



**TOWN HALL: MARCH 7, 2019**  
**NEW SONG CHURCH**



# GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019





# BACKGROUND

It was the recommendation from General Conference 2016 to form the *Commission on a Way Forward*. It was a charge to help the Church move forward on the three major/main questions:

1. Incompatibility Language
2. Same-Gender marriage
3. Ordination



# INCOMPATIBILITY LANGUAGE (DEFINED)

Since 1972, the language in the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* has stated:

**“Homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.”**



# LGBTQIA+ (DEFINED)

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer (Some would say: Questioning)
- Intersex
- Asexual (Some would say: Allies)
- + (All others)

# **THE THREE PLANS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)**

**One Church Plan**

**Traditional Plan**

**Connectional Church  
Plan**

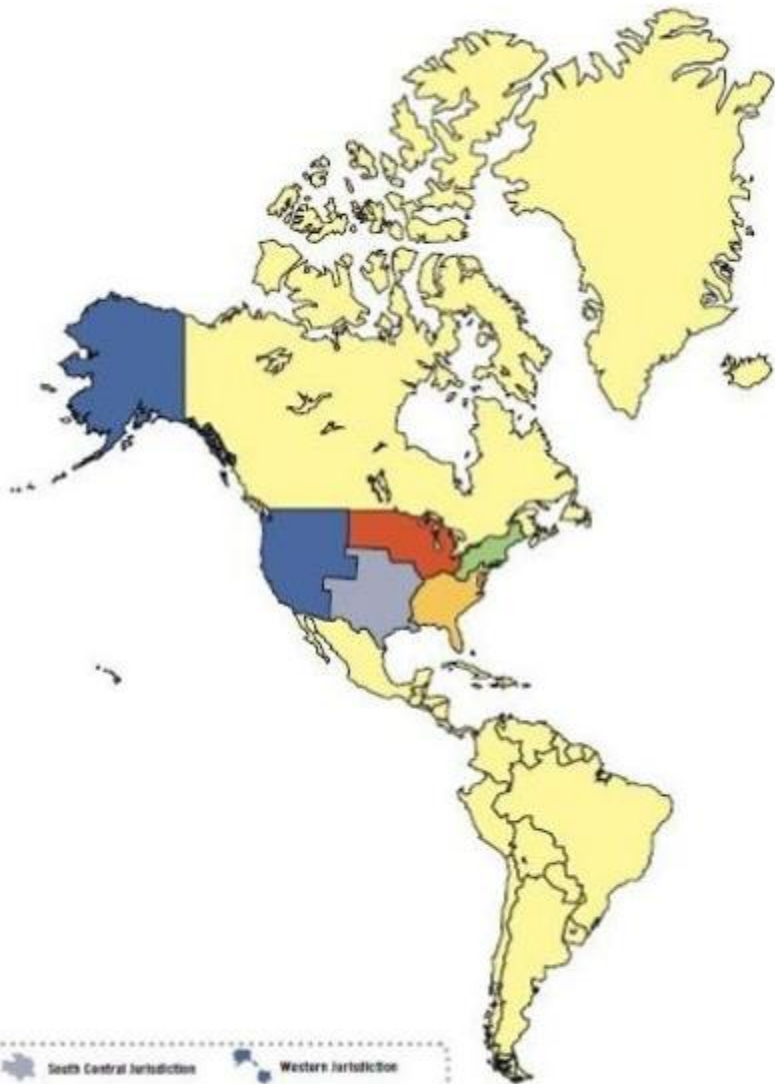


# WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?



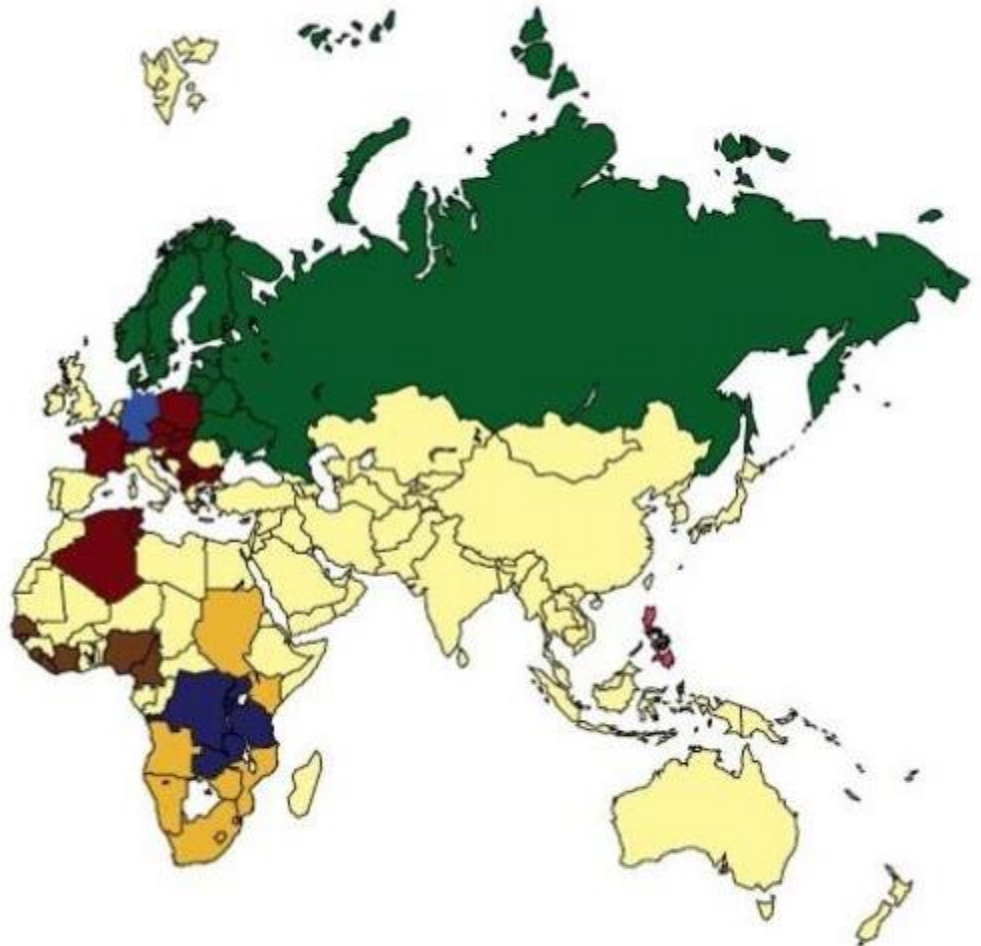
- Only body that officialy “speaks” for UMC.
- Generally meets every 4 years.
- Global body of delegates from each Annual Conference
- Delegate numbers are based upon Conference memberships
- Equal number of clergy and lay delegates

# United Methodists Around the World: Central or Jurisdictional Conference\*



- South Central Jurisdiction
- Western Jurisdiction
- North Central Jurisdiction
- Southeastern Jurisdiction
- Northeastern Jurisdiction

\*Annual conferences and episcopal areas as of 2016



- Africa Central Conference
- West Africa Central Conference
- Congo Central Conference
- Germany Central Conference
- Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference
- Philippine Central Conference
- Central and Southern Europe Central Conference



