

Dakotas Timeline Tool

What's Next: Dakotas UMC, GMC Launch, and Your Church

The following information is to help churches know their options

Now

What can I do now?

- ◆Pray ◆Listen and Learn ◆Membership Audit ◆Values Workshop
- ◆Keep the focus on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

The Dakotas UMC

The Dakotas Annual Conference United Methodist Church

- ◆Pray
- ◆Local Churches may remain with the UMC (no vote required)
- ◆Strategy Team—Continues its work to provide resources and to help all churches and pastors to find their place during this transitional time
- ◆Continuing UMC Task Force—Works to define vision, mission, and value moving forward and sharing more about the UMC
- ◆There has been and will be no change to our affirmations of the historic doctrines of the Christian faith as articulated in the creeds of the Church as well as our Wesleyan distinctives of Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience
- ◆We continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, living missionally, and serving connectionally

Global Methodist Church Launch

Global Methodist Church (GMC) Launch

- ◆Pray
- ◆Sunday, May 1, 2022
- ◆Understanding the difference between the GMC and UMC, asking and answering critical questions
- ◆Churches may vote to leave the UMC and join the GMC through the disaffiliation process (contact your District Superintendent)
- ◆Understand there is a process to affiliate with GMC per their guidelines

LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ and the Church

- ◆There have been no changes made to the *Book of Discipline* in regard to LGBTQ+ people
- ◆There is currently not a moratorium on administrative and judicial proceedings related to the inclusion of LGBTQ people in The UMC.
- ◆Additional changes to the Discipline regarding language, ordination, and marriage would need to occur at General Conference(s)

General Conference 2024

Dakotas Timeline Tool: What's next GMC Launch, UMC and Your Church

Things to Do Right Now:

- ◆ Keep the focus on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World and the missional imperatives of Loving God and Neighbor, Reaching New People and Healing a Broken World
- ◆ PRAY: For God's guidance, Not for an outcome *you want*, Focusing on the kingdom of God, and those hurting and harmed through division and time of waiting
- ◆ LISTENING AND LEARNING
(All resources listed below can be found: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/about/strategy-team/resources>)
 - ◇ How to engage in tough topics
 - ◇ Resources to: Talking Circle/Fishbowl Conversations
 - ◇ Studies: A helpful list of resources can be found at the website above
 - ◇ General Conference Legislation Information: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/general-conference-1/legislation>
 - ◇ Learn more about The United Methodist Church
 - ◊ What We Believe: <https://www.umc.org/en/what-we-believe/basics-of-our-faith>
 - ◊ General Conference: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>
- ◆ MEMBERSHIP AUDIT
 - ◇ *Book of Discipline* ¶214-242 provides the technical information regarding membership, transfer, audit, etc.
 - ◇ Definitions:
 - ◊ Active member - Has attended worship within the last year (in person or online) or has financially contributed to the ministry of the church
 - ◊ Inactive member - Has not attended worship within the last year and has not financially contributed to the ministry of the church
 - ◊ Constituent - Someone who attends worship participates in the life of the congregation but has not formally become a member of the church
 - ◇ Membership Letter(s)
- ◆ VALUES WORKSHOP
 - ◇ Purpose: To help a church name and define its top 3-4 core values; How the church lives into being the church and not to discuss or debate the topic of human sexuality
 - ◇ Flyer: <https://www.dakotasumc.org/about/strategy-team/values-workshop>

The Dakotas Annual Conference United Methodist Church

- ◆ Pray
- ◆ Local Churches may remain with the UMC (no vote required)
- ◆ Strategy Team—Continues its work to provide resources and to help all churches and pastors to find their place during this transitional time
- ◆ Continuing UMC Task Force—Works to define vision, mission, and value moving forward and sharing more about the UMC
- ◆ There has been and will be no change to our affirmations of the historic doctrines of the Christian faith as articulated in the creeds of the Church as well as our Wesleyan distinctives of Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience
- ◆ Will continue to uphold doctrinal standards in the Book of Discipline expanded from the Apostles Creed. ¶102-105
- ◆ We continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, living missionally, and serving connectionally

Global Methodist Church (GMC) Launch:

- ◆ Understanding the difference between the GMC and UMC, asking and answering critical questions (see comparison)
- ◆ Churches may vote to leave the UMC and join the GMC through the disaffiliation process (contact your District Superintendent)
- ◆ Understand there is a process to affiliate with GMC per their guidelines: <https://globalmethodist.org/>

LGBTQ+ and the Church

- ◆ There have been no changes made to the *Book of Discipline* in regard to LGBTQ+ people
- ◆ There is currently not a moratorium on administrative and judicial proceedings related to the inclusion of LGBTQ people in The UMC.
- ◆ Additional changes to the Discipline regarding language, ordination, and marriage would need to occur at General Conference(s)
- ◆ Churches can choose to enter into the disaffiliation process to align with an inclusive denomination