

The One Church Plan

- We are not of one mind regarding human sexuality and affirms "those who continue to maintain that the Scriptural witness does not condone the practice of homosexuality," as well as "those who believe the witness of Scripture calls us to reconsider the teaching of the church with respect to monogamous homosexual relationships."
- Definition of marriage is changed from "one man and one woman" to "two adults."
- Deletes the language, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."
- Deletes the requirement that ordained clergy not be self-avowed practicing homosexuals.
- Allows each annual conference board of ordained ministry and clergy session to determine how standards relating to human sexuality would apply to candidates for ordination. Those who are ordained clergy must be appointed by the bishop to serve.
- Ordained deacons and elders, as well as licensed local pastors, are not required or compelled to perform any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples, nor are they prohibited from doing so. The decision about whether to participate in performing a same-sex wedding or blessing would strictly be up to the individual clergy person.
- Clergy who cannot continue to serve in their annual conference may transfer to a different annual conference.
- Clergy who cannot continue to serve a given local church due to disagreements over same-sex marriage should be reassigned to a different church.
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- Clergy who cannot continue to serve a given local church should be reassigned to a different church.
- Forbids clergy from performing a same-sex wedding on church property unless the church has approved the use of church property for that purpose by a majority vote of the church conference.
- No bishop is required to license, commission, or ordain any person who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual, but that another bishop should be brought in to provide these services. The bishop is, however, required to appoint any person who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual and is ordained.
- Forbids bishops and district superintendents from either requiring or prohibiting pastors from performing same-sex weddings or unions.
- Forbids bishops from either requiring or prohibiting local churches from holding same-sex weddings on church property. It forbids superintendents (but not bishops) from coercing, threatening, or retaliating against any pastor for either performing or refusing to perform a same-sex wedding.
- Annual conference clergy session to adopt a policy regarding what standards to apply to candidates for ministry regarding human sexuality.
- Deletes from the chargeable offenses against clergy being a self-avowed practicing homosexual or performing a same-sex wedding.
- Requires any local church leaving the denomination to pay its share of the annual conference's unfunded pension liabilities, but it does not include any additional provisions for local churches to leave the denomination and keep their property. Whether or not the local church can keep its property is still left up to each bishop and each annual conference.
- Clergy who leave the denomination would have their pension benefits converted from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan.