

Organization	UMC	Free Methodist	GMC	Wesleyan	Nazarene	Independent
Mission Statement	To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.	Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.	To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.	Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.	As a global community of faith, we are commissioned to take the Good News of life in Jesus Christ to people everywhere and to spread the message of scriptural holiness across the lands.	To be determined by the church (TBD).
Doctrinal standards	Must be verbally affirmed at ordination, but “non-juridical” to maintain	Mandatory for all clergy to preach and maintain. Formal charges are enforced by DS and bishop	Mandatory for all clergy to preach and maintain	Mandatory for all clergy to preach and maintain. Can be removed by regional/district board if gone astray.		TBD. Churches coming from the UMC have been observed to drift into Calvinism.
Role of scripture	“Primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine” – in practice, can be modified or reinterpreted by other sources		Primary rule and authority for faith, morals and service, against which all other authorities must be measured		given by divine inspiration, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation	TBD
Baptism	infant/child baptism	infant/child baptism	infant/child baptism	infant/child baptism practiced,	Infant/child baptism	TBD

				but child dedication is the norm	practiced, also child dedication	
Confirmation	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	TBD
Sacraments	Baptism & Communion	Baptism & Communion	Baptism & Communion	Baptism & Communion	Baptism & Communion	TBD
Will the denomination accept Maples?	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Appointment process	Bishop and cabinet appoint, after consultation with clergy and P/SPR Committee.	Regional District Superintendent appoints with approval from conference Ministry Appointment Committee, after consultation with clergy and local church.	Church council decides whether to do its own search or request candidates from the bishop. Transition team (larger than P/SPRC) manages transition, interviews candidates, makes final recommendation. Approval of bishop, presiding elder, transition team, and clergy needed to set appointment. Candidates interviewed must include at least one female and one cross-cultural clergy.	Church determines search team and criteria, selects top candidate, then gets approval from district superintendent.		Local church must develop criteria, seek out qualified candidates, and make all hiring decisions

Church property	Held in “trust” by denomination	Can be held in “trust” by denomination or owned by local church – church chooses	Owned by local church	Held in “trust” by denomination after affiliate time period	Owned by local church	Owned by local church
Apportionments	~12-13% of non-missions local church budget	3.7% of general (non-missions) income to denomination 2-8% to regional conference	Maximum of 1.5% of general (non-missions) income to denomination 5% to regional conference	10% of general (non-missions) income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1% church planting</li> <li>• 3% region/district</li> <li>• 3% denomination</li> <li>• 3% universities</li> </ul> Capped at \$135,000	~5% for district apportionments ~15% overall	None
Denomination organization	<b>Episcopacy:</b> Bishops elected for lifetime service from ordained clergy – oversee the leadership of conferences. District Superintendents appointed by bishops as extension of bishop’s office and serve up to 12 years within the Annual Conference.	<b>Episcopacy:</b> Bishops are elected to serve a 4-year term and must be re-elected to serve additional terms. District Superintendents are elected by conferences to lead conferences for 4-year terms. <b>Conferences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Conferences – legislative body creates Book of Discipline</li> </ul>	<b>Episcopacy:</b> Bishops elected for up to 12 years of service from ordained clergy – oversee the leadership of conferences. District Superintendents selected by bishops from 3 candidates affirmed by district. May serve up to 12 years. Could be retired pastor.	<b>Episcopacy:</b> General Superintendents are elected from ordained clergy by the General Conference to serve for a 4-year term of service (which can be renewed) – They oversee the leadership of the entire General Conference. District Superintendents are elected from		N/A

