

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning The  
Global Methodist Church

1. What is the Global Methodist Church.

- a. It is a church committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. The Global Methodist Church is filled with warm-hearted, Jesus loving, and Holy Spirit inspired people. They are grounded in Scripture and the life-giving confessions of the Christian faith found in the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds.

2. Can you provide us with any major difference that you see in the GMC and UMC Book Of Disciplines?

- a. Theology/Belief differences – *The GMC upholds the same orthodox theology as in the UMC's Book of Discipline. The core difference is that the GMC has placed the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and Definition of Chalcedon in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD)*
- b. Major structure differences – *The GMC is a slimmer denomination with far less structural overhead. We are not creating agencies, but rather volunteer led commissions. They may at some point have a secretary or admin, but we are not recreating agencies with large staffs, millions of dollars in budgets, etc. We are seeking to partner with mission aligned agencies and ministries where possible, rather than recreate or duplicate efforts. See <https://globalmethodist.org/>*
- c. Sunday service differences – *None. Local churches have the same degree of freedom to plan Sunday services. Churches will be held to a higher standard for theological accountability to our agreed upon beliefs, doctrines, etc.*
- d. Confirmation policy differences – *Same confirmation theology*
- e. Baptism and communion differences – *Same sacramental theology. Liturgy is found in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD)*

3. Process for joining the GMC and what things should we be focusing on for 1<sup>st</sup> steps?

*The process for joining the GMC is simple.*

- 1.) *Hold a church vote sometime after your separation vote.*
  - a. *Various processes for doing this. Some churches hold the vote on the same day after the vote to separate. Other churches choose to wait several weeks or months.*
  - b. *Your church council will establish the voting threshold of where to align next. The GMC only requires a 51% majority. Your church council can establish that threshold or set a higher one.*
- 2.) *Church Council affirms the alignment vote*
  - a. *Church Council must affirm the following statement in your meeting minutes, also validating successful alignment vote:*

- b. *“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Church become a member congregation of the Global Methodist Church, that it affirms and endorses the doctrinal standards (Part One), Social Witness (Part Two), and church governance of the Global Methodist Church as set forth in its Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and agrees to be accountable to such standards, witness, and governance. Our leadership and trustees are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this motion.”*
- 3.) Complete the GMC’s Church Membership Application
- a. [Church Application \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)
- a. *Note: Joining the GMC immediately after leaving the UMC allows your church to simply adopt the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD) rather than write your own doctrines, clergy credentialing, volunteer background policies, etc.*
4. What are the local church structure requirements of the GMC?
- a. *The GMC Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD) allows for local churches to be innovative with their structure, provided that they meet certain requirements (financial controls, trustees responsibilities, separation of duties, etc.). There is a lot of flexibility. Design a system that works well for your church.*
5. What is the process for obtaining a GMC Minister if we vote to separate on January 21, 2024? We would like to have a seamless process separating from the UMC and joining the GMC with a minister in place July 1, 2024. Is this possible?
- a. *Once your church applies to be a GMC congregation, GMC will invite the SPRC to complete a church profile detailing the qualities you are looking for in a minister. GMC will then begin searching for 3 candidates who reflect those qualities and will present your SPRC with their profiles. You will determine which candidate you would like to meet for a consultation. If both the SPRC and the GMC pastor agree that this may be a good fit, then GMC will forward the match to the bishop for him to make the appointment. Pending the bishop’s approval, the appointment will be fixed.*
- b. *It is most certainly possible to have a minister in place by July 1<sup>st</sup> for a seamless transition. However, if the SPRC or pastoral candidates do not reach an agreement, it may take a little longer. I do not anticipate any issues securing a minister for July 1<sup>st</sup>.*
6. What are the educational credentials for GMC ministers and how does that differ from the current UMC minister?
- c. *The educational requirements are listed in Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD) 407. Candidates for ministry and those transferring to the GMC are all vetted and must be approved by the Committee on Ministry.*
7. Have guidelines been developed around seminary preferences?

- a. Yes! The GMC has established a commission on higher education that is vetting seminaries in order to approve them to serve as GMC seminaries. Seminaries have to express interest in working with the GMC, teach courses necessary for ordination, and align with our mission and values. The approved list are: Asbury Theological Seminary Ashland Theological Seminary at Ashland University Beeson Divinity School at Samford University Mid-American Christian University (Courses at this school are only available for persons outside the United States seeking to complete their educational requirements.) Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University United Theological Seminary Wesley Biblical Seminary Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University*
8. Have minimum pastoral education requirements been established?
  - a. Yes! The credentials listed in question 5 address minimal pastoral educational requirements.*
9. What are the GMC guidelines for determining salary for minister?
  - a. There are no minimum salary requirements in the GMC. Churches are free to offer salaries of their choosing. Pastors are also free to accept appointments at their discretion.*
  - b. The GMC does require a church to make retirement contributions for all clergy under appointment at a minimum of a 50% service.*
  - c. The GMC requires a church to provide health insurance for all pastors serving at 100% service. There are three tiers of costs for churches depending on a pastor's status: single, married, with dependents. There are exceptions for coverage if a pastor is on Medicare, Tricare, under spouse's insurance, or covered by another employer.*
10. Is there a maximum age retirement date for pastors?
  - a. No.*
11. Is there any policy on moving expenses of a pastor? (in or out)
  - a. Moving policy expenses will be determined by the annual conference (or district, in lieu of a conference). The GMC of SC does not currently have a moving policy, but recommends "Churches are encouraged to reimburse clergy moving from out-of-state to be from the SC state border to their appointment. Churches are encouraged to reimburse up to 20,000 lbs of moving costs."*
12. With the constant attacks from the liberal progressives in the UMC especially on the LBGTQ+ issues, how can the GMC avoid getting entangled in a similar process in the future?
  - a. The polity (structure and governance) of the GMC was designed by observing issues in the UMC and seeking to correct them. Areas of correction include:*

- i. Episcopacy that is term-limited / not elected for life*
- ii. Bishops accountable to the general church through Committee on Episcopacy*
- iii. Removal of the jurisdictional system*
- iv. Removal of guaranteed appointment for clergy*
- v. Removal of trust clause / churches that do not teach our doctrines can be removed*
- vi. Easy disaffiliation process for churches that determine they no longer want to uphold our doctrines and disciplines*

13. What steps will be in place to prevent the seemingly inevitable rise in bureaucracy that usually occurs after an initiative gets in place with the corresponding increases in financial obligations?

