

Pulse

Confessing Jesus Christ as Son, Savior and Lord!

Potential Annual Conference Vote

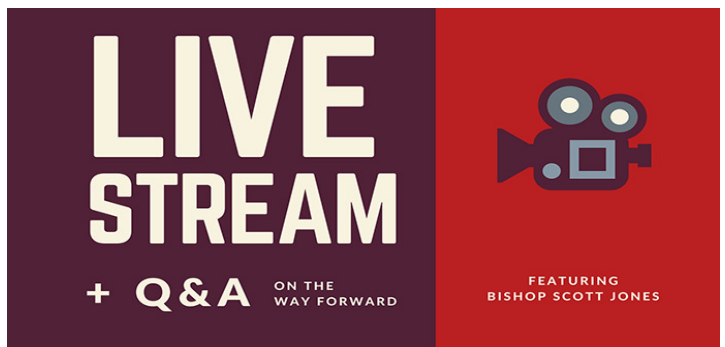
All Annual Conferences will likely be voting on a resolution to recommend to General Conference that changes the language in the Discipline by deleting all paragraphs regarding homosexuality, essentially allowing every church and pastor to decide their position on same sex unions and ordination.

These resolutions will be submitted by AC members but are driven by a group of progressives who call themselves Uniting Methodists. They support a local option like the Council of Bishops' One Church Plan.

This plan would divide the church further, not unify it. Orthodox evangelicals would see this as a blatant contradiction of Scripture and the abandonment of our historic understanding of marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman. The turmoil of decades would simply be transferred from the General Conference to the local church level. We believe many orthodox evangelical churches and leaders would leave the denomination should this plan pass General Conference.

Please urge your church members representing you at Annual Conference to oppose such a proposal if presented.

May 12, 2018 from



10:00-10:45 a.m. CDT

Bishop Scott J. Jones of the Texas Annual Conference will host a webinar on the Way Forward by Live Stream on May 12, 2018 from 10:00-10:45 a.m. CDT.

Commission on a Way Forward members Jessica LaGrone and Leah Taylor will join the Bishop to update us on recent decisions from the Council of Bishops and to answer as many live questions during that time as possible. You are encouraged to join the presentation at :

www.txcumc.org/bishoplivevideo

Bishop Jones will also be available after the presentation to answer questions on-line.

May 2018



The Confessing Movement, along with other renewal groups, will continue to support future

plans for the UMC that are faithful to Holy Scripture, the doctrine and the Discipline of the UMC. Such a plan would need to maintain the current language in the Discipline on issues of homosexuality with increased accountability and enforcement while providing for a gracious exit strategy for those churches that cannot or will not abide by the official position of the UMC. This would include a way for churches to separate while keeping their property and have limited financial requirements. Historically, the trust clause has been a barrier for some churches who wish to leave because it provides the UMC owns the property, not the local congregation.

The Trust Clause

According to the Discipline, *“All properties of United Methodist local churches and other United Methodist agencies and institutions are held, in trust, for the benefit of the entire denomination, and ownership and usage of church property is subject to the Discipline. This trust ... reflects the connectional structure of the Church by ensuring that the property will be used solely for purposes consonant with the mission of the entire denomination as set forth in the Discipline. The trust requirement is thus a fundamental expression of United Methodism whereby local churches and other agencies and institutions within the denomination are both held accountable to and benefit from their connection with the entire worldwide Church”*.

The Trust Clause is irrevocable and pertains to all real and personal, tangible and intangible property.

A strong option for addressing this issue, would be for churches who desire to separate from the UMC to become Affiliated Autonomous churches. This would allow them to retain their property and would minimize the financial burden on the departing congregation. The language for this type of relationship is already in the Discipline and, therefore, would not require a constitutional amendment. There are already Affiliated Autonomous churches such as Puerto Rico and Great Britain.

We believe this type of plan has the greatest chance of passing General Conference unlike the One Church Plan or a Multi-branch plan that have been discussed and debated in various forms over the years.

Judicial Council Announces Special Session

A special called meeting of the Judicial Council (JC) will be held May 22-25, 2018 in response to the Council of Bishops' (COB) request for a ruling on whether petitions, other than what is proposed by the COB, can be submitted to the 2019 General Conference for consideration. The ruling is extremely important as there are several other petitions concerning conflicts over homosexuality that have been drafted should the bishops' plan be unacceptable to orthodox evangelicals. Whether they can be filed is critical to the 2019 General Conference agenda.

This meeting of the Judicial Council will be held following the COB meeting April 29–May 4 and the final Commission on a Way Forward meeting May 14-17.

Please pray for the Judicial Council.

“The most important thing my father taught me is that Jesus Christ is God’s Son who took your sins and mine to the cross, shed His blood for our sins, died in our place, and God raised him to life. He taught me that we needed to preach that message with urgency until Christ returns.”

Franklin Graham

Preaching the gospel with urgency applies to us and The United Methodist Church!

Contact Us

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