	<p><b>Conferences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Conference – legislative body creates Book of Discipline (BOD)</li> <li>• Jurisdictions in USA – elect and appoint bishops</li> <li>• Central Conferences outside the USA – elect and appoint bishops &amp; modify BOD</li> <li>• Annual Conferences – organize and support local churches for mission</li> <li>• Local Church</li> </ul> <p><b>Judicial Council:</b> Lay and clergy elected by the General Conference to Interpret Book of Discipline</p>	<p>(BOD) – The USA is a General Conference; There are 20+ General Conferences outside the USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Conferences – organize and support local churches for mission</li> <li>• Local Church</li> </ul> <p><b>National Board of Administration:</b> Elected by the General Conference and serve 4-year terms. Has the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference between quadrennial gatherings.</p>	<p>Could simultaneously serve in a local church.</p> <p><b>Conferences – legislative voting bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Conference – legislative body creates Book of Discipline (BOD). Also elects bishops</li> <li>• Regional Conferences</li> <li>• Annual Conferences – organize and support local churches for mission</li> <li>• Local Church</li> </ul> <p><b>Judicial Council:</b> Lay and clergy elected by the General Conference to Interpret Book of Discipline</p>	<p>ordained clergy by the district conferences and serve 2-4 year terms (which can be renewed). District Superintendents oversee the ministry of the district conference.</p> <p><b>Conferences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Conferences – legislative body creates Book of Discipline (BOD) – North America is a General Conference; There are 4 General Conferences outside the USA</li> <li>• District Conferences – organize and support local churches for mission</li> <li>• Local Church</li> </ul> <p><b>General Board of Administration:</b></p>		
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				Elected by the General Conference and serve 4-year terms. Has the authority to act on behalf of the General Conference between quadrennial gatherings.		
Local church organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charge/Church Conference</li> <li>• Church Council</li> <li>• Nominations and Leadership Development Committee</li> <li>• Pastor-Parish Relations Committee</li> <li>• Committee on Finance</li> <li>• Board of Trustees</li> <li>• Other committees as desired</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society Meeting</li> <li>• Board of Administration</li> <li>• Board of Trustees</li> <li>• Pastor’s Cabinet (like a PPRC)</li> <li>• Other committees as desired</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charge/Church Conference</li> <li>• Church Council</li> <li>• Flexible Structure for all areas below</li> <li>• Nominations and Leadership Development Committee</li> <li>• Pastor-Parish Relations Committee</li> <li>• Committee on Finance</li> <li>• Board of Trustees</li> <li>• Other committees as desired</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Church Conference</li> <li>• Local Board of Administration</li> <li>• Flexible Structure for all areas below</li> <li>• Nominations</li> <li>• Personnel Committee</li> <li>• Board of Trustees</li> <li>• Other committees as desired</li> </ul>		TBD
Social Principles						
Marriage and Sexuality	Affirms marriage covenant between a man and a woman. Any sexual activity	“Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman into a lifelong	Affirms marriage covenant between a man and a woman. Any sexual activity	“God’s plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous	“The practice of same-sex sexual intimacy is contrary to	TBD

	<p>outside that covenant is considered contrary to God’s Word.</p> <p>(Expected to be changed in a post-separation UMC: Marriage between two consenting adults; Same sex sexual activity not considered sinful within the bounds of legal marriage.)</p>	<p>relationship of mutual love and service.”</p> <p>“Homosexual intimacy is regarded by the Scriptures as immoral because it is a distortion of God’s created order.”</p>	<p>outside that covenant is considered contrary to God’s Word.</p>	<p>lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage.”</p> <p>“Sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful.”</p>	<p>God’s will for human sexuality.”</p> <p>“It is God’s intention for our sexuality to be lived out in the covenantal union between one woman and one man.”</p>	
<p>Ordination of Sexually Practicing LGBTQ+ persons</p>	<p>No (Not allowed according to Discipline, but allowed in practice in some places; expected to be affirmed in post-separation UMC)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Abortion</p>	<p>Balances sanctity of unborn life with life and well-being of mother and child; rejects abortion as means of birth control or gender selection</p>		<p>Believing in the sacredness of all life, resists the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against</p>		<p>affirms the sanctity of human life as established by <a href="#">God</a> and believes that such sanctity extends to the</p>	<p>TBD</p>

	(may change in post-separation UMC)		life. Do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection. All Christians to support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel or resources		child not yet born. There are medical conditions wherein the mother or the unborn child, or both, could not survive the pregnancy, termination of the pregnancy should only be made after sound medical and Christian counseling.	