



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

The 2019 special called General Conference is over with the Traditional Plan having passed by a vote of 438-384.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Your continued support and prayers for The Confessing Movement, GC delegates and the UMC were essential to our efforts to get the Traditional Plan passed. Thank you for standing strong for Christ, Christ's church and the authority of Scripture.

Those parts of the Traditional Plan found constitutional after review by the Judicial Council in April 2019 will go into effect on January 1, 2020. There are still amendments that need to be passed at GC 2020 to bring everything into compliance with the Judicial Council's rulings and to add the necessary increased accountability needed for the Traditional Plan to be effective.

Please continue to support The Confessing Movement with your prayers and contributions as the conflict has not ended but is, in fact, deeper now with an increase in pledges for open and blatant disobedience.

Judicial Council to Determine if Petitions Passed are Constitutional

The rulings made and petitions passed at General Conference are in effect beginning January 1, 2020 unless overturned by the Judicial Council. According to church law, the Judicial Council is required to preserve as much of the legislation as they can. Therefore, they can rule parts of the Traditional Plan constitutional and other parts unconstitutional because they are independent of the others. If they rule correctly, these constitutional provisions should go into effect.

The Judicial Council is scheduled to meet April 23-26 2019 in Evanston, Illinois.

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What Happened at General Conference 2019

The Traditional Plan passed, however, in an advisory opinion prior to the legislative vote, the Judicial Council ruled that several provisions remained unconstitutional. At least 8 of the provisions passed at this General Conference are expected to be ruled constitutional at the Judicial Council's April 2019 meeting.

Petitions implementing accountability for annual conferences, providing the Traditional Plan's exit path and the Modified Traditional Plan's enhancements were all voted down in committee and were never able to be brought to the floor. Supporters of the Traditional Plan were ready with corrective amendments for consideration by the legislative committee but "filibustering" and delay tactics prevented these amendments from receiving a vote.

What Passed?

- An expanded definition of self-avowed practicing homosexual to include persons living in a same-sex marriage or union or who publicly proclaim themselves to be practicing homosexuals.
- Bishops are prohibited from consecrating a person as a bishop or ordaining clergy who are practicing homosexuals.
- Bishops cannot arbitrarily dismiss complaints against clergy.
- Persons serving on the annual board of ordained ministry must certify they will uphold and enforce the Book of Discipline's standards for ordained clergy.
- District committee and conference board of ministry are prohibited from recommending a candidate for ministry who does not meet the standards. Bishops must declare such candidates as out of order.
- Minimum penalty for performing same-sex weddings is 1 year unpaid leave (first offense) and loss of credentials (second offense).
- Involvement of complainant in all stages of the complaint process and every effort made to have complainant agree with any resolution
- Allowing the church to appeal a verdict of a trial court in cases of errors of church law or administration.
- A local church can disaffiliate from the denomination with their property in exchange for one (extra) year's apportionments and payment of pension liabilities. (*Petition 90066*)

On March 6, 2019 the Council of Bishops asked the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision as to the constitutionality and the meaning, application, and effect of Petition 90066, which was approved by the Special Session of the General Conference on February 26, 2019. They contend that the petition violates paragraph 33 by omitting the annual conference as the body ratifying a local church vote to change affiliation.

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"Confessing Jesus Christ as Son, Savior and Lord, The Confessing Movement exists to enable the United Methodist Church to retrieve its classical doctrinal identity, and to live it out as disciples of Jesus Christ."

***Purpose Statement of The Confessing Movement within
The United Methodist Church***

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