

What in the World are United Methodists Up To? **Planned denomination gets name (excerpts) By Sam Hodges**

Full article can be read at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/planned-denomination-gets-name>
March 1, 2021 | UM News *Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News.*

Traditionalists committed to leaving The United Methodist Church have chosen “Global Methodist Church” as the name for the denomination they plan to launch. The group also unveiled on March 1 a logo and **website**. The work toward a new denomination is guided by a transitional leadership council, which includes some retired United Methodist bishops.

“The primary mission of the Global Methodist Church will be to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly,” said the Rev. Keith Boyette, chair of the transitional leadership council.

But the official start and legal organization of the Global Methodist Church may well be more than a year and a half away. Boyette and other leaders are counting on passage of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, **a plan negotiated by centrist, progressive, and traditionalist United Methodist leaders** to end the denomination’s longstanding conflict over how accepting to be of homosexuality.

The protocol would let traditionalist churches and even annual conferences vote to leave and form another denomination, with \$25 million to start. However, the protocol requires approval by General Conference, The United Methodist Church’s global lawmaking assembly.

The 2020 General Conference was delayed for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic and **has been postponed again** — until August 29-September 6, 2022 — because the public health emergency continues. A special one-day, online General Conference has been called by the Council of Bishops for May 8, but it’s only to deal with 12 legislative items whose passage will help the denomination carry on administratively until a full General Conference can happen. The protocol is not on the limited agenda for May 8.

“We’re proceeding according to plan, which is we would legally form and operationalize the Global Methodist Church upon adoption of the implementation legislation for the protocol,” Boyette said by phone. He added that if, in the meantime, there’s erosion of support for the protocol among those who negotiated it, the Global Methodist Church will consider going ahead with an official launch.

Boyette said he has seen no such wavering. He noted that the Reconciling Ministries Network — which advocates for full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in The United Methodist Church, and whose executive director, Jan Lawrence, was on the protocol negotiating team — reiterated support for the protocol **in a recent statement**. The RMN statement also expressed support for the **Christmas Covenant**, a restructuring plan for The United Methodist Church that allows for more regional policymaking....

The Wesleyan Covenant Association, led by Boyette, **formed in 2016** and has been planning for a new denomination. Boyette said the WCA will continue to exist even though the Global Methodist Church has a name, logo, and transitional leadership council. “I’ve often described (the WCA) as a midwife to bring to birth a new denomination. We will continue to pursue that objective,” Boyette said. “Our expectation is that once the Global Methodist Church is functioning and has its convening conference, the Wesleyan Covenant Association will have fulfilled its mission.”...

Another group of traditional leaders met in Atlanta about a year ago to cast a vision for the new denomination, and the group recently met virtually, calling for passage of the protocol as soon as possible. That group includes active bishops, but Boyette said he “can’t speak for them” as to whether they would leave The United Methodist Church for the Global Methodist Church. Nor would Boyette estimate how many churches will be a part of the Global Methodist Church at its launch.

Late last year a group of progressive United Methodists **launched a new denomination** called Liberation Methodist Connexion, or LMX.

Bold and underlined = Additional info available at [umnews.org](https://www.umnews.org)