the annual conference, except as provided for in ¶ 417. ... An elder not serving under appointment shall be classified as inactive and shall not have voting rights in the annual conference, except as provided for in ¶ 417.

Can we leave without paying to get out?

Not without surrendering our assets. There is currently a lawsuit involving 38 churches in our conference. These churches are seeking to reduce the cost and qualifications for disaffiliation.

Why do we have to pay to get out?

Paragraph 2553 of the UMC Book of Discipline describes the financial costs of disaffiliation. There are 2 components: 1. annual apportionments (we will need to pay unpaid apportionments for 12 months prior to disaffiliation and an additional 12 months of apportionments). 2. unfunded pension liability. These funds go to support our previous Pastors who have served the church.

Is the Global Methodist Church the most aligned with Christ as Lord and Savior? And biblically based? If not, what affiliation is/will be? These answers are authored by the UMC and GMC respectively.

UMC answers in red

Global Methodist Church in blue

	Doctrine & Theology	
<i>Does the denomination uphold and affirm the authority of Scripture?</i>	Yes. from ¶105) "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. ...Our standards affirm the Bible as the source of all that is 'necessary' and 'sufficient' unto salvation (Articles of Religion) and 'is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice' (Confession of Faith)."	Yes. from ¶104) "The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (as specified in the Articles of Religion) are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured."
<i>Does the denomination teach and affirm the full divinity of Jesus?</i>	Yes. from ¶104, Confession of Faith Article II) "We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged."	Yes. from ¶106.2, Confession of Faith, Article II) "We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged."
<i>Does the denomination teach and affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus?</i>	Yes. from ¶104, Articles of Religion, Article III) "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day."	Yes. from ¶106, Articles of Religion, Article III) "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day."

What do you recommend when you have a gay child who questions God's love, acceptance and grace while trying to go through this process? What do you say to them? God unconditionally loves and accepts your child and every gay person, as do we at ORUMC. His grace and mercy are freely given to all. If you need any further help or counseling, please speak with Pastor Mike or Harrison. Your family is loved, wanted, and valued!

What is the impact to the building loan if disaffiliation is the decision?
None. ORUMC holds the note and is obligated to pay for the building

What decision has Mike made?
If Pastor Mike has made a decision, it has not been made public.

When will that be announced?
Pastor Mike is not required to render his decision to the WNCC until ORUMC decides to pursue a vote on disaffiliation and has provided all documentation to the District Superintendent to allow her to schedule the vote.

What is the position of either church on the rise of Christian nationalism?
Neither church has taken a formal position we could identify. It conflates national and Christian identity, religious belief and political ideology, which makes it a form of idolatry, which both would oppose.

What specific steps are planned to address the expected rift between both churches?
The stated goal of disaffiliation process is to allow a “gracious exit” for those churches who choose to do so. Each body is free to follow their beliefs and practices.

What are our choices?
The first decision that ORUMC needs to make is whether to pursue a vote on disaffiliation. That is a decision that our Church Council will make after our period of discernment. If the decision is to allow a vote, we will begin an arduous process leading up to the members of the church taking a vote on whether or not to disaffiliate. Once that vote is taken, and 2/3 or more agree on disaffiliation, several more steps follow before the process will be complete. If the vote fails to generate 2/3 majority, nothing changes, and we remain a part of the UMC. The specific steps are outlined in the “WNCC Checklist and Procedure For Local Churches” There is a link for that document on our church website. You can also find the information on www.wnccumc.org

When do we vote?
Once a decision is made to vote, the Church Council, after fulfilling all the paperwork requirements, will work with the District Superintendent to schedule a congregational vote at ORUMC. Only the District Superintendent can schedule the vote and she is required to conduct and count the vote.

When do we have to make the decision?
Because the provisions of Paragraph 2553 expire December 31, 2023, we would need to vote in January or early February 2023. The WNCC Annual conference must vote to

approve any petition to disaffiliate at its scheduled meeting in June 2023. To be placed on the agenda, our petition must be complete by April 1. Another option would be to wait until the 2024 General Conference and see what if any changes are made to the Book of Discipline, before making any decisions.

If we leave the UMC, what are all the options we have? How will we decide which option to choose? When will we discuss this?

Briefly, our options would include joining the Global Methodist Church, becoming an independent Methodist Church, joining another denomination, or becoming an unaffiliated Christian church. There may be others. Our Church Council will lead that discussion, which would include a vote by our members. This would only be discussed after a vote to disaffiliate.

How will pension payments be handled? When a division takes place, will we still have an office in Charlotte?

Wespath has been planning for various potential scenarios that might affect the future structure of The United Methodist Church (UMC), with emphasis on assuring that clergy benefits remain as secure as possible. Wespath strives to be a bridge-building, non-anxious presence in the midst of change. We seek to maintain the continuity of benefits for those who serve and investment management services for Methodist-related entities.

The decision by the Commission on General Conference to postpone the 2020 General Conference to 2024 has generated new questions from across the denomination regarding how pension obligations will be handled by Wespath if local churches or annual conferences separate from the UMC before the next General Conference. The following new Q&As provide Wespath's responses to these questions. We will update these FAQs periodically as more information becomes available.

Important Note: These FAQs address issues that continue to be impacted by rapidly changing circumstances. Wespath will update these FAQs periodically as more information becomes available.

<https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5857.pdf>

The Global Methodist Church is still in early formation and does not yet have a central office in our area.

What is required of ORUMC if it decides not to follow the direction of the Methodist church? Are there financial obligations to the UMC? How does ORUMC leave the UMC? (Terry answered this too).

⇒ See answers above

I understand under the present guidelines that a local church may disaffiliate with the UMC by the end of 2023. But information I have seen and heard indicate that churches are under a shorter timeline as to when they need to take action. Is this a decision that needs to be addressed and approved by annual conference 2023? When do local churches actually need to take action?

Disaffiliation using paragraph 2553 must be complete by December of 2023. Any request to disaffiliate must be approved by the June 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference (unless a called Annual Conference is schedule in the fall of 2023 or sooner). The Local Church must turn in a Disaffiliation Agreement & and Annual Conference Petition prior to **April 1, 2023**, for it to be included on the agenda of the 2023 Annual Conference. The Local Church must first provide several documents to the District Superintendent and have a vote (scheduled & conducted by the District Superintendent). The full details of the disaffiliation process can be found at <https://www.wnccumc.org/>