

# Global Methodist Church FAQ Resource

## Who is leading the Global Methodist Church?

A 17-member Transitional Leadership Council is leading the Global Methodist Church (GMC) during its transitional phase between launching on May 1, 2022 until its convening General Conference, probably in spring of 2024. The Transitional Leadership Council is composed of clergy and lay men and women and is diverse racially and globally.

## What are the core beliefs of the GMC?

The GMC affirms historic, orthodox Christianity, represented in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and in the historic Methodist Articles of Religion.

## How will the GMC be different from the UMC?

While the GMC will be similar in belief and doctrine to the current stated beliefs of the UMC, there will be differences.

- Accountability processes and structures so that clergy uphold the doctrines and practices of the church.
- No “trust clause,” so that local churches own their property and assets outright and may buy and sell property without denominational consent.
- Bishops will be elected for a limited term of leadership, then return to pastoral or other ministry. They will not be elected to lifetime status, as in the UMC.
- More consultation for churches in pastoral appointments, not simply notification.
- For clergy, neither “guaranteed appointment” nor mandatory retirement.
- A leaner structure, with minimal boards and agencies, concentrating the focus of ministry in the local church.
- “Connectional funding” instead of apportionments. With UMC apportionments, a formula is used to calculate and assign an amount that a congregation is expected to pay to its annual conference for administrative support and cooperative funding of ministries at the conference and general church levels. With the GMC’s “connectional funding,” churches will give a percentage to the annual conference and the denomination for supporting administration and any cooperative ministries. Connectional funding is capped in the GMC *Transitional Book*

*of Doctrines and Discipline* at no more than 1.5% to the denomination and no more than 5% to the annual conference. The initial requirement for connectional funding has been set at 1% to the general church and 1% to a church's interim regional/annual conference.

- The process of ordination will be more streamlined.

### **Who may serve as pastors in the GMC?**

Men and women, gifted and called to serve will be eligible to pursue ordination and service in the church.

### **What training and education will pastors have in the GMC?**

In alignment with Methodist tradition, the GMC will have an educated clergy. Clergy in the UMC have essentially two routes for education: a seminary master's degree or course of study. Course of study is sponsored by seminaries and delivers theological education to persons who generally stay in their locale in order to study alongside work, while a master's degree program typically requires residency at or near the seminary.

The *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* reads: "Recognizing that educational opportunities vary based on geography and life circumstance, the Global Methodist Church will accept courses from any of the following: a Course of Study (COS) program, a bachelor's degree program in ministry (in majority-world contexts\*), a joint Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Divinity program, a program for a Master of Arts or equivalent degree in the practice of ministry, or a Master of Divinity degree program."

\*"*majority-world*" is the usual term for the non-Western world. The GMC acknowledges that advanced education is less accessible in those contexts, so adaptability is important while upholding our values of educating clergy.

### **Will the GMC be open to LGBTQ persons?**

Yes. Like the current stance in the UMC Book of Discipline, the GMC holds a traditional view on the biblical teaching of sexuality, gender, and marriage, while also welcoming everyone to participate in its ministries and experience the grace of Jesus Christ.

## **How will we find clergy to serve our local church in the GMC?**

In the event of a pastoral change, the bishop or his/her representative will work with the local church to determine who the next pastor will be. There will be more consultation in the GMC than in the UMC.

This has been a summary highlight of key and/or common questions. For more information at <https://globalmethodist.org>. To access the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, go to <https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe>.