

	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan	Traditional Plan
Plan Summary	<p>Summary: This plan, preferred by a strong majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-sex weddings in UMC properties and ordination of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.” It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-sex marriages.</p>	<p>Summary: This plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. All three would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.</p>	<p>Summary: This plan was developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process by a group of bishops rather than the commission. It broadens the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual;” puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.</p>
Local Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most likely would make no changes in practice at the local level • May rewrite wedding policies to explicitly allow or forbid same-sex weddings • Will covenant with bishop on whether congregation will accept LGBTQ pastor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can choose affiliation • Will set wedding policies with churches in the “unity” connectional conferences; able to set parameters for building use and/or wedding policies in either direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vote unless the church disagrees with annual conference’s decision to stay or leave the UMC (as noted below) • Churches can leave if they disagree with annual conference’s decision to adhere to Discipline
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can exercise individual conscience • Bishop and Cabinet would take theological convictions into account for appointment • Ends potential for church trials • LGBTQ candidates can be ordained and appointed to local churches that approve and can request transfer of candidacy if conference Board of Ordained Ministry or clergy session chooses not to ordain LGBTQ persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will choose a connectional conference. • Transfers subject to approval by Board of Ordained Ministry • Ordination would be recognized across all three connectional conferences • Security of appointment determined by connectional conferences, with emphasis on protecting women and minorities • Deacons and full-time local licensed pastors may see fewer opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must maintain Discipline or leave denomination • Encouraged to go to “autonomous, affiliated or concordat church” • Just resolutions from complaints must include commitment not to repeat offense • First offense results in one-year unpaid suspension • Second offense results in surrendering credentials
Annual Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vote is needed, though may be desired in clergy session • Board of Ordained Ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons • Conference in clergy session may return the current restriction on ordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurisdictional and central conferences will vote to join a connectional conference on simple majority vote • Annual conferences will vote to join a connectional conference other than the one their jurisdiction chooses and may do so on a simple majority vote • Annual conferences could revote every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must vote to certify that it will uphold the Discipline • Annual conferences that fail to approve certification are urged to form “autonomous, affiliated or concordat” church, and churches that leave can’t use United Methodist name or logo past 2020

	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan	Traditional Plan
Council of Bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council continues as one body providing spiritual leadership • Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences • Bishops will be protected if their consciences will not allow him or her to ordain LGBTQ persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded by U.S.-based connectional conferences at comparable levels, with shared funding, as needed, for bishops outside the U.S. • Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each connectional conference • Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a connectional conference • All episcopal elections would take place by 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and retired bishops must certify they will adhere to Discipline • Bishops who will not certify adherence no longer receive compensation of expenses as of 2021 and will be encouraged to leave for “autonomous, affiliated or concordat” church
General Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to operate as they do now • If funding declines, boards and agencies would need to consider a strategic restructuring • Sustainability issues, however, are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward’s task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly funded boards include Wespath, GCFA, UMCOR, Archives, parts of GBGM and the Publishing House • Task force would evaluate each general agency and propose new model for UMC by 2025 • Program agencies would only serve connectional conferences that desire participation • Justice ministries structures would be determined by connectional conference, with expected emphasis on sexism and racism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All general boards and agencies continue • Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC
Related Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely no changes • Commission conversations with members of these organizations indicate this plan makes it more likely for most institutions to maintain their affiliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties owned by annual and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new connectional conference • Institutions can choose to relate to one or more conferences, as their bylaws allow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their own bylaws
Finance & Pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two petitions are recommended for any of the three plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any church that leaves would have to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference • Clergy would be removed from benefit and annuity risk pools have accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same two petitions as One Church Plan • Legal fees to navigate legacy connections • Wespath stays intact and extends to connectional conferences • Medial and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference • Wespath will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go to another connectional conference • Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same two petitions as the One Church Plan • Any plan carries risk that departing churches or pastors could reduce the ability to fund future obligations and payments
Episcopal Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and benefits would be paid by each episcopal area in the United States • Other expenses would be shared via apportionments • No changes to central conference funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and benefits would be paid by each U.S.- based connectional conference • No changes to central conference funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to central conference funding