

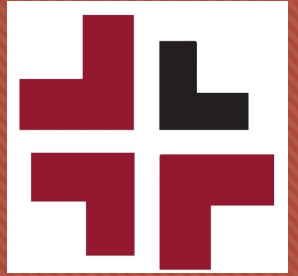
# Ready to Launch:

## Guidance for Joining the Global Methodist Church

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# Jude 3-4



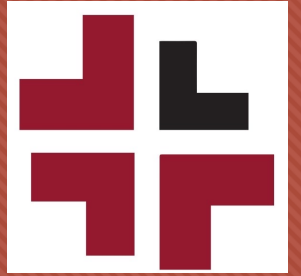
“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among

# Jude 3-4



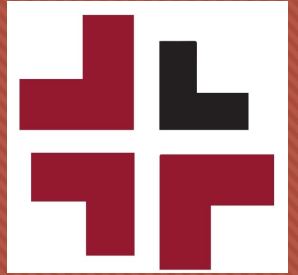
you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

# John Wesley



“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.”

# Vision For a New Day



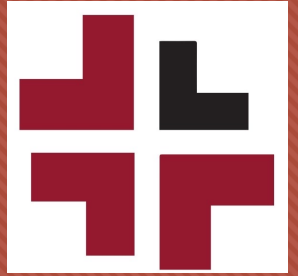
- ❖ A church that is alive that holds Jesus as Lord over all things and the Holy Spirit as its engine
- ❖ A church that believes in scriptural authority, is clear about its doctrine and mission, and holds people accountable for missional purposes

# Vision For a New Day



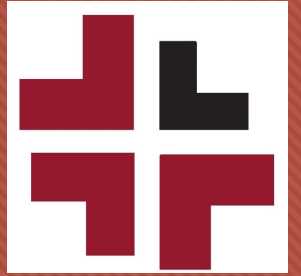
- ❖ A church that is streamlined and less complex & with a less costly overhead
- ❖ A church that understands local churches make disciples and pushes as many decisions to the local level as possible

# Vision a New Day



- ❖ A church that works hard to meet people at their point of need **AND** offer them Jesus
- ❖ A church that's clear about what it's "for" and no longer has to be distracted for decades fighting about what it's "against"

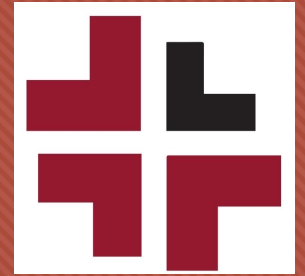
# Vision For a New Day



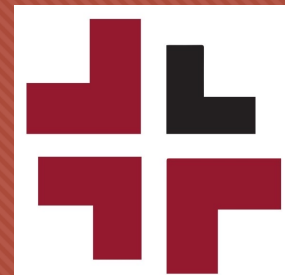
- ❖ A church that knows we are burdened for the souls of those who don't know Jesus and we must reach all generations/ages



# General Conference is Postponed to 2024...



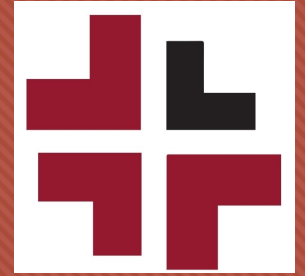
- ❖ Now What?
  - ❖ Disaffiliate under ¶2553
  - ❖ Withdraw under ¶2548.2
  - ❖ Close under ¶2549
  - ❖ Attempt to depart the denomination and challenge the trust clause (lawsuit)



# Disaffiliation Under ¶2553

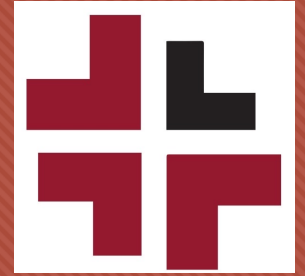
- ❖ Depart under a matter of conscience regarding UMC stance on human sexuality
- ❖ Must pay what essentially amounts to two years of apportionments
- ❖ Must pay pro rata share of unfunded pension liabilities
- ❖ Judicial Council has ruled annual conferences can add other requirements not inconsistent with ¶2553
  - ❖ Insurance
  - ❖ Allow Conference representative to speak to church
- ❖ Paragraph sunsets December 31, 2023

