

Summary of Proposal for Separation of The United Methodist Church

The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation was agreed to on December 17, 2019, by an unofficial group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups from around the world with a wide range of contrasting views. The group worked with a well-known mediator experienced in dispute resolution. The group concluded and stated in the Protocol: “The undersigned propose restructuring The United Methodist Church by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity and respect of every person.” The Protocol will go to the United Methodist General Conference for a vote in May, 2020.

Major provisions of the Protocol and proposal are:

1. Formation of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination, separate from the UMC. This new denomination would receive \$25 million over the next 4 years and would give up further claim to the UMC’s assets.
2. The “post-separation UMC” (The United Methodist Church remaining after separation of the traditionalist Methodist denomination and any other separation denominations) would hold a special general conference to remove the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, to repeal the Traditional Plan and to create regional conferences. Pending disciplinary actions related to homosexuality or same-sex weddings would be on hold until the separation is completed.
3. Another \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations which may emerge from the UMC.
4. All of these new denominations, together with the post-separation UMC, would be Methodist denominations. The post-separation UMC could enter into agreements with these new denominations detailing how they might participate in UMC boards, agencies and programs.
5. Acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, \$39 million would be allocated to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism.
6. General Conferences would have a certain time frame to vote to affiliate with a Methodist denomination other than the post-separation UMC. If no action is taken, the Conference would remain a part of the post-separation UMC.
7. Individual churches could vote to affiliate with a Methodist denomination other than the one adopted by that church’s annual conference. If no action is taken, each church would be affiliated with the Methodist denomination adopted by its annual conference.

8. Churches who affiliate with a Methodist denomination other than the post-separation UMC would retain their property and other assets and liabilities, and the UMC would release them from all trust clauses.
9. All current and lay employees would keep their pensions, regardless of the Methodist denomination with which they affiliate.
10. All other property, assets, or liabilities, including all boards and agencies, would remain with the post-separation UMC. Mission activities and UMC programs would continue.

Additional information is available below.

Press release:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan>.

The proposal:

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf> .

FAQ's:

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-united-methodist-mediation-team-13133711>