



## **NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSION  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **WHAT & WHEN IS THE SPECIAL SESSION?**

The Council of Bishops has called this session to be held Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on the Way Forward based on the recommendation of the Council of Bishops (COB).

### **WHAT IS THE COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD?**

The Commission on a Way Forward was created in 2016 at the General Conference by the COB to do a complete examination and possible revision of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality. They have proposed three (3) plans which will be presented at the Special Called Session

### **THE THREE PLANS THE ONE CHURCH PLAN**

This plan would remove the restrictive language from the Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality and give conferences, local churches, and pastors the flexibility, based on their context, to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.”

### **THE CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCE PLAN**

This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values based on accountability, context, and justice. The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church. The five existing U.S. based jurisdictional conferences would be discontinued. This plan would require multiple constitutional amendments to the Book of Discipline (each requiring a 2/3 vote at the General Conference and the aggregate approval of the denomination's Annual Conferences).

### **THE TRADITIONALIST PLAN**

This plan would affirm the current language on human sexuality in the Book of Discipline and seeks to strengthen the enforcement for violations to church law. Much of the current plan has been determined to be unconstitutional by the church's Judicial Council unless significant modifications are made at the Special Session.





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### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information about the General Conference and the Special Session at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). Go to "Who We Are" and select "General Conference 2019."

### WHAT HAS THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS RECOMMENDED?

The Council of Bishops has recommended the **One Church Plan** for consideration at the Special Called Session. In a statement released on May 4, 2018, the Council said that the **One Church Plan** "encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions." The Council believes it is the best plan for a "Way Forward" for The United Methodist Church on human sexuality and maintaining unity.

### WHO ARE OUR DELEGATES?

#### Laity

Frederick Brewington  
Gail Douglas-Boykin  
Jorge Lockward  
Dorothee Benz

#### Clergy

Timothy J. Riss  
Noel N. Chin  
Kristina N. Hansen  
Alexandre de Silva Souto

#### Alternates

(Lay) Tiffany French Goffe, Ann Craig, Roena A. Littlejohn, Karen Prudente  
(Clergy)  
Vicki I. Flippin, Sheila M. Beckford, Martha E. Vink, Sungchan Kim

### WHO GETS TO VOTE?

At the last session of the New York Annual Conference a new delegation was elected (the only one to do so in the entire connection). There were four (4) clergy and four (4) laity elected. Each Annual Conference elects an equal number of lay and clergy delegates based on the membership found within that Annual Conference. There are 843 delegates from across the world who will be considering the report.

### HOW WILL THIS DECISION AFFECT THE NEW YORK AC?

If the **One Church Plan** is approved, NYAC will continue living out our Mission, Vision, & Core Values as we always have. If the **Connectional Conference Plan** is approved, the Annual Conference will need to determine which direction we will pursue based on our alignment with respective theologies/organizational structures. If the **Traditionalist Plan** is approved, decisions will need to be made as to whether or not our Annual Conference, local churches, and clergy can comply with its position and directives.