

ORGANIZATION OF UMC and Vocabulary

Organization of UMC:

General Conference of UMC
Judicial Conferences (USA-5) + Central Conferences (non-USA 7)
Annual Conferences (7-14 per Judicial Conference)
(53 in USA, 80 outside USA)
Districts (3-17 per annual conference)
Local Churches (140+ churches in our District)

WMUMC's assignments

General Conference
Southeastern J.C.
Western North Carolina A.C.

Northern Piedmont District
Wesley Memorial UMC

-General Conference (GC)-both an *organizational body* and the name of a *meeting*.

The General Conference (organizational body) meets every 4 years for a General Conference (name of the meeting). This is the top **Legislative body** of the UMC and has delegates from all over the world. There is only one GC worldwide. There are 600-1000 delegates that go to the meeting. Half are lay members and half are clergy.

-Judicial Conference (JC)-both an *organizational body* and the name of a *meeting*.

These are geographical divisions in the USA. They preside over, organize and support and have limited control over the ACs in their region. There are 5 in USA and they are each made up of 7-14 Annual Conferences.

-Central Conferences- Similar to the JC, but outside the USA. There are 7 worldwide.

-Annual Conferences (AC)-both an *organizational body* and the name of a *meeting*.

The AC is the basis body of the church. It votes on constitutional amendments and elects delegates to GC and JC. It is presided over by a Bishop. (Our Bishop is Bishop Ken Carter.) There are 53 AC's in the USA and 80 AC's in the rest of the world.

-Districts-Presided over by a District Superintendent. (Our District Superintendent is Rev. Bev Copley.) We are 1 of 8 Districts in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Our District is the Northern Piedmont District and has about 149 churches in it.

-Local Church-Our local Church is Wesley Memorial UMC.

Government of UMC

-A *legislature* which is the **General Conference**.

-The *judicial branch* is the **Judicial Council** which is the "Supreme Court" of the UMC. It rules on the constitutionality of acts by GC, JC and Bishops. All decisions are final.

-The **Council of Bishops** has administrative and supervisory roles in the UMC. They have some *executive branch* functions, but we don't have a president, vice president or a CEO of the United Methodist Church.

Bishops in USA have a lifetime tenure. Outside the USA, tenure varies.
There are 46 USA Bishops and 20 non-USA Bishops.

-The UMC has a **Constitution** and a book of rules called the **Book of Discipline**.

-The Book of Discipline is the UMC's Book of rules, regulations and organization. It contains a History of the UMC, the **Constitution** of the UMC, the Articles of Religion and Social Principles of the UMC as well. The most recent publication of the Book of Discipline was in 2016, and a 2019 Addendum was published after the February 2019 Special General Conference.

Vocabulary

-The Trust Clause-Paragraph 2501 in the 2016 Book of Discipline outlines the Trust Clause which states that the property and assets of a local church are held "in trust" for the benefit of the entire denomination. In other words, the property & assets of WMUMC belong to the Western NC Annual Conference and not to WMUMC.

-Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA)- Started as an unofficial advocacy group within the UMC. Became an independent organization in 2016. They were the main organizing group that launched a new theologically conservative Methodist denomination called the **Global Methodist Church (GMC)** on May 1, 2022.

-Wespath Benefits & Investments- Manages UMC pension fund for clergy and employees of the UMC. An independent company that is subcontracted by the UMC.

-The Protocol (short for the "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation")-An agreement devised by a diverse, international group of members of the UMC, assisted by a world-renowned mediator, to provide for a just means of separating the UMC into 2 or more denominations. It was completed on December 17, 2019.

-Paragraph 2553-an amendment to the BOD passed at the 2019 Special General Conference detailing the process of disaffiliation by local churches.

-Paragraph 2548.2-allows the transfer of the deed to the property of a UMC Church to another Methodist or Evangelical denomination.