# Withdrawal Under ¶2548.2



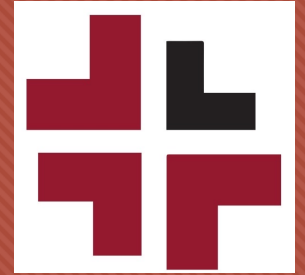
- ❖ Church withdraws from UMC and aligns with “evangelical denomination” i.e. Global Methodist Church
- ❖ Comity agreement between church, GMC, and Florida Conference must be negotiated
- ❖ Must be approved by bishop, cabinet, district board of church building & location, and annual conference
- ❖ Paragraph is silent as to voting threshold
- ❖ Florida Conference could require additional payments/requirements
- ❖ Unfunded pension liabilities could be handled with a promissory note

# Closure Under ¶2549



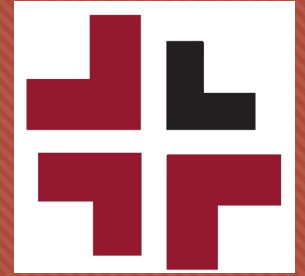
- ❖ Local church discerns it wishes to close
- ❖ Under ¶2549.3, local church transfers its assets to the annual conference
- ❖ Remaining church members could then negotiate with annual conference to purchase old church's assets and open new church affiliated with GMC
- ❖ Annual conference can charge whatever they wish and is not required to sell assets back

# Challenge the Trust Clause:



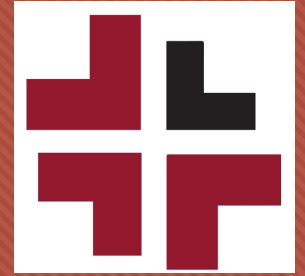
- ❖ Local church chooses to depart The UMC but does not deed assets back to the annual conference
- ❖ Probable that annual conference would declare exigent circumstances under ¶2549.3.b and likely sue to gain control over church's assets
- ❖ Lawsuit would ensue to challenge trust clause or utilize other legal theories/causes of action

# Clergy Moving to GMC



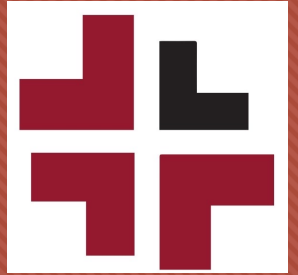
- ❖ Clergy must inform their district superintendent they intend to move to the GMC
- ❖ DO NOT WITHDRAW CREDENTIALS until you speak with a GMC representative
- ❖ If a local church aligns with the GMC, but pastor does not, GMC bishop or president pro tempore will appoint new pastor to church

# What Do You Recommend?



- ❖ We believe that for most churches ¶2548.2 is the best option
- ❖ Deadline to withdraw at 2022 Annual Conference is rapidly approaching – likely early to mid April
- ❖ WCA-Florida will pay your initial legal fees to be represented by attorneys to negotiate a comity agreement with the Florida Conference
- ❖ **You must inform WCA-FL President by March 31**

# Global Methodist Church



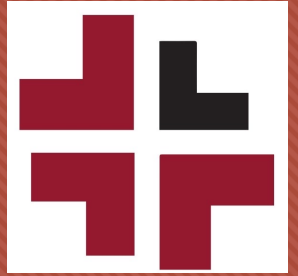
- ❖ WCA is midwife birthing Global Methodist Church
- ❖ Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ that worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

