

Our Journey Together

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National news outlets ran with a story that you may have found a little confusing. Christianity Today published on April 28 that a conservative denomination called the Global Methodist Church launched on May 1, 2022. The Religious News Service, The Christian Broadcasting Network, the Associated Press also ran articles about the start of the Global Methodist Church. A few days ago, I received a text from a friend that simply said, “Did your church join the split?” And I know some of you have had similar conversations with friends. The cat is out of the bag. So, what does all of this mean? I want to provide some context and answer that question.

First of all, the articles are all true. A new Methodist denomination has formed. A few things that are distinctly different is that the Global Methodist Church will have limited terms for bishops, a more congregational church polity, and traditional views around human sexuality, meaning that LGBTQ+ persons would not be allowed to be ordained and GMC pastors would not be allowed to perform same-sex marriages. In terms of LGBTQ+ marriage and ordination, this remains the same as where the United Methodist Church stands after the special called General Conference in 2019, which passed the Traditional Plan and a disaffiliation plan that allowed churches to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. So far in the Dakotas, one church (Prairie Winds in Dickinson, ND) has disaffiliated under this plan. However, with the dawn of the Global Methodist Church, it has been suggested that a third of Dakotas Conference UMC churches may disaffiliate.

What I feel is misleading is that there has not been a formal split between the United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church. That can only happen at a General Conference, and the 2020 General Conference has been postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. 2020 gave way to a 2022 postponement which gave way to a postponement until 2024. The day the 2024 postponement was made was the same day that the Global Methodist Church announced their May 1 launch date. This means that there is a landing spot for churches that seek disaffiliation. (cont. pg 2)



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month’s newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than June 20.

So, how did we get here? We have been slowly moving in this direction since our second general conference as the United Methodist Church. As you may remember from confirmation, the United Methodist denomination was formed in 1968 as a merger between the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) and the Methodist Church. In 1972, the following language was added to our social principles: "Homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are person of sacred worth who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment...although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." This motion has since been reaffirmed in subsequent conferences and language has been added through the years guiding ordination standards and instructions around same-sex marriages.

All the while, there has been a vocal minority that continues to bring challenges to the language in the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions. Each time, the traditional language is affirmed by a smaller and smaller margin. (cont pg 4)

Financial Update from Administrative Council

Financial Update as of April 30, 2022:

2022 General Fund Income Year to Date:	\$80,961.02
2022 General Fund Expenses Year to Date:	\$58,801.96
General Fund Difference:	\$22,159.06



Virgil and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the love offering. Your gifts, prayers, good wishes all mean more to us than we could ever say. As we get ready to leave for another week at Mayo, your prayers go with us. Thank You!! Pastor Teresa



Birthdays:

- Jun 1 Nelsina Apley
- Jun 1 Ruby Wharton
- Jun 2 Jolie Palmer
- Jun 5 Linda Blackburn
- Jun 13 Leonda Anglin
- Jun 16 Carolyn Hall
- Jun 17 Mike Moncur
- Jun 17 Justin Wagner

- Jun 18 Gary Bates
- Jun 19 Judith Apley
- Jun 19 Gentry Wagner
- Jun 23 Erin Moncur
- Jun 24 Gwen Otteson
- Jun 24 Ron Hoftiezer
- Jun 24 Alona Lewellen
- Jun 27 Shirley Gimbel
- Jun 28 Kallie Fernau



Anniversaries:

- Jun 9 Robert and Karen Steptoe
- Jun 11 Dylan & Cindy Deuter
- Jun 14 Jim & Diane Moncur
- Jun 23 Jim & Chris Keeter
- Jun 28 Kelly & Shawn Fernholz

