

 UNITING
METHODISTS

*Room
for All*



ONE CHURCH PLAN

Making Room for All – Benefits of the Plan to Help All Be Faithful

The One Church Plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches and pastors unique flexibility to reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church. In the One Church Plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions. The plan maintains the leadership structure of The United Methodist Church, including the Council of Bishops, the General Conference and the annual conferences as one body and one church. It offers greater freedom to many who desire change but do not want to violate The Book of Discipline. Voting is kept to a minimum except where it is helpful. No mandate will require local churches, conferences or pastors to participate in a vote that divides, segments or separates. The United Methodist Church remains in connection, upholding unity of mission without uniformity of practice. The plan grants space for traditionalists to continue to offer ministry as they have in the past, for progressives to exercise freely a more complete ministry with LGBTQ individuals and for all United Methodists to continue to coexist without disrupting ministries. Additionally, this plan creates space for annual conferences in various part of the world to practice ministry according to their national or regional contexts with the connectional autonomy of the adaptable portions of the Discipline.



ONE CHURCH PLAN

	Traditional Perspective	Unity Perspective	Progressive Perspective	Central Conference Contexts
Views on Same-Gender Sexuality	The One Church plan acknowledges the consciences of many by giving options to pastors who desire to perform marriages and conferences who wish to ordain gay individuals. It offers assurances to pastors and conferences who do not wish to do so.	The One Church plan acknowledges the consciences of many by giving options to pastors who desire to perform marriages and conferences who wish to ordain gay individuals. It offers assurances to pastors and conferences who do not wish to do so.	The One Church plan acknowledges the consciences of many by giving options to pastors who desire to perform marriages and conferences who wish to ordain gay individuals. It offers assurances to pastors and conferences who do not wish to do so.	No change to current practices is required. Central conference may compose its own Disciplinary language in light of its setting. Extends time for adaptations to 18 months after General Conference.
Local Churches	No vote is required. May opt to express preference not to welcome appointment of LGBTQ clergy; bishops will consider preference in making appointments.	No vote is required. May opt to express preference to welcome or not welcome appointment of LGBTQ clergy and clergy supporting full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals; bishops will consider preference in making appointments.	No vote is required. May opt to express preference not to welcome appointment of clergy not supporting full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals; bishops will consider preference in making appointments.	No changes required.
Marriage	No clergy shall be required to officiate at same-gender unions.	Consistent with long-standing practice, clergy may exercise their individual conscience in addressing each request for officiating at weddings.	No clergy shall be prohibited from performing same- gender marriages.	No changes required.



ONE CHURCH PLAN

	Traditional Perspective	Unity Perspective	Progressive Perspective	Central Conference Contexts
Weddings/ Ceremonies	Prohibits same-gender weddings in church buildings unless each church conference has a majority vote. Bishop and district superintendent cannot require a church to host a wedding.	Prohibits same-gender weddings in church buildings unless each church conference has a majority vote. Bishop and district superintendent cannot require or prevent a church to host a same- gender wedding.	Permits same-gender weddings in church buildings once each church conference has a majority vote. Bishop and district superintendent may not prevent such weddings.	No change. No same-gender weddings allowed where prohibited by civil law.
Clergy Candidacy	Board of Ordained Ministry may recommend and clergy session may establish policy on approving LGBTQ individuals. Matter may be considered only once every 30 months unless approved for early review by bishop. Annual conference may offer advisory resolution to clergy session.	Board of Ordained Ministry may recommend and clergy session may establish policy on approving LGBTQ individuals. Matter may be considered only once every 30 months unless approved for early review by bishop. Annual conference may offer advisory resolution to clergy session.	Board of Ordained Ministry may recommend and clergy session may establish policy on approving LGBTQ individuals. Matter may be considered only once every 30 months unless approved for early review by bishop. Annual conference may offer advisory resolution to clergy session.	Central conferences will have the authority to retain present Disciplinary language.
Clergy Apointments	Retains standard of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage. Conferences not obligated to accept transfer of LGBTQ clergy. Clergy who do not support their annual conference's standards regarding LGBTQ clergy will be assisted to transfer to a different conference. Bishops may re-appoint when requested if majority local church members and clergy have different views. Clergy may opt to have their convictions regarding LGBTQ matters added to their file.	Retains standard of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage. Clergy who do not support their annual conferences standards regarding LGBTQ clergy will be assisted to transfer to a different conference. Bishops may re-appoint when requested if majority of local church members have different views. Clergy may opt to have statement of their convictions regarding LGBTQ matters added to their file.	Retains standard of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage. Clergy who do not support their annual conferences standards regarding LGBTQ clergy will be assisted to transfer to a different conference. Bishops may re-appoint when requested if majority of local church members have different views. Clergy may opt to have statement of their convictions re LGBTQ matters added to their file.	No changes required.



ONE CHURCH PLAN

	Traditional Perspective	Unity Perspective	Progressive Perspective	Central Conference Contexts
Ordination	<p>Clergy session may decline to recommend LGBTQ clergy candidates.</p> <p>Bishop not required to officiate for ordination of LGBTQ clergy.</p>	<p>Clergy session may establish policy on LGBTQ clergy candidates. Policy may be reconsidered after 30 months.</p> <p>Annual Conference may offer advisory resolution to clergy session. All approved candidates shall be ordained.</p>	<p>Annual Conference may offer advisory resolution to clergy session re LGBTQ clergy candidates. All approved candidates shall be ordained.</p>	<p>No change. No same-gender weddings allowed where prohibited by civil law.</p>
Funding	<p>Retains prohibition against funding "promotion of homosexuality." Calls for GCFA to explore means for episcopal areas to fund salaries for their bishops.</p>	<p>Calls for GCFA to explore means for episcopal areas to fund salaries for their bishops.</p>	<p>Calls for GCFA to explore means for episcopal areas to fund salaries for their bishops.</p>	<p>Funding for central conference bishops continues through general church Episcopal Fund.</p>
Local Church Exit	<p>Current provisions setting criteria and process for church exits are maintained with addition of withdrawal payment to pension liabilities.</p>	<p>Current provisions setting criteria and process for church exits are maintained.</p>	<p>Current provisions setting criteria and process for church exits are maintained.</p>	<p>Current provisions setting criteria and process for church exits are maintained.</p>