



# THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God CALLS Berwyn UMC to



## Inside this Issue:

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## Calendar Highlights

**April 5** Passion/Palm Sunday

**April 9** Maundy Thursday

**April 10** Good Friday

**April 12** Easter

Reminder, that Berwyn UMC has suspended worship services and in person meetings during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Hello brothers and sisters. These are strange times we are living. I pray this newsletter finds you in good health and safe from COVID-19. As you know, Berwyn United Methodist Church has suspended its in-church worship services and meetings. However, it does not mean that we have stopped worshipping or supporting each other. Each week we will be posting sermons, worship services and music on our church's website, [www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org) or our church's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BUMCservice](http://www.facebook.com/BUMCservice). To stay informed of the church's schedule please be sure you are subscribed to our e-newsletter which is emailed every Sunday afternoon and that you like our Facebook page, BUMCservice.

On March 15 we were to have a special worship service where we learned about the proposals that affect the future of the denomination scheduled to be presented and voted on at General Conference this year. Due to the COVID-19 quarantine, we were not able to have that service and General Conference has been postponed most likely till 2021. Included in this issues you will find a comparison chart and a list of resources to read over and learn about the proposals scheduled to go to General Conference. Remember, these are just proposals. Nothing has been finalized. These are just proposals regarding the future structure of The United Methodist Church. There will be a recording of the presentation posted on the church website and Facebook page shortly.

As Holy Week approaches, do not be dismayed. Remember, that Jesus himself defied death and rose from the tomb. Spend time in the Word, read Pastor Rodney's daily devotions and remember that once we can gather together again, we will celebrate the Resurrection!

Stay strong. Stay safe. Wash your hands. Know that you are loved and prayed for and we look forward to worshipping together again!

Blessings,  
Kristine Adams  
Editor, The Lighted Cross

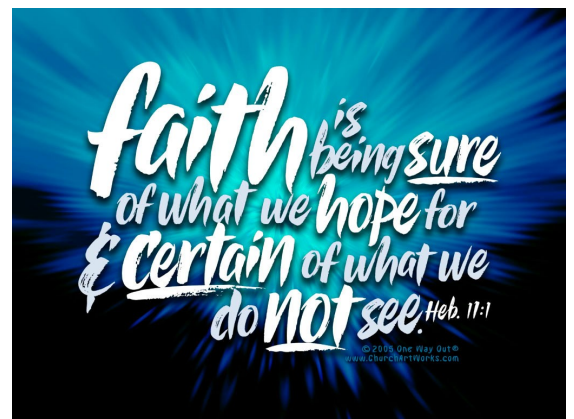
## Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Traditional Worship

Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month



## PASTOR'S LETTER

By his resurrection from the dead, our Savior, Jesus Christ, has conquered death and sin and everything that diminishes the grace of God in us and among us. His resurrection is not just a fact of history to be retold at Easter. It is a mystery to be lived every day. As Christians, we are just as moved by the presence of Jesus among us as those who saw him on the morning of the resurrection.

How is Jesus Christ present among us today? He lives among us in the community gathered to celebrate the Lord's Table. He lives in the Gospel proclaimed by word and deed. Through the Sacraments of the Church, he gathers disciples, heals the sick, reconciles sinners and calls us to service. It is the hand of Jesus that lifts up the poor, feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless and visits those in prison through the Church's mission of social outreach. In these and many other ways we give witness to the mystery of Jesus living among us. We truly become the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world.

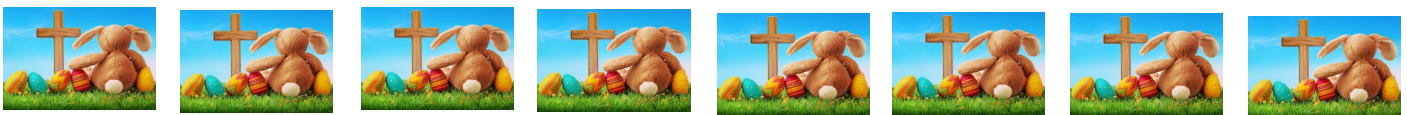
This great resurrection mystery requires a community to support us and to challenge us. Every Sunday, the Church gathers in the presence of God and in celebration of Christ's resurrection. The resurrection is the source of our life in Christ and makes us one body in Christ. As Scripture says, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and all were made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

I encourage you to take the time to welcome someone into the body of Christ so that the kingdom of God may grow, and the healing of God's creation may become a reality. I encourage you to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all whom you encounter; inviting them to partake in the life-giving joy that is this season. As we journey through the process of self-reflection and repentance that is Lent, we anticipate the life-giving power of the resurrection that enables us to walk in a new life, bearing the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

It is my prayer that our Risen Lord will be revealed to you through the love of family, friends and fellowship, and in the witness of generosity and godly living.

May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Rodney



## LAY LEADER'S LETTER

The other day we had clouds, a rain shower, sunshine, clouds, and another shower. At bedtime, I looked out the window and all was bright! The full moon was smiling down and was giving a beautiful glow. It was calming. Calming can be healing.

