

How does the UMC work?

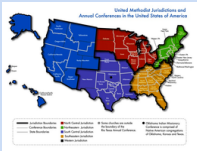


General Conference

- Every UMC in the world
- Meets every 4 years to make big decisions that affect the whole church

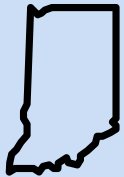
Jurisdictional Conference

- We're in the North Central Jurisdiction
- Every UMC in a specific area
- Meets every 4 years
- Elects Bishops, the presiding elder for each annual conference



Annual Conference

- We're in the Indiana Annual Conference
- Every UMC in a smaller area, for us the state of IN
- Meets every year



How did we get here?

A Timeline of Events



What's Next?

General Conference is expected to debate/vote upon three pieces of legislation related to the issue of same-sex marriage.

- The first topic will be **regionalization**. While same-sex marriage is legal in the United States, it is not legal in many countries within Africa (where United Methodism is still growing strong). Regionalization would combine the five jurisdictions of the United States into one "regional conference," while elevating current "central conferences" around the globe to equal stature. Each regional conference will have its own *Book of Discipline*; no region will be able to impose its will on another. Regionalization will allow each area of the world to decide its own stance upon the issue of same-sex marriage.
- Centrists & progressives have proposed the **removal of all "restrictive" language** for all LGBTQ persons, thereby allowing clergy, churches, and annual conferences within the United States to determine their own decisions around same-sex marriage.
- Finally, General Conference will vote whether or not to **renew the "disaffiliation paragraph"** that would allow dissenting congregations a pathway to exit the denomination. Legislation would be required to extend the option of disaffiliation to all "central conferences" around the globe.