

Criteria	UMC likely post-2024 General Conference	Global Methodist Church	Independ./ Independ. With Connection	Free Methodist	Wesleyan	Church of Nazarene
<b>2022 Number of Churches</b>	~29,000 +	~2,000+	EF: 1,300	~850	~1700	~5,100+ (N.A.)
<b>Theology based upon the Bible as the trust-worthy record of God's revelation, and completely truthful in all it affirms, it holds authority over us in all matters</b>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><i>Excerpts from</i> The UMC Book of Discipline, 2016</p> <p>Article I — Of Faith in the Holy Trinity There is but one living and true God, everlasting...</p> <p>Article II — Of the Word, or Son of God, ..who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, ...a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men.</p> <p>Article III — Of the Resurrection of Christ Christ did truly rise again from the dead, ... he ascended into heaven, an...until he returns to judge all men at the last day.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Transitional Book of Discipline for GMC. The Global Methodist Church is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. It is grounded in scripture and the life-giving confessions of Christian faith found in the Apostles' and Nicene Creed</p> <p>NOTE: May 2022 MOU enacted between the GMC and Asbury Theological Seminary to supply GMC with graduating pastors as well as Grant support for church plants</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Theology grounded in Scripture, Apostle's Creed, Articles of Faith, and Traditional Methodist Beliefs ----- Independ. With Connection Includes:</p> <p>Evangelical Free</p> <p>Methodist Collegiate Church</p> <p>the Foundry Network</p> <p>MCC/AFN Position on LGBTQ+ and are in development.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Free Methodist 2019 Book of Discipline (FM BoD) We hold unwaveringly to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Drawing on our Wesleyan heritage of engaging with Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience, we keep Scripture primary. While the church will always be tasked with authentically communicating and applying biblical truths with sensitivity to cultural dynamics, we do not subjugate the Bible's timeless truths to cultural norms or social trends. The Free Methodist Way is to fully align our lives and our movement on the unshakeable foundation of God's Word.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Website: The Bible is God's holy Word. It uniquely and infallibly reveals God's plan for His people and how to live out that plan, individually and corporately. Beliefs, practices, priorities, and our mission are to be anchored in clear biblical teachings.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>CoN MANUAL 2017-2021, p. 26: Believe that God calls Christians to a life of holy living which is marked by an act of God, cleansing the heart from original sin and filling the individual with a love for God and humankind. Nazarenes believe in a Triune God, the father, son and holy spirit. That Jesus Christ is God made man and the Holy Spirit is active and present in our lives. <i>The Holy Scripture is given by divine inspiration and contains all the plenary truths necessary to faith and Christian living.</i> They believe in the atonement of sin through Jesus Christ and that he will return, the dead will be raised and a final judgement will take place.</p>
<b>Trust Clause Issue: Does the Local Church retain ownership of Church Property?</b>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Local church property held in trust for Annual Conference</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Transitional GMC BoD, page 97, Article 901 and 902 The GMC does not have a trust clause. All local churches will own their property and assets in perpetuity.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Church Retains Ownership of All Property and Assets</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Because of disaffiliation the traditional Trust Clause is waived for new denominations joining. FM BoD page 157/246: "Those churches who hold property at the time they join the Free Methodist Church may be given the option by the Board of Bishops, with legal counsel, whether or not to adopt the trust clause for their existing property." BoD info: 91-92/246 AND 142-143/246</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>W BoD, B. Church Property I. Ownership 4680. Local property within an established district may be held by the local church or by the district, as decided upon by the district conference (1180:19–20). In those districts where the local churches are to hold their own property, all grants, conveyances, devises, gifts, transfers, and assignments now owned or hereafter acquired of any property, real, personal, or mixed, ... of such local church, in trust for the benefit and use of the members and ministers of The Wesleyan Church.</p>	<p><b>Not Completely, Collegial Approach</b></p> <p>Property is for Kingdom Use. CoN MANUAL 2017-2021, PP. 102-104, 135, 237, 330, 516: Title to Church property is held by the Trustees of the Church who are elected at the annual meeting but subject to some restrictions by the Superintendent where covered by Denominational by-laws. The district board of administration shall be vested with power and authority to purchase, manage, sell, etc. Local churches need permission to sell present church property and acquire new church property.</p>

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Allows for Female Clergy	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is the Denominations' official position on ordaining Non-Celibate Homosexuals as Clergy enforced?	<p>No</p> <p>UMC Website: Excerpts f- 2016 UMC BoD on ordaining Non-Celibate Homosexual as Clergy</p> <p>"Homosexuality was first openly debated at GC in 1972, ...</p> <p>Since that time, the church has maintained the position that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." ... Sexual relations are affirmed only within the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. The UMC supports laws that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.</p> <p>Based on these positions about homosexual practice and marriage, the Church has also maintained restrictions regarding clergy. Pastors may not be "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" and may not conduct ceremonies that celebrate same-sex weddings or unions. Such ceremonies also may not be held on church property."</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> 2024 UMC Global Conference is scheduled to debate the deletion of these statements from the BoD and if warranted, officially vote on the deletion. UMC maintains it seems unlikely that the current policies regarding human sexuality will be substantially altered.</p> <p><b>For a synopsis of UMC Clergy unaddressed violations and current trends, please read Information Paper, Division Within The UMC.</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Transitional GMC BoD: GMC <i>will not ordain</i> openly non-celibate homosexual or transgender bishops and clergy.</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>If church chooses to disaffiliate over the core issue of Non-Celibate LGBTQ+, clergy, the official position on this issue will need clarification.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>FM BoD 55/246: "Sexual intimacy is a gift from God for marital union. The sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman is to be protected against all manner of immoral conduct. <i>We oppose cultural mores and laws that legitimize adultery, pre-marital, post-marital, and homosexual intimacy.</i>"</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>W BoD pp 3012: <i>Any person sustaining a marriage relation contrary to the Scriptures and the Guides and Helps to Holy Living (265:5-7; 410:5-6; 3108) shall be ineligible for licensing, commissioning, or ordination in The Wesleyan Church</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>CoN MANUAL 2017-2021. Sexual activity between people of the same sex. Because we believe that it is God's intention for our sexuality to be lived out in the covenantal union between one woman and one man, we believe the practice of same-sex sexual intimacy is contrary to God's will for human sexuality. While a person's homosexual or bisexual attraction may have complex and differing origins, and the implication of this call to sexual purity is costly, we believe the grace of God is sufficient for such a calling. We recognize the shared responsibility of the body of Christ to be a welcoming, forgiving, and loving community where hospitality, encouragement, transformation, and accountability are available to all.</p>

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<p><b>Is the Denominations' official position on UMC Clergy performing Same Sex Marriage enforced?</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></p> <p>UMC Website: Excerpts f- 2016 UMC BoD on ordaining Non-Celibate Homosexual as Clergy</p> <p>"Homosexuality was first openly debated at GC in 1972, ...</p> <p>Since that time, the church has maintained the position that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." ... Sexual relations are affirmed only within the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. The UMC supports laws that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.</p> <p>Based on these positions about homosexual practice and marriage, the Church has also maintained restrictions regarding clergy. Pastors may not be "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" and may not conduct ceremonies that celebrate same-sex weddings or unions. Such ceremonies also may not be held on church property."</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> 2024 UMC Global Conference is scheduled to debate the deletion of these statements from the BoD and if warranted, officially vote on the deletion. UMC maintains it seems unlikely that the current policies regarding human sexuality will be substantially altered.</p> <p><b>For a synopsis of UMC Clergy unaddressed violations and current trends, please read Information Paper, Division Within The UMC.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Transitional GMC BoD: <i>Bishops and Clergy will not be allowed to perform LBTQ+ marriages.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TBD</b></p> <p>If church chooses to disaffiliate over the core issue of practicing LGBTQ+ the official position on this issue will need clarification.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p> <p>FM BoD: 62/246: "Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman into a lifelong relationship..." <i>"Therefore, it would be a breach of the doctrine of our church for ministers or members of the Free Methodist Church to conduct, officiate, or assist in officiating, the marriage or union between a same-sex or same-gender couple."</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p> <p>W BoD (5) Follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding gender identity and sexual conduct. Gen. 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:12–20; 7:17–24. Toward Family (6) Follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding marriage and divorce. <i>We affirm that sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful.</i> We further affirm that marriage between one man and one woman is God's design, and we regard sexual sin of the spouse, such as adultery, homosexual behavior, bestiality, or incest, as clear biblical grounds for considering divorce, and then only when appropriate counseling has failed to restore the relationship. 27 CONSTITUTION 265:6 Ex. 20:14, 17; 22:19; Lev. 20:10–16; Matt. 5:32; 19:19; Mark 10:11–12; Luke 16:18.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Yes</b></p> <p><i>Clergy are not allowed to perform LGBTQ+ marriages.</i> CoN MANUAL 2017-2021, Part 3C: <i>A woman and a man publicly devote themselves to one another as a witness to the way God loves. Marital intimacy is intended to reflect the union of Christ and the Church, a mystery of grace. It is also God's intention that in this sacramental union the man and woman may experience the joy and pleasure of sexual intimacy and from this act of intimate love new life may enter the world and into a covenantal community of care. The Christ-centered home ought to serve as a primary location for spiritual formation</i></p>

