

GENERAL CONFERENCE



Delegates to the postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting April 23-May 3, 2024, adopted several changes to the denomination's Book of Discipline and its Social Principles regarding human sexuality. It is important that South Carolina United Methodists know what has changed and what hasn't.

What has changed

The General Conference removed restrictive language in The Book of Discipline pertaining to human sexuality.

What has not changed

The General Conference did not add any language requiring local churches or pastors to host or preside over same-sex weddings and did not add any language requiring annual conferences and boards of ordained ministry to commission or ordain openly gay candidates for ministry.

What this means for the local church

- ◆ Local churches can choose to open their sanctuary for a same-sex wedding, but they are not required to do so.
- ◆ Pastors can choose to officiate a same-sex wedding, but they are not required to do so.
- ◆ Bishops will continue to make appointments, in consultation with local church leaders, to ensure the best pastoral leadership for the church's ministry context.