

COMPARISON OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

There are some areas where the two denominations are very similar:

- The **connectional conference structure** is very similar with both having General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference (called Regional Conference in the GMC); Annual Conference, District Conference, and Charge/Church Conference in the local church.
- The basic **local church organization** is very similar with both having a Church Council, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and Nominations.
- Both groups practice **baptism** of infants, children, youth, and adults with the traditional Wesleyan understanding of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.
- The UMC and the GMC both emphasize the importance of the **confirmation** process for children to make a profession of faith.
- The **appointment system of pastors** is very similar with the bishop making appointments in consultation with the Cabinet and the local church. The GMC seems to give the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee more input on the suitability of a proposed appointment and the opportunity to raise concerns if there are any.
- Both denominations have **District Superintendents** who oversee the pastors and churches within a district, but in the GMC they are called **Presiding Elders** (an historical term used in the Methodist movement in the past).

There are some areas where the two denominations are slightly different:

- The **mission of the church** in the UMC is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” whereas in the GMC it is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.”
- **Bishops** provide leadership in both denominations but there are some differences. In the UMC, bishops are elected for life by the jurisdictional conference. In the GMC, they have term limits and the process for election has not yet been determined. In both denominations, the bishops’ salaries and benefits are set by the general church, but in the UMC they are paid through a general church apportionment while in the GMC they are paid from the annual conference budget. Bishops are considered an employee of the GMC annual conference.
- The **educational requirements for pastors** have some differences in that the GMC does not require a seminary degree to be ordained as an elder or deacon, but there is a lengthy list of required courses that could be fulfilled with a seminary degree.
- The UMC teaching on **human sexuality** affirms the sacred worth of all people and states that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The GMC says human sexuality is a gift of God to be exercised only between a man and woman with the covenant of marriage and gender is defined at birth.

There are some key areas where the two denominations are very different:

- The biggest difference between the two denominations will be their expectations of local churches and clergy as it relates to **theological beliefs** and what is taught in churches. The UMC espouses a broad tent perspective as it relates to clergy and local church beliefs so that pastors and churches can preach and teach views that fall from one end of the theological spectrum to the other, from very conservative to very progressive. In the GMC, there is a requirement that churches will teach and preach traditional biblical and Wesleyan doctrines as outlined in the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. This is referred to as “congregational fidelity.” If churches fail to teach orthodox, Wesleyan theology they can be removed from the denomination. The same kind of standards apply also to clergy.
- Another major difference is the GMC is a **new movement** while the UMC has been around since 1968. The GMC is currently being birthed so the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* is the starting point, and emphasis should be placed on the word “transitional.” The GMC will hold its first convening conference within 12-18 months of its formation and finish the work on its Discipline. There could be small changes or significant ones. On the other hand, if many conservatives exit the UMC, there likely will be changes on the horizon at its next General Conference.
- **Local church property** is held in trust by the annual conference for the denomination in the UMC. In the GMC, there is no trust clause, and the local church has full ownership and control of their property.
- The **ordination of pastors** looks similar but there are some significant differences. In the UMC someone sensing a call to ministry enters a candidacy process, followed by commissioning, and then ordination as an elder OR they can go through the course of study process to become a local pastor. In the GMC, there is only one process that involves candidacy, ordination as a deacon, and then possible ordination as an elder. If someone is called to be the lead pastor of a church, they will be moving eventually toward ordination as an elder. There are no local pastors in the GMC.
- Both denominations use an **apportionment system**. Apportionments are capped in the GMC at 1.5% for general church ministry and 5% for annual conference ministry. The percentage is calculated off a local church’s operating income from the previous year. In the UMC, there is no cap and a local church’s portion is calculated off operating expenses from a 3-year average of prior years.
- Apportionments will likely be lower for most churches in the GMC, but **apportionment accountability** will be much higher. Apportionments are expected to be paid monthly and a church can be asked to leave the denomination if they have a persistent pattern of not paying their apportionments. The UMC requires apportionment payments but does not have a clear accountability process.
- Both denominations have **social statements** that deal with pertinent social issues in their respective Disciplines. The UMC has Social Principles and the GMC has Social Witness. The major difference lies in the fact that the Social Principles are not binding

on clergy or the local churches in the UMC. But in the GMC, clergy and local churches must agree to support and teach the Social Witness.

- Ordained elders are **guaranteed an appointment** in the UMC but not in the GMC.
- **Clergy retirement** is mandatory at 72 in the UMC. The GMC has no mandatory retirement, but a pastor may choose “senior status” which removes the obligation to be appointed.

There are many other differences outlined in the Disciplines of each denomination, but we have tried to capture some of the key ones in this document.