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<b>Sanctity of Life in Reference to Abortion</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pro-Choice</b></p> <p>Excerpts form UMC position on RvW Supreme Court Decision: “The United Methodist Church, responding to the Gospel and informed by our Wesleyan history, affirms the sacred worth of all people ...</p> <p>...we as a church affirm that, “we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers.” (United Methodist Social Principles ¶161.K)</p> <p>This prayerful response from the United Methodist Church is a collective witness ...However, today The United States Supreme Court decision denied the value and dignity of women to access the fundamental right to the supportive care and services they deserve.</p> <p>Today’s decision unleashes severe consequences and threatens access to care for every community, and specifically Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income communities. This decision comes at a time when many states are already moving to restrict access to quality care and comprehensive health care services like family planning, birth control, and the expansion of Medicaid. These restrictions deny the basic right to lifesaving care that every-body has the right to access and receive.</p> <p>As people of faith, God calls us to transform conditions of injustice and advocate for the rights of all people to have access to affordable, equitable and comprehensive healthcare that includes reproductive and maternal care.</p> <p>We grieve and lament today’s decision. ... We also acknowledge that today’s decision compels us to renewed advocacy for policies that create an environment where all people have access to a community, services, and healthcare that lead to flourishing and abundance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pro-Life</b></p> <p>Transitional GMC BoD: GMC believes that life is a holy gift of God whose beginnings and endings are set by God, and that it is the particular duty of believers to protect those who are powerless to protect themselves, including the unborn. we believe human life begins at conception and abortion ends a human life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TBD</b></p> <p>If church chooses to disaffiliate, official position on Sanctify of Life will need clarification.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pro-Life With Single Exception</b></p> <p>FM BoD page 60/246: "morally unjustifiable except when the act has been decided... for the purpose of saving the life of a pregnant woman"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pro-Life With Single Exception</b></p> <p>W BoD Part 4.10. 11) Abortion. The Wesleyan Church seeks to recognize and preserve the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and, thus, is opposed to the use of induced abortion. However, it recognizes that there may be rare pregnancies where there are grave medical conditions threatening the life of the mother, which could raise a serious question about taking the life of the unborn child. In such a case, a decision should be made only after very prayerful consideration following medical and spiritual counseling. The Wesleyan Church encourages its members to become informed about the abortion issue and to become actively involved locally and nationally in the preparation and passage of appropriate legislation guaranteeing protection of life under law to unborn children</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pro-Life With Single Exception</b></p> <p>CoN MANUAL 2017-2021, Part B. pp 30. Sanctity of Human Life 30: The Church of the Nazarene believes in the sanctity of human life and strives to protect against abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, and the withholding of reasonable medical care to handicapped or elderly.....Therefore, we believe that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. We oppose induced abortion by any means, when used for either personal convenience or population control. We oppose laws that allow abortion. Realizing that there are rare, but real medical conditions wherein the mother or the unborn child, or both, could not survive the pregnancy, termination of the pregnancy should only be made after sound medical and Christian counseling.</p>

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Apportionments	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>Likely to continue as they are now.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>No Connectional Fee. Apportionments are presently assessed at 2% of operating income. GMC is estimated to be half of what is currently paid to UMC. First year of transition apportionment can be requested waived by the GMC Transitional Leadership Council. Emphasis has been placed on lean management.</p>	<p><b>Dependent Upon Connection</b></p> <p><b>TBD</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Amount as per Phase III of Affiliation</b></p> <p>Denomination funding unable to find in FM BoD. From Affiliation Process document: "The church will contribute financially to the support of the Annual Conference and denominational ministries as agreed upon in the MOU." MOU = Affiliate Covenant (contractual agreement signed by church prior to full membership phase 4).</p> <p><u>Typical</u> <u>3 Year Affiliation Period</u></p> <p>Year 1: 0% Year 2: 3% Year #: 6% Full Membership: 9%</p> <p>All based upon operating income</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Local tithing by individuals is requested to be 10% with additional gifting as God blesses you through the year.</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>As per telecon with Church Affiliation POC Pastor Freed WC: Depends on agreement terms with church on when we would reach full member status, Could be 2 to 5 years. The first year can be free, the remaining years are on a sliding scale up to a final 10% of operating income.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>W BoD pg 47: 65. <b>Storehouse Tithing.</b> Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to 47 SPECIAL DIRECTIONS 465 which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and The Wesleyan Church shall be regarded by all its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of The Wesleyan Church are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them. Gen. 14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 14:22; Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25; Mal. 3:10-11; Matt. 23:23; Acts 4:34-35; 6:1-3; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:13-14; Heb. 7:1-2, 6, 9</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <p>(Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:24-34; 25:31-46; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 12:13-24; 19:11-27; John 15:1-17; Romans 12:1-13; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Hebrews 7:8; James 1:27; 1 John 3:16-18) 32.1. Telecon with IL DS Terry Armstrong</p> <p>4 Categories of tithing totaling 15.858% of revenue received.</p> <p>World Evan Fund: 5.5% Pensions/Bene.: 2.25% Region. Uni. : 2.25% District: <u>5.585%</u> Total: 15.585%</p> <p><b>Storehouse Tithing.</b> <i>Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and the local Church of the Nazarene shall be regarded by all of its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of the Church of the Nazarene are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them for the support of the whole church, local, district, educational, and general.</i> The tithe, provided to the local Church of the Nazarene, shall be considered a priority over all other giving opportunities which God may lay upon the hearts of His faithful stewards, in support of the whole church.</p>