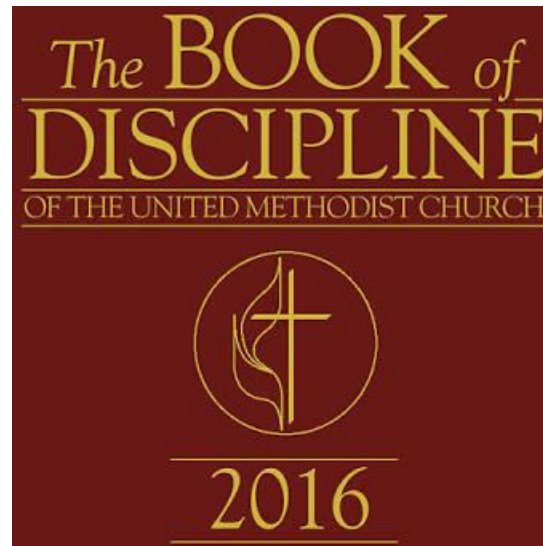


The Book of Discipline

Methodism '101'






JEOPARDY!

America's Favorite Quiz Show®

History	Structure & Organization	Social Principles
\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200
\$500	\$500	\$500
\$1000	\$1000	\$1000

History - \$100

I. The current mission statement of the United Methodist Church is:


- a) Help everyone to just get along;
- b) To boldly go where no man has gone before;
-  c) To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Book of Discipline

- Product of over 200 years of the General Conferences of the various denominations that now form the UMC;
- Sets forth the laws, plan, polity and process for governance;
- Defines the theological grounding of the UMC in biblical faith;
- Speaks to human issues in the contemporary world.

Structure & Organization - \$100

- I. Which of the following best describes the leadership structure of the UMC:
 - a) Church is headed by the Grand Poo-Bah;
 - b) Archbishop;
 - c) Secret members of the Loyal Order of Water Buffaloes in Brooklyn, NY;
 -  d) No central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council.



General Conference

- The General Conference, the primary legislative body of The United Methodist Church, is the only body that speaks officially for the church. Meeting once every four years to determine legislation affecting connectional matters, it is composed of no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,000 delegates.
- Defines and fixes the conditions, privileges and duties of church membership.
- The powers and duties of elders, deacons, diaconal ministers and local pastors; and the powers and duties of annual conferences, missionary conferences, charge conferences and congregational meetings.
- It authorizes the organization, promotion and administrative work of the church.
- The General Conference also defines the powers and duties of the episcopacy, authorizes the official hymnal and book of worship, provides a judicial system and procedures, initiates and directs all connectional enterprises of the church and enacts other legislation for the operation of the church.



Council of Bishops

- The Council of Bishops gives general oversight of the ministry and mission of the church and spiritual leadership to the entire church connection. Composed of all active and retired bishops, the council meets as a group at least once a year.
- Bishops are elected by Jurisdictional Conferences and assigned to a particular area, made up of one or more annual conferences. Each bishop provides oversight of the ministry and mission of annual conferences in his or her area and appoints all clergy to their places of service.
- Through its Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, the council builds and maintains ties with other Christian denominations as well as other faith groups.

Our Bishop – Michael McKee



- Native of Fort Worth, Texas. Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin (1973), Master of Theology from Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University (1978), and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Texas Wesleyan University (2005).

Twitter: @bishopmckee

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Instagram: bishopmckee

Email: bishop@ntcumc.org



Judicial Council


- As the denomination's highest judicial body or "court," the Judicial Council interprets church law and determines constitutionality of proceedings at all levels of church life.
- Its 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.
- Their cases are generally referred to them by action of the Council of Bishops, the annual conferences or the General Conference. According to the Constitution, decisions of the Judicial Council are final (Paragraph 57, Article III).

UMC Judicial Council 2016-2020



www.umc.org/who-we-are/judicial-council

Structure & Organization - \$200

- I. Which of the following best describes the geographical structure of the UMC:
 - a) Congregations align with their favorite NCAA football leagues (e.g., Big 12, SEC, Ivy League, etc.)
 - b) In the US, the Annual conferences are divided into five areas known as jurisdictions.
 - c) Annual conferences located outside the US are organized into central conferences, much like jurisdictions.
 -  d) B & C above.