From the third chapter of Ecclesiastes we read "a time to plant...a time to heal, a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing...a time to keep...and a time to sew... a time to love...and a time of peace."

Life has brought us some challenges during this Lenten time. May we feel God's love and care each day. May we, in our hearts and souls, know and feel we are an Easter People.

Blessings,

Lee Paylor

On the next three pages you will see the Comparison of Proposals to General Conference and resources where you can learn more about each of them. Educate yourself and the conversation will continue when we return.

# COMPARISON OF PROPOSALS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

This summary compares proposals from various groups, in alphabetical order, about the structure of The UMC.

It does not include proposals from individuals. Further details are in the documents and legislation. All proposals will be open for amendments at General Conference and may be subject to Judicial Council review. Updated on 1/7/20.

PLANS	“NEW DENOMINATIONS OF UNITED METHODISM” (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN) (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE” (UMFORWARD)	“NEXT GENERATION UMC” (UMCNEXT)	“PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION” (MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS)	“U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE” (CONNECTIONAL TABLE)
PLAN DOCUMENTS	<a href="https://indyplanumc.org/">https://indyplanumc.org/</a>	<a href="https://um-forward.org/the-new-plan">https://um-forward.org/the-new-plan</a>	<a href="https://umcnext.com/legislation/">https://umcnext.com/legislation/</a>	Protocol FAQS	<a href="https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available">https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available</a>
NUMBER OF DENOMINATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 or more global denominations - traditionalist and centrist/progressive</li> <li>The UMC continues through the Centrist UMC.</li> <li>Other denominations may be formed by 50+ local churches or an annual conference(s).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 global denominations - traditionalist, moderate, progressive and liberationist</li> <li>The UMC dissolves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 or more - The UMC remains intact with options for new Methodist denominations that continue in relationship with the UMC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 or more</li> <li>A new traditionalist denomination is formed and others may also be formed.</li> <li>The UMC continues after separation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>KEY POINTS:</b> This proposal relates to U.S. structure. It does not address LGBTQ related matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UMC remains intact with a new regional structure for the U.S.</li> <li>Does not call for a major restructure of the UMC.</li> </ul>
WHO DECIDES WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual and central conferences, by simple majority, choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Central conferences may become autonomous.</li> <li>Local churches, by simple majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transitional council develops a plan of separation.</li> <li>Annual conferences, central conferences, clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.</li> <li>Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Congregations, clergy and conferences determine affiliations.</li> <li>Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose to separate from the UMC and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual conferences, by 57% majority, may vote to join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>Central conferences, by 2/3 majority, may vote to join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>Local churches, by either a simple or 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than that of their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until a U.S. regional conference is formed, an interim committee of the General Conference handles U.S. matters.</li> </ul>

## HOW TO STAY INFORMED

**Resourceumc.org** – everything you need for General Conference + live streaming

**Umnews.org** – subscribe to Daily Digest

**EPAUMC.org** – Eastern PA Conference website

**NewSpirit** – weekly digest – you can subscribe by going to [epaumc.org](http://epaumc.org) and a box will appear asking if you want to subscribe

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Amy McLoughlin

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or [JStockler@aol.com](mailto:JStockler@aol.com)

PLANS	"NEW DENOMINATIONS" (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN)	"NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE"	"NEXT GENERATION UMC"	"PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION"	"U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE"
REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets interim exemption from LGBTQ prohibitions for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.</li> <li>Sets interim suspension of complaints and disciplinary actions related to LGBTQ bans for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.</li> <li>Mandatory retirement for U.S. bishops waived until 2022.</li> <li>U.S. bishop elections may be postponed until 2021 or 2022.</li> <li>Central conferences elect bishops as determined by General Conference 2020.</li> <li>Trust clause suspended for denominations other than Centrist.</li> <li>Does not indicate constitutional amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes an immediate moratorium on charges, complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions.</li> <li>Does not indicate constitutional amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions.</li> <li>A moratorium on new or pending complaint proceedings and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions takes effect at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>The special called General Conference makes constitutional amendments or adopts a new constitution proposed by the special commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register intent to form a new Methodist denomination by May 15, 2021.</li> <li>Requests holding in abeyance all administrative or judicial processes related to LGBTQ prohibitions and some church closures.</li> <li>Local churches affiliating with a new denomination must maintain connectional responsibilities until separation.</li> <li>¶12553 applies to disaffiliating churches that do not join a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>Provisions are not severable. If any provisions are deemed unconstitutional by the Judicial Council or illegal by civil courts, the entire protocol will be null and void.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires constitutional amendments (2/3 majority vote by General Conference and annual conference members).</li> <li>Amends Part VI, Chapter Four, of the Discipline to authorize and organize a U.S. regional conference.</li> </ul>
FINANCES/ ASSET DIVISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of clergy pensions through each new denomination.</li> <li>Apportionments paid by all denominations through 2020.</li> <li>All denominations support funding for central conference ministries through 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General church assets divided equitably.</li> <li>Provides for arbitration.</li> <li>Establishes financial investments in historically marginalized and vulnerable churches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Conference includes grant funding for new denominations in relationship with The UMC in the 2021-2024 budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25M over four years is paid to a new traditionalist denomination with no further claims to United Methodist assets.</li> <li>\$2M is escrowed for other possible new denominations.</li> <li>\$39M is allocated over eight years to support ethnic ministries and Africa University.</li> <li>Property, assets, and liabilities of annual, jurisdictional, and central conferences are retained by those entities regardless of affiliation.</li> <li>Pension plans for all current clergy and lay employees remain in place, regardless of affiliation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes proposed regarding general church assets or agency structure.</li> </ul>

