

Top 10 Reasons to join the Global Methodist Church

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1. THE CONNECTION

Aligning with the Global Methodist Church (GMC) allows your local church to continue to enjoy and benefit from being connected to other traditional, orthodox, Wesleyan Methodist churches. This not only benefits what is possible for each local church to do, but also creates needed community for your pastor(s).

2. STRONGER TOGETHER

We are stronger together. We can accomplish more by continuing to work together in our quest to gracefully separate from the UMC and join this new movement of Methodism. Our negotiating power in the Annual Conference and in the future GMC is greatly enhanced as we join together with one voice.

3. FOCUS ON LOCAL CHURCH

The GMC is committed to the local church, not only in words, but also in practice. The denominational structure will be much more streamlined than the structure of the UMC, which still has significant overhead expenses due to many things such as boards and agencies.

4. HELP DEFINE A NEW DENOMINATION

Your church will have the exciting opportunity to help shape, build, and influence the new movement of Methodism as expressed in the GMC. We all want a more streamlined, efficient, and effective missional church. In the GMC, your church will have a voice in the development of this new church.

5. HONOR THE WORK OF OTHERS

Many great leaders and groups have been diligently working for decades, oftentimes behind the scenes and at great cost, to uphold traditional, orthodox, and Wesleyan values. Movements such as the Wesleyan Covenant Association, Good News, the Confessing Movement, IRD, and several other groups have led us well over the years and helped us get to the preparation and launch of the Global Methodist Church.

6. NO TRUST CLAUSE

Unlike in the current UMC and many other denominations, the GMC will have no trust clause. The trust clause is written into all UMC legal documents concerning the ownership of real assets, making it where the local church keeps the real assets "in trust" for the annual conference, who is the legal owner. In the GMC, there is no trust clause, meaning that each local church fully owns their own property.

7. THE GMC IS HERE

The GMC will officially launch on May 1 and already has a Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines as well as many other details and processes worked out. Each local church will benefit greatly from not having to spend an enormous amount of time, energy, money and effort developing doctrines and disciplines as well as structures and processes. The GMC has had great teams working on the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline as well as finances, missions, ecclesiastical and liturgical issues along with episcopal elections and Pastoral appointment processes. These teams have had some of the greatest Methodist scholars as well as highly gifted and qualified laity and clergy working on them for several years.

8. MORE MONEY STAYS IN LOCAL CHURCH

The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline provides that the amount contributed by a local church toward general church operations *cannot exceed 1.5%* of its operating income. The current apportionments in the UMC for the last quadrennium for local churches was 3% of operating expenses. The paragraph also provides that the amount contributed by a local church toward annual conference expenses *cannot exceed 5%*. Most churches are currently paying in excess of 10%.

Simply put - more money in local churches for more funding toward contextualized local church ministry.

9. NEGOTIATING TO MAKE IT CHEAPER FOR YOUR CHURCH

Right now, Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) leaders across the globe are working diligently to make plans for how your congregation can best disaffiliate from the UMC and join the GMC. This will not be a one size fits all approach - some UMC bishops will be more gracious than others. Some bishops will adhere to the Book of Discipline and some will not, and some bishops will honor the spirit of the protocol and some won't. However, the leadership of the WCA and the GMC will work with your local WCA chapter and your individual church to find the best and most affordable path forward.

10. WE NEED EACH OTHER

Since the 2020 General Conference has been postponed until 2024, "The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation" cannot be voted on until that General Conference. Therefore, the Protocol cannot pass until 2024 and may not pass at that time. Because the Protocol is not available at this time, traditional, orthodox, Wesleyan churches that wish to transfer before the Protocol is passed will be forced to use paragraph 2548.2, 2549 or 2553 in the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Paragraph 2553, recently adopted at General Conference 2019, requires the disaffiliating church to pay all apportionments for the year before disaffiliation plus an additional year of apportionments, plus PRM, plus the local church's share of the unfunded pension liability (which can be 6 to 7 times the church's annual apportionment). A local church may also consider using paragraph 2548.2 with similar payment requirements. There are several resolutions being developed at this time using paragraph 2548.2 with a Comity agreement which looks very promising in terms of reducing costs for local churches to disaffiliate from the UMC and be transferred into the GMC. There is also a chance that some Annual Conferences will be able to take an Annual Conference vote to disaffiliate as an entire Conference from the UMC. This has yet to be determined by the Judicial Council as to whether it is in accordance with the Book of Discipline or not.

No matter the path forward, one thing is clear - We Need Each Other!