

#UMCGC

What just happened?

The 3Rs: Legislative Summary

Reconciling Ministries Network



REMOVAL OF ANTI-LGBTQ POLICY & LANGUAGE

The General Conference voted overwhelmingly in support of policy changes that neutralized anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Now, the language that LGBTQ+ people are “**incompatible** with Christian teaching” is gone – as is the prohibition on “**self-avowed and practicing homosexual**” clergy and candidates.

In addition, performing a **same-sex wedding** is no longer a chargeable offense.

ADOPTION OF THE REVISED SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

The Revised Social Principles undergird the purpose of the UMC's ministries in the world. They represent values and ideals that the Church has agreed to live up to, including the advancement of social progress and the well-being of people and planet.

This updated set of social principles not only writes in **protections for people who are LGBTQ+**; they also challenge the Church to address economic injustice, racism, colonialism, reproductive health, the death penalty, disability injustice, and much more.

REGIONALIZATION

The General Conference approved 8 pieces of legislation that will work together to **reconstitute the global structure of the Church.**

The Church's current U.S.-centric approach, calls all non-U.S. regions of the Church "central conferences."

If ratified, the resulting structure would **make all conferences into regional conferences.** The U.S. regional conference would be allowed to **contextualize the Book of Discipline** for its own cultures, just like central conferences currently do. Legislation also allows for the creation of a U.S. regional conference.

REGIONALIZATION (NOT RATIFIED YET!)

Because this bundle of legislation calls for a constitutional amendment, it needs to be ratified by annual conferences in addition to its 2/3 approval vote at the general conference.

That means that advocates for a more globally equitable Church and for LGBTQ+ justice in the U.S. Church must **now organize support for *ratification*** at the annual conference level.

You'll be hearing more from your RMN organizers soon about how you can mobilize the local Church.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR JUSTICE

- Deacons may now preside over sacraments.
- The UMC approved a formal apology for its role in the illegal overthrow of the kingdom of Hawai'i in 1893.
- The UMC approved a formal apology to victims and survivors of sexual misconduct by UMC clergy and lay leaders.
- The Church will seek to divest from Israeli government bonds
- The UMC condemned racist and gender-based violence against Asian Americans.
- The Church recommits to combatting racism and colonialism.