A Comparison of The United Methodist Church & The Global Methodist Church
rev. 7.1.22

	United Methodist Church (UMC)	Global Methodist Church (GMC)
Governing Body	The General Conference. <i>from ¶16 & 509</i> “The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional... No person, no paper, no organization, has the authority to speak officially for The United Methodist Church, this right having been reserved exclusively to the General Conference under the Constitution.”	The Transitional Leadership Council. <i>from ¶702 & 703</i> “During the period of transition between the legal formation of the Global Methodist Church and the effective date of actions taken by the convening General Conference, the Transitional Leadership Council shall serve as the primary leadership body of the church. ...empowered to make all necessary decisions related to the forming and initial operating of the Global Methodist Church until the effective date of legislation adopted by the convening General Conference.”
Governing Documents	The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016. <i>from pg. v</i> “...the product of over two hundred years of the General Conferences of the denominations that now form The United Methodist Church. The Discipline as the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves remains constant.”	Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, updated April 12, 2022. <i>from the preface</i> – “...will only be effective once the Global Methodist Church is legally formed and will provide governance until the time specified by the Global Methodist Church’s convening General Conference.”
Mission	<i>from ¶120</i> “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs. ...Whenever United Methodism has had a clear sense of mission, God has used our Church to save persons, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness, thereby changing the world. In order to be truly alive, we embrace Jesus’ mandate to love God and to love our neighbor and to make disciples of all peoples.”	<i>from ¶301</i> “The mission of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. ...As individual believers in Christ, and as those gathered together in local congregations, our calling is to connect with the communities and the world around us, extending both grace and mercy. Growing in our personal faith, and effectively discipling others, are both life-long expressions of loving the Lord with all of our hearts, all of our being, and all of our minds, as well as loving our neighbor as ourselves.”
Doctrine & Theology		
<i>Does the denomination uphold and affirm the authority of Scripture?</i>	Yes. <i>from ¶105</i> “United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. ...Our standards affirm the Bible as the source of all that is ‘necessary’ and ‘sufficient’ unto salvation (Articles of Religion) and ‘is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice’ (Confession of Faith).”	Yes. <i>from ¶104</i> “The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (as specified in the Articles of Religion) are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured.”
<i>Does the denomination teach and affirm the full divinity of Jesus?</i>	Yes. <i>from ¶104, Confession of Faith Article II</i> “We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”	Yes. <i>from ¶106.2, Confession of Faith, Article II</i> “We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”
<i>Does the denomination teach and affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus?</i>	Yes. <i>from ¶104, Articles of Religion, Article III</i> “Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.”	Yes. <i>from ¶106, Articles of Religion, Article III</i> “Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man’s nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.”
<i>Does the denomination teach and affirm the historic Christian creeds?</i>	Yes. <i>from ¶102</i> “Faced with diverse interpretations of the apostolic message, leaders of the early church sought to specify the core of Christian belief in order to ensure the soundness of Christian teaching. The determination of the canon of Christian Scripture and the adoption of ecumenical creeds such as the formulations of Nicaea and Chalcedon were of central importance to this consensual process. Such creeds helped preserve the integrity of the church’s witness, set boundaries for acceptable Christian doctrine, and proclaimed the basic elements of the enduring Christian message. These statements of faith, along with the Apostles’ Creed, contain the most prominent features of our ecumenical heritage.”	Yes. <i>from ¶105, Article II</i> “The following summaries of the apostolic witness disclosed in Scripture have been affirmed by many Christian communities, and express orthodox Christian teaching: 1. THE APOSTLES’ CREED. . . 2. THE NICENE CREED (A.D. 381). . . 3. THE DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON (A.D. 451). . .”

