

Florida Annual Conference District Meetings to Prepare for General Conference 2020

Major Proposals before General Conference:

- 1) New Denominations of United Methodism (Indianapolis Plan)
- 2) New Expressions Worldwide (UMForward)
- 3) Next Generation UMC (UMC Next)
- 4) Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation (Mediation Team)

Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation:

- Result of diverse mediation team gathered by Central Conference Bishops.
- Had assistance from mediator named Ken Feinberg.
- Assumed continuation of The United Methodist Church with allowance for separation.
- Does not require anyone to vote. Default position is The United Methodist Church.
- Annual Conferences can vote by 57% to depart and join a new denomination. Retain all annual conference assets and liabilities. All churches and clergy remain with their annual conference unless clergy choose, or churches vote to remain United Methodist.
- Local churches can vote to do something different than their annual conference at a church conference where all professing members get a vote. Voting threshold is decided by church council – either simple majority or 2/3 vote. Churches who join new Methodist denomination can retain property, assets and liabilities. Pension liability transferred to new denomination.
- Clergy continue as a member of the annual conference but are able by their own choice to do something different than their annual conference. Clergy retain pension.
- New Traditional Methodist Denominations share in 25 million fund created to help the new denominations start well. New Other Methodist Denominations share in 2 million fund.
- 39 million fund for historically marginalized groups in US and Africa University guaranteed for next 8 years.
- Local churches can leave to become independent but must pay pension withdrawal liability and a year of apportionments.
- Current protocol legislation does not change The United Methodist Church's teaching or stance on marriage and sexuality. It could change in the future. Any change would likely be precipitated by creation of US regional conference.
- Current and future moratorium on complaints related to marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons.
- Currently endorsed by most major caucus groups, various delegations, bishops and central conferences.

Timeline (Note: This was the timeline prior to Postponement of General Conference):

- Late April 2020 – Judicial Council Meeting with possible review of protocol legislation
- May 5-15, 2020 – General Conference
- June 4-6, 2020 – Florida Annual Conference
- July 15-17, 2020 – Southeast Jurisdictional Conference - election/assignment of Bishops
- July 1, 2021 – Deadline for (optional) Annual Conference vote
- December 31, 2024 – Deadline for (optional) Local Church vote

REVISED Timeline (Note: New estimate of times based on postponement of General Conference):

- Fall 2020 – Judicial Council Meeting with possible review of protocol legislation
- Sometime in 2021 – General Conference
- Six weeks after General Conference – Southeast Jurisdictional Conference
- July 1 or December 31, 2022 – Deadline for (optional) Annual Conference vote
- December 31, 2025 or later – Deadline for (optional) Local Church vote

Resources:

- Send thoughts to Florida delegation at fldelegation@flumc.org
- See video from Bishop Carter at www.flumc.org/bishop-carter
- See Q and A video from Conference Table at www.flumc.org/protocol-of-grace-q-a-video
- See Tom Berlin's video about Protocol Legislation at <https://revtomberlin.com/talking-about-the-protocol/> (Note how Tom distinguishes between All Can/Some Will vs. None Can/None Will)
- Helping your Congregation get ready for GC 2020 at www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/helping-your-congregation-get-ready-for-general-conference
- General Conference legislation www.resourceumc.org
- Prayer resources at umcprays.org/