



General Conference

February 23-26, 2019

St. Louis, Missouri

864 delegates

Ephesians 4:3

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

What to do in the Meantime?

*Pray: Use resources from UMPrays.org, pray each day from 2:23 to 2:26 pm, engage in a fast from Thursday night to Friday at 3 pm, hold prayer vigils

*Study the Scriptures

*Study books and articles (conference websites have resources)

*Subscribe to umnews.org daily digest

*Discuss these issues at church, talk with elected delegates

*Do the works of Christ: make disciples, transform the world through mission and ministry, be in holy conferencing with those with whom you disagree

*Be an un-anxious presence: I Peter 5:7

“Cast all your cares on God because God cares for you”

“The Way Forward”

The Philadelphia Area
Fall 2018

www.epaumc.org

www.pen-del.org

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



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“The Way Forward” Commission

- *Empowered by General Conference to consider options for our impasse over homosexuality (ordination and marriage)
- *Have met for 2 years and 9 times
- *Mission: maximize witness, contextualization and unity
- *Presented three plans

“The Traditional Plan”

- *Maintains the current Book of Discipline language and ban on homosexual ordination and same gender marriage
- *Establishes accountabilities for: bishops, pastors, and Boards of Ordained Ministry
- *Encourages those who believe otherwise to seek a self-governing church option

“The One Church Plan”

- *Removes all the language in the BOD that bans homosexual ordination and same-gender marriage
- *No church or clergy is ever forced to act out of their conscience
- *The Central Conferences can keep the current BOD
- *Exiting churches must follow trust clause and pay for unfunded pension
- *Jurisdictions pay for their bishops

“The Connectional Church Plan”

- *Replaces the 5 US jurisdictions with 3 Connectional Conferences: Traditional, Unity and Progressive
- *Central Conferences can form a 4th
- *Each will have its own BOD, bishops and administration
- *Each jurisdiction decides which conference to join
- *Conference and churches allowed to switch to another

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