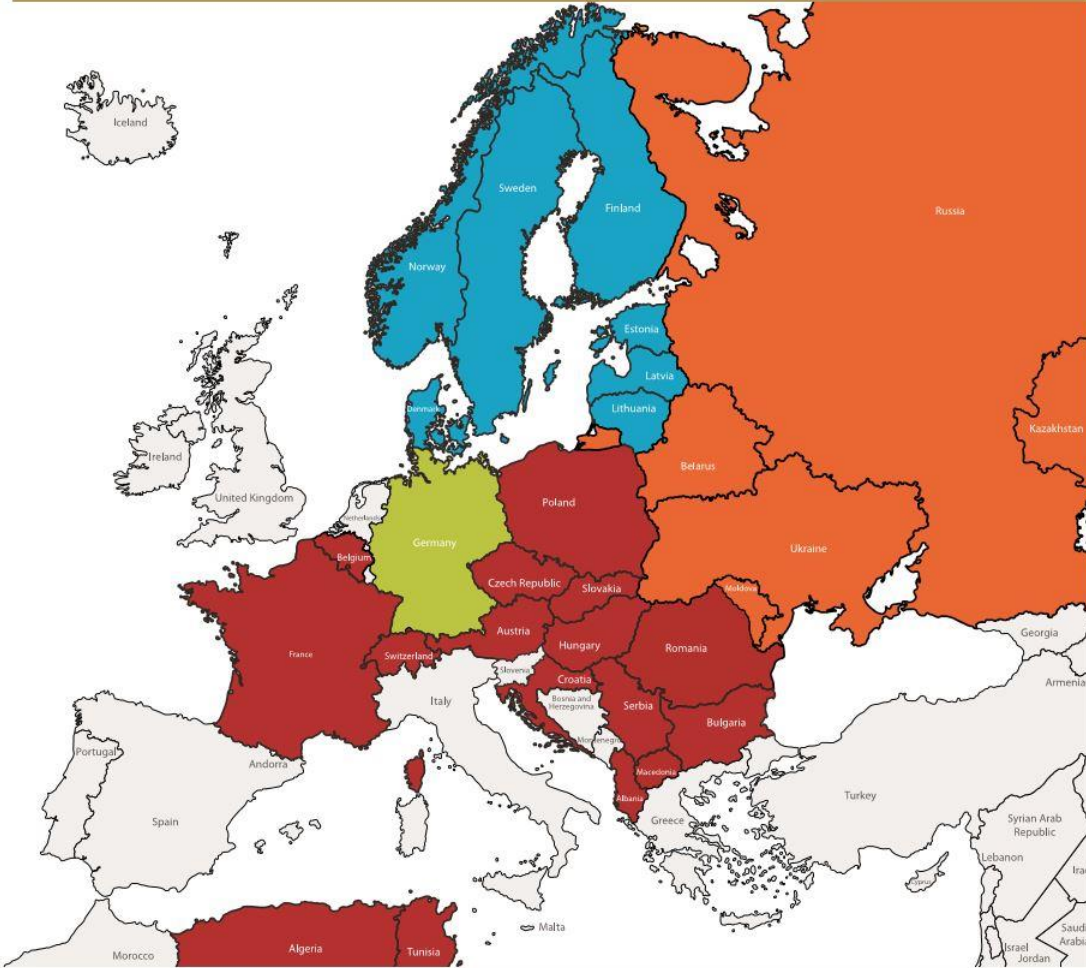
United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America



- Jurisdiction Boundaries
- Conference Boundaries
- State Boundaries
- North Central Jurisdiction
- Northeastern Jurisdiction
- South Central Jurisdiction
- Southeastern Jurisdiction
- Western Jurisdiction
- Some churches are outside the boundary of the Rio Texas Annual Conference.
- Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference comprises Native American congregations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Central Conferences Europe

Europe includes: Central & Southern Europe, Nordic-Baltic, Eurasia and Germany



Currently, Europe has three central conferences:

- Central and Southern Europe: Contains one episcopal area, seven annual conferences, and ministry in 15 countries;
- Germany: Contains one episcopal area, three annual conferences, and ministry in one country;
- Northern Europe and Eurasia: Contains two episcopal areas, 10 annual conferences, and ministry in 14 countries.

Central Conferences Africa

Africa includes three central conferences: Africa Central, Congo Central, and West Africa



Today, Africa includes three central conferences:

- Africa: Contains five episcopal areas, 10 annual conferences and ministry in 11 countries;
- Congo: Contains four episcopal areas, 14 annual conferences, and ministry in nine countries;
- West Africa: Contains four episcopal areas, six annual conferences, and ministry in six countries.

Central Conferences Philippines

Philippines includes three Episcopal Areas: Baguio, Davao, and Manila




- The Philippines constitutes one central conference, which has three episcopal areas, 24 annual conferences, and ministry in one country.

