

The Commission's Task

To find a way forward for the UMC that can:

- *Be as connected and unified as possible*
- *Be as agile, responsive and contextual as possible*
- *Address the widest global and cultural mission field as possible*



The Commission's Members

32 people selected by the Council of Bishops:

- Men & Women, Straight & Gay
- Laity, Elders, Deacons & Bishops
- Young Adults to Older Adults
- Citizens of 9 different nations on 4 continents
- A range of social & theological positions
- Some representing lobby groups from left/right/middle on the issue of LGBTQ inclusion



It starts with RELATIONSHIP

- Listening
- Empathy
- Connection
- TRUST

ONE CHURCH MODEL

- Each Annual Conference decides ordination
 - Each clergy decides marriage
- Each local church decides wedding policies
- Each Annual Conference pays for their bishop & supports Central Conferences through apportionments



One Church Model (Cont.)

- Removes current prohibitive language from BOD
- Honors diversity of perspectives
- Maintains global connection while honoring cultural and geographic differences
- No constitutional amendments required
- Little disruption to mission, or to UMC Boards, Agencies or institutions
- Allows mission in line with context relative to LGBTQ inclusion

CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCES MODEL

- Creates 3 different “branches” of UMC with clearly defined values
- 5 US Jurisdictions replaced by 3 “Connectional Conferences” covering the whole country, based on theology/perspective on LGBTQ inclusion
 - ❖ Progressive Conference
 - ❖ Contextual Conference
 - ❖ Traditional Conference

Connectional Conference (cont)

- Requires vote by Jurisdictions and Central Conferences
- Creates potential for Annual Conference and local church votes
- Requires major changes to organizational structure
- Requires constitutional changes
- Redefines connectionalism
- Offers “space” for ideological differences

TRADITIONALIST MODEL

- Current prohibitive language of Book of Discipline remains in place (re: LGBTQ exclusion)
- Accountability to these restrictions is more vigorously enforced (more church trials)
- Potentially impacts UMC Boards, Agencies & Institutions
- Requires exit of clergy, bishops, annual conferences and churches opposing current BOD stance

What is at Stake for Us