	United Methodist Church (UMC)	Global Methodist Church (GMC)
Are clergy and laity held accountable to the doctrinal standards?	Yes, both individual clergy and laity can be brought up on charges with right to trial and appeal. from ¶12702 "A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor,9 clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: ... (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church... A professing member of a local church may be charged with the following offenses, and, if so, may choose a trial: ... (c) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (d) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (e) relationships and/or behaviors that undermines the ministry of another pastor..."	Yes, both individual clergy and laity can be brought up on charges with right to trial and appeal. from ¶1808 "1. A bishop or clergy member of an annual conference, including senior clergy and clergy on honorable or administrative location, may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with one or more of the following offenses:...d. Promoting or engaging in doctrines or practices, or conducting ceremonies or services, that are not in accord with those established by the Global Methodist Church; e. Disobedience to the order and discipline of the Global Methodist Church;...2. A professing member of a local church may be charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with the following offenses:...d. Promoting or engaging in doctrines or practices, or conducting ceremonies or services, that are not in accord with those established by the Global Methodist Church; e. Disobedience to the order and discipline of the Global Methodist Church"
Are congregations held accountable to the doctrinal standards?	No, the accountability lies with individual clergy and lay members. (See above)	Yes, congregations may be involuntarily removed from the denomination with right to appeal. from ¶1354 Central to the integrity of both local congregations and the Global Methodist Church as a whole, the doctrines and discipline of the denomination as outlined in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline shall be voluntarily and joyfully embraced and practiced by all. Additionally, local congregations covenant to provide connectional funding as set forth in ¶ 349. Congregations that for reason of conscience find themselves unable to do so are accordingly encouraged to affiliate with another Christian denomination more in keeping with their beliefs or practices under the provisions of ¶ 903. Should a congregation consistently advance doctrines or engage in practices not in conformity with this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline or fail to remit in full the connectional funding set forth in ¶ 349, ... the local church may be involuntarily disaffiliated from the Global Methodist Church by a two-thirds vote of the Transitional Leadership Council or its successor, by agreement of the bishop, and by an affirmative vote of the cabinet of the conference in which the local church is located."
Human Sexuality		
Can a person who self-identifies as LGBTQ join the membership of the church?	Yes, with qualifications. from ¶14 "The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.	Yes, with qualifications. from ¶1103.5 "We affirm the participation and leadership of those of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, sexes, and ages in the Body of Christ..." and from ¶1306 "Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the spiritual life of the Church ...inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or gender (defined throughout this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline by a person's immutable biological traits identified by or before birth). ... inclusiveness means the freedom for the total involvement of all persons who meet the requirements of our Book of Doctrines and Discipline in the membership and leadership of the Church at any level and in every place."
Can a person who is in a same-sex relationship get married in the church?	No. from ¶1161.G "We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons.... Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.... The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."	No. from ¶1202.7 "We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman."

	United Methodist Church (UMC)	Global Methodist Church (GMC)
Can an LGBTQ person become a pastor?	Yes, if non-practicing. from ¶304.3) While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church. "Self-avowed practicing homosexual" is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual. See Judicial Council Decisions 702, 708, 722, 725, 764, 844, 984, 1020, 1341.	Yes, if non-practicing. from ¶405.2) "Those to be ordained must meet the following qualifications: ...Nurture and cultivate spiritual disciplines and patterns of holiness consistent with the General Rules, including responsible self-control by exhibiting personal habits that are conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all relationships, fidelity in a Christian marriage between one man and one woman, chastity in singleness, social responsibility, and the knowledge and love of God. <i>And from ¶808.1.g)</i> "A bishop or clergy member of an annual conference, including senior clergy and clergy on honorable or administrative location, may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with one or more of the following offenses:...Engaging in sexual activities outside the bonds of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman, including but not limited to sexual abuse or misconduct, the use or possession of pornography, or infidelity."
Clergy		
Can a local church select its own pastor(s)?	No; all clergy are appointed by the bishop in consultation with the local church. from ¶425 and ¶426) "Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part....Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or district superintendent confer with the pastor and committee on pastor-parish relations,... Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory."	No; all clergy are appointed by the bishop in consultation with the local church. from ¶509 and ¶510) "...clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part. ...Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or presiding elder (district superintendent) confers with the pastor and pastor-parish relations committee, ...Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the pastor-parish relations committee is advisory..."
Are all clergy guaranteed an appointment?	Yes, for elders only. from ¶337) "All elders in full connection who are in good standing in an annual conference shall be continued under appointment by the bishop..."	No. from ¶512) "Clergy must be effective in their leadership and ministry. Accordingly, within the Global Methodist Church, neither elders nor deacons shall have the right to a guaranteed appointment. If a bishop chooses not to appoint a clergy person, the bishop must provide a written rationale for that decision to the individual involved. Clergy are free to seek an appointment in an annual conference other than their own. Deacons and elders who are not under a current appointment shall be considered inactive (¶¶ 409.3, 410.3 respectively.)
Do non-appointed clergy retain voting rights?	Yes, if in good standing. from ¶329.2 and 334.1) "The deacon [and elder] in full connection shall have the rights of voice and vote in the annual conference where membership is held; ...The deacon in full connection shall attend all the sessions of the annual conference and share with elders in full connection responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶ 334.1).	No. from ¶409.3 and ¶410.3) Deacons are clergy members in full connection of the annual conference with full voice and vote on all matters except the ordination and conference relation of elders. Deacons not serving under appointment shall be classified as inactive and shall have no voting rights in the annual conference, except as provided for in ¶ 417. ... An elder not serving under appointment shall be classified as inactive and shall not have voting rights in the annual conference, except as provided for in ¶ 417.
Finances		
Will apportionments be required for each local church?	Yes. from ¶247.14) "...it shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, and the lay member(s) of the annual conference and/or the church lay leader(s) to interpret to each charge conference the importance of these apportioned funds, explaining the causes supported by each of them and their place in the total program of the Church. . . Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church (¶ 812)."	Yes. from ¶349) "Each local church of the Global Methodist Church contributes financially to the ministry of the Church beyond the local church through connectional funding. The local church treasurer or designee shall calculate the amount to be remitted in accordance with ¶¶ 349.3 and .4 by January 30 of each calendar year based on the prior year's local church operating income."
Will apportionments be distributed to other organizations outside the local church's Annual Conference?	Yes. from ¶615) "...the [General Council on Finance and Administration] shall recommend such formula or method to the annual conference for its action and determination which shall include the approved budgeted amounts for clergy support, administration, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other apportioned causes (¶ 614.1-.4), the sum of which shall be apportioned to the districts, churches, or charges of the conference."	Yes. from ¶505.3) "Each episcopal area within the United States shall partner with one or more episcopal areas elsewhere in the world to provide the necessary funds for the episcopal office within those areas. Such funds will be raised in the U.S. and passed through the general church, designated for that episcopal area. The Transitional Leadership Council shall arrange such partnerships based on the financial resources any given U.S. conference can reasonably provide. Where partnerships do not provide adequate resources to cover the episcopal office costs, general church connectional funding may be used to fund episcopal costs as needed."