United Methodists Around The World

	US	Africa, Asia & Europe
Lay Members	7,067,162	5,652,388
Clergy Members	45,651	38,149 (inc lay pastors)
Baptized Members	649,423	N/A
Local/Organized Churches	32,148	10,631
Districts	425	412
Annual Conferences	56	76
Bishops/Episcopal Areas	46	20
Jurisdictions	5	N/A
Central Conferences	N/A	7

Structure & Organization - \$500

I. Which of the following best describes the term “Annual Conference”:

- a) Championship Playoff games between Jurisdictions
- b) A regional body
- c) An organizational unit
- d) A yearly meeting
-  e) B, C and D above

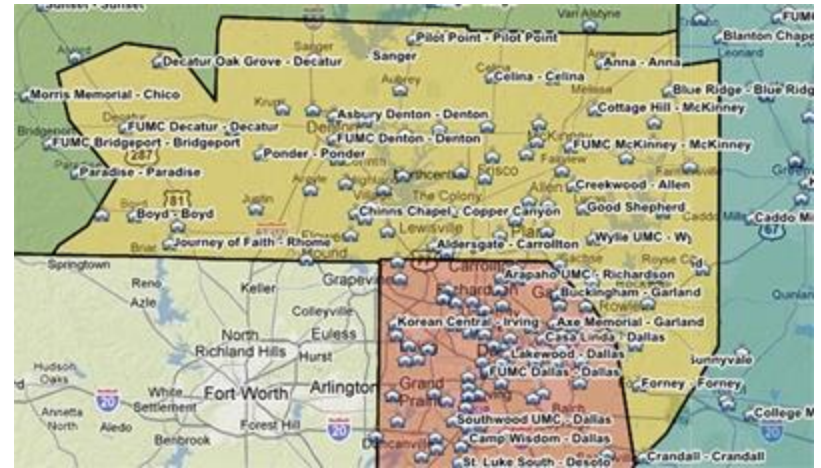


Annual Conferences

- Regional body
 - The annual (sometimes referred to as ‘regional’) conference is described by the church's Constitution and (other parts of the) Book of Discipline as the “basic unit” of the church.
 - In the United States, an annual conference may cover an entire state, only part of the state, or even parts of two or more states.
 - The United States has 56 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There are 76 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.

CUMC Plano

- CUMC belongs to the North Texas Annual Conference, comprised of 300 churches ~ 160,000 members ~ 4 districts across ~ 20 counties.
- We are in the North Central District; which includes 73 churches.
- Dr. Ronald Henderson is our District Superintendent



Annual Conferences

The North Texas Conference
of The United Methodist Church
500 Maplelawn Drive, Plano, TX 75075
972-526-5000 | 800-815-6690 |

- Organizational body
 - In the U.S., the annual conference has a central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference.
 - Our North Texas Conference includes these key program areas:








See: www.northtexasumc.org



Annual Conferences

- Annual Conference Sessions
 - Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend their conference's annual conference session for worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the conference, which may last 3-5 days. These sessions include reports of past and ongoing work; adoption of future goals, programs and budgets; commissioning and ordination of clergy members as deacons and elders. The bishop presides over these meetings.
 - Our North Texas Annual Conference was held June 4-6 at First UMC Richardson
- See: www.northtexasumc.org/2017-annual-conference/

Structure & Organization - \$1000

- I. Which of the following are true:
-  a) A person hearing the call to ministry could pursue several different paths, including becoming a local pastor, a deacon or an elder;
 -  b) A licensed local pastor can lead in worship and perform the sacraments of baptism and The Lord's Supper in any church;
 -  c) A deacon is called to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice;
 -  d) Elders are ordained United Methodist clergy who are ordained to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service.
 -  e) You can tell the difference between an deacon and an elder by the way they wear a stole.





For more, see:

The UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

<http://www.gcah.org/>


History - \$200

I. Which of the following are true:

-  a) John Wesley strongly supported America's bid for independence from England
-  b) The first two Methodist Bishops were Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury, both elected in 1784
-  c) The first Methodist publishing house was established in 1789
-  d) Cokesbury is the retail division of The United Methodist Publishing House


History - \$500

I. The first Methodist annual conference in America was held in 1773 at this location:

- a) The Fish Shack in Plano
-  b) St. George's Church in Philadelphia
- c) Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore
- d) Fraunces Tavern in New York City

