

Healing In His Wings

General Conference 2019 Fact Sheet

Traditional Language Retained:

- Homosexuals are persons of sacred worth
- The practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with the teachings of the gospel”
- Access to church membership and all ministries of the church
- “Self avowed practicing homosexuals” are not eligible for ordination
- United Methodist clergy are forbidden from taking part in the celebration of same sex unions

Traditional Language Clarified:

- “Self-avowed practicing” redefined to include persons involved in public same sex unions

New Language:

Accountability: For Bishops

Creation of a “Council Committee” to give oversight to the Council of Bishops

Bishops given responsibility to refuse ordination to those Improperly presented

Accountability: Annual Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry

Board of Ordained Ministry must be composed of members who have promised to uphold the disciplinary requirements for ordination. Annual Conferences who fail to do so may not receive General Conference funds or use the cross and flame logo.

Board or ordained Ministry required to examine candidates on issues of human sexuality and discontinue candidates who fail to meet disciplinary guidelines.

Accountability: Ordained Clergy

Minimum sanctions for performing celebrations of same-sex unions set at 1 year suspension without pay for first offense and removal of credentials for second offense.

Accountability: Complaint Process

Bishops may not dismiss complaint without cause.

“Just Resolutions” may not be reached without the involvement of the person making the complaint

The Church may file an appeal of any decision citing “failure of church law or administration”

New Language:

Disaffiliation of Pastors

Pastors may withdraw from the denomination with full balance of vested pensions

Disaffiliation of Churches

Churches may disaffiliate from the denomination, retaining church property, by meeting current Annual Conference liabilities on apportionments and pensions payments and other conference responsibilities as determined by the Annual Conference.

Disaffiliating Churches shall be responsible for their “fair share” of the Annual Conference’s unfunded Pension liability.

Time Line:

Today: Nothing has changed.

April 23-25, 2019: The Judicial Council meets to determine constitutionality of all proposed changes.

January 1, 2020: Approved changes take effect in the United States

May 15-20, 2020: General Conference meets for their regularly scheduled session

Summer of 2020: Annual Conferences meet (possible ratification of Constitutional amendments)

May 2021: Approved changes from the 2019 General Conference take effect internationally

Spring 2024: Regularly called session of General Conference

December 2024: Church Disaffiliation “window” expires if current plan stands.