

# UNITED METHODISTS FOR THE SIMPLE PLAN



For everyone, a seat at the table.

*The Simple Plan* removes all identity-based, discriminatory, and punitive language from the Book of Discipline, favoring grace and religious freedom over institutional law, following John Wesley's example.

*The Simple Plan* is the most inclusive, least intrusive step forward with regard to human sexuality, and is the only plan that embodies "Do No Harm" on the institutional level, as all other plans codify harmful discrimination.

The choice is simple, it's time to move forward with *The Simple Plan*.



I do not want to look back upon 2019 as another lamentable time in UMC history when we inflicted pain. I do not want to be part of a vote that people in the future will look back upon as shameful. The Simple Plan removes the words that cast judgment and creates no additional language to continue to fight over.

Elisa Gatz

General Conference Delegate



The Simple Plan (in its clarion call to remove the current language of exclusion, harm, and lovelessness) is a simple call to bring the full and authentic United Methodist Church into a space where sacred worth is measured by our love for God and for each other, full stop.

Rev. Kai Greer

UMC Pastor



The Simple Plan enables United Methodists to live within their civil states without imposing segregation and oppression. It recognizes that although United Methodists worship and live together with differing views and cultural perspectives we serve as God's faithful witnesses to those living on the margins.

Karen G. Prudente

General Conference Delegate

## Action Items

1. **Read the Plan at [UM-Forward.org](http://UM-Forward.org).** Pray and consider the continued harm that would be done to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters without it.
2. **Sign On.** Sign your support of The Simple Plan at [UM-Forward.org](http://UM-Forward.org). OCP supporters are encouraged to support both plans.
3. **Tell Your Delegates.** Write your delegates about why you like the Simple Plan and let them know where they can get more information.

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## Contact Us

[UM-Forward.org](http://UM-Forward.org)

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## SIMPLE PLAN

## ONE CHURCH PLAN

## CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCES

## TRADITIONALIST PLAN

Impact on local congregations

Congregations continue to decide on the use of their facilities. There are no sanctions established for discrimination.  
Congregations may receive LGBTQ+ clergy and to host marriages for same-sex couples.

Congregations may ban same-sex weddings in their facilities and may refuse the service of LGBTQ+ clergy.  
Others may decide to receive LGBTQ+ clergy and to perform same-sex marriages and will not be punished.

Congregations may align with the CC selected by their region or they may vote by majority to join a different CC.  
Decisions on same-sex weddings in their facilities will be determined by the policies of the CC.

Congregations that do not sign a statement vowing to obey the Book of Discipline must leave the UMC.  
Departing congregations would keep their assets, property, and liabilities but must pay their fair share of unfunded pension liabilities/

Impact on clergy

Clergy would continue to have the discretion to marry couples who are ready for marriage.  
LGBTQ+ clergy could be ordained if qualified with the graces of God required for ministry.

Ends trials against clergy for celebrating same-sex weddings.  
Trials might begin based on the remaining funding ban.  
Clergy may decide whether they are willing to preside at same-sex weddings.  
Clergy who choose not to continue serving in the UMC may exit and their pensions will be protected.

Clergy choose to affiliate with one or more CCs.  
Clergy must abide by standards of the CC.  
Ordinations are recognized by all CC's but clergy must be accepted by CC.  
Clergy affiliation will be a factor in appointments led by cabinet of each CC.

Clergy who reject the Book of Discipline around same-sex marriage and ordination must leave the UMC.  
The plan mandates that any just resolution reached during a clergy complaint process must include a commitment not to repeat the offense.

Impact on General Church

General agencies and church structures will remain the same.  
Judicial Council, Council of Bishops, and General Conference will enjoy reduced pressures and costs of trials and fewer conflict-ridden legislative events.

Judicial Council, Council of Bishops, & General Conference will still face conflict based on the funding ban.  
General church will not provide funds to LGBTQ+ ministries and programs.

Boards/agencies would provide service on a fee for service basis.  
Church & Society and commissions on race and gender would be eliminated.  
Judicial Council would oversee as many as 8 Disciplines  
Each connectional conference may organize a judicial body.  
General Conference may be shorter and focus on the UMC constitution and administration.

We can expect the same requirement off signing a promise to obey the Book of Discipline from agency employees and boards.  
The General Board of Church & Society and commissions on race and gender would go.  
Seminaries, colleges, and universities may find their funding linked to obedience to the Book of Discipline