

### **Who Is the GMC (Global Methodist Church) Leadership?**

The Global Methodist church is currently led by a transitional leadership council that currently has 17 members including the Central Texas Conference's former bishop, Mike Lowry. These members of the leadership council are a world wide body, with representation from: the United States, Russia, the Philippines, Bulgaria, and two nations in Africa. You can see each member of the GMC transitional leadership council by clicking the link here:

<https://globalmethodist.org/about/#about-leadership-section>

### **Will LGBTQ be welcomed as members (in the GMC)?**

Yes. Their leadership has communicated that their stance on issues of human sexuality will in many ways mirror what current church law is in the United Methodist Church. LGBTQ people will be able to be members of the church and serve in leadership of the church as allowed by the individual congregation. The GMC will not ordain any practicing LGBTQ people or allow homosexual marriage.

### **What is the reasoning for paying 2 years of apportionments as exit fees for disaffiliation?**

The reasoning for paying 2 years of apportionments as exit fees by a disaffiliating congregation to the annual conference is to ensure that the annual conference has the resources to survive the exit of any number of churches. Currently there are 92 churches in our annual conference out of 260+ churches that are exploring disaffiliation. This number represents just over 1/3 of our current church membership in our conference. The conference has obligations to staff and ministries that these two years of apportionments as a disaffiliation fee will help fund while the conference settles to a new normal.

### **Where will the UMC stand on abortion?**

The United Methodist Church social principles are reviewed and revised at every general conference. Our current statement on abortion will be below. At general conference in 2024 the statement may be revised.

*The beginning of life and the ending of life are the God-given boundaries of human existence. While individuals have always had some degree of control over when they would die, they now have the awesome power to determine when and even whether new individuals will be born. Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.*

*But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.*

*We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. We support parental, guardian, or other responsible adult notification and consent before abortions can be performed on girls who have not yet reached the age of legal adulthood. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection or eugenics (see Resolution 3184).*

*We oppose the use of late-term abortion known as dilation and extraction (partial-birth abortion) and call for the end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. This procedure shall be performed only by certified medical providers. Before providing their services, abortion providers should be required to offer women the option of anesthesia.*

*We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may cause them to consider abortion. We entrust God to provide guidance, wisdom, and discernment to those facing an unintended pregnancy.*

*The Church shall offer ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies. We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth.*

*We mourn and are committed to promoting the diminishment of high abortion rates. The Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe.*

*Young adult women disproportionately face situations in which they feel that they have no choice due to financial, educational, relational, or other circumstances beyond their control. The Church and its local congregations and campus ministries should be in the forefront of supporting existing ministries and developing new ministries that help such women in their communities. They should also support those crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers that compassionately help women explore all options related to unplanned pregnancy. We particularly encourage the Church, the government, and social service agencies to support and facilitate the option of adoption. (See ¶ 161L.) We affirm and encourage the Church to assist the ministry of crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers that compassionately help women find feasible alternatives to abortion.*

*Governmental laws and regulations do not provide all the guidance required by the informed Christian conscience. Therefore, a decision concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the parties involved, with medical, family, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel.*

### **What happens to church camps and other conference and denominational ministries?**

This is not fully determined yet. Some conference ministries will remain with their conference with parallel ministries being started by the GMC when it gets off the ground. There are other ministries that are beginning the process of becoming independent of the denomination so they can serve all Wesleyan churches. WESPETH which manages pastor health insurance and retirement is one such ministry that is moving to be able to service both the UMC and GMC. Glen Lake Camp (the camping ministry of the Central Texas Conference) has scheduled a camp this year specifically for the people of the churches that align with the Global Methodist Church.

While they are a ministry of our conference and will most likely stay a ministry of the conference, they allow space for others to use the facilities.

**What will happen in the UMC with regards to LGBTQ people? Is this outcome already guaranteed?**

What will most likely happen is once many churches and pastors disaffiliate to the Global Methodist Church there will be a hold on bringing pastors up on charges for violating the Book of Discipline. At General Conference in 2024 the language in the Book of Discipline that prohibits the marriage and ordination of practicing LGBTQ people will be done away with. After this, pastors will be able to perform marriage ceremonies for homosexual people and practicing homosexual people will be able to serve as pastors.

**I've heard that the GMC doesn't believe that Jesus is the Son of God. What is their belief?**

This is misinformation. The Global Methodist Church will have a very high Christology, which means that they will explicitly state a strong belief in the divinity of Jesus. You can find more information of the beliefs of the GMC here: <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

**Where does the Free Methodist Church stand on LBGTQ issues?**

The Free Methodist Church has a stance similar to the current UMC and the GMC's stance on the issue of human sexuality. While LBGTQ people will be welcomed in the church the marriage and ordination of homosexual people is not.

**What is the website of the Free Methodist Church?**

<https://fmcusa.org>

**What is the website for the GMC?**

<https://globalmethodist.org>

**How is the local church held accountable in the GMC for keeping the book of discipline when they will not have a trust clause?**

For pastors there will be swifter and more significant ramifications than what the UMC currently has for violating the book of discipline in the GMC. Much of the accountability will be held on the pastor's end. Without a trust clause, it is to be determined how local churches will be held accountable.

**Since many conservative churches are already leaving, when General Conference happens in 2024 will it skew progressive?**

Yes. We will almost certainly see an end to the prohibitive language barring homosexual marriages and the ordination of practicing LBGTQ people.

**Will the UMC have LGBTQ pastors?**

There are already homosexual pastors serving in the United Methodist Church, though many of them are not practicing and are celibate. After the more conservative churches and clergy

disaffiliate to the GMC or other denominations, we will almost certainly see the full inclusion of practicing LGBTQ pastors in the United Methodist Church

**What does the Global mean in Global Methodist Church?**

The global in Global Methodist Church is meant to reflect the world-wide nature of the denomination. The United Methodist Church has long been a global church as well, and the GMC wants to give voice specifically to this fact. Global in this sense needs to be understood through the lens of the Bible, where Jesus calls the disciples to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*”