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - JUNE READINGS

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms & Proverbs
1	2 Samuel 1, 2 Samuel 2:1-7	John 20:10-31	Proverbs 13:20-25, Proverbs 14:1-4
2	2 Samuel 2:8-32, 2 Samuel 3:1-21	John 21:1-25	Psalms 69:1-12
3	2 Samuel 3:22-39, 2 Samuel 4, 2 Samuel 5:1-5	Acts 1:1-22	Psalms 69:13-28
4	2 Samuel 5:6-25, 2 Samuel 6	Acts 1:23-26, Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 69:29-36
5	2 Samuel 7, 2 Samuel 8	Acts 2:22-47	Proverbs 14:4-14
6	2 Samuel 9, 2 Samuel 10	Acts 3	Psalms 70:1-5
7	2 Samuel 11, 2 Samuel 12	Acts 4:1-22	Psalms 71:1-8
8	2 Samuel 13	Acts 4:23-37, Acts 5:1-11	Psalms 71:9-18
9	2 Samuel 14, 2 Samuel 15:1-12	Acts 5:12-42	Proverbs 14:15-24
10	2 Samuel 15:13-37, 2 Samuel 16:1-14	Acts 6, Acts 7:1-19	Psalms 71:19-24
11	2 Samuel 16:15-23, 2 Samuel 17, 2 Samuel 18:1-18	Acts 7:20-43	Psalms 72:1-20
12	2 Samuel 18:19-33, 2 Samuel 19	Acts 7:44-60, Acts 8:1-3	Psalms 73:1-14
13	2 Samuel 20, 2 Samuel 21	Acts 8:4-40	Proverbs 14:25-35
14	2 Samuel 22, 2 Samuel 23:1-7	Acts 9:1-31	Psalms 73:15-28
15	2 Samuel 23:8-39, 2 Samuel 24:1-25	Acts 9:32-43, Acts 10:1-23	Psalms 74:1-9
16	1 Kings 1, 1 Kings 2:1-12	Acts 10:23-48, Acts 11:1-18	Psalms 74:10-17
17	1 Kings 2:13-46, 1 Kings 3:1-15	Acts 11:19-30, Acts 12:1-19	Proverbs 15:1-10
18	1 Kings 3:16-28, 1 Kings 4, 1 Kings 5	Acts 12:19-25, Acts 13:1-12	Psalms 74:18-23
19	1 Kings 6, 1 Kings 7:1-22	Acts 13:13-41	Psalms 75:1-10
20	1 Kings 7:23-51, 1 Kings 8:1-21	Acts 13:42-52, Acts 14:1-7	Psalms 76:1-12
21	1 Kings 8:22-66, 1 Kings 9:1-9	Acts 14:8-28	Proverbs 15:11-20
22	1 Kings 9:10-28, 1 Kings 10, 1 Kings 11:1-13	Acts 15:1-21	Psalms 77:1-9
23	1 Kings 11:14-43, 1 Kings 12:1-24	Acts 15:22-41	Psalms 77:10-20
24	1 Kings 12:25-33, 1 Kings 13, 1 Kings 14:1-20	Acts 16:1-15	Psalms 78:1-8
25	1 Kings 14:21-31, 1 Kings 15, 1 Kings 16:1-7	Acts 16:16-40	Proverbs 15:21-30
26	1 Kings 16:8-34, 1 Kings 17, 1 Kings 18:1-15	Acts 17:1-21	Psalms 78:9-16
27	1 Kings 18:16-46, 1 Kings 19	Acts 17:22-34, Acts 18:1-8	Psalms 78:17-31
28	1 Kings 20, 1 Kings 21	Acts 18:9-28, Acts 19:1-13	Psalms 78:32-39
29	1 Kings 22:1-53	Acts 19:14-41	Proverbs 15:31-33, Proverbs 16:1-7
30	2 Kings 1, 2 Kings 2:1-25	Acts 20:1-38	Psalms 78:40-55

This all came to a head at General Conference 2016 when Rev. Adam Hamilton from the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS went to the mic and implored the bishops to lead. After a brief recess, Bishop Ough, our former bishop and at the time president of the Council of Bishops announced the formation of the Commission on a Way Forward that would study all passages of the Book of Discipline that mentioned human sexuality and report back to General Conference 2020 or at a special called General Conference if necessary. A special called General Conference was held in 2019, the traditional plan was passed, and the division between progressives and traditionalists deepened.