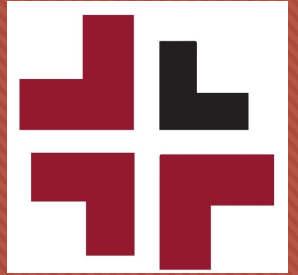


# Global Methodist Church



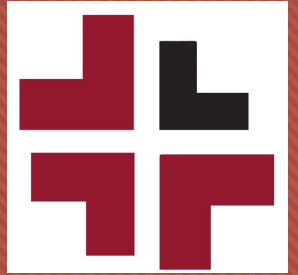
- ❖ Orthodox theology firmly in line with 2,000 years of Christian doctrine and tradition
- ❖ Less complex – New Book of Doctrines & Discipline 88% reduction from current Book of Discipline
- ❖ Term limited bishops
- ❖ Enhancement of accountability at all levels of church
- ❖ Apportionments significantly lower
- ❖ No trust clause

# GMC: Clergy



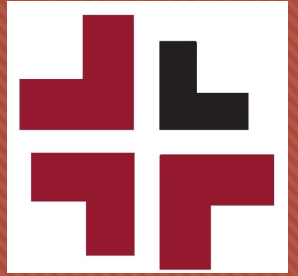
- ❖ Two orders of clergy: elders and deacons
  - ❖ Local pastors will be ordained as deacons or elders depending on education
- ❖ Strong commitment to female clergy and clergy of color
- ❖ No Guaranteed Appointment
- ❖ Clergy appointment system similar to current one **WITH ADDED, GUARANTEED** input from the local church
- ❖ Churches & clergy that transition together stay together

# GMC: Local Churches



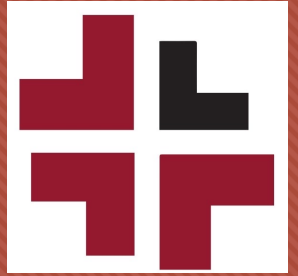
- ❖ Local churches must have a leadership team, but otherwise can structure themselves any way they wish for effectiveness
- ❖ Each church will seek property and casualty insurance and not have to purchase from Annual Conference
- ❖ GMC will continue to use Wespath for clergy and lay employee retirement benefits
- ❖ Strong new church planting movement: 3,500 new churches globally in first seven years

# Frequently Asked Questions



- ❖ What should we do for property and casualty insurance?
  - ❖ The GMC will have both required and recommended coverages for property and casualty insurance. You may choose your own provider. The WCA-Florida (and the Global WCA) use ChurchInsure.
    - ❖ [www.insurance.church](http://www.insurance.church)
    - ❖ Paul Cossentine at 336/250.0075
    - ❖ The WCA-Florida receives absolutely no remuneration for this recommendation.

# Frequently Asked Questions



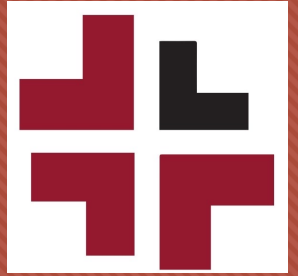
- ❖ Isn't this split just over issues relating to the LGBT+ community?
  - ❖ No! We believe current issues relating to ordination and marriage of LGBT+ individuals are a symptom of a much larger issue related to orthodox theology and the Lordship of Jesus that has plagued The UMC for 150 years. The media tries to make it solely about issues related to the LGBT community, but it's much broader.

# Frequently Asked Questions



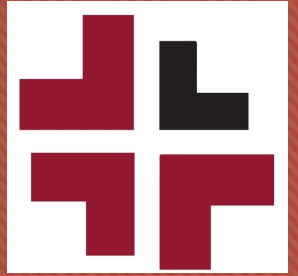
- ❖ The Florida Cabinet has offered a covenant to traditionalist churches that stay in The UMC promising to only appoint traditionalist pastors to those churches. Is it valid?
  - ❖ **No.** The moment Florida has a new bishop or district superintendents that no longer wish to honor it, it can be torn up. Also, if the vast majority of traditionalist clergy move to the GMC (highly likely), then there will be very few, if any, left to appoint to churches that stay behind.

