

## The Traditional Plan

- Those annual conferences unwilling or unable to enforce the *Discipline* are encouraged to withdraw from The United Methodist Church and form a self-governing Methodist church that would allow same-sex marriage and LGBT ordination.
- Annual conferences that did not agree to enforce the *Discipline* or who failed to do so would, as of January 1, 2021, no longer be able to use the United Methodist name or logo, and would be unable to give or receive funds through the general church.
- Any annual conference could, by a simple majority, vote to withdraw from The United Methodist Church and keep its assets and liabilities. The annual conference would still be responsible for its pension liabilities and could continue to sponsor a pension program through Wespath.
- Any local church in a departing annual conference could vote by a simple majority to remain in The United Methodist Church and abide by the current provisions of the *Discipline*.
- Every bishop would be required to submit a statement as to whether or not he or she is prepared to fully uphold and enforce the standards of the church around same-sex marriage and the ordination of practicing homosexuals, and to hold those under their supervision accountable to those standards. Any bishop unwilling or unable to do so would be subject to a disciplinary process administered by the Council of Bishops.
- The Council of Bishops would establish a committee to respond to bishops who are unwilling to enforce the *Discipline* or who are charged with the offenses of immorality or practices incompatible with Christian teaching. Upon the committee's recommendation, the Council of Bishops could vote to place a bishop on involuntary leave or involuntary retirement.
- Any group of 50 or more local congregations could vote to withdraw from The United Methodist Church to form a self-governing Methodist church, upon payment of each local church's share of their annual conference's unfunded pension liability.
- Any local church that wants to allow same-sex marriage, but is in an annual conference that will continue to prohibit such under the current *Discipline*, could vote by a 55 percent majority to withdraw from The United Methodist Church to join a self-governing Methodist church that allows same-sex marriage. The local church would have to pay its share of their annual conference's unfunded pension liabilities.
- Bishops and clergy who are unable to live within the boundaries of conduct established by the *Discipline* would be encouraged to transfer to a self-governing Methodist church that affirms their beliefs.
- Annual conferences and congregations that depart from The United Methodist Church could continue to participate in Wespath and could negotiate fee-based services from other general boards and agencies of the UM Church. They could also continue to participate in joint mission through the General Board of Global Ministries, as well as partnerships for mission and other joint projects, with the agreement of the UM entity involved. Changes would be made to the pension program to ensure that pension liabilities are fairly cared for.
- Institutions related to The United Methodist Church would remain affiliated with the annual conference it is affiliated with, whether that annual conference withdraws or remains in the church. But such institutions could form cooperative relationships with other bodies and could, under the provisions of their own bylaws, change their relationship from one body to another.
- Any self-governing Methodist church would create its own *Book of Discipline* and be self-supporting financially, including funding its own bishops.
- The definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" would be expanded to include persons living in a same-sex partnership, union, or marriage, in keeping with Judicial Council decision 1341.

- Bishops are required to nominate as members of the conference board of ordained ministry only persons who are committed to upholding and enforcing the provisions of the *Discipline* related to the candidacy and ordination of LGBT persons. Bishops are also prohibited from ordaining a self-avowed practicing homosexual as a clergy person. In addition, bishops are prohibited from consecrating as bishop anyone who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual.
- Clergy found guilty by a trial court of performing a same-sex wedding would have a mandatory minimum penalty of one year's suspension without pay for a first offense, and removal of clergy credentials for a second offense.
- Bishops would not be allowed to dismiss a complaint unless it has "no basis in law or fact."
- "Just resolution" process and agreements would be reformed to ensure that complainants are included in the process and, where possible, agree to the "just resolution" before it is finalized.
- The counsel for the church in a church trial process would be given the same right of appeal for egregious errors of church law that the defendant now enjoys.