In the interim time, a new plan was written and circulated called The Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation that would allow for new expressions of Methodism to be born forth. This was likely to be passed in 2020 and lived fully into in 2024. The Covid-19 pandemic made this impossible, and so we will have to wait and see what will happen in 2024 and 2028.



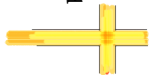





What does the Global Methodist Church stand for? Essentially, the Global Methodist Church will share a number of the same standards and doctrines of the United Methodist Church. We both come from a Wesleyan heritage and share in common the 24 Articles of Religion John Wesley and the founders of Methodism agreed upon. An additional article dealing with the duty of Christians to civil authority was added by the Methodist Episcopal Church when it was formed in 1784, so both the GMC and UMC share these 25 Articles of Religion. We also share the sixteen articles of the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

However, there are key differences. One of the differences between the GMC and UMC is the length of terms for bishops. In the UMC as it currently stands, once an ordained elder is elected to the episcopacy (the very churchy word for the office of the bishop), they remain a part of the episcopacy. In the GMC, it is understood that once a bishop's term is up, the individual will return to a local church, enter retired status, or serve somewhere else in the church. Another difference will be the removal of the trust clause. As it stands right now in the United Methodist Church, our church buildings, land, and assets are held in trust for the benefit of the entire denomination. The trust clause ensures that United Methodist property will continue to be used for the purposes of The United Methodist Church. It is likely that the GMC will not have a trust clause and local church building, property, and assets will belong to local churches. The GMC will also continue to hold that LGBTQ+ persons will not be allowed to serve as clergy and same-sex marriages will not be performed by GMC pastors. It seems likely that the remaining United Methodist Church will remove such prohibitions. (This is my guess.)

When will the Global Methodist Church become more visible? According to the Global Methodist Church's own FAQ page, "Within five years of its official initiation date (May 1, 2022), we believe the Global Methodist Church will have local churches in a number of countries all around the world. Some local churches will join one-by-one, and other local churches will join in regional groups. And new churches will be planted in missional settings around the world."

In the Dakotas, the launch of the Global Methodist Church was not announced with sufficient time to complete the disaffiliation process before Annual Conference 2022, but it is likely churches and clergy will disaffiliate in 2023 or wait until 2024's General Conference to see if a more favorable disaffiliation plan is adopted. (cont back)

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Clean Sanctuary 	7 Cleaning of Church Carpets	8	9  Leadership Team 6:30pm	10 Pastor Teresa Commissioned At Annual Conference 	11
12	13	14 1.  United Women in Faith Ranch Cafe 2 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Honor Fathers on Blanket Sunday 	20 VBS June 20-23 Lutherans-host church 1:00-3:30 	21	22 2.  United Women in Faith Work Day Lutheran Church 10-2	23  FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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What does this mean for us? At the moment, it is simply just important to be informed. We can and will have conversations about where we stand as a church. The Dakotas Conference has a strategy team that has developed a Values Workshop to be used for churches to discuss and clarify their values. This is likely our next best step. This year's annual conference (June 9-11 in Bismarck, ND) will also be very informative about where we are.

But let us keep in mind that we do not need to make decisions about this now; there is no urgency here. If plans that were going to be presented at 2020's General Conference (held in 2022 thanks to the Coronavirus), we will have four years to discuss, discern, pray, and decide, which would put us out to 2028 before anything really needs to be done.

For now, the best we can do is what we have always done: Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This does not and will never change no matter what – if any – denominational logo is on our sign or building. We are who we are by the grace of Jesus Christ, and we serve in His name. We serve our community and world well and thus we shall continue.

In Christ,
Pastor Teresa Whetsel