

NIC DELEGATION FAQs

Where is our conference leaning on the various plans?

The conference, like the United Methodist Church as a whole, has at least some support for each of the plans. The delegation favors a plan that will remove the incompatibility clause, whether that would be the One Church Plan, the Simple Plan, or another plan that may come forward.

Under One Church Plan, how often would local church votes take place?

Local churches make decisions of policy about many things on an as-needed basis. Unless voting rules are added by amendment at the Special Session, this vote would be a policy decision that could be made when the church feels the time is needed for a vote.

Do these plans apply only to Methodists in the U.S. or to the entire world?

This is a change to the Discipline, which is a world wide document. However, not all Central Conferences (conferences outside the United States) have to follow all sections of the Discipline. Removing the incompatibility clause would apply to the entire UMC, but how each plan would be implemented may be contextual to particular regions.

What is the difference between the One Church Plan and the Simple Plan? Both plans allow local churches to make decisions on policy. The Simple Plan removes the incompatibility clause and any reference to it without adding any language, as the Discipline was before 1972. The One Church Plan removes the incompatibility clause, but adds wording affirming any position on inclusivity. OCP also maintains the funding ban on organizations that promote inclusivity.

Will pastors be appointed based on their position on inclusion?

Many criteria are used to appoint pastors to churches, and position on inclusion would be one factor that would be considered. Does that open the door for other criteria to be used for appointments (gender, race, ethnicity, etc?) We would hope not and that is not the intent, however it may empower some congregations to be more vocal on specific criteria for appointment.

What would happen to UMW, BMCRC, and other entities under Connectional Plan?

Pensions, Archives, GCFA, Publishing, and GBGM have a place in the UMC. Other entities would need to find a jurisdiction or jurisdictions that would work with and support them.

When will any changes take effect? *That would depend on the plan. The One Church Plan and Simple Plan are open ended and would be up to local churches. The*

Connectional Plan may take 5 years to implement. Other legislation to modify any plan may offer some other time frames.

What kind of vote is needed to adopt – 2/3 or simple majority? *Any constitutional changes require 2/3 majority at General Conference Special Session, and then 2/3 of all members of Annual Conferences/Central Conferences votes. Non-constitutional changes only need a simple majority. The Connectional Conference plan contains constitutional items so it would require 2/3 vote. The other plans only need simple majority as written, but if constitutional amendments are approved, it would change the voting requirements. How will plans be debated and voted upon? General Conference requires legislative groups by rule, so General Conference will meet as one large legislative group first. They will likely decide which plan has the most support and work on perfecting it. Then the legislative group will refer it to the General Conference (the same group) to continue debate before a final plan is voted upon. However, the Committee on Agenda has not met yet, so the exact plan is yet to be determined.*

Does the delegation vote based on their own conscience or do they vote based on the general sense of the NIC?

Delegates are elected to research, discuss, pray, and vote as they believe God is calling them. This delegation has put a lot of time into reading, researching the plans and their ramifications, listening to the conference, interacting with groups such as Uniting Methodists, Wesley Covenant Association, and Love Your Neighbor Coalition. They will listen at General Conference to all of the voices that are expressed. They will then make the choice they believe is best for the entire United Methodist Church.