

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Affiliation under The Protocols and Voting



The attendees at the October 24th meeting have requested information about the voting which might take place pursuant to the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation (“The Protocol.”) The Protocol calls for the continuation of The United Methodist Church (“post-separation United Methodist Church”) and the creation of other affiliated Methodist denominations.

Where does Buncombe Street fall in the structure of the United Methodist Church?

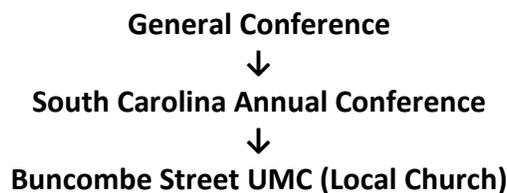
The United Methodist Church (UMC) is organized and structured in a “connectional” system. At the top is the General Conference, which consists of all the Annual Conferences (within the US) and Central Conferences (outside the US or worldwide). As Buncombe Street UMC, we are members of the South Carolina Annual Conference, and the South Carolina Annual Conference sends its delegates to General Conference.

What is being amended in the post-separation United Methodist Church?

It is anticipated that the post-separation United Methodist Church will amend the current Book of Discipline relative to issues of human sexuality as it relates to same-sex weddings, marriages and ordination, as well as many other regulatory issues. While no other Methodist denominations have yet to be legally formed, it is anticipated that the newly created Methodist denomination(s) will adopt the current or more traditional view relative to issues of human sexuality.

How would the voting to determine denomination affiliations occur?

If *The Protocol* is adopted at the next General Conference, the voting to determine denomination affiliations would occur in a cascading fashion from General Conference to SC Annual Conference to Buncombe Street UMC, along the following sequence:



Given that General Conference 2020 has been delayed until August 2022, the exact timeline for voting is uncertain.

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How will voting occur if The Protocol is adopted by the General Conference?

Should *The Protocol* be adopted by the General Conference **without amendment**, Annual Conferences and then Local Churches may vote to align with any new Methodist denominations formed pursuant to *The Protocol*. Therefore, the potential for a cascading vote would first occur at the South Carolina Annual Conference, followed by a potential vote at a BSUMC church conference.

- South Carolina Annual Conference – An affiliation vote must be conducted if 20% of those delegates support a motion to conduct such a vote. In order for the South Carolina Annual conference to affiliate with a newly created Methodist denomination, the vote must be supported by 57% of those delegates voting. If the Annual Conference does **not** take a vote, all churches in South Carolina will automatically align with the post-separation United Methodist Church. (See, *Protocol* at Article III, 1.c.).
- Local Church – Should BSUMC question its affiliation from that selected by the South Carolina Annual Conference with a proper motion, our church council will determine a voting threshold of either a simple majority or a two-thirds majority of those members “present and voting” at a duly-called Church Conference. The vote on a motion to opt for an affiliation different from that chosen by the Annual Conference shall be held not more than 60 days after the request for such vote is made by church council. (See, *Protocol* at Article III, 1.d.).

Who is eligible to vote at a local church level?

Currently, *The Protocol* is silent as to voting eligibility at the local church level. We are hopeful that additional legislation or resolution at General Conference will clarify the particulars of voting eligibility. According to the *Book of Discipline*, at ¶ 248, “Professing Members” of local churches present at a duly constituted church conference will be eligible to vote (2016).

**** Again, this voting structure would only be valid should “The Protocol” be adopted by the General Conference *without* amendment. ****