

Glossary and Information about UMC

General Conference (GC)- World wide body of elected clergy and laity 1:1 ratio that is the main legislative body of the UMC. They meet every four years, the last regularly scheduled one that met was 2016, at that Conference they called a special GC to discuss the issue of human sexuality in 2019. The outcome of that was affirmation of current position and some strengthening of discipline for rule breakers. Next regularly scheduled conference was 2020, delayed to 2021, then 2022, then 2024.

Jurisdictional Conference (JC)- Regional geographic regions in the USA that meet after GC every four years. Sole purpose is to elect and then appoint Bishops with in the Jurisdiction. We are a part of the South Central Jurisdiction. It is made up of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. There are twelve Annual Conferences in this Jurisdiction.

Annual Conference- (AC) - We are a part of the Texas Annual Conference which is not the whole state. We roughly start in Texarkana move down 59 and expand west to take in Tyler, Bryan College Station (not Austin) go as far West as Rockdale then as far south as Freeport the Eastern boundary being the Louisiana state line. It meets annually and is made up of equal numbers of lay and clergy representatives.

There is currently scheduled a special session of the Texas Annual Conference for December 3rd for the purpose of adopt and approve the disaffiliation of churches who have completed the process to this point.

Judicial Council (JuC)- The Judicial Council is comprised of nine members elected by the General Conference. Their role is to ascertain the constitutionality and legality of acts or proposed acts of the General, Jurisdictional, Central and Annual Conferences in light of the most current United Methodist Book of Discipline and previous rulings of the Judicial Council. They are our Supreme Court, their decisions are final and there is no appeal.

Glossary and Information about UMC

General Conference (GC)- World wide body of elected clergy and laity 1:1 ratio that is the main legislative body of the UMC. They meet every four years, the last regularly scheduled one that met was 2016, at that Conference they called a special GC to discuss the issue of human sexuality in 2019. The outcome of that was affirmation of current position and some strengthening of discipline for rule breakers. Next regularly scheduled conference was 2020, delayed to 2021, then 2022, then 2024.

Jurisdictional Conference (JC)- Regional geographic regions in the USA that meet after GC every four years. Sole purpose is to elect and then appoint Bishops with in the Jurisdiction. We are a part of the South Central Jurisdiction. It is made up of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. There are twelve Annual Conferences in this Jurisdiction.

Annual Conference- (AC) - We are a part of the Texas Annual Conference which is not the whole state. We roughly start in Texarkana move down 59 and expand west to take in Tyler, Bryan College Station (not Austin) go as far West as Rockdale then as far south as Freeport the Eastern boundary being the Louisiana state line. It meets annually and is made up of equal numbers of lay and clergy representatives.

There is currently scheduled a special session of the Texas Annual Conference for December 3rd for the purpose of adopt and approve the disaffiliation of churches who have completed the process to this point.

Judicial Council (JuC)- The Judicial Council is comprised of nine members elected by the General Conference. Their role is to ascertain the constitutionality and legality of acts or proposed acts of the General, Jurisdictional, Central and Annual Conferences in light of the most current United Methodist Book of Discipline and previous rulings of the Judicial Council. They are our Supreme Court, their decisions are final and there is no appeal.

Helpful Links – Great Places to Start

United Methodist Church Book of Discipline
<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

Global Methodist Church Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline
<https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

Navigating the Waters with Bishop Scott Jones
<https://www.txcumc.org/navigating-the-waters-webinar-with-bishop-jones>

Comparison of *predicted* differences in UMC and GMC
<https://omniamethodist.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/a-comprehensive-comparison-chart.pdf>

Atascocita UMC's Discernment Resources (highly commended by Pastor Mark)
<https://www.aumc.org/resources/>

Nearly exhaustive list of online articles, posts, and news related to UMC tensions
<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2022/07/28/um-fallout-a-compendium/>

note: sometimes information goes out of date due to changing circumstances. Please be aware of the date any given article or video was made. If something doesn't sound right – ask questions!

Helpful Links – Great Places to Start

United Methodist Church Book of Discipline
<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

Global Methodist Church Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline
<https://globalmethodist.org/what-we-believe/>

Navigating the Waters with Bishop Scott Jones
<https://www.txcumc.org/navigating-the-waters-webinar-with-bishop-jones>

Comparison of *predicted* differences in UMC and GMC
<https://omniamethodist.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/a-comprehensive-comparison-chart.pdf>

Atascocita UMC's Discernment Resources (highly commended by Pastor Mark)
<https://www.aumc.org/resources/>

Nearly exhaustive list of online articles, posts, and news related to UMC tensions
<https://peopleneedjesus.net/2022/07/28/um-fallout-a-compendium/>

note: sometimes information goes out of date due to changing circumstances. Please be aware of the date any given article or video was made. If something doesn't sound right – ask questions!