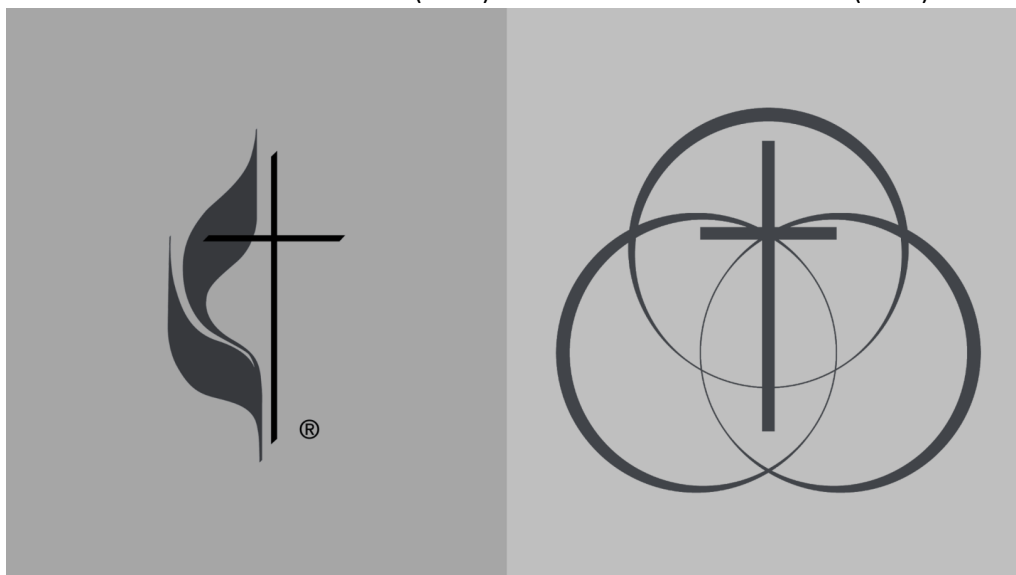


COMPARISON FACT SHEET

United Methodist Church (UMC) and Global Methodist Church (GMC)



	UMC	GMC
Formation	1968 through merger	2022 – new denomination
Mission Statement	Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.	Make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.
Denominational Guidance and Governance	Book of Discipline 2016 as amended in 2019	Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline 2022
Next General Conference	2020 General Conference currently postponed to 2024	Convening General Conference to be scheduled
Connectional Church Structure	General Conference Jurisdictional Conference Annual Conference District Conference Charge/Church Conference	General Conference Regional Conference Annual Conference District Conference Charge/Church Conference
Local Church Structure	Church/Administrative Council Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Finance Committee Board of Trustees Nominations – Lay Leadership	Church/Administrative Council Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Finance Committee Board of Trustees Nominations – Lay Leadership
Bishops	Elected by the Jurisdictional Conference Lifetime election with autonomy for decisions and enforcement of BOD Salaries and benefits set by the general conference Funded by general conference apportionment	Elected by the Regional Conference Elected with a term limit Salaries and benefits set by the general church Funded through the annual conference budget

	UMC	GMC
District Leadership	District Superintendents oversee the pastors and churches in the District Appointed by Bishop (6-year term and 12-year limit)	Presiding Elders oversee the pastors and churches in the District Appointed by Bishop (term of office to be determined)
Pastor Appointment	Bishop and Cabinet appoints pastors to a local church in consultation with District Superintendents, clergy, and profile prepared by local church SPRC	Bishop appoints pastors to a local church in consultation with Presiding Elder, clergy, and the local church SPRC
Pastor Educational Requirements	Seminary degree required to be ordained as an elder or deacon	Seminary degree not required but required course completion list to be ordained as an elder or deacon
Orders of Ministry	Ordained deacon a separate order from ordained elder – all deacons permanent	Order of deacon contains both permanent deacons and those going on to elder's orders (nested orders: laity—deacons—elders)
Ordination of Pastors	Candidacy, Commissioning, Ordination (Deacon or Elder) and Full Connection or course of study to be a licensed local pastor	Candidacy, Ordination as a Deacon, and Ordination as an Elder – no local pastors (transitioned to ordained Deacons)
Pastor Appointment	Elders are guaranteed an appointment	Appointment not guaranteed (written rationale provided)
Clergy Retirement	Mandatory at age 72	No mandatory age
Certified Laity in Ministry	Certified lay servants, certified lay speakers, certified lay ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, lay missionaries	Combines all into one category called certified lay ministers – can specialize to serve in any of the previous areas
Clergy Accountability	Administrative Process – for incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform clergy duties Judicial Process – for chargeable offenses Accountable to annual conference clergy	Administrative Process – for incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform clergy duties Judicial Process – for chargeable offenses Accountable to annual conference clergy
Local Church Property	Local church owns and maintains the property that is held in trust for the UMC denomination (trust clause)	Local church has full ownership and control of their property (no trust clause) – pension liabilities are secured by a lien on the property
Denomination Structure	Established and sizable	Developing and small
Apportionment System	No cap – annual conference and general conference payment is calculated by formula based on a three-year average of local church operating expenses – generally 10-15% of local budget	Capped at 1.5% for general church ministry and 5% for annual conference ministry based on prior year local church operating income
Apportionment Accountability	Requires apportionment payments but does not have a clear accountability process	Requires regular apportionment payments and has an accountability mechanism