	United Methodist Church (UMC)	Global Methodist Church (GMC)
How much apportionments will be required from the local church?	Varies per annual conference based upon the GCF&A formula from ¶1615 (see above).	6.5% of annual income. from ¶505.4 "The amount remitted by the local church for connectional funding shall be calculated as follows: a. For general church connectional funding, not more than 1.5% of local church operating income (see ¶ 349.3) as set by the Transitional Leadership Council or the Convening General Conference; b. For annual conference connectional funding where a local church has affiliated with the Global Methodist Church apart from its previous annual conference assignment or was not previously part of an annual conference, 5% of local church operating income (see ¶ 349.3) as set by the Transitional Leadership Council or the respective annual conference."
Can funds from the local church's apportionments be given out to lobbyist groups?	No. from ¶613.19 "...no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends"..."	There are no restrictions on the use of funds outlined in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines.
Are churches obligated to remit payment?	No. Pastors must lead the church to remit full payment, but there is no provision for church enforcement. from ¶340.c.e & ¶812 "To lead the congregation in the fulfillment of its mission through full and faithful payment of all apportioned ministerial support, administrative, and benevolent funds." and from ¶812 "Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church."	Yes, churches that fail to remit payment in full may be involuntarily disaffiliated. from ¶349.9 The failure of a local church to remit connectional funding in full as calculated annually may result in the Transitional Leadership Council or designee proceeding under ¶¶ 354 (see above) to involuntarily disaffiliate the local church from the Global Methodist Church.
Property		
Does the local church own the building and other property it uses?	No. from ¶2501 "...tangible and intangible property held at jurisdictional, annual, or district conference levels, or by a local church or charge, or by an agency or institution of the Church, shall be held in trust for The United Methodist Church and subject to the provisions of its Discipline. Titles are not held by The United Methodist Church (see ¶ 807.1) or by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, but instead by the incorporated conferences..."	Yes. from ¶902 "There is no trust clause for property held by local churches, annual conferences, regional conferences, connectional commissions, the Transitional Leadership Council, or any of their entities. Each local church, annual conference, regional conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed of in the event of the entity's dissolution."
Can the local church sell its properties without Denominational consent?	No. The sale of church property requires the consent of the District Superintendent. (see ¶2540 and ¶2541)	Yes, with approval by the pastor and charge conference. from ¶912.3 "Unless otherwise restricted by this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the Board of Directors shall have the power to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, lease, transfer, and convey any and all assets that it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation. a. Before the Board of Directors (or equivalent body) of a local church conveys property, it must seek the approval of the charge conference. Approval requires a simple majority vote. Additionally, the appointed pastor must consent to the conveyance.."
If a local church chooses to leave the denomination, will it get to take its property and funds?	Yes, after paying apportionments, title fees, and unfunded pensions. from ¶2553 "The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference. . . The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments. . . A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church. . . The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share"	Yes. from ¶903.3 "After at least a 90-day period of discernment and prayer, a congregation of the Global Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination by a majority vote of its church conference."