## Governing Body

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*The General Conference, from ¶16 & 509* “The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional... No person, no paper, no organization, has the authority to speak officially for The United Methodist Church, this right having been reserved exclusively to the General Conference under the Constitution.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*The Transitional Leadership Council, from ¶702 & 703* “During the period of transition between the legal formation of the Global Methodist Church and the effective date of actions taken by the convening General Conference, the Transitional Leadership Council shall serve as the primary leadership body of the church...empowered to make all necessary decisions related to the forming and initial operating of the Global Methodist Church until the effective date of legislation adopted by the convening General Conference.”

## Governing Documents

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016, from pg. v* “...the product of over two hundred years of the General Conferences of the denominations that now form The United Methodist Church. The Discipline as the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, policy, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves remains constant.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, updated April 12, 2022, from the preface* “...will only be effective once the Global Methodist Church is legally formed and will provide governance until the time specified by the Global Methodist Church’s convening General Conference.”

## Mission

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*from ¶120* “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs..."Wof Christian Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus’ mandate to love God and to love our neighbor and to make disciples of all peoples.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*from ¶301* “The mission of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly... As individual believers in Christ, and as those gathered together in local congregations, our calling is to connect with the communities and the world around us, extending both grace and mercy. Growing in our personal faith, and effectively discipling others, are both life-long expressions of loving the Lord with all of our hearts, all of our being, and all of our minds, as well as loving our neighbor as ourselves.”

## Doctrine & Theology

### Does the denomination uphold and affirm the authority of Scripture?

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*Yes, from ¶103* “United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine... Our standards affirm the Bible as the source of all that is ‘necessary’ and ‘sufficient’ unto salvation (Articles of Religion) and ‘is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice’ (Confession of Faith).”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*Yes, from ¶104* “The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (as specified in the Articles of Religion) are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured.”

### Does the denomination teach and affirm the full divinity of Jesus?

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*Yes, from ¶104, Confession of Faith Article II* "We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*Yes, from ¶106.2, Confession of Faith, Article II* "We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”

### Does the denomination teach and affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus?

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*Yes, from ¶104, Articles of Religion, Article III* "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*Yes, from ¶106, Articles of Religion, Article III* "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.”

### Does the denomination teach and affirm the historic Christian creeds?

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

*Yes, from ¶103* "Faced with diverse interpretations of the apostolic message, leaders of the early church sought to specify the core of Christian belief in order to ensure the soundness of Christian teaching. The determination of the canon of Christian Scripture and the adoption of ecumenical creeds such as the formulations of Nicaea and Chalcedon were of central importance to this consensual process. Such creeds helped preserve the integrity of the church’s witness, set boundaries for acceptable Christian doctrine, and proclaimed the basic elements of the enduring Christian message. These statements of faith, along with the Apostles’ Creed, contain the most prominent features of our ecumenical heritage.”

**Global Methodist Church (GMC)**

*Yes, from ¶105, Article II* "The following summaries of the apostolic witness disclosed in Scripture have been affirmed by many Christian communities, and expressed orthodox Christian teaching: 1. THE APOSTLES’ CREED... 2. THE NICENE CREED (A.D. 381)... 3. THE DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON (A.D. 451)..."
| Are clergy and laity held accountable to the doctrinal standards? | Yes, both individual clergy and laity can be brought up on charges with right to trial and appeal. from ¶2702. "A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor,9 clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: …(d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church… A professing member of a local church may be charged with the following offenses, and, if so, may choose a trial: … (c) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (d) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (e) relationships and/or behaviors that undermines the ministry of another pastor…"

| Are congregations held accountable to the doctrinal standards? | No, the accountability lies with individual clergy and lay members. (See above) Yes, congregations may be involuntarily removed from the denomination with right to appeal. from ¶354 Central to the integrity of both local congregations and the Global Methodist Church as a whole, the doctrines and discipline of the denomination as outlined in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline shall be voluntarily and joyfully embraced and practiced by all. Additionally, local congregations covenant to provide connectional funding as set forth in ¶ 349. Congregations that for reason of conscience find themselves unable to do so are accordingly encouraged to affiliate with another Christian denomination more in keeping with their beliefs or practices under the provisions of ¶ 903. Should a congregation consistently advance doctrines or engage in practices not in conformity with this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline or fail to remit in full the connectional funding set forth in ¶ 349, … the local church may be involuntarily disaffiliated from the Global Methodist Church by a two-thirds vote of the Transitional Leadership Council or its successor, by agreement of the bishop, and by an affirmative vote of the cabinet of the conference in which the local church is located.”