# Next Steps



- ❖ Form a Transition Team
  - ❖ Team will oversee details of transition and follow steps outlined in our next steps document
  - ❖ Team should include pastor and church leaders
  - ❖ Team should keep church and church council informed of details and progress

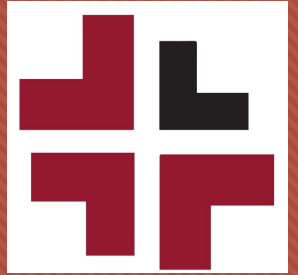
# Next Steps



- ❖ Ensure a Foundation of Prayer
  - ❖ Prayer is uniting and people of different theological persuasions can agree to pray together
  - ❖ There should be a strong commitment to asking God for guidance, wisdom, and peace



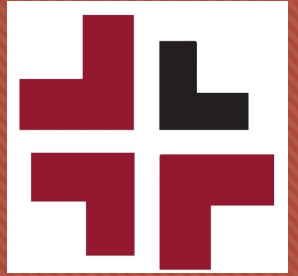
# Next Steps



## ❖ Be a Non-Anxious Presence

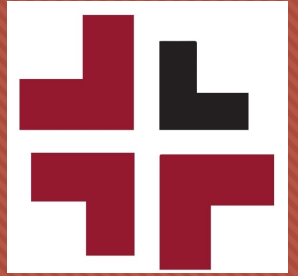
- ❖ There is much anxiety in the system – both because of denominational issues & secular issues
- ❖ Don't add to the anxiety
- ❖ Find ways to be a calming presence to people
- ❖ Don't be combative with progressive sisters and brothers. Show them grace and wish them well.

# Summary: Why Join New Movement?



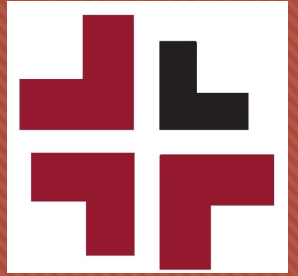
- ❖ Orthodox theology that stands strongly affirms Lordship of Jesus and the authority of Scripture
- ❖ Fresh Start with no more fighting
- ❖ Leaner, simpler, and far less top-down decisions
- ❖ Emphasis on the local church as the primary/only tool for disciple making
- ❖ Simpler ordination process creating more orthodox clergy, faster

# Summary: Why Join New Movement?



- ❖ Greater accountability for clergy, bishops, and churches
- ❖ Dramatically less bureaucracy
- ❖ Significantly less apportionments
- ❖ Local churches will own their own property
- ❖ Greater autonomy for the local church and simpler governing structure
- ❖ Local church with greater input on pastoral appointments

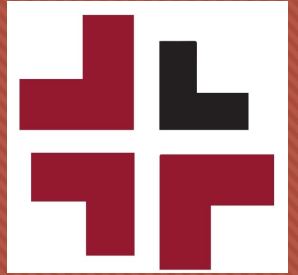
# Summary: Why Join New Movement?



The BOTTOM LINE:

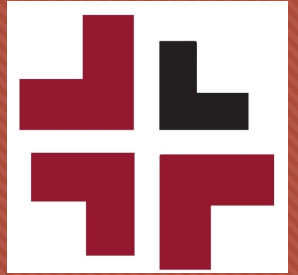
Contend for your faith!!! The new denomination will be poised to be much more effective in sharing the saving Good News of Jesus, making new disciples of Him, and making the realities of heaven, the realities of earth!

# We Need Your Help



- ❖ You Can Support WCA-FL
  - ❖ Giving to Operational Budget
  - ❖ Giving to Launch Fund for new GMC Florida Conference
  - ❖ To donate go to [www.wcafl.net](http://www.wcafl.net) and click “Donate”
  - ❖ See FAQ Document for address to mail checks or how to give securities
  - ❖ 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization

# Important Websites



- ❖ GMC Website: [www.globalmethodist.org](http://www.globalmethodist.org)
- ❖ WCA Website: [www.wesleyancoveant.org](http://www.wesleyancoveant.org)
- ❖ WCA-FL Website: [www.wcafl.net](http://www.wcafl.net)
- ❖ Facebook, Instagram & YouTube: Search for
  - ❖ Global Methodist Church
  - ❖ Wesleyan Covenant Association
  - ❖ Wesleyan Covenant Association – Florida