- a. Currently the GMC of SC lacks the appropriate structure to sustain our movement; we anticipate that changing next July / August when we apply to become an annual conference. However, we seek a minimal structure that is largely volunteer led (i.e. our various committees, GMC commissions, etc.)*
- b. The Transitional Leadership Council has capped general church connectional giving at 1.5% (though only 1% is being asked now).*
- c. There are NO plans to change the GMC of SC connectional giving rate of 3%. (Total is 4% = 1% General Church + 3 % GMC of SC).*
- d. Changes for the GMC of SC rate can only happen at the annual voting gathering.*
- e. The GMC has been very intentional about keeping overhead minimal.*

14. What efforts are being planned to counter the current practice of not adhering to the beliefs avowed in the Apostles' Creed?

- a. For accountability measures, see response to question 11 above. Additionally, any clergy who are not teaching or leading in accordance with our agreed upon doctrines and disciplines can be investigated or even tried for failure to adhere to our beliefs. Accountability can rise from the presiding elder, bishop, other clergy, or laity.*

15. How are delegates determined, both number and qualifications?

- a. This is in the process of being determined, but here is what we know so far:*
  - i. Delegates from your local church to the GMC of SC:*
    - 1. Every local church will send lay and clergy delegates to the GMC of SC annual conference. Equalization of lay and clergy delegates is required and only actively appointed clergy are eligible as clergy delegates.*
    - 2. Local churches have been asked to elect a numbered slate of lay delegates to annual conference (i.e. delegate 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). Once the formula is released, churches will know how many laity they will send. It will likely be close to the number of clergy they have serving their church.*
  - ii. General Conference Delegates:*

1. *The Convening General Conference will be held in Costa Rica September 19 – 24. The General Conference will have 350 delegates from around the world.*
2. *Delegates to the Convening General Conference will be elected among delegates to the GMC of SC annual gathering.*
3. *Note: GMC of SC leadership is seeking permission from GMC leadership to hold our delegate election in early July to allow for newly joined churches to participate in the election process.*
4. *The delegate formula will be set by the larger GMC and will be based on a regions clergy and churches. The GMC of SC will not be given our allotment of delegates until sometime in the spring of 2024.*

16. Is a member church, in any way, liable for the actions and decisions of fellow member churches or GMC officers?

- a. *In terms of liability, member churches should not be held liable for the actions of other members churches or GMC officers. In terms of accountability, member churches are invited to practice connectional accountability with other churches, members, clergy, and GMC officers. The GMC seeks to increase our accountable and connectional relationships for the sake of the mission of the church.*

17. What, if any, local management decisions must be approved by the GMC? Such as expansion, sale and acquisition of property, joint missions with other churches and denominations, etc.?

- a. *Conveyance of property: TBDD 912.A – To convey property, need approval of charge conference. If the conveyance involves the district or conference, a presiding elder or bishop should be involved. TBDD 912.C*
- b. *Purchase, sale, construction, lease, or mortgage of property: Must be approved by the church's charge conference, called and notified with a minimum of 10 days in a variety of formats. The presiding elder will either be present or appoint another elder (possibly the local pastor) to preside. TBDD 912.F*

18. Will teaching materials to assist Sunday school teachers and youth directors be available?

- a. *Seedbed is the publishing arm of Asbury Seminary and has been serving as the de facto publisher for the GMC. Please note that Seedbed is a newer organization, though they are quickly expanding their titles and resources.*

19. Will GMC provide any oversight, assistance, or guidance in the use of public or privately held records for background check services to find out about church attendees or potential employees that may have bad intentions or ulterior motives for attending services? (any other safety issues)

- a. *Yes. The GMC is contracted with Ministry Safe, our alternative program to Safe Sanctuary.*
20. What proclamations have been made by the GMC that say it will champion, proclaim, defend, teach and live according to the Bible's teaching? What are the top two (or few) that GMC will not compromise?
  - a. *The existence of the Global Methodist Church, it's stated doctrines and disciplines, it's desire to live into its beliefs through renewed accountability, and the desire to shift the church culture to a biblically ground, Spirit-led movement all attest to how the denomination is eager to uphold the Bible.*
  - b. *Two items that we raise up are the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the primacy and inspiration of Holy Scripture.*
21. Are there any other benefits of GMC that will allow us to remain and grow our local ministries and continue to grow in Christ and make Him known to those around us and around the world?
  - a. *Biblically Grounded Movement: The GMC is not interested in being a bureaucracy but a movement. Already, churches are experiencing growth and renewal through renewed focus on God's word, a sensed rededication, and many are seeing increases in attendance.*
  - b. *Partnerships with Missionally Aligned Methodists: We are developing horizontal partnerships with other GMC churches for the sake of working together for the movement.*
  - c. *GMC of SC Ministries: We are creating collectives for children, youth, young adults, missions, and lay speakers.*
  - d. *International Partnerships: The GMC of SC gets to pick it's own mission partnerships overseas and develop a relationship with them.*