

Denominational Comparison

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Post Separation UMC</u>	<u>Global Methodist Church</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Free Methodist</u>	<u>Southern Methodist</u>	<u>Wesleyan Church</u>	<u>Nazarene Church</u>
<u>Denomination Identity</u>	THE POST-UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL RETAIN THE NAME AND CROSS AND FLAME LOGO. IT WILL BE A PROGRESSIVE CHURCH WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL ASPECTS.	LOGO WILL BE A CROSS WITH THREE INTERSECTING CIRCLES TO REPRESENT GOD IN THREE PERSONS - THE TRINITY. THEIR MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WORSHIP PASSIONATELY, LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESS BOLDLY.	TRINITY ON THE HILL - TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN. (DESIGN NEW LOGO NOT USING THE FLAME OR UMC.)				
<u>Theology</u>	PLURALISTIC, FLEXIBLE PER "OUR THEOLOGICAL TASK" WITH ARTICLES AND CONFESSION RETAINED AS HISTORIC MARKERS.	Rev. Walter Fenton, Elder, Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, as its secretary. 540-898-4960, wfenton@wesleyabcovenant.org The Transitional Book of Discipline for GMC. THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH IS COMMITTED TO MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WORSHIP PASSIONATELY, LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESS BOLDLY. IT IS GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE AND THE LIFE-GIVING CONFESSIONS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH FOUND IN THE APOSTLES' AND NICENE CREEDS.	Theology Grounded in Scripture, Apostle's Creed, and Traditional Methodist Beliefs Should TOTH decides to disaffiliate and remain an independent church, our theology will remain the same - a church dedicated to "Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known." Our beliefs are based on the foundational documents of the Apostle and Nicene Creeds. We believe in the Wesleyan expression of Christianity and the Articles of Faith as contained in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church—2016. We believe in the unchanging eternal Word of God as written in the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible, and as such our core beliefs are: We believe in One living true God. We believe the Godhead has three persons of one substance, power and eternity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe all have sinned and fall short of God's glory and are in need of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We believe as Christians we are to share the good news of the saving	PO Box 51710 Indianapolis, IN 46251. (800) 342-5531. Mark Dowley, COO. (317)244-3660 ext 367. 4 phase affiliation "journey." 2019 Book of Discipline (BoD) 246 pages available online. Mission Statement: "To love God, love people, and make disciples" Vision: "To bring wholeness to the world through healthy biblical communities of holy people multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and churches."	Paul D. Thigpen, President SMC 541 Broughton St Orangeburg, SC 29115 (803) 536-1378. SEEKS TO "CONTINUE THE DOCTRINAL HERITAGE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH AND TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION AND BIBLICAL HOLINESS THAT JOHN WESLEY PREACHED." TRADITIONAL BELIEFS BASED ON METHODIST ARTICLES OF FAITH. SCRIPTURE IS THE INERRANT WORD OF GOD.	Tony Casey, Assistant General Secretary, Fishers, Indiana, 864/752-8926 (Cell) 317/774-7909 Office The Wesleyan Church BOD 2016 Conservative, Believe in the Authority of Scripture. Believe in the virgin birth, resurrection of Jesus. Affirm all that is written in the Apostles Creed.	Classical Wesleyan - Holiness tradition. Belief that God calls Christians to a life of holy living which is marked by an act of God, cleansing the heart from original sin and filling the individual with a love for God and humankind. Nazarenes believe in a Triune God, the father, son and holy spirit. That Jesus Christ is God made man and the Holy Spirit is active and present in our lives. The Holy Scripture is given by divine inspiration and contains all the plenary truths necessary to faith and Christian living. They believe in the atonement of sin through Jesus Christ and that he will return, the dead will be raised and a final judgement will take place.
<u>Trust Clause</u>	LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.	THE GMC DOES NOT HAVE A TRUST CLAUSE. ALL LOCAL CHURCHES WILL OWN THEIR PROPERTY AND ASSETS IN PERPETUITY. Page 97, article 901 and 902 BOD.	No Trust Clause – TOTH Retains Ownership of All Property and Assets	Yes, BUT trust clause is being modified for new denominations joining because of disaffiliation. BoD page 157/246: "Those churches who hold property at the time they join the Free Methodist Church may be given the option by the Board of Bishops, with legal counsel, whether or not to adopt the trust clause for their existing property." BoD info: 91-92/246 AND 142-143/246	THE SMC DOES NOT HAVE A TRUST CLAUSE. ALL LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY BELONGS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH.	Yes, BOD, page 314, Article 4610	Title to Church property is held by the Trustees of the Church who are elected at the annual meeting but subject to some restrictions by the Superintendent where covered by Denominational by-laws.

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<u>Organization Structure</u>	GENERAL CONFERENCE, ANNUAL CONFERENCES, AND DISTRICTS.	THE GMC WILL HAVE BISHOPS WHO WILL SERVE FOR DEFINED TERM LIMITS. THE GMC WILL HAVE A GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL MEET EVERY 2 YEARS WHILE THE CHURCH IS ORGANIZING AND EVERY 6 YEARS THEREAFTER. ANNUAL CONFERENCES WILL MEET EACH YEAR AND HAVE DISTRICTS WITH A PRESIDING ELDER.	No Bishops or Superintendents Church Determines Clergy Appointments and Tenure – Led by Church Council	BoD 71-75/246: General Conference meets every 4 years - last in 2019. BoD 100-127/246: Annual Conference info. From comparison document with UMC: "The FMC is a very lean organization. We only have 3 U.S. bishops, 24 superintendents, and very few boards and agencies. Without question, a lack of abundant resources is a factor contributing to this reality. However, the bent of the FMC is toward a relatively lean organization, regardless of the available resources. The FMC believes the denomination should serve the local church, not the other way around. It is not our aim to become a top heavy, multilayered, boards/agency-driven denomination, but one that is committed to the local church as the primary means through which our mission is accomplished	A. THE SMC DOES NOT HAVE BISHOPS. THERE IS A PRESIDENT OF THE SMC WITH 4 VICE PRESIDENTS OVER THE 4 ANNUAL CONFERENCES. LOCAL CHURCH HAS WIDE LATITUDE IN DECISION MAKING.	(1) General Superintendent Elected every 4 years at General Conference (24) Dist Superintendents, 4 year tenure elected at the District conference which meets yearly. General District Board could recommend an extended call which would meet at the District Conference. Rare for the Superintendent to go back to full-time pastor; however, they do have bi-vocation appointments.(Pastor & District Superintendents)	Board of General Superintendents, Senior Leadership, General
<u>Female Clergy</u>	YES. THE UMC WILL STILL ORDAIN FEMALES AT ALL LEVELS.	WOMEN, LIKE MEN, ARE CALLED TO SERVE IN THE GMC AT ALL LEVELS.	Yes, Trinity believes women, like men, are called to serve at all levels.	BoD 190/246: "God calls men and women, but the church examines them so as to confirm the presence of spiritual gifts and personal graces." However, female clergy aren't as common as our current UMC	THE SMC DOES NOT ALLOW FOR ORDAINING WOMEN.	WOMEN, LIKE MEN, ARE CALLED TO SERVE IN THE WESLEYAN CHURCH AT ALL LEVELS.	No limitations for service with the same obligations, rights and privileges of any Pastor in the Nazarene Church. Believe that not allowing full participation would be inconsistent with scripture.
<u>Position on Homosexual or transgender participation as Clergy</u>	YES. THEY WILL ORDAIN AS BISHOPS AND CLERGY.	THE GMC WILL NOT ORDAIN OPENLY NON-CELIBATE HOMOSEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER BISHOPS AND CLERGY.	No we will not hire non-celibate homosexual or transgender clergy.	BoD 55/246: "Sexual intimacy is a gift from God for marital union. The sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman is to be protected against all manner of immoral conduct. We oppose cultural mores and laws that legitimize adultery, pre-marital, post-marital, and homosexual intimacy."	SMC DOES NOT ORDAIN HOMOSEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER PERSONS.	Prohibited	Clergy are not allowed to perform same sex
<u>Clergy Performing Same Sex Marriage</u>	BOTH BISHOPS AND CLERGY CAN PERFORM SAME SEX MARRIAGE IF THEY SO CHOOSE.	BISHOPS AND CLERGY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM SAME SEX MARRIAGE.	Marriage is defined as a Holy union between one man and one woman. Clergy will not be allowed to perform same sex marriage	BoD: 62/246: "Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman into a lifelong relationship..." "Therefore, it would be a breach of the doctrine of our church for ministers or members of the Free Methodist Church to conduct, officiate, or assist in officiating, the marriage or union between a same-sex or same-gender couple."	A. THE SMC DOES NOT ALLOW PASTORS TO PERFORM SAME SEX MARRIAGES NOR PARTICIPATE IN THOSE MARRIAGES AT OTHER CHURCHES. SMC SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN. THE SMC DOES NOT ALLOW CIVIL UNIONS BETWEEN SAME SEXES.	Prohibited	Not Allowed.

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<u>Sanctity of Life Abortion Defined</u>	LIKELY NUANCED PRO-CHOICE.	THE GMC BELIEVES THAT LIFE IS A HOLY GIFT OF GOD WHOSE BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS ARE SET BY GOD, AND THAT IT IS THE PARTICULAR DUTY OF BELIEVERS TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE POWERLESS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, INCLUDING THE UNBORN. WE BELIEVE HUMAN LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION AND ABORTION ENDS A HUMAN LIFE.	Does Not Support Abortion, Affirms Sanctity of Life	BoD page 60/246: "morally unjustifiable except when the act has been decided... for the purpose of saving the life of a pregnant woman"	THE SMC DOES NOT CONDONE ABORTION AND CONSIDERS IT AN ABOMINATION.	Stand Against	marriages.
<u>Support Services Compensation/Benefits</u>	CONTINUE TO BE MINISTERED BY WESPATH.	WILL BE COMPARABLE TO CURRENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS.	TOTH Responsible for Clergy Pension and Benefits	BoD page 146-147/246: Support of pastors determined by Finance Board with pastor input and approval by Board of Administration - to be determined by local church	ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE SMC MINISTERIAL RETIREMENT BOARD.	Church sets Pastor and staff salaries. Church administers healthcare benefits.	
<u>Compensation/Benefits Staff</u>	ADMINISTERED SAME AS NOW.	THE GMC WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE PENSIONS ADMINISTERED BY WESPATH.	Administered same as we do now.	BoD: 87-88/246: Pension plan information = started in 1969. Pension plan summary detailed in Affiliation Process document page 12-14 = see website https://hr.fmcusa.org/pensionretirement	LOCAL CHURCH DETERMINES. SMC DOES NOT OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS. LEFT TO LOCAL CHURCH.	Wesleyan Pension Foundation administers the pension program for clergy. Church sets the Pastors salary +12% toward pension	Full range of educational, doctrinal training, preparation and qualification review at all levels of service. Participant in full range of standard employment benefits including retirement and healthcare. Training, literature and written guidance is provided to staff including ministerial staff in various assignments.
<u>Missions</u>	LIKELY WILL CONTINUE SUPPORTING SAME MISSION CAUSES. https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/	In the process of developing.	Same mission partners as we have now.	BoD page 89/246: "The Free Methodist Church joyfully accepts responsibility to obey the Great Commission of Christ" see website https://fmcusa.org/global/fmg	CHURCH SUPPORTS MISSIONARIES	International - Global Partners and World Hope plus each church has their own local mission partners. https://www.wesleyan.org/ministries	Mission and service are global in nature. There is special emphasis on Youth International to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, fellowship, worship, ministry and in leading others to Christ.
<u>Apportionments</u>	YES. THEY WILL LIKELY CONTINUE AS THEY ARE NOW.	GMC WILL HAVE APPORTIONMENTS BUT WILL BE ABOUT HALF OF WHAT IS PAID BY A UMC CONGREGATION CURRENTLY. CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS ARE UP TO EACH ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUT ENCOURAGED TO BE LEAN.	No Apportionments	Unable to find in BoD. From Affiliation Process document: "The church will contribute financially to the support of the Annual Conference and denominational ministries as agreed upon in the MOU." MOU = Affiliate Covenant (contractual agreement signed by church prior to full membership phase)	DO NOT HAVE. ON AN "ASK" (VOLUNTARY) BASIS, LOCAL CHURCH IS ASKED TO PROVIDE 10% OF THEIR OPERATING BUDGET, NOT INCLUDING MISSIONS, TO THE SMC.	Yes, average approximately 10%	Yes. Details unknown.

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<u>Appointment of Clergy</u>	ONE YEAR AT A TIME. ORDAINED CLERGY GUARANTEED AN APPOINTMENT BY THE BISHOP, AND THE LOCAL CHURCH GUARANTEED A PASTOR OF THE BISHOP'S CHOOSING-WITH CONSULTATION.	UNDER THE GMC, TENURE IS OPEN-ENDED. THE BISHOP'S CONSENT IS REQUIRED TO DECLARE A PULPIT OPEN. THE GMC WILL HAVE A COLLABORATIVE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM WHERE THE CHURCH LAY LEADERS WILL HAVE A BIGGER VOICE IN THE APPOINTMENT. NO GUARANTEED APPOINTMENTS FOR CLERGY. BISHOP MUST SIGN OFF ON THE SELECTION MADE. MINORITY CANDIDATES MUST BE CONSIDERED.	Church Determines Clergy Appointments and Tenure – Led by Church Council	From comparative document to UMC: "Like the UMC, our denomination appoints its pastors. However, our system is far more collaborative with a preference for longer appointments. Generally, moves are only initiated with the agreement of the pastor, church, or both. Our leadership structure is a modified episcopal system with bishops as our lead elders and superintendents who oversee elders appointed to local churches. It is important to know that the FMC does not guarantee appointments, nor does it have minimum salaries guarantees. We would not make these kinds of clergy-guarantees even if we had the resources to do so. We are not convinced such guarantees lead to more fruitful ministries.	LOCAL CHURCHES CALL THEIR OWN PASTORS. SMC PROVIDES LIST OF CANDIDATES BUT LOCAL CHURCH IS NOT REQUIRED TO SELECT FROM IT. TENURE OF PASTOR IS LEFT TO LOCAL CHURCH, USUALLY ONE YEAR OR MORE.	Pastor, not promised an appointment. District Superintendent will share resumes with church. Church will interview candidate and Church votes on Pastor selection.	Assigned but after rigorous training and certification process conducted by the Denomination and is subject to continuing acceptance by local congregation.
<u>Materials and Literature</u>	https://www.umc.org	In the process of developing.	Will need to develop.	https://fmcusa.org/		https://resources.wesleyan.org/	Extensive written materials, documents, publications, functional guidance materials, etc., are provided and designed as support and resource material for functional application in ministry.

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<u>Ordination</u>	ELDERS AND DEACONS ARE SEPARATE ORDERS. DEACONS DO NOT HAVE FULL SACRAMENTAL AUTHORITY.	IN AN EFFORT TO RESTORE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ORDINATION AND THE SACRAMENTS, THERE MAY BE A RETURN TO THE PRE-1992 UNDERSTANDING THAT ELDERS ARE FIRST ORDAINED AS DEACONS. LOCAL PASTORS WILL FIRST BE ORDAINED AS DEACONS. WHEN THEY HAVE COMPLETED COURSE OF STUDY, THEY MAY PURSUE ELDER'S ORDERS. THERE WILL BE PERMANENT DEACONS AND DEACONS ON THEIR WAY TO BECOMING ELDERS. DEACONS HAVE SACRAMENTAL AUTHORITY.	Trinity will hire ordained Clergy	BOD page 190-195/246: "Ordination of Elders"	ORDAINED FIRST AS DEACON THEN TO ELDER AFTER REQUIREMENTS MET	BOD page 264-267, Article 3067-3091 A licensed minister of The Wesleyan Church who has an abiding conviction of God's call to be a minister may be ordained by meeting the following requirements in order: Membership with the leadership qualifications in a local Wesleyan church within the district granting ordination.Satisfactory service for two years subsequent to completion of the pre-ordination study course, except for those who have been under appointment and supervision during the years spent completing said course of study. At least one year must have been in The Wesleyan Church within the district in which ordination is to take place except as hereinafter provided. Certificate from the Ministerial Study Course Agency showing completion of the pre-ordination course of study or of its equivalent. Election by the district conference to ordained	Nazarenes believe that while all are called to witness, there are certain individuals are called by God to serve and gifted with ministerial leadership. They will be characterized by a life of holiness, possess gifts for public ministry and committed to communicating sound doctrine. Ministerial training, license and ordination are required. The local pastor must give due consideration to the counsel of the Superintendent and the District Advisory Board.