



Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Ephesians 4:1-6; 29-32 (NRSV)

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the
calling to which you have been called,

²with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, bearing with one another in
love, ³making every effort to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of
peace.

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just
as you were called to the one hope of
your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one
baptism,

⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

“²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

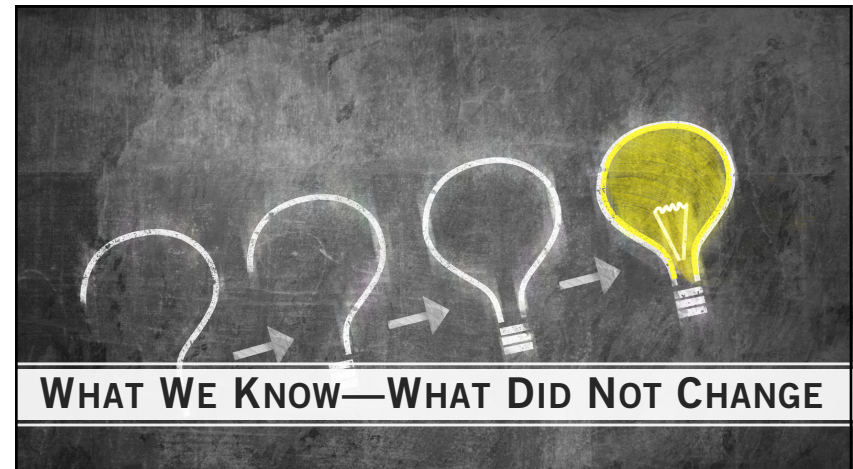
³²and be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

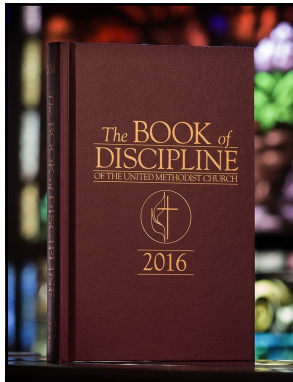


God Loves You.
God Desires You.
Jesus Saves.


2019
Special
Session of
the General
Conference

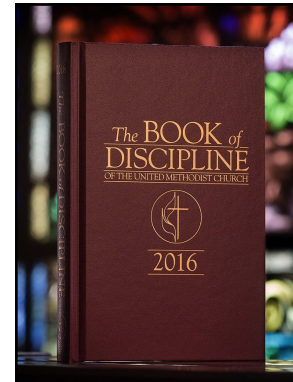
We can
Do better






“We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. . .


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“We affirm God’s grace is available to all. . . We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends.”
¶ 161.G

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All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human rights and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence.

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 **CHURCH & SOCIETY**
The United Methodist Church
Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

WHAT WE KNOW—WHAT DID NOT CHANGE

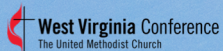
¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

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WHAT WE KNOW—WHAT DID NOT CHANGE

Candidacy for Ordination ¶ 304.3:

The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching



WHAT WE KNOW—WHAT DID NOT CHANGE

Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.




WHAT WE KNOW—WHAT DID NOT CHANGE

¶ 120: The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



¶ 202: The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God.






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NEW ADDITIONS

The following changes are determined to be constitutional and will be added to the Book of Discipline.

1. If a Church enters a process to exit the UMC, they must pay their fair share of pension liability as a part of that process. Clergy who exit the denomination retain their pension, but pension funds must be converted to limit further liability.




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Wespath
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

2. Language will be added to the footnote that defines a self-avowed practicing homosexual. Someone who is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union fits the definition of a self-avowed practicing homosexual.



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3. Bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops and prohibited from commissioning or ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexual persons.



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4. Minimum penalties have been added for pastors who perform same gender weddings and are convicted by trial.



- **First offense**
 - **One-year suspension without pay.**
- **Second offense**
 - **Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of licensing, ordination, or consecration.**

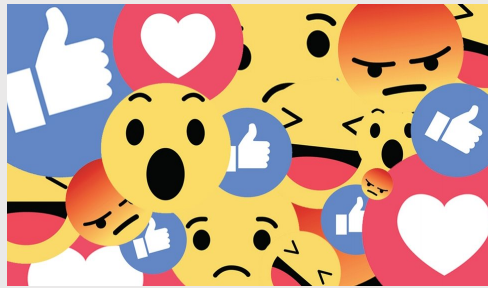


5. The just resolution process clarifies that complainants shall be a party to just resolution process.



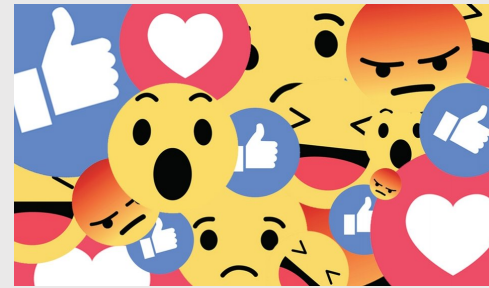
6. Language was added which allows a process for churches who disagree with the Church position on homosexuality to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church. There are requirements for this process.





