



# THE UNITED METHODIST DENOMINATION

What has happened? What is happening?  
What will happen?

## WHAT HAPPENED?

- **General Conference 2016**

- Call for Bishops to lead the denomination with a plan on human sexuality and the UMC
- Result = Way Forward task force and a called General Conference

# WHAT HAPPENED?

- **Special Called General Conference February 2019**
  - Considered 3 Plans (Traditional, One Church Plan, Connectional Conference Plan)
  - Traditional Plan approved with a 438-384 vote (412 required = 26 votes)
  - An Exit Plan was passed for churches to leave the denomination (complicated process in UMC)
  - Called into question some of the legality of the legislation approved

# WHAT HAPPENED?

- **Judicial Council review**

- April 2019 the Judicial Council ruled some of the legislation unconstitutional
- The JC upheld the following changes to the Book of Discipline:
  1. Broadening of the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual”
  2. Just Resolution for how complaints are processed was amended

# WHAT HAPPENED?

- **Judicial Council review cont'd**

3. Bishops cannot consecrate a Bishop or ordain a clergy candidate who are self avowed homosexuals

4. Clergy performing same sex wedding will be suspended on first offense without pay and second offense leads to surrender of credentials

5. They upheld the exit plan as long as the exit is because of disagreement with the Traditional Plan legislation

## WHAT HAPPENED?

- Annual Conferences – Summer 2019 in the US
  - Majority of the General Conferences (80%) voted for majority centrist/progressive delegations.
- 52% of Annual Conferences in the US approved legislation resisting the Traditional Plan





# WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

- Preparing for regularly scheduled General Conference May 2020
- Deadline for petitions is September 18, 2019
- Conversations happening at a high level negotiating possible plans forward
- Delegations are preparing to receive and review hundreds of pieces of legislation – most of which will have nothing to do with LGBTQ+ issues



## WHAT MAY HAPPEN?

- We don't know yet
- Here's what we do know:
  - WCA (Wesley Covenant Association) invited churches to join their Association and prepare to leave the denomination all at the same time
  - Work happening within denomination to explore legislation that will recommend changing geographical organization and allow Jurisdictions to decide about LGBTQ rather than the global denomination making decisions for the US.

## WHAT MAY HAPPEN?

- Conversations are happening about the possible dissolution of the denomination and creating 2 new denominations – Called the Indianapolis Plan ( not being well received)
- Where we are now is not sustainable so something different will be decided in May

## COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (CEB)

<sup>12</sup> THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOICE, HOLY AND LOVED, PUT ON COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE.<sup>13</sup> BE TOLERANT WITH EACH OTHER AND, IF SOMEONE HAS A COMPLAINT AGAINST ANYONE, FORGIVE EACH OTHER.



**COLOSSIANS 3:12-15** (CEB)

AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO FORGIVE EACH OTHER. <sup>14</sup> AND OVER ALL THESE THINGS PUT ON LOVE, WHICH IS THE PERFECT BOND OF UNITY. <sup>15</sup> THE PEACE OF CHRIST MUST CONTROL YOUR HEARTS—A PEACE INTO WHICH YOU WERE CALLED IN ONE BODY. AND BE THANKFUL PEOPLE.