| Human Sexuality | Yes, with qualifications. from ¶14. "The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition." Yes, with qualifications. from ¶103.5. "We affirm the participation and leadership of those of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, sexes, and ages in the Body of Christ…” and from ¶306. "Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the spiritual life of the Church... inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or gender (defined throughout this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline by a person’s immutable biological traits identified by or before birth). … inclusiveness means the freedom for the total involvement of all persons who meet the requirements of our Book of Doctrines and Discipline in the membership and leadership of the Church at any level and in every place.”

| Can a person who self-identifies as LGBTQ join the membership of the church? | Yes, with qualifications. from ¶161.7. "We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons…. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.... The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." No. from ¶161.7. "We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.”

| Can a person who is in a same-sex relationship get married in the church? | No. from ¶202.7. "We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Methodist Church (UMC)</th>
<th>Global Methodist Church (GMC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can an LGBTQ person become a pastor?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes, if non-practicing. from ¶405.2</strong> &quot;Those to be ordained must meet the following qualifications: …Nurture and cultivate spiritual disciplines and patterns of holiness consistent with the General Rules, including responsible self-control by exhibiting personal habits that are conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all relationships, fidelity in a Christian marriage between one man and one woman, chastity in singleness, social responsibility, and the knowledge and love of God. And from ¶808.1.g) “A bishop or clergy member of an annual conference, including senior clergy and clergy on honorable or administrative location, may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with one or more of the following offenses…Engaging in sexual activities outside the bonds of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman, including but not limited to sexual abuse or misconduct, the use or possession of pornography, or infidelity.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can a local church select its own pastor(s)?</strong></td>
<td><strong>No; all clergy are appointed by the bishop in consultation with the local church. from ¶425 and ¶426</strong> &quot;Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part….Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or district superintendent confers with the pastor and committee on pastor-parish relations. Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Are all clergy guaranteed an appointment?</strong></td>
<td><strong>No, from ¶512</strong> &quot;Clergy must be effective in their leadership and ministry. Accordingly, within the Global Methodist Church, neither elders nor deacons shall have the right to a guaranteed appointment. If a bishop chooses not to appoint a clergy person, the bishop must provide a written rationale for that decision to the individual involved. Clergy are free to seek an appointment in an annual conference other than their own. Deacons and elders who are not under a current appointment shall be considered inactive (¶¶ 409.3, 410.3 respectively.)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do non-appointed clergy retain voting rights?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes, if non-practicing. from ¶615</strong> &quot;...the [General Council on Finance and Administration] shall recommend such formula or method to the annual conference for its action and determination which shall include the approved budgeted amounts for clergy support, administration, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other apportioned causes (¶ 614.1-4), the sum of which shall be apportioned to the districts, churches, or charges of the conference.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will apportionments be for each local church?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes, from ¶505.3</strong> “Each episcopal area within the United States shall partner with one or more episcopal areas elsewhere in the world to provide the necessary funds for the episcopal office within those areas. Such funds will be raised in the U.S. and passed through the general church, designated for that episcopal area. The Transitional Leadership Council shall arrange such partnerships based on the financial resources any given U.S. conference can reasonably provide. Where partnerships do not provide adequate resources to cover the episcopal office costs, general church connectional funding may be used to fund episcopal costs as needed.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will apportionments be distributed to other organizations outside the local church’s Annual Conference?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes, from ¶304.3</strong> While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. 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. “Self-avowed practicing homosexual” is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual. See Judicial Council Decisions 702, 708, 722, 725, 764, 844, 984, 1020, 1341.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>United Methodist Church (UMC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much apportionments will be required from the local church?</td>
<td>Varies per annual conference based upon the GCF&amp;A formula from ¶615 (see above).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can funds from the local church’s apportionments be given out to lobbyist groups?</td>
<td>No, from ¶613.19  &quot;...no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends”...&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are churches obligated to remit payment?</td>
<td>No. Pastors must lead the church to remit full payment, but there is no provision for church enforcement, from ¶340.c.e &amp; ¶812  &quot;To lead the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission through full and faithful payment of all apportioned ministerial support, administrative, and benevolent funds.&quot;   and from ¶812  &quot;Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the local church own the building and other property it uses?</td>
<td>No, from ¶2501  &quot;...tangible and intangible property held at jurisdictional, annual, or district conference levels, or by a local church or charge, or by an agency or institution of the Church, shall be held in trust for The United Methodist Church and subject to the provisions of its Discipline. Titles are not held by The United Methodist Church (see ¶ 807.1) or by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, but instead by the incorporated conferences...&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can the local church sell its properties without Denominational consent?</td>
<td>No. The sale of church property requires the consent of the District Superintendent. (see ¶2540 and ¶2541)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a local church chooses to leave the denomination, will it get to take its property and funds?</td>
<td>Yes, after paying apportionments, title fees, and unfunded pensions, from ¶2553  &quot;The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference. . . The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments. . . A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church. . . The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church’s share.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>