

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) #4 The Global Methodist Church

Why have I never heard of the Global Methodist Church?

The Global Methodist Church (GMC) is a new denomination launch on May 1, 2022. It has been in formation for almost 6 years as a landing place for former United Methodist Churches (UMC) that have disaffiliated from the UMC. The preparation accelerated in the summer of 2019 in response to the increased conflicts within the UMC after the 2019 Special General Conference. While only a few months old, the GMC already has hundreds of Churches in the US and overseas. By the end of 2022, there will be dozens of GM Churches in Indiana.

Can you tell me about the beliefs of the GMC?

The doctrines of the GMC will be very, very similar to the official doctrines of the current UMC. The difference between the two denominations will be that the GMC intends to fully follow their stated beliefs in practice whereas major portions of the UMC espouse beliefs and follow practices that are not consistent with their stated beliefs.

One of the specific differences in beliefs between the GMC and the UMC is that the GMC will explicitly embrace the historic creeds of the Christian faith. These are the **Apostle's Creed**, the **Nicene Creed**, and the **Definition of Chalcedon** (a doctrinal description of Jesus). The UMC beliefs do not explicitly embrace these creeds. Both the UMC and GMC consider the Articles of Religion (inherited from the Methodist Church) and the Confessions of Faith (inherited from the EUB Church) to be foundational documents. The GMC is planning to merge these two documents and rewrite them using more modern phrasing.

Here are a few specific statements from the GMC's *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline*:

On Life:

- We believe that life is a holy gift of God whose beginnings and endings are set by God, and that it is the particular duty of believers to protect those who may be powerless to protect themselves, including the unborn, those with disabilities or serious illness, and the aged (*Genesis 2:7, Leviticus 19:32, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:41-44*).

On Holiness:

- We believe that followers of God have been called to exercise self-control and holiness in their personal lives, generosity and kindness in their relations with others, and grace in all matters of life (*Romans 12:9-21, Galatians 5:22-23*).

On Race:

- We believe that all persons irrespective of their station or circumstances in life have been made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity, justice, and respect. We denounce as sin racism, sexism, and other expressions that unjustly discriminate against any person (*Genesis 1-2, Deuteronomy 16:19-20, Luke 11:42, 19:9, Colossians 3:11*).

On Sexuality:

- We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman (*Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:22-33*).

- We are saddened by all expressions of sexual behavior, including pornography, polygamy, and promiscuity, that do not recognize the sacred worth of each individual or that seek to exploit, abuse, objectify, or degrade others, or that represent less than God’s intentional design for His children. While affirming a scriptural view of sexuality and gender, we welcome all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus and are committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives (*Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20*).

Will the GMC have a trust clause or any other type of claim on a church’s property?

No. None whatsoever. If we disaffiliate from the UMC, Mt. Auburn will become a non-profit corporation governed by a set of by-laws. The corporation will hold the deed to the property. All members of Mt. Auburn will be voting members of the corporation.

Where will Global Methodist Churches get their future pastors?

The GMC will have an organizational structure similar to the UMC with District Superintendents and Bishops. Just like in the UMC, the District Superintendent will help the church find the pastor that is the best fit for their congregation and the bishop will finalize that appointment. Unlike the UMC, the GMC’s District Superintendent will consult heavily with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, usually offering more than one candidate that the committee members will be allowed to interview prior to the bishop’s appointment. Also, in a departure from the UMC’s practices, pastors will not be moved unless either the pastor or the church lay leadership requests a change.

Will GMC churches be required to pay denominational support?

Yes, but at a much lower level than the UMC. Right now, as a United Methodist congregation, Mt. Auburn pays 11.5% of your contributions (~\$120,000) per year to the Indiana Annual Conference. The GMC denominational support payments will start at 2% (~\$21,000) during the initial years of formation then rise slowly to a maximum of 6.5% (~\$68,000) in subsequent years. This amount is a substantial savings to Mt. Auburn that can be used to fund real ministry and mission opportunities.

Does the GMC exclude LGBTQIA+ people from their churches?

No. All people – all – will be welcome at Global Methodist Churches. The mission of the Global Methodist Church is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, **love extravagantly**, and witness boldly.” *[Emphasis added]*

¶ 103. PRINCIPLES OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER in the GMC’s *Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline* describes one of the hopes for all of their churches as: “Model the love of God in order to respond to the summons to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. To this end we are committed to fulfill the commandment in John 21 of lovingly feeding and tending to the flock of God and others, worshiping God in spirit, and in truth and watching over one another in love.”

If Mt. Auburn disaffiliates and joins the Global Methodist Church, we will continue to be a place “Where Love Works”.