

TOWN HALL QUESTIONS, 03.07.19

1. From the General Conference voting sessions, would it be possible to know the vote tallies from our Virginia delegates?
2. "Why do you even let those people in here?" (Referring to persons who are LGBTQIA+)
3. What is criteria or obligation for the local church to follow the denomination's policies/guidelines? Are clergy/staff required to follow certain theological positions and/or operational procedures from the denomination? (ex: can a local church perform same-gender weddings anyway?)
4. What would happen if a church or group of churches want to go in a different direction than the denomination? Can they do that, or would this create a denominational split/schism?
5. I would like to know specifically what is being presented to children & youth by way of sexuality. Are our leaders teaching that same-gender relationships and same-gender marriage is a sin (or not)?
6. How can leadership (UMC and New Song) continue to speak truth in love? How can we disagree without being disagreeable?
7. Where we do we, New Song, go from here? As everyone seems to have different opinions/views, how will we go forward in deciding what to do next?
8. What happens if decisions from General Conference are found to be unconstitutional? If I disagree with language as it relates to LGBTQIA+ people, what can I do? I feel the current language of incompatibility is akin to inviting someone over for dinner and then eating in front of them without offering them anything.
9. Is it true that there are plans to form a new UMC that would take the current "global" UMC and split us between USA and "other countries"?
10. I'd like to see us become a fully-inclusive, Reconciling Church. How could this be approached?
11. Do you believe the UMC will split in 2? If so, how and when? What will this look like? What would happen to New Song?
12. What, if any, impact do you see the recent General Conference decision on New Song's implementation of NLI goals, especially as it relates to potential loss of church membership and/or loss of giving units?
13. Will UMC clergy be able to perform same-gender weddings outside of UMC facilities?
14. If churches leave the denomination, can they keep their buildings?
15. Is your letter of welcome inclusive of not only a person who is LGBTQIA+, but also their same-gender partner?
16. As a church, why do we have any core beliefs if we are going to reevaluate them based on pop culture or current popular opinion?
17. If our beliefs and/or values can be changed or influenced by public opinion, how does that align with what Jesus taught us?
18. Would you marry a gay couple?
19. In what ways can we be steadfast in our commitment to be accepting in everything we do – embodying the love of Christ – to all who come through our doors?
20. What do I do if I do not agree with this decision as it pertains to a lack of acceptance?
21. What do we intend to do to share our "stance" with the congregation more directly? Can the Leadership Council lead us to a place where we create/craft our own statement of welcome for all – persons of color, even more ministry with persons with special needs, persons who feel excluded,
22. What is the stance of this church as it pertains to LGBTQIA+ and the Bible?