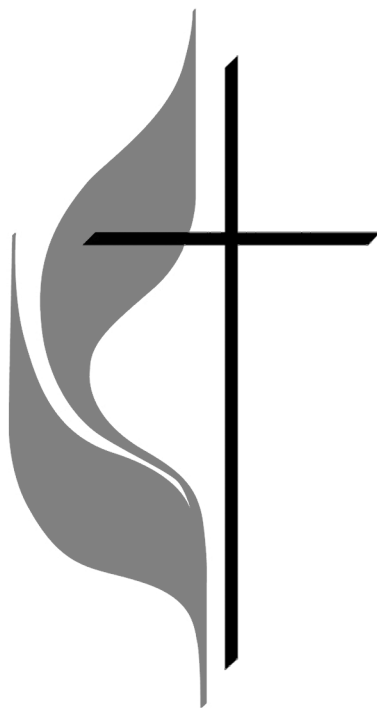


DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE



**2019 SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

VOLUME 1
DELEGATE HANDBOOK, REPORTS, AND PETITIONS

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Letter from the Commission on the General Conference | 4 |
| Letters from the Bishops of the Illinois Great Rivers and Missouri Conferences | 6 |
| General Conference Schedule | 8 |
| Registration, Arrival, and Other Important Information | 9 |
| Registration and Arrival | 9 |
| Map of St. Louis City Center | 10 |
| Plenary Area Diagram | 11 |
| Plenary Seating Assignments | 12 |
| Accountability Covenant | 15 |
| Reports and Legislation Information | 16 |
| Budget for the 2019 General Conference | 16 |
| Plan of Organization and Rules of Order | 18 |
| Legislative Process | 60 |
| Parliamentary Procedure Chart | 61 |
| Abbreviations and Codes | 62 |
| Delegates to the 2019 General Conference | 63 |
| Alphabetical List of Voting Delegates and First Reserves | 63 |
| Voting and Reserve Delegates by Conference | 73 |
| Legislative Committee | 114 |
| Purpose of the Special Session of the General Conference | 115 |
| Council of Bishops’ Call for the Special Session of the General Conference, April 24, 2017 | 115 |
| Amended Call for the Special Session of the General Conference, July 9, 2018 | 116 |
| Judicial Council Decision No. 1360 | 118 |
| Report of the Commission on a Way Forward | 123 |
| Commission on a Way Forward’s Report to the General Conference | 123 |
| A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The One Church Plan | 129 |
| A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The Connectional Conference Plan | 136 |
| A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The Traditionalist Plan | 147 |
| Appendix 1: The Work of the Commission on the Possibility of Churches Desiring to Change Their Relationship with The United Methodist Church | 149 |
| Appendix 2: The Council of Bishops’ Collaboration with the Commission on a Way Forward | 151 |
| Appendix 3: A Conversation Within the Council of Bishops: A Traditional Plan | 153 |
| Appendix 4: A Wespath Resource | 157 |
| Proposed Legislation | 164 |
| Proposed Legislation from the Commission on a Way Forward | 164 |
| Proposed Legislation from Other Organizations and Individuals | 196 |

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For updated information, find us at www.generalconference.org or follow us on Facebook at @umcgeneralconference.

Commission on the General Conference

Greetings, and welcome to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference!

The Commission on the General Conference has been praying, worshipping, talking, planning, and working for the past three years to plan not one, but two sessions of the General Conference. Many thanks to those who have invested extra effort in all the steps that have been needed. For this Special Session, these efforts have included creating a daily schedule; providing the *Daily Christian Advocate*; securing the infrastructure required for conferencing; accommodating the travel, housing, and dining needs of delegates, staff, and guests; providing a process for reviewing petitions allowed by Judicial Council Decision 1360; and many other tasks. We appreciate the work of the annual conference teams from the Missouri and Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conferences who are providing local hospitality. We have all been supported in these ministries by the very able staff of Go! St. Louis and America’s Center.

The Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* is in one volume for this General Conference. You will find information about the delegations (clergy names in the delegate lists are in italics), seating assignments, the Conference schedule, the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, and other useful information. Also included in this volume is the Report from the Commission on a Way Forward and the petitions submitted with it. In addition, valid petitions submitted in accordance with Judicial Council Decision 1360 are included and will be reviewed by the Committee on Reference to determine if they are in harmony with the purpose stated in the call from the Council of Bishops to gather in Special Session (see ¶ 14 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*). The call letter is printed on pages 115-117 in its original and amended versions.

Three changes made by the 2016 General Conference, now included in the *Book of Discipline*, directly impact this publication and the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate* that will be published during the General Conference:

¶ 507.5, 507.6, and 507.7 now have a deadline of submitting petitions no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference (the previous deadline was 210 days).

¶ 507.10 and 507.11 now require that all petitions receive a vote in legislative committee and that all those approved by legislative committee receive a plenary vote. Therefore, since two steps are required, even though there will be only one legislative committee comprised of all delegates, that same body,

meeting as the plenary, will be required to vote a second time on the material previously passed by the legislative committee. Those items will appear in the calendar section of the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

¶ 511.4c now requires daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information published in the English version of the *Daily Christian Advocate* to be made available in French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili in a timely and convenient way.

Delegates and first reserves will be issued free copies of the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. If other reserve delegates are seated, they may use the material provided for the people they replace, or they may purchase copies. All issues of the *Daily Christian Advocate* are published under the authority of the Commission on the General Conference.

Grace and peace,

Samuel “Duncan” McMillan IV, Chairperson, Commission on the General Conference
Rev. Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference
Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference



Letter from the Bishop of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Delegates of the 2019 General Conference

Delegates and Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. It is my honor to extend a warm welcome to the great *gateway to the Midwest*, St. Louis, Missouri. We have been eagerly awaiting your arrival and will do our very best to make you feel welcomed.

The work you are about to engage in has been bathed in prayer. Our hope is that as you participate in holy conferencing with sisters and brothers from across the globe, you will sense the power and presence of Christ. Please know that millions of folks are supporting you and your work through their intercessory prayers. Be mindful to keep an ear open to hear what the Lord would say as together you discern *a way forward!*

Thank you for the sacrificial service you are giving. Your unselfish gift will enable The United Methodist Church to continue to offer the life-changing love of God, through Jesus Christ, to everyone.

The Host Committee, Conference Staff, Directors, Superintendents, Clergy, and Laity of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference extend their greetings and welcome to each of you. We are all eager to see where the Lord will lead as we confront the challenges we are facing.

God bless you as you tackle the task of helping our denomination move forward. Please remember that we are here to serve you and to assist you in order that you will be able to complete this challenging assignment.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve during this Special Session. Let me know if you need anything. Welcome! I hope you have a positive experience while you are with us.

God Bless,

Frank J. Beard
Resident Bishop, Illinois Great Rivers Conference
The United Methodist Church



Letter from the Bishop of the Missouri Conference

Delegates of the 2019 General Conference

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Missouri Annual Conference, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you attending the 2019 Special Session of General Conference of The United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Missouri Conference includes 781 local churches, approximately 1,000 active and retired clergy, and 72,000+ weekly worshippers, offering ministry through local churches, colleges, campus ministries, social services, and mission projects throughout the world. Our vision helps us live out the Church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world: *The Missouri Conference will relentlessly lead our churches to become outwardly focused and spiritually centered Christ followers.*

During this Special Session of the General Conference, it is my prayer that we will follow covenantal practices of centering our lives in Christ, prayer, active listening, honest conversations, asking for clarity when needed, and sowing mutual love and respect. Most importantly, I pray we will be open to hear where God is leading us, as servants of Christ and leaders of the church, in finding a *way forward*.

We are honored to co-host this Conference alongside the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and we look forward to showcasing our midwestern hospitality to those around the world. If you need anything, please feel free to contact one of our Hospitality Team members identified with a red shirt and Hospitality Team badge. I would like to offer a special thank-you to the Reverend Kim Jenne and Nancy Patton, co-chairs of the Hospitality Team. It is only by the Hospitality Team's faithful work and commitment to offer their very best that we are able to welcome you with the radical hospitality for which the Missouri Conference is well known.

In Christ,

Robert D. Farr
Resident Bishop, Missouri Conference
The United Methodist Church