

## General Conference

### Who attends General Conference?

- Annual, missional, and provision conferences elect equal number of lay and clergy delegates to attend and vote
- Bishops preside over the conference
- Clergy, laity and other guests may attend

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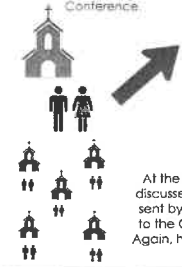
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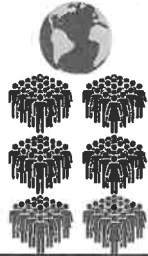
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Our Church, like other churches, sends 1 member of clergy and 1 member of the laity as representatives to Annual Conference.



The General Conference takes place every four years. 600-1000 delegates from around the world meet to discuss items and vote. This is how and where UMC decisions are made and policy is set.



All the Annual Conference, various items are discussed and voted on by the representatives sent by the churches. Delegates from Indiana to the General Conference are also selected. Again, half of the delegates are clergy and half are laity.

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## General Conference

### How is legislation passed?

- Anyone can submit a petition to General Conference.
- Most legislation requires a majority vote.
- Changes to constitution require  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote by General Conference and  $\frac{2}{3}$  aggregate vote of lay and clergy members in annual conferences.

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CUMC Town Hall C from 2022  
4:30 - 7:00 PM

### General Conference

What happens next?

- Passed legislation usually becomes effective January 1 of the following year.
- The Book of Discipline, the Book of Resolutions and other official documents are updated accordingly.
- The Judicial Council may review passed legislation to determine its constitutionality, legality or meaning.

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### General Conference

The United Methodist Church affirms that sexuality is "God's good gift to all persons."

- We affirm that all people are of sacred worth and valuable in the sight of God.
- Everyone is welcome to worship, participate in our sacraments and serving in lay ministry.

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### General Conference

The United Methodist Church **2016 Book of Discipline-**

¶ 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-the-denominations-position-on-homosexuality>

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/homosexuality-fill-book-of-discipline-statements>

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General Conference

Special Called General Conference in 2019 focused solely on resolving, unresolved visions regarding homosexuality.

Our 2016 polity (¶304.3 & 341.6) did not change in 2019.

2020 General Conference delayed in 2020 and 2021.

General Conference moved to 2024.

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General Conference

The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline was amended, effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference, Chapter Six, Church Property, by adding a new Section VIII. **Disaffiliation** of Local Churches Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality, adding a new ¶2553.

<https://archive.inumc.org/local-church/admin-and-financial-services/financial/resources/inumc-preliminary-disaffiliation-qa/>

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General Conference

Disaffiliation- allows for the retention of church property by the congregation (releases the trust clause).

- Discernment process
- Costs
- Consequences (non profit status & tax exempt status, appointed clergy, etc.)
- Requires charge conference and congregational vote of 2/3 required to pass

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¶ 2553 expired on 12-31-2023