## WEBSITES TO READ PROPOSALS

- Indianapolis Plan**

<https://newmethodism.wordpress.com/2019/09/18/final-version-of-the-indianapolis-plan/>

- Creation of a US Regional Conference**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_Properties/connectional-table/images/USRC-Petition-OnlineCopy.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/connectional-table/images/USRC-Petition-OnlineCopy.pdf)

- UMC Next Plan** <https://umcnext.com/proposal/>

- New Expressions WorldWide (N.E.W.) Plan** <https://um-forward.org/new-plan>

- Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation**

Council of Bishops press release re: Protocol

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/united-methodist-traditionalists-centrists-progressives-bishops-sign-agreement-aimed-at-separation-13133654>

- The Christmas Covenant** - <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/delegates-offer-proposal-for-church-unity>

- The United States as a Regional Conference** – [bit.ly/USRClegislation](https://bit.ly/USRClegislation)

- To read the GCFA report on the Financial Impact of Proposed Legislation\_Feb2020 go to <https://www.gcf.org/reports>

PLANS	"NEW DENOMINATIONS" (INDIANAPOLIS PLAN)	"NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE"	"NEXT GENERATION UMC"	"PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION"	"U.S. REGIONAL CONFERENCE"
STRUCTURE AND AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance.</li> <li>Wespath, UMCOR, UMW, UM Men, UMPH become independent to serve any denomination.</li> <li>Archives and History retains assets and liabilities and financially supported by each denomination.</li> <li>All other agencies become part of the Centrist UMC with the option to serve other denominations.</li> <li>Jurisdictional or annual conference institutions may change affiliation or become independent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New denominations determine their own policies, structure and processes.</li> <li>General agencies become independent 501(c)3 organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates a U.S. regional conference and a U.S. Regional Committee of the General Conference.</li> <li>A special commission proposes a new constitution and governance structures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UMC and new denominations may enter into ecumenical agreements and participation in agencies or mission activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Stage I) Creates an interim U.S. regional committee of the General Conference to handle U.S. matters.</li> <li>(Stage II) Creates a U.S. regional conference comprising the current jurisdictions, which continue with the same powers and geographic areas.</li> </ul>
TIMELINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>Aug. 1, 2020 - Interim new alignment begins.</li> <li>Jan. 1, 2021 - Default alignment with Centrist UMC if no choice made by an annual conference.</li> <li>Mar. 31, 2021 - Default alignment with Traditional UMC if no choice made by a central conference.</li> <li>Fall 2021 - Inaugural General Conferences held.</li> <li>Jan. 1, 2022 - New denominations fully established.</li> <li>2028 - Opportunity to choose a denomination remains open.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective at the close of General Conference 2020.</li> <li>Prior to 2024 - Special General Conference held to approve a plan of separation.</li> <li>Transition time for local churches extends until the Special General Conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aug. 1, 2020 - Commission on a 21st Century Church begins work.</li> <li>Fall 2023 - Special General Conference meets.</li> <li>2025 - Local church disaffiliation provisions expire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD - UMC Special General Conference to create regional conferences.</li> <li>TBD - U.S. regional conference meets to address Book of Discipline changes.</li> <li>May 15, 2021 - Deadline to register intent to form a new Methodist denomination.</li> <li>July 1, 2021 - Annual conference deadline to vote to affiliate with a new denomination.</li> <li>Dec 31, 2021 - Central conference deadline to vote to affiliate with a new denomination.</li> <li>Dec 31, 2024 - Local church deadline to vote to affiliate with a different denomination than their annual conference.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021-2024 - Interim committee plans a new U.S. Regional Conference.</li> <li>2024 - New U.S. Regional Conference convenes.</li> </ul>

Just a reminder, NOTHING IS FINALIZED. NOTHING IS FINALIZED. NOTHING IS FINALIZED.

General Conference has been postponed and will most likely be rescheduled till 2021. Stay tuned for more details and information.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Rodney or Kristine Adams at [kidl.adams@gmail.com](mailto:kidl.adams@gmail.com).



## Our **M**ission **S**tatement

God **CALLS** us to **Care, Accept, Love, Laugh and Serve**

## **W**orship **S**chedule

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship with Choir

Church Office: 610-644-5555  
Fax: 610-644-7890  
Email: [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)  
[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)  
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