

# Pulse



*Confessing Jesus Christ as  
Son, Savior and Lord!*

## *Modified Traditional Plan*

The January Pulse looked at the Traditional Plan and the One Church Plan as submitted to the 2019 General Conference by the Commission on a Way Forward. This issue will cover some of the modifications to the Traditional Plan being proposed as well as the Simple Plan:

Dr. Maxie Dunnam, co-founder and current Vice President of The Confessing Movement, filed two petitions modifying the Traditional Plan.

The first petition creates a new global committee in charge of handling complaints against bishops. The expanded and renamed Global Episcopacy Committee would be elected by General Conference and made up of one clergy or lay member from every annual conference in the world. This is important because the current accountability process for bishops is very weak. No bishop has faced a church trial in 50 years.

The second petition substitutes a provision in the Traditional Plan and is the same with the exception of a few additions. Three of those additions are as follows:

1. Allegations that an annual conference is not upholding or enforcing the *Discipline* would be submitted to the Global Episcopacy Committee established in the first petition. The committee could recommend the annual conference be placed on the sanctioned list to be approved by the General Conference. This provides an accountability mechanism for annual conferences.
2. Bishops who refuse to uphold and enforce the *Discipline* would no longer receive from the general church expense money for housing, office or travel, thus enhancing accountability.
3. To defray the costs of disaffiliation, a one-time grant of \$200,000 would be given to any annual conference withdrawing from the denomination.

Dr. Dunnam's two petitions modifying the Traditional Plan need amendments to address the Judicial Council's concerns. A technical correction has also been made to clarify the plan should take effect upon adjournment of General Conference 2019 rather than waiting until January 1, 2020.

The Confessing Movement supports the Modified Traditional Plan as the best way to unity; maintaining unity of practice and standards in our global denomination, maintaining unity with Scripture, 2,000 years of Christian teaching and the tradition of the church.

In addition, The Confessing Movement supports other petitions sent to General Conference. These include various disaffiliation petitions that either require a 2/3 vote by the charge conference OR a 55% majority vote by the church conference in order for a church to withdraw from the United Methodist denomination. Most of these petitions require no vote by the annual conference. They address the payment of unfunded pension liabilities as well as ensuring these plans be implemented at the close of the 2019 General Conference.

## The Simple Plan

United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC) submitted a proposal they believe maintains solidarity with queer siblings in more conservative conferences and seeks to end discrimination against LGBTQAI+ people in the UMC.

The plan proposes simply to remove all language from the *Discipline* they believe excludes LGBTQIA+ people from full participation in the church.

On their webpage the caucus asserts that:

*“The UMC can choose to remove the restrictive language from the Book of Discipline without forcing the hand of those who are still wrestling with the idea of the full inclusion of LGBTQAI+ persons in the church. Removing the Disciplinary language that prohibits LGBTQIA+ inclusion does not require any United Methodist clergy to perform a same-gender wedding. Individual congregations would be allowed to continue in their own discernment.”*

LGBTQAI+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, asexual, intersex et al.

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## Why is it so important that a Gracious Exit Plan pass at GC 2019?

Regardless of which plan, or no plan, is passed in St. Louis later this month, there will be some in our denomination who cannot in good conscience support whatever direction the church takes and will choose to leave. An exit plan would provide that a congregation could leave our denomination and keep their property and assets without burdensome financial penalty. The congregation would be responsible for their pension obligations.

A Gracious Exit Plan would also provide a uniform process by which all churches would abide. This would ensure fair treatment across Annual and Jurisdictional Conferences while providing a clearer understanding of what will be required should churches choose to leave the denomination. To avoid the “winning” side from imposing insurmountable or punitive obstacles for congregations to exit, it is crucial that a plan be approved prior to or in conjunction with the final vote regarding the future of the UMC.

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## Contact Us

The Confessing Movement  
7995 E 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 356-9729  
[cm@confessingumc.org](mailto:cm@confessingumc.org)

Visit us on the web:  
[www.confessingumc.org](http://www.confessingumc.org)