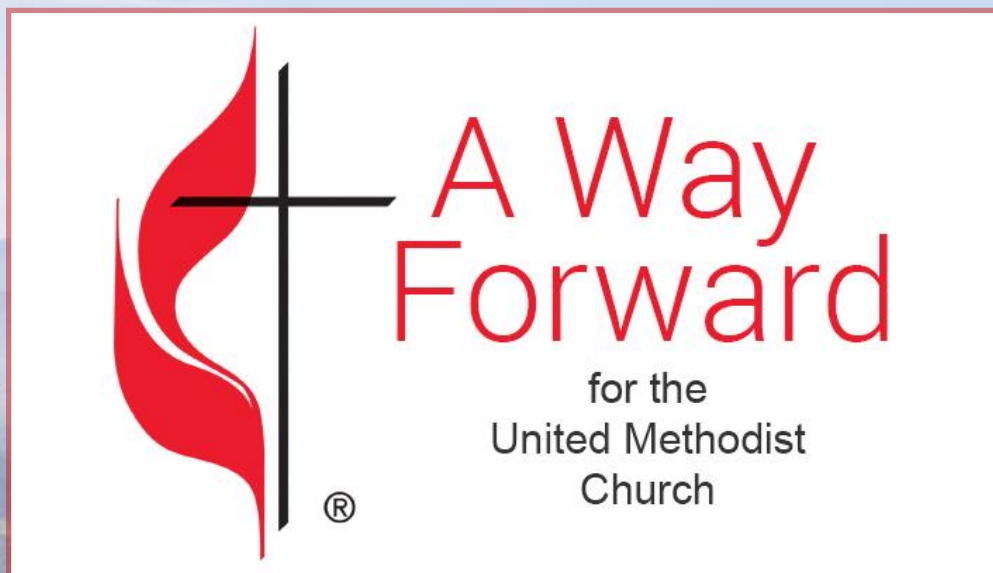


**Red Bank United Methodist Church**  
**Congregational Update**  
**July 28, 2024**



# Overview of Key Terms



## Book of Discipline

A fundamental book outlining the law, doctrine, administration, organizational work and procedures of The United Methodist Church.

## Book of Resolutions

The denomination's stance on moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. The resolutions are considered instructive and persuasive, but not binding.

## Social Principles

Although not considered Church law, the Social Principles are legislative statements approved by the General Conference and included in the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions.

# Overview of Key Terms



## General Conference

The highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church. General Conference holds the power to revise The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions while also initiating amendments to the denomination's constitution. General Conference normally meets once every four years.

## Judicial Council

As the denomination's highest judicial body or "court," the Judicial Council's nine members, made up of laity and clergy, are elected by the General Conference and normally meet twice a year to consider whether actions of the various church bodies adhere to the constitution and follow the rules outlined in the Book of Discipline.

# General Conference 2020/2024

## Regionalization approved

USA, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines can each adapt Book of Discipline

## Removed Disaffiliation

Removed Paragraph 2553 from the Book of Discipline

South Carolina was allowed to use Paragraph 2549 for Separation

## Redefined marriage

“Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith, an adult man and woman of consenting age, or two adult persons of consenting age into union with one another.”



# General Conference 2020/2024

## Removed restrictions on LGBTQ clergy

Removal of the ban on the ordination and appointment of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” clergy.

## Removed language prohibiting same-sex marriages in UMC sanctuaries

Local churches can set policies forbidding same-sex weddings.

Removed mandatory minimum penalties for clergy holding same-sex weddings.

## Language related to adultery removed from clergy chargeable offenses

Revised list of offenses to remove “immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;”

# General Conference 2020/2024

## Revised stance on abortion

General Conference approved a petition affirming a right to abortion and pledging “solidarity with those who seek reproductive health care.” The petition, “upholds a person’s right to an abortion after informed consideration with their family, medical practitioners, pastor, and other pertinent counsel.”

## Support to end military aid for Israel

Approved petition 20554-CC-R6111-G, which calls on the U.S. government to end military aid to Israel.

# General Conference 2020/2024

Apportionment percentage decreased

From 3.29% to 2.6% for 2025 and 2026

Allow UMC funds to support causes that promote LGBTQ

May 2, 2024 – Announced new Center for LGBTQ+ United Methodist Heritage

# Going Forward

Review membership rolls – ensure all eligible voters are informed

Communication with the congregation

Awareness of changes by the UMC

Ensure factual understanding of issues prior to vote

**Separation costs – approximately \$220,000.....subject to change**

Discernment – minimum 30 days

Proper decision-making guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

Church Conference for separation vote – after January 1, 2025



# Unknowns

New Bishop – effective September 1, 2024

**Bishop Holston** – moved to North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Conferences

**Bishop Fairley** – assigned to SC from Kentucky and Central Appalachian Missionary Conferences

Conference Trustees – determine process for separation

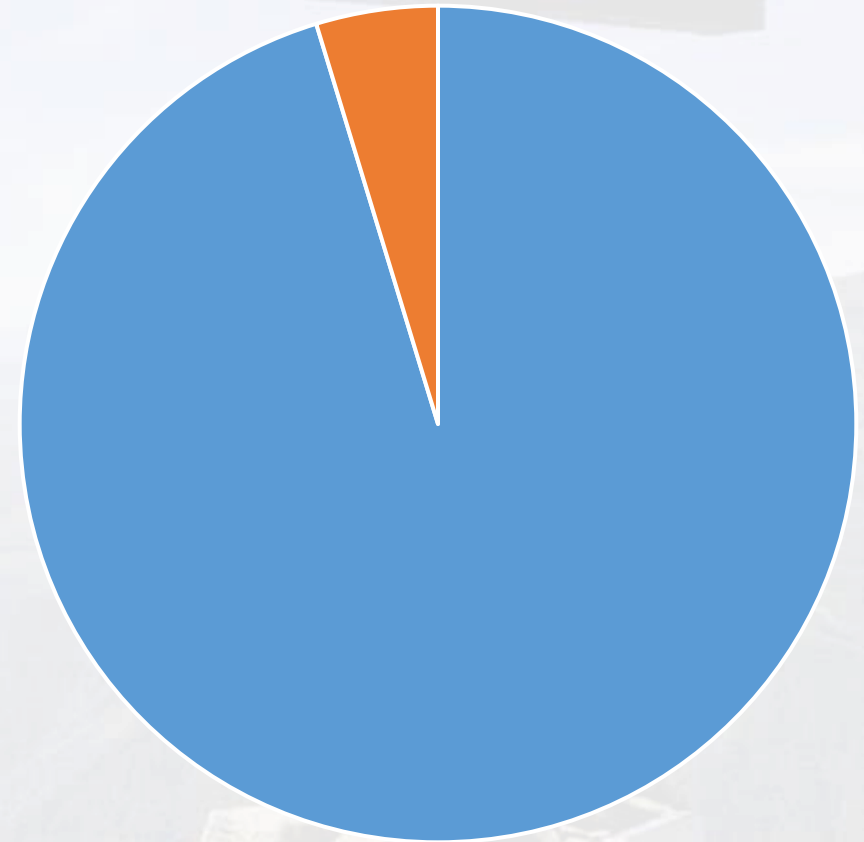
Request to Judicial Council to determine validity of separation

Kentucky Conference requested a ruling on using Paragraph 2549 in Book of Discipline as an allowable exit strategy for separation

# Remain Focused in Ministry

**95 cents** of every dollar stays here at RBUMC

**5 cents** of every dollar supports the Conference



■ Local Church    ■ Conference

# Questions