	UMC	GMC
Apportionment Amount	Rocky Mount Church has been roughly \$150,000/year, based on calculations.	Rocky Mount Church at cap would be about \$90,000-100,000 per year
Financial Cost to Rocky Mount Church	Nothing to stay in UMC except continued annual apportionment payments	To become GMC: Payment to UMC for 2022 and 2023 apportionments and a portion of unfunded clergy pension liability (number unknown at this time). Annual GMC apportionment payments when started plus legal fees related to church property transfer.
Future Direction	Somewhat unknown as denomination membership changes because of exiting churches and clergy – likely will become more progressive – church polity is established/changed every four years by the General Conference	Somewhat unknown as denomination forms and adjusts as needed and as desired – likely to remain traditional – church polity is established/changed every four years by the General Conference
Baptism	Traditional Wesleyan understanding of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion of infants, children, youth, and adults – no rebaptism	Traditional Wesleyan understanding of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion of infants, children, youth, and adults – no rebaptism
Confirmation	Important process for educating children about making a profession of faith	Important process for educating children about making a profession of faith
Social Stances & Accountability for members	Social Principles – not church law and <u>not binding</u> but instructive guidance for clergy and local churches	Social Witness – clergy and local church members are <u>bound</u> by, support, and practice church doctrine
Abortion	Balances sanctity of unborn life with life and well-being of mother and child; rejects abortion as means of birth control or gender selection	Believing in the sacredness of all life, resists the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life. Do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection. All members should help support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources
Human Sexuality	God's gift to all persons; affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.	Human sexuality is a gift of God, affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman
Homosexuality	Affirms sacred worth of all, God's grace available to all. Does not condone practice of homosexuality; considers the practice incompatible with Christian teaching. <i>**Currently some Bishops do not enforce this</i>	No explicit reference to homosexuality or LGBTQ+; rejects pornography, polygamy and promiscuity; commits church to be a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for all experiencing sexual brokenness

	UMC	GMC
Marriage	Affirms marriage covenant expressed in love, support, commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman <i>**Currently some Bishops do not enforce this</i>	Defined as a legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous relationship between one man and one woman
Theological Beliefs	Broad tent perspective as it relates to clergy and local church beliefs so that pastors and churches can preach and teach views that fall from one end of the theological spectrum to the other, from very traditional to very progressive	Clergy and churches are to teach and preach traditional biblical and Wesleyan doctrines
Authority of Scripture	Scripture is divinely inspired Scripture is of primacy and is interpreted based on traditions, reason, and experience Primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine	Scripture is divinely inspired Scripture is of primacy and is interpreted based mostly on traditions of the historical church along with reason and experience Authority for faith, morals, and service
Accountability to the Book of Discipline	Clergy are held accountable and can be brought on charges for violations. <i>**Currently, Some Bishops, annual conferences, and local churches have taken actions which are contrary to the Book of Discipline and have not been held accountable for their actions</i>	Accountability is emphasized in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline with ramifications for lack of adherence
Links for further reading	www.umnews.org www.gracethroughseparation.org www.umcnext.com www.mainstreamumc.com www.thelmx.org https://unitingmethodists.com/	www.globalmethodist.org www.wesleyancovenant.org www.confessioningumc.org www.goodnewsmag.org www.firebrandmag.com

Links -

General

- Texas AC Comparison Chart
<https://www.txcumc.org/files/navigating+the+waters/fdtf/umc-gmc+comparison+chart.pdf>
- WCA Comparison Chart
<https://wesleyancovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/A-Comprehensive-Comparison-Chart.pdf>
- Wespath Pastor Retirement FAQs <https://www.wespath.org/assets/1/7/5857.pdf>
- NCCUMC Document [What Does This Mean For My Church?](#)