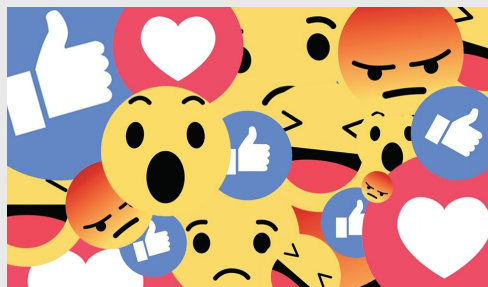
2019 GC Decisions Reaction

Annual
Conferences
do not have
the authority
to change
the Book of
Discipline



2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- Pain across
the
spectrum,
inside and
outside the
U.S.




2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- A variety of
conversations
are
happening



2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- Every Annual
Conference
has a
different
context



2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- We are not of one mind on this particular subject



2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- We have a choice--focus on what divides or on what unites.



2019 GC Decisions Reaction

- We have a God given, Christ given mission which we can only fulfill with LOVE

NOW WHAT?



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

POPULATION
NOT INVOLVED
IN A RELIGIOUS
CONGREGATION
OR COMMUNITY

61.7%



Luke 15:3-7

ONE > 99



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



What gives you hope during
this time of anxiety?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



How can we be faithful
and live together amid conflict?

What behaviors or actions can facilitate
this?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



What is your deepest Christ centered missional passion?

What will you do to move this mission forward in your local congregation?



We influence the mission and ministry of Christ in our communities and in our congregations.

- What is the message we desire people to see and hear and experience from your local church?



We influence the mission and ministry of Christ in our communities and in our congregations.

- For what do you want your local church to be known?



We influence the mission and ministry of Christ in our communities and in our congregations.

- What can you do to facilitate the witness desired?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



What are the needs of the community that surrounds your congregation?

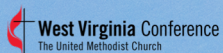
How will you help your congregation be the body of Christ when you return home?



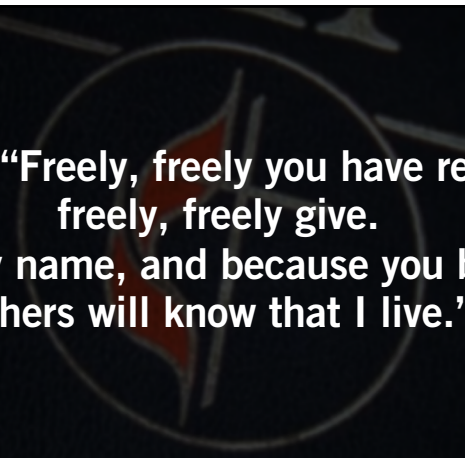
General Conference 2020



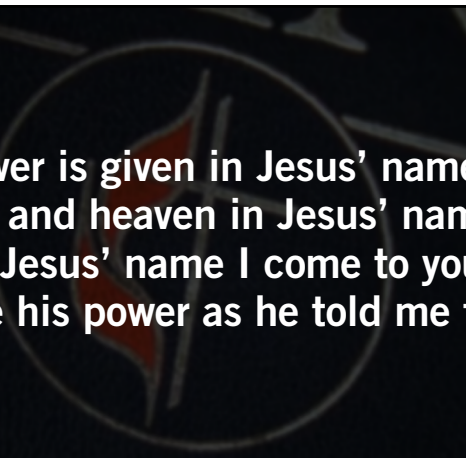
2020



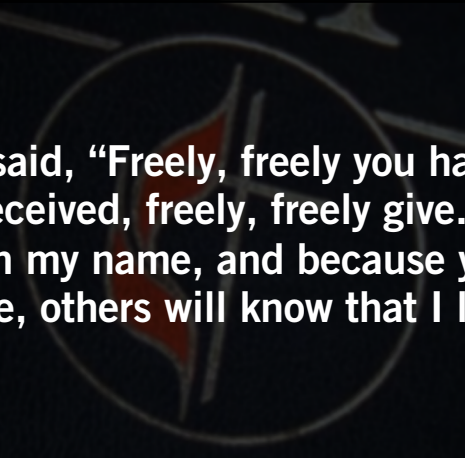
God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you,
to share his love as he told me to.



He said, “Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.”



All power is given in Jesus’ name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus’ name,
and in Jesus’ name I come to you,
to share his power as he told me to.



He said, “Freely, freely you have
received, freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you
believe, others will know that I live.”