History - \$1000

I. The Methodist Church began ordaining women in what year:

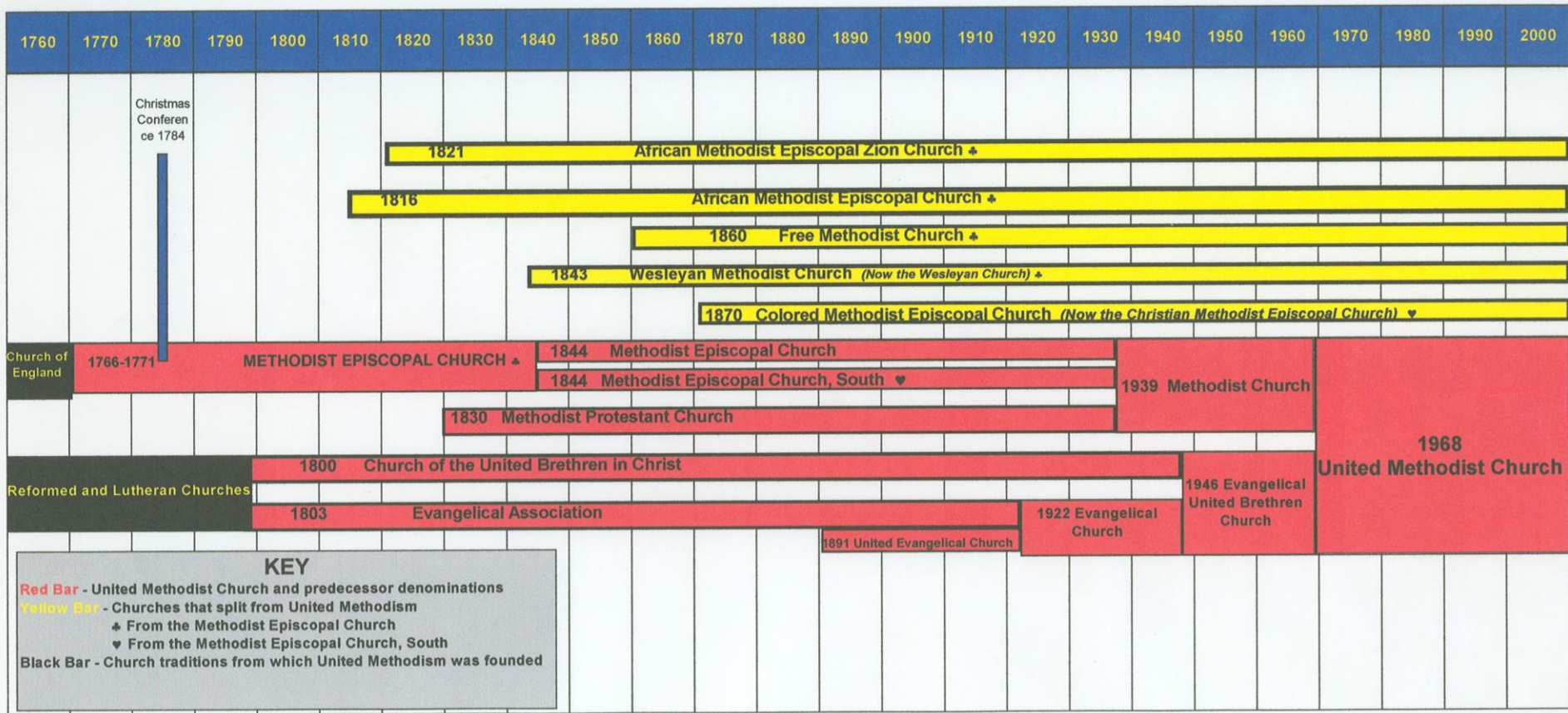
- a) 1889
- b) 1936
-  c) 1956
- d) 1968

For more, see:

The UMC General Commission on Archives and History

<http://www.gcah.org/>

Historical Timeline of the United Methodist Church



KEY

- █ Red Bar - United Methodist Church and predecessor denominations
- █ Yellow Bar - Churches that split from United Methodism
- ♣ From the Methodist Episcopal Church
- ♥ From the Methodist Episcopal Church, South
- █ Black Bar - Church traditions from which United Methodism was founded


Social Principles - \$100

I. Which of the following categories of our beliefs are NOT included in the Social Principles outlined in the Book of Discipline:


- a) Natural World
-  b) Heaven and the Supernatural World
- c) Nurturing Community
- d) Social Community
- e) Economic Community
- f) Political Community
- g) World Community

Social Principles - \$500

I. Which of the following statements represents the UMC position on the death penalty:

- a) The Bible instructs us to take an “eye for an eye”;
- b) The church will abide by the will of the people in those states where the death penalty is legal;
-  c) Capital punishment eliminates the possibility for the convicted person to be reconciled with Christ through repentance.

Social Principles - \$1000

- I. Which of the following statements represents the UMC position on abortion:
 - a) The sanctity of unborn life is absolute – abortion should be prohibited in all circumstances;
 -  b) Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.

For more, see:

www.umc.org/what-we-believe/social-principles-social-creed



The Book of Discipline - 2016

Major contents:

Intro – Preface and a Brief History of the UMC

- I. The Constitution
- II. The General Book of Discipline
- III. Doctrinal Standards and our Theological Task
- IV. The Ministry of All Christians
- V. Social Principles
- VI. Organization and Administration

THANK YOU!!

- Would you like to learn more?
 - Church history?
 - Wesleyan tradition?
 - Organization and Administration?
 - Current issues and challenges?
 - Specialized ministries?
 - Global issues?
 - Process in following a call to ministry?

