

Overview of Plans to 2019 General Conference

	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan	Traditional/Modified Traditional Plan	Simple Plan
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes “incompatible with Christian teaching” statement from some paragraphs (Social Principles, ¶¶ 304, 310, 2702) and adds to new paragraphs (¶¶ 415, 605) Removes prohibitions against same-gender weddings and ordination of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” Adds protections for bishops and clergy who choose not to officiate at ordinations or weddings Effective Jan 1, 2020 – extends time for central conferences to 18 months after General Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces the current geographical jurisdictional with three connectional conferences based on perspectives on sexuality: Progressive, Traditional and Unity Additional conferences may be established to a maximum of eight. Each would use a general Book of Discipline with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry. Requires constitutional amendments Implementation not complete until 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains prohibitions against self-avowed practicing gay clergy and same-gender weddings Broadens the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” to include persons living in a same-sex marriage or civil union or persons who publicly state that they are practicing homosexuals. Mandates penalties for disobedience to the Discipline Requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination Effective at the adjournment of the 2019 special session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes incompatibility clause Eliminates all prohibitions that limit the role of homosexual people in the church Effective Jan 1, 2020 with an additional 12 months for central conferences
Local Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May establish wedding policies to allow or forbid same-gender weddings Not required to have LGBTQ pastor – preference will be considered in making appointments Maintains current process for churches that seek to leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches in the Unity Conference may establish wedding policies that allow or prohibit same-gender weddings Can vote to join a connectional conference other than the one chosen by their annual conference Property, assets and liabilities retained if church votes to join a different conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can vote to stay or leave the UMC if disagrees with annual conference’s decision Can leave with property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows, but does not require, same-gender weddings in churches Not required to have LGBTQ pastor – preference will be considered in making appointments Maintains current process for churches that seek to leave
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowed, but not required, to perform same-gender weddings Bishop & cabinet would take theological convictions into account for appointments LGBTQ candidates can be ordained and appointed to local churches that approve and can request transfer of candidacy if conference Board of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can request to affiliate with a connectional conference other than the one chosen by their annual conference Transfers subject to approval by the receiving Board of Ordained Ministry and clergy session Ordination recognized across all three connectional conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must uphold the Discipline’s standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination or join “autonomous, affiliated, or concordat” church Just resolutions from complaints must include commitment not to repeat offense First offense results in one-year unpaid suspension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can discern whether to officiate at any wedding Permitted to be married in accordance with civil law Retains shared fidelity in marriage

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	<p>Ordained Ministry or clergy session chooses not to ordain LGBTQ persons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retains standard of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of appointment determined by connectional conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second offense results in surrendering credentials 	
Annual Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boards of ordained ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons Assist clergy who do not support conference standards to transfer Not required to accept transfer of LGBTQ clergy No change required for central conferences. The ability to adapt Disciplinary language continues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jurisdictional and central conferences vote by simple majority to determine connectional conference relationship. Central conferences may vote to affiliate with one of the three proposed conferences, create a new connectional conference or declare their central conference a connectional conference. Annual conferences can vote to join a connectional conference other than the one chosen by their jurisdictional or central conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to certify that it will uphold, enforce, and maintain the Discipline's standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination Those that do not certify urged to form an "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church" and can't use United Methodist name or logo nor receive funds in 2021 Provides \$200,000 grant to annual conferences that leave (Modified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boards of ordained ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons No change required for central conferences. The ability to adapt Disciplinary language continues.
Bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences Protects bishops if conscience will not allow him or her to ordain, license or commission LGBTQ persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a connectional conference Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each connectional conference Funded by U.S. connectional conferences at comparable levels, with shared funding, as needed, for bishops outside the U.S. All episcopal elections would take place by 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires all bishops to certify that they will uphold and enforce Discipline standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination. Active bishops who do not certify ineligible to receive compensation for expenses as of 2021 and encouraged to join "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat" church Strengthens accountability process Creates global episcopacy committee (Modified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May ordain and appoint LGBTQ candidates
General Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proposed changes in current structure or operations Retains prohibition against funding promotion of homosexuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wespath, Publishing House, Archives and History, GCFA, Faith and Order, UMCOR and parts of GBGM jointly funded to continue. Task force evaluates general agencies and proposes new model by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All general agencies continue Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May fund ministries with LGBTQ persons

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In new model, agencies are funded by and serve only participating connectional conferences 		
Related Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties owned by annual conference and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new connectional conference. Institutions can choose to relate to one or more connectional conferences, as their bylaws allow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their bylaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Finance & Pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires churches that leave to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference Clergy that leave are removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires churches that leave to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference Clergy that leave are removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account. Legal fees to navigate legacy connections Wespath stays intact and works with connectional conferences. Medical and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference. Wespath will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go with another connectional conference. Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires churches that leave to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference Clergy that leave are removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes
Episcopal Fund	No changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salaries and benefits paid by the U.S. connectional conferences No changes to central conference funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to central conference funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes

Sources: Ask The UMC, Great Plains Conference, individual plan representatives and legislation