

## The Formation of New Denominations

Following the passage of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation at General Conference 2022, a new traditional denomination will be formed. The Global Methodist Church will faithfully uphold the Wesleyan Biblical tradition including supporting marriage as between one man and one woman.

The Liberation Methodist Connexion is also being formed according to their website [www.thelmx.org](http://www.thelmx.org) where they describe themselves as "...a grassroots denomination of former, current, and non-Methodist faith leaders." This denomination invites full participation including same sex marriage and ordination of all gender identities.

The Liberation Project, formed in late 2020, and some progressive leaders plan to stay in the post separation United Methodist Church in order to influence the denomination following separation.



# Pulse

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



**The Confessing Movement will host a webinar  
to discuss the Protocol of Reconciliation &  
Grace Through Separation and the Proposed  
Global Methodist Church**

**Saturday August 28, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Eastern Time**

**August 2021**

# Confessing Movement Webinar

August 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time

To participate in the webinar go to Zoom.com and click on *Join A Meeting* in the upper right hand corner.

The webinar ID is 966 0020 0193

If you have any questions, please contact us at [cm@confessingumc.org](mailto:cm@confessingumc.org) or call 317.356.9729.

## Webinar Speakers



**Dr. Riley Case,**  
Associate Director of The  
Confessing Movement and  
Retired UM Pastor



**Mary Daffin, Esq.,**  
Attorney and former member of  
the UMC Judicial Council.



**Dr. Maxie Dunnam,**  
CM President, Minister at Large  
of Christ UMC in Memphis, TN  
and, President Emeritus of  
Asbury Theological Seminary



**Dr. Steve Wende,**  
Confessing Movement Board  
Member and Retired UM  
Pastor



**Patricia Miller**  
(Facilitator),  
Executive Director of The  
Confessing Movement

## TRAGIC IRONY IN NORTH GEORGIA

BY REV. GREGORY D. STOVER

*Irony:* “The funny or strange aspect of a situation that is very different from what you expect.” (The Oxford Dictionary)

Early in July, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, and the North Georgia Annual Conference’s eight district superintendents determined by unanimous vote that “exigent circumstances” threaten the continued vitality and ministry of Mt. Bethel UMC. Consequently, they determined that all assets of Mt. Bethel must be seized and, under the authority of UM “Trust Clause,” be transferred within ten days to the North Georgia Conference Board of Trustees. This decision came after conflict among Bishop Hauptert-Johnson, the Mt. Bethel congregation, and Dr. Jody Ray over the Bishop’s unexpected decision to remove Dr. Ray as lead pastor without the consultation with either Dr. Ray or the Mt. Bethel Staff Parish Committee required by the Discipline.

The “Trust Clause” originated with John Wesley. As early as 1746 he required a “model deed” for Methodist preaching houses and chapels. One purpose was to prevent dissident Methodists from taking Methodist property for their own purposes. However, the “model deed” was inspired by a deeper purpose. As the late Thomas Oden (Drew Seminary) argued, it was meant to protect the people called Methodist from doctrine and teaching inconsistent with

that contained in Mr. Wesley’s Notes on the New Testament and/or four volumes of sermons.

Here is the irony! Bishop Hauptert-Johnson, relying on the trust clause, implemented to protect faithful doctrine, is disciplining a pastor and congregation with a history of faithful adherence to the doctrine and teachings of the UMC. At the same time, she has pressed the North Georgia Annual Conference to espouse teachings and implement policies on human sexuality specifically rejected by the General Conference as late as during the 2019 Special Session.

The situation is ironic, but not funny. It looks and feels more like the “tragic irony” of Greek drama. Mt. Bethel, under Dr. Ray’s leadership, far from lacking vitality or losing its mission, continues to be one of the leading churches of the North Georgia Annual Conference in membership, attendance, and effective ministry. This tragic and ironic situation represents one more glimpse into the reasons that the Global Methodist Church moves ever closer to birth.

## Contact Us

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