# GLOBAL REPRESENTATION

## 864 total delegates

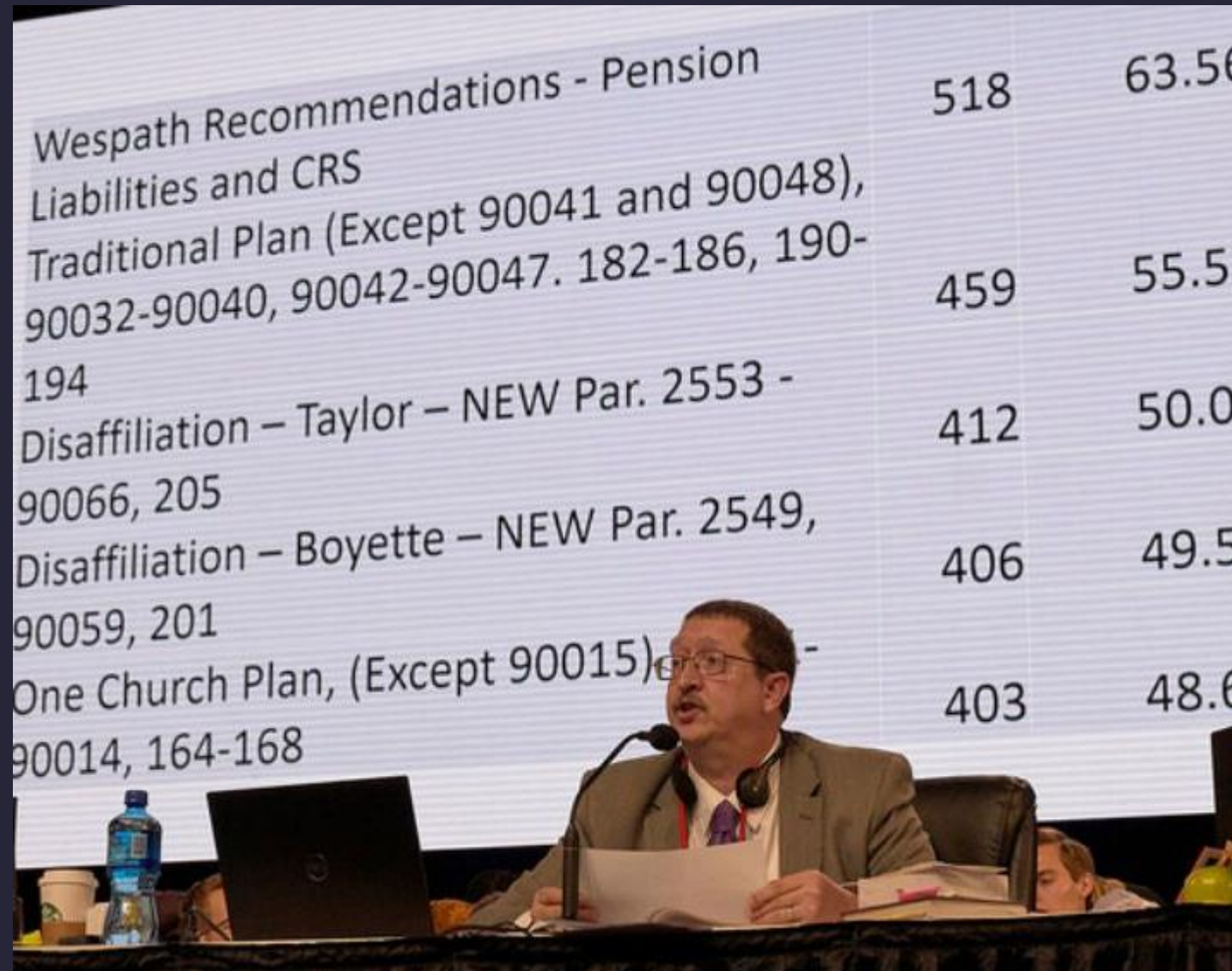
- 504 from the USA (58%)
- 260 from Africa (30%)
- 50 from the Philippines (6%)
- 40 from Europe and Eurasia (5%)
- 10 from "concordat" churches with whom The UMC has special partnerships (1%)
- 22 Lay/Clergy from Virginia



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. WesPath petitions
2. Traditional Plan
3. Disaffiliation  
petitions (exit plans)
4. One Church Plan

# WHAT HAPPENED?



The image shows a man in a suit and glasses speaking at a podium. Behind him is a large screen displaying a table with financial data. The table has three columns: a descriptive text column, a numerical column, and a percentage column. The data is as follows:

Description	Value	Percentage
Wespath Recommendations - Pension Liabilities and CRS	518	63.56
Traditional Plan (Except 90041 and 90048), 90032-90040, 90042-90047. 182-186, 190-194	459	55.5
Disaffiliation - Taylor - NEW Par. 2553 - 90066, 205	412	50.0
Disaffiliation - Boyette - NEW Par. 2549, 90059, 201	406	49.5
One Church Plan, (Except 90015) - 90014, 164-168	403	48.6



# WHAT HAPPENED?

**WesPath Petitions**

# WHAT HAPPENED?

## Minority Report on One Church Plan

- Failed by 6% points.
- Would have allowed for more inclusion, not less

# WHAT HAPPENED?

## Traditional Church Plan

### Petitions:

- Affirm language in current book of *Discipline*.
- Stiffens penalties on clergy who violate rules.



# WHAT HAPPENED?

## Disaffiliation Petitions

- Would allow for a “gracious exit” despite Trust Clause provision.

# WHAT DON'T WE KNOW?

**Constitutionality  
Questions:**

**Judicial Council Meeting:  
April 23-25, 2019**

# WHAT ABOUT MY LOCAL CHURCH?

For churches following the current *Book of Discipline*, there will be no significant changes without significant legislative work completed at Conference.



# WHAT ABOUT MY LOCAL CHURCH?

- **New Song will neither conduct or host same-gender weddings on-site or off-site.**
- **If clergy do, penalties have been refined.**

# NEW SONG QUESTIONS:

30+ questions were from  
20+ people that were  
then broken into  
“Primary” Categories.  
*(Not all will be able to  
be answered tonight.)*

**NEW SONG:  
THANKS FOR ATTENDING!**

# **TOWN HALL** MEETING

