



Post-GC20 Talking Points

- The General Conference removed the exclusionary language that was first inserted in the Book of Discipline 52 years ago regarding LGBTQ persons.
- General Conference removed restrictive language regarding serving in ministry. Boards of Ordained Ministry will continue to credential gifted, effective candidates who meet the educational and professional qualifications of the *Book of Discipline* and who show evidence of the call of God for licensed, commissioned, and ordained ministry.
- The Appointive Cabinet will work in consultation with churches and clergy to discern the missional and contextual needs of congregations and match those with the gifts and qualities of pastoral leadership. LGBTQ pastors will be appointed to churches where they can be most fruitful and where congregations will thrive under their leadership.
- No clergy may be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing any marriage, union or blessing of any couple, including same-gender couples.
- The church Board of Trustees (or other governing body that sets the policy for facility and property use) in consultation with their pastors, continue to determine the wedding policies for their church. No local church will be prohibited from holding same-sex marriage services on their property and no church will be compelled to do so.
- The Revised Social Principles was adopted. The Revised Social Principles' amended definition of marriage is: *"Within the church, we affirm marriage as a sacred lifelong covenