

Pros of Joining the Global Methodist Church

The Discernment Team identified topics to educate our congregation into the current state of the Methodist Church. One such topic is the pros of joining the Global Methodist Church if Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church votes to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church denomination. There are numerous resources available to educate each of us on the pros of joining the Global Methodist Church, but the below article along with the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Disciplines of The Global Methodist Church are excellent locations to learn more about this complex issue.

1. Orthodox Theology That Stands on Scriptural Authority

“It is a creedal church that proudly stands on the rich tradition and history of our church fathers and mothers. Intentionally, the GMC includes as official doctrine the Nicene Creed (§105.2), the Apostles’ Creed (§105.1), and the Definition of Chalcedon (§105.3). The GMC has added the Definition of Chalcedon adopted by the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Chalcedonian Definition cements our understanding of who Jesus is. It ensures that the GMC’s Christology will be orthodox and clear.” (Therrell, 2022)

2. A Leaner and Simpler Church with Less Top-Down Decisions

“GMC leaders have done their best to create a flatter, simpler, more decentralized church where the local church will be empowered to make decisions that best enable it to carry out its mission. As a result, local churches will have greater control and keep more money in their church treasuries. Less bureaucracy and institution mean less apportionments. The Global Methodist Church will have no more general agencies with their large budgets and many employees. Instead, it will have a few connectional commissions primarily led by laity and clergy volunteers.” (Therrell, 2022)

3. An Emphasis on the Local Church as the Front Line of Ministry

“Presently, it can seem like one of the main reasons local churches exist is to pay apportionments and complete forms to supply the upper levels of church bureaucracy. In the GMC, the districts, annual conferences, and General Conference will do their best to ensure local churches are equipped to lead people to Jesus. This shift is important because it means that extra agencies, commissions, and institutions are no longer needed. Moreover, the funding for those entities will stay at the local church to be used to further its mission.” (Therrell, 2022)

4. A Simpler, Fairer Ordination System

“Local churches will become the entity that certify candidates in the Global Methodist Church (§406.1).” (Therrell, 2022)

5. Greater Accountability for Bishops, Clergy, and Churches

“One of the mainstays of our current denominational drama is the extreme lack of accountability for bishops, clergy, and churches. Bishops will be term-limited to ensure that once a person is elected bishop, they no longer have a lifetime warranty on the office (§501). Additionally, bishops will no longer be accountable only to one another. During the transitional period of the GMC, bishops will be held accountable by the Transitional Leadership Council (§§807, 809). Incoming clergy from the UMC will have to pledge that they agree with and will uphold the Doctrines and Discipline (§417.1-2).” (Therrell, 2022)

6. A Less Expensive Church = More Money for Local Ministry

“The Global Methodist Church intentionally has a general level of the GMC that will take a small fraction of that money (§§704-5). Additionally, annual conferences will be encouraged to downsize and re-orient around empowering the local churches (§§610-13).” (Therrell, 2022)

7. No Trust Clause

“Almost three hundred years ago, John Wesley wrote the first trust clause to protect Methodist meeting houses and buildings. Wesley’s intent was to ensure that those buildings (Tennett, 2021)—key resources in the Methodist mission of making disciples – would be used for orthodox purposes. There is no trust clause in the GMC (§902). Local churches will own their assets for the glory and service of God to do with as they discern.” (Therrell, 2022)

8. Greater Autonomy for Local Churches

“Churches will be able to structure themselves in a way that best enhances their mission (§337). Moreover, when it comes to the appointing of clergy, local churches will have greater say in who their pastor will be (§510). The bishop will still have the final say on appointing clergy guaranteeing that female clergy and clergy of color will not be discriminated against.” (Therrell, 2022)

9. More Freedom and Less Duplication

“The Global Methodist Church encourages local churches to partner with ministries that already exist and that they choose because they fit the local church’s process for making disciples. The result is less duplication of kingdom efforts and greater ability for local churches to align with organizations that represent who they feel God is leading them to be.” (Therrell, 2022)

10. The New Church is Global in Nature

“The Global Methodist Church is presently active on four different continents: North America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Already the Transitional Leadership Council is a diverse group of global traditionalists including Americans, Russians, Africans, Filipinos, and Koreans.” (Therrell, 2022)

Jessica Nelson

Bibliography

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(All paragraph references are to the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline)