

Fishers UMC

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES OF
OUR DENOMINATIONAL DIVIDE

-DEFINING THE TENSION

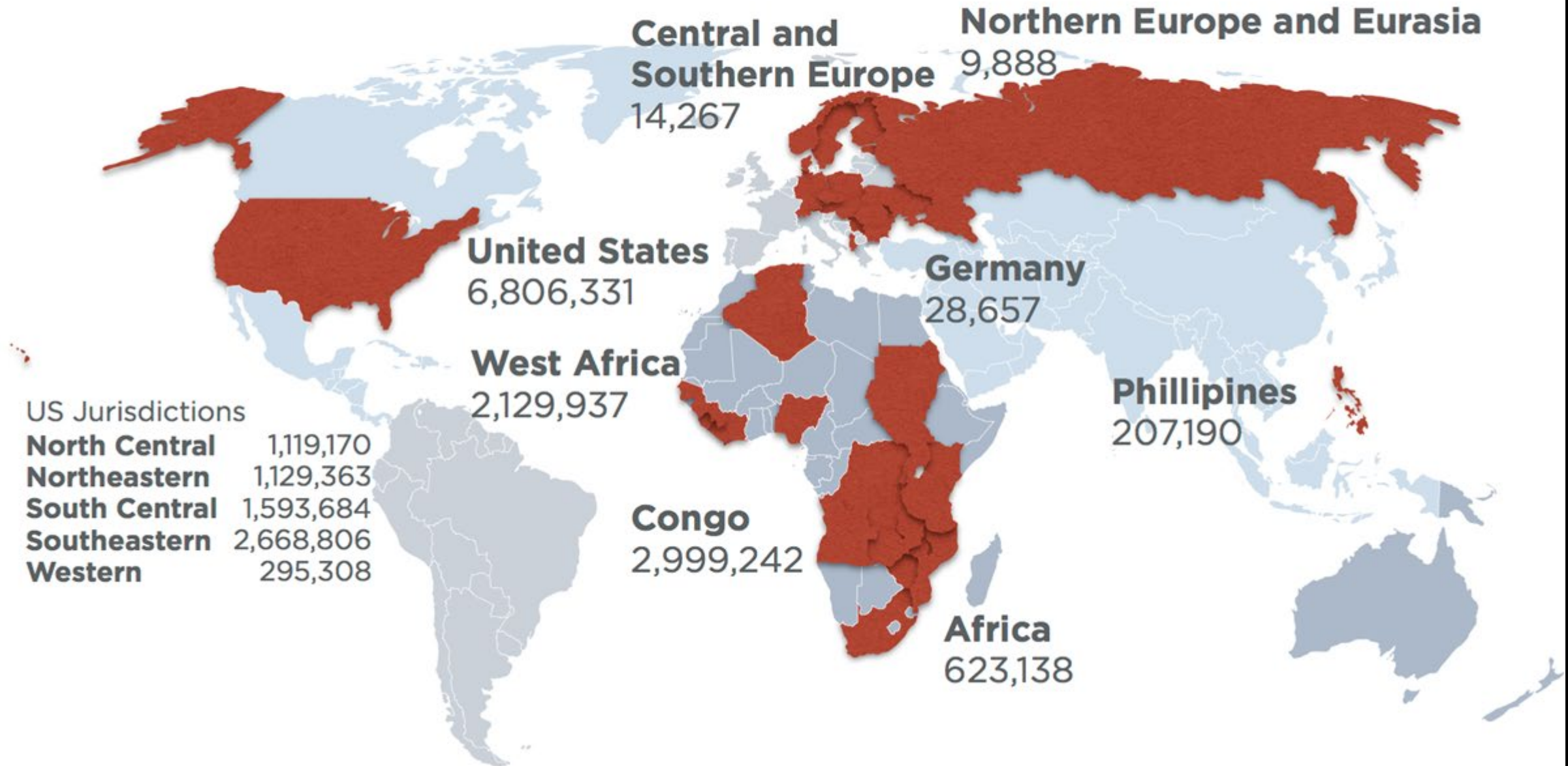
Our Covenant as a Fishers UMC Family of Faith

- We will pray for and with one another
- We will treat each other with respect
- We will listen to one another
- We will address this in house as a church family
- We will not air this on social media, broadcasting, or other forms of media.
- We will love one another, regardless of the end result

UMC CONFERENCES

General Conference: Global Decisions

UMC World Map



UMC CONFERENCES

General Conference: Global Decisions

Jurisdictional Conference: Elects & Assigns Bishops

United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America

↴ Our N.C. Jurisdiction



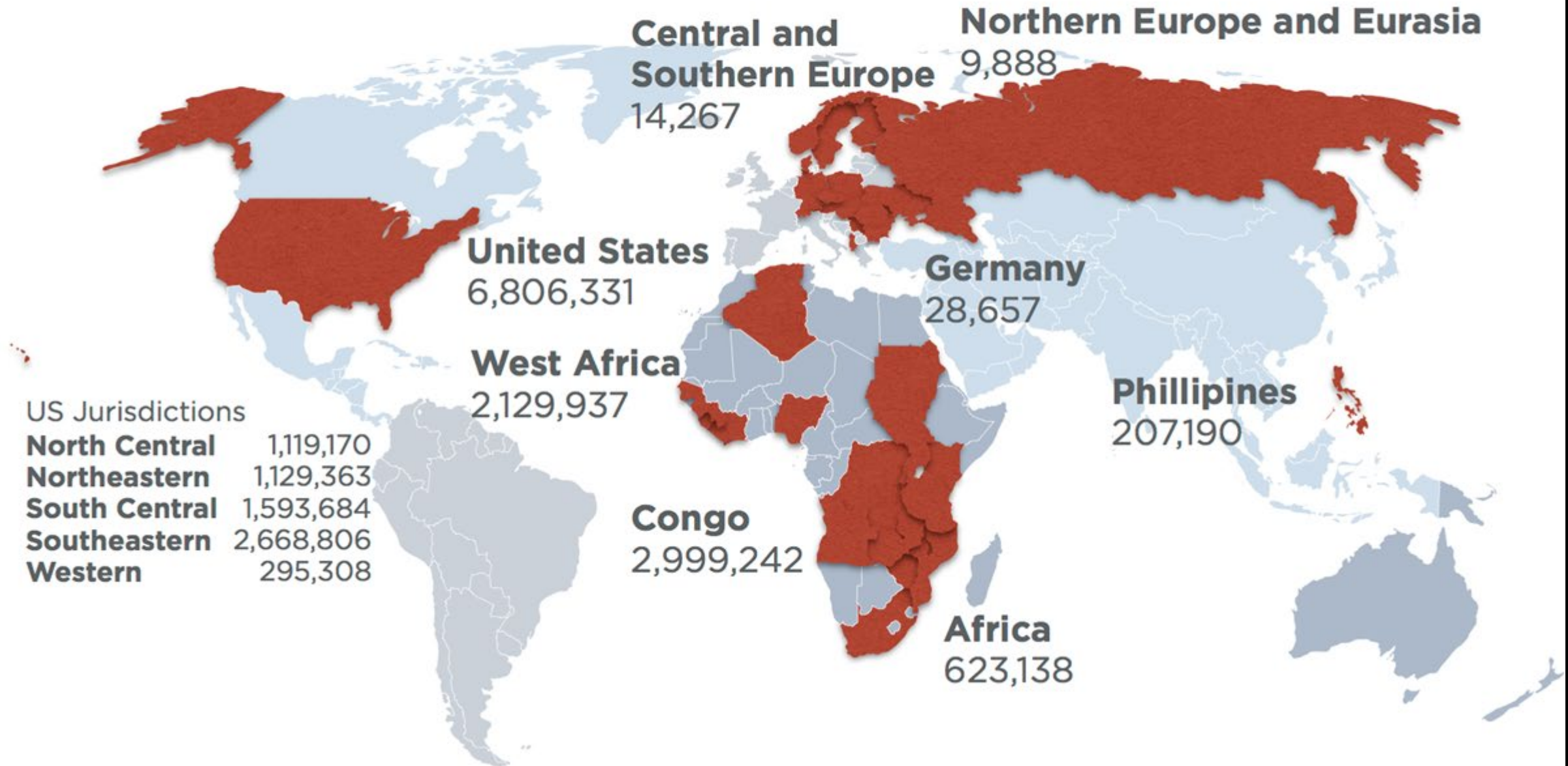
UMC CONFERENCES

General Conference: Global Decisions

Jurisdictional Conference: Elects & Assigns Bishops

Central Conference: For non-U.S. churches

UMC World Map



UMC CONFERENCES

General Conference: Global Decisions

Jurisdictional Conference: Elects & Assigns Bishops

Annual Conference: Statewide Decisions

District Conference: Nearby Churches

United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America

↴ Our N.C. Jurisdiction



← Our Annual Conference



Our N.C. District ↑

UMC CONFERENCES

General Conference: Global Decisions

Jurisdictional Conference: Elects & Assigns Bishops

Annual Conference: Statewide Decisions

District Conference: Nearby Churches

Church Conference: Fishers UMC Members

Charge Conference: Fishers UMC Council

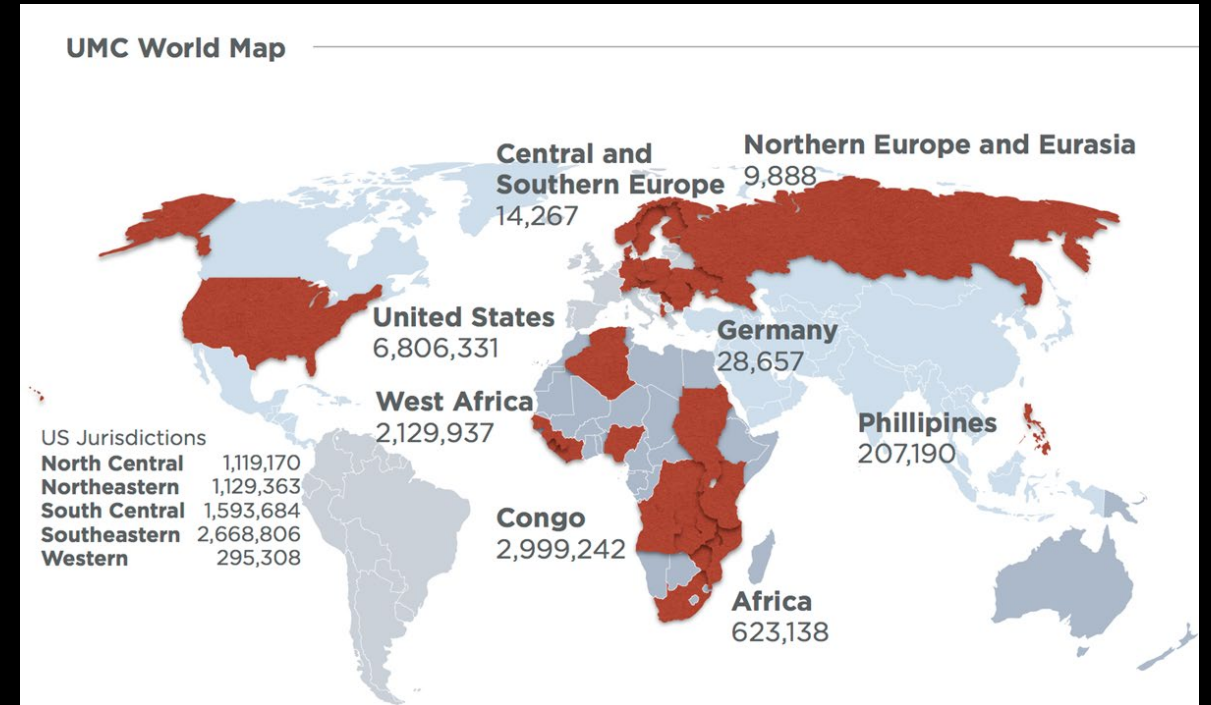
Church Conference
Church Members Vote
Major Decisions

Charge Conference
Council Members Vote
Operational Decisions

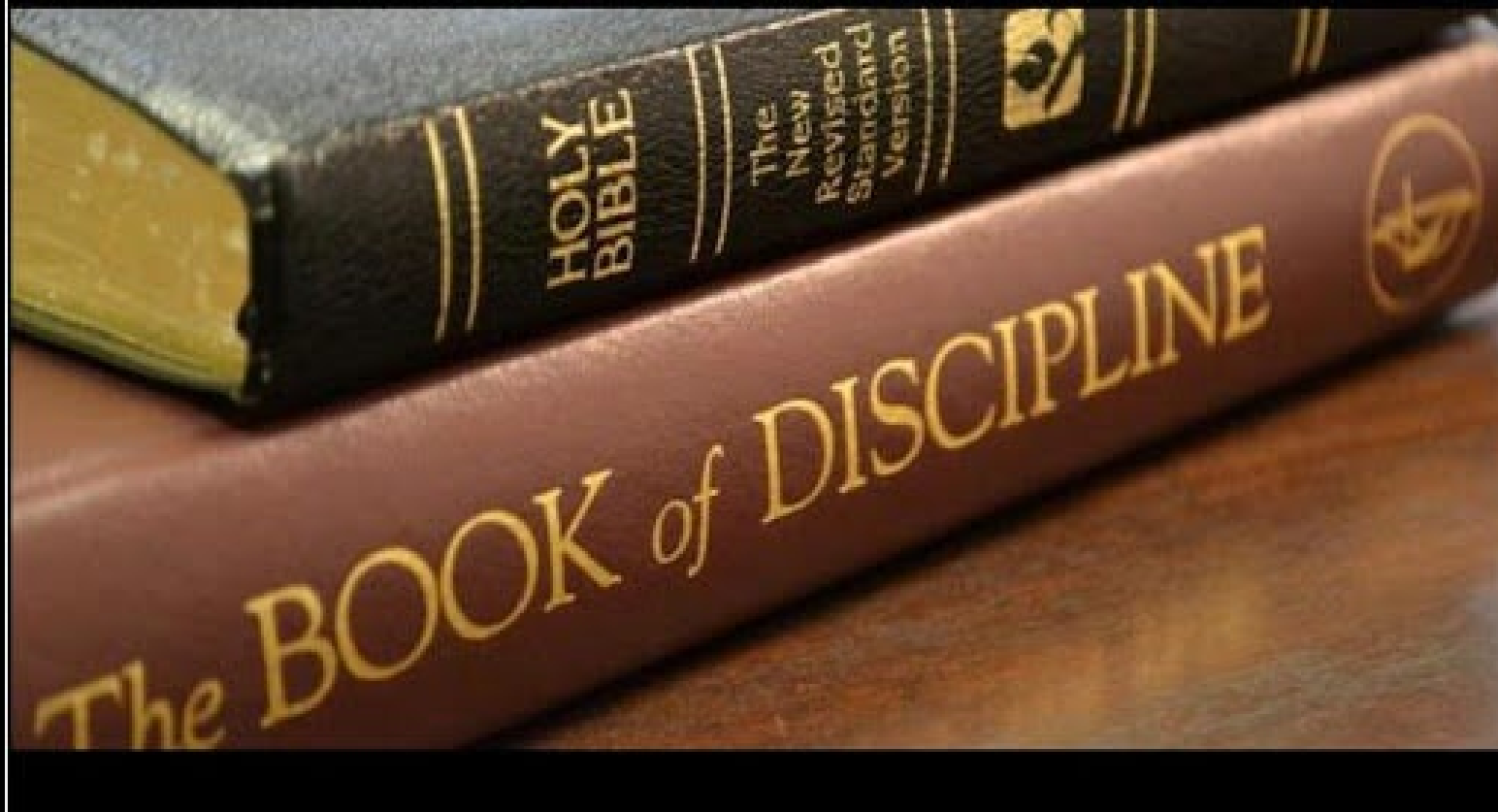


Church Council Local Church Leadership

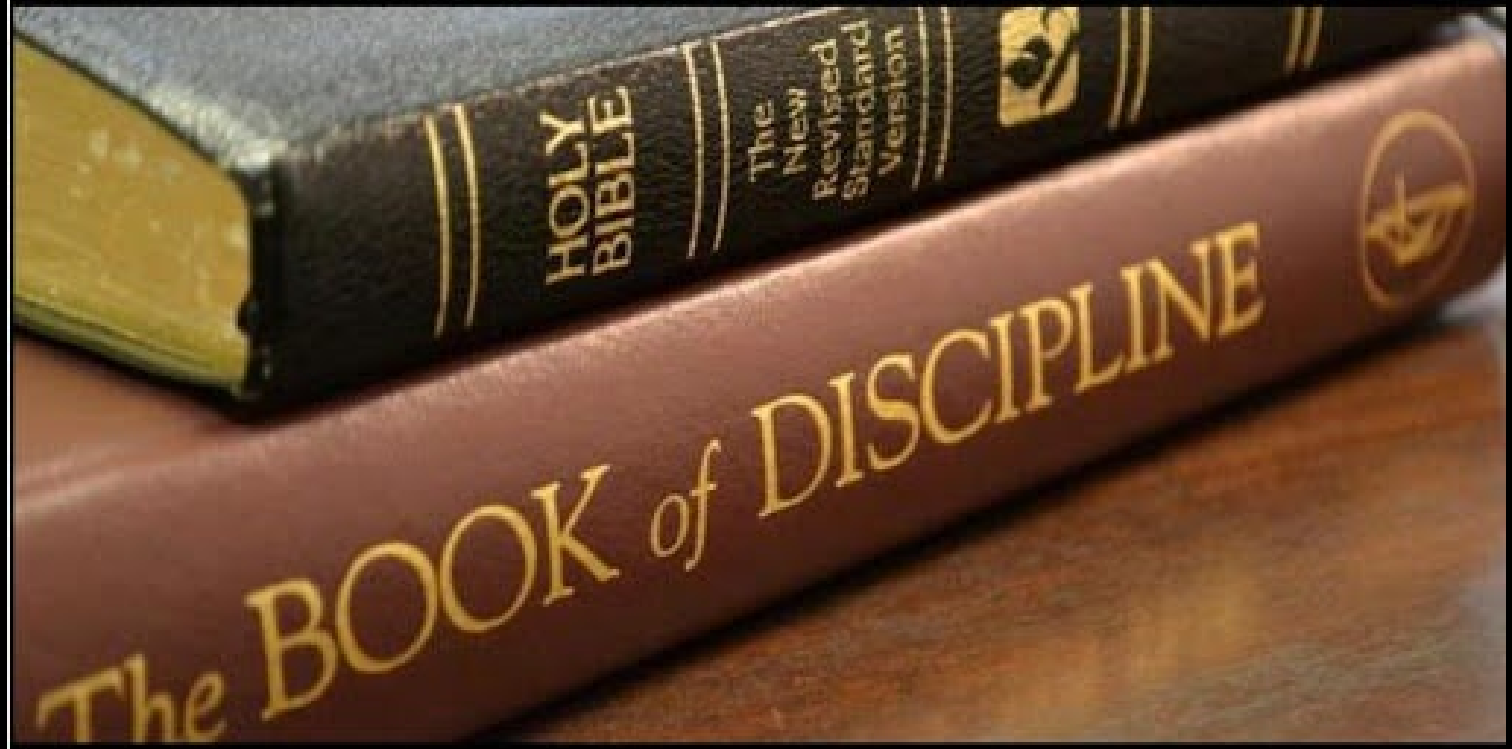
Judicial Council UMC's "Supreme Court"



The Book of Discipline



C.1. 2022 Indiana Annual Conference Resolutions and the Book of Discipline



“BUILDING BeLOVED COMMUNITY NOW”

- This resolution holds every Indiana UM church, pastor, and ministry accountable to upholding the “Building Beloved Community Now” statement of the NC Jurisdiction, which among other things, promotes LGBTQIA+ clergy being ordained and appointed to United Methodist Churches, and removes restrictions so that United Methodist pastors can officiate and churches can host weddings and unions for LGBTQIA+ persons. **Defeated: 402 FOR, 410 AGAINST**

“A COMMITMENT TO GRACE IN INDIANA”

- This resolution allows that LBGTQIA+ persons can be ordained and appointed as pastors of Indiana United Methodist Churches, and that Indiana United Methodist pastors can officiate and churches can host weddings and unions for LBGTQIA+ persons.
- **Passed: 380 FOR, 332 AGAINST**

C.2. The United Methodist Church states: “sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.”

(see ¶161.F in Discipline)

C.3. The United Methodist Church is: “committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.”

(see ¶162.J in Discipline)

C.4. The United Methodist Church believes: “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.”

(see ¶304.3 in Discipline)

C.5. The United Methodist Church states: “Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

(see ¶341.6 in Discipline)

C.6. The United Methodist Church prohibits any United Methodist entity from using funds: “to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC ‘not to reject or condemn lesbian or gay members and friends.’”

(see ¶613.20; ¶806.9 in Discipline)

C.7. The United Methodist Church states that United Methodist bishops, clergy or local pastors: “may be tried when charged” with misconduct in violation to the Book of Discipline

(see ¶2702.1 in Discipline)

Various "Groupings" Within the UMC



Progressives

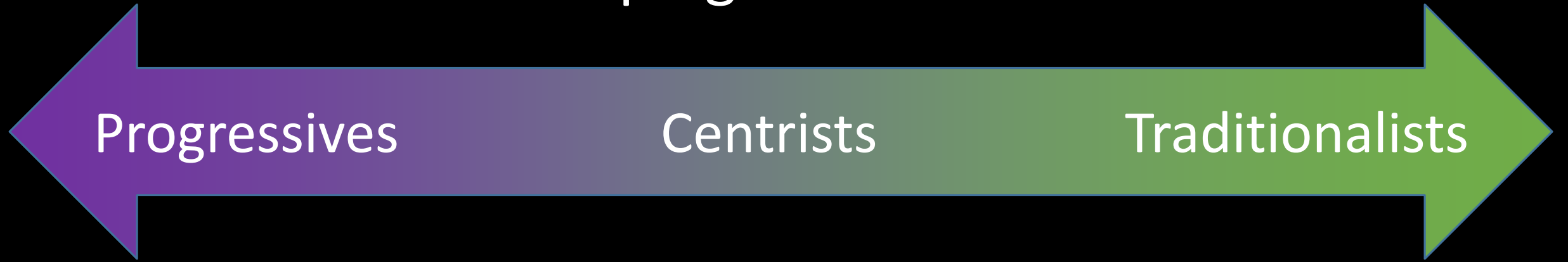


Centrists



Traditionalists

Various “Groupings” Within the UMC



Progressives

Tend to have a liberal view of both theological and social issues

Various “Groupings” Within the UMC



Progressives

Centrists

Traditionalists

Progressives

Tend to have a liberal view of both theological and social issues

Traditionalists

Tend to have a conservative view of both theological and social issues

Various “Groupings” Within the UMC



Progressives

Centrists

Traditionalists

Progressives

Tend to have a liberal view of both theological and social issues

Centrists

Conservative or liberal theology with liberal social view

Traditionalists

Tend to have a conservative view of both theological and social issues

What the UMC is Facing

Past: The Traditional language regarding ordination of and weddings for LBGTQIA+ persons was upheld by all General Conferences 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2019

Present: The 2020 General Conference is delayed until 2024.
The Global Methodist Church launched on May 1, 2022.

Future: Current Disaffiliations and the upcoming 2024 General Conference to consider the Protocol (or not)

The Protocol - Origination

- “The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation”
- The Protocol was proposed to the 2020 General Conference. Due to the Covid Pandemic, the 2020 General Conference was delayed until 2021, then to 2022, then to 2024.

The Protocol – Support

- The Protocol was a proposal by representatives of the progressives, centrists, and traditionalists to allow for a peaceful separation to form new Methodist denominations.
- The Protocol has recently lost support among some who were in favor of it

The Protocol – Fundamental Differences

“After careful reflection, discussion, and prayer, The United Methodist Church and its members acknowledge fundamental differences regarding our understanding and interpretation of Scripture, our theology, and our practice.”

[see Protocol, 1. Background, a) Preamble, ¶ 1].

The Protocol – Two or More Denominations

“proposed restructuring and separation as the best means to resolve our differences, making provisions for The United Methodist Church to move forward as two or more separate entities, each of which remains true to its theological understanding while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person”

[see Protocol, 1. Background, a)Preamble, ¶ 3].

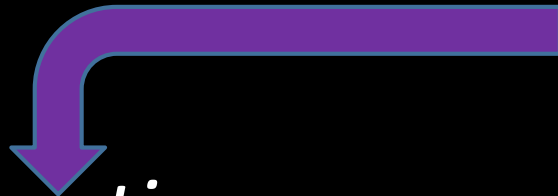
The Protocol – Amicable Separation

“We envision an amicable separation in The United Methodist Church that would provide a pathway to new denominations of the Methodist movement and a restructuring of The United Methodist Church”... And, “As any separation occurs, we will release one another through the terms of this Protocol to joyful obedience to Christ’s call on our lives”

[see Protocol, 1. Background, a)Preamble, ¶ 7]

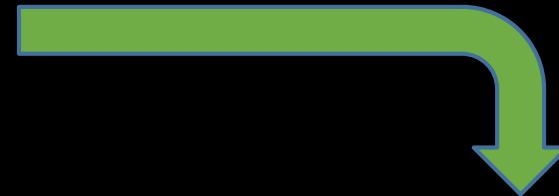
The New Denomination

United Methodist Church (UMC)



Post-separation

**United Methodist Church
(UMC)**



New Denomination

**Global Methodist Church
(GMC)**

Post-separation United Methodist Church

“We envision the post-separation United Methodist Church... will repeal the Traditional Plan and remove all other restrictive language related to LGBTQ persons”

[see Protocol, 1. Background, a) Preamble, ¶ 7].

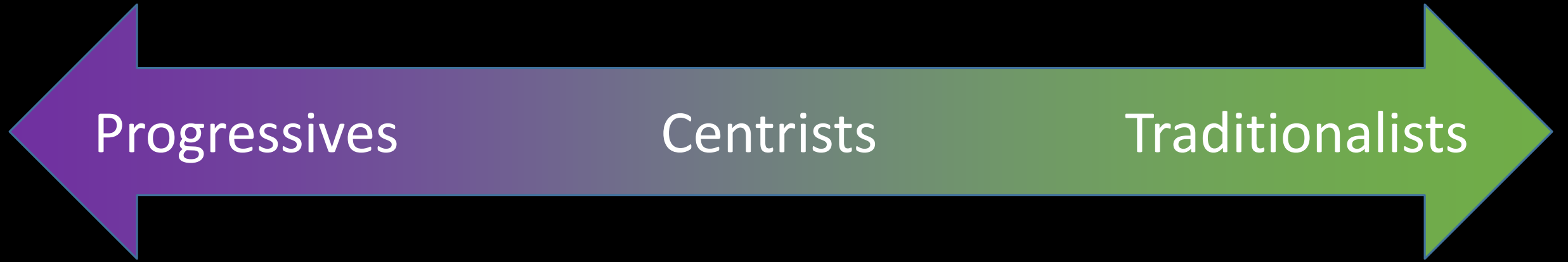
Global Methodist Church (GMC)

“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”

(Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:22-33).

[See Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, ¶ 2, #7].

The New Denominations



UMC

Allow weddings
and ordination
of LBGQTQ+
persons

Centrists

←will choose→

GMC

Continue
traditional view of
marriage and
ordination

At June 9-11, 2022 Annual Conference, these 29 Indiana UMC churches disaffiliated from the UMC:

Martinsville First

Greenwood Honey Creek

Mt. Comfort

Hartford City Pleasant Grove

Lynn Union Chapel

Muncie Union Chapel

Normal City

Rehoboth

Garden of Gethsemane

Kokomo St. Lukes

Columbia City St.

Matthews

Etna

Liberty Center

West Point Trinity

Dayton

Fulton

McGrawsville

South Pleasant

DePauw

Mt. Nebo

Branchville First

Dale

Lynnville

Nobles Chapel

Spurgeon

Wheatland

Barbour Avenue

Brazil Bethel

Brazil Union

Upcoming Options for Disaffiliating Churches

1. November 19, 2022 by Zoom

- Must have records in by Oct. 15, 2022

2. Next reg. Annual Conference is June 8-10, 2023

- Records will be due in spring 2023

3. Paragraph 2553 expires Dec. 31, 2023

- being used for disaffiliating churches

What the 2024 G.C. could do...

- 1. Vote the Protocol up or down or change or ignore**
- 2. Let Paragraph 2553 expire or extend it**
- 3. Continue the Traditional language or approve Progressive language regarding ordination of and weddings for LBGTQIA+ persons**
- 4. Keep or modify other theological or social stances**

Fishers Procedural Plan - Steps

1. Spring-Summer 2022 – Discussion among Church Council
2. Fall-Winter 2022 – Discernment with whole congregation. Please submit Questions & Comments.
3. 2023 or 2024? – Decision by congregation
(if recommended by our Church Council)

Fishers Procedural Plan – Voting Rules

1. Decision will be an official Church Conference
2. Only official members' votes will be counted toward official vote
3. Only members present and voting on official paper ballot will be counted toward official vote
4. Under present rules, a super majority (67% of members present at a duly called Church Conference) would be required if Fishers UMC decided to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.

Fishers Procedural Plan – Our Covenant

- We will pray for and with one another
- We will treat each other with respect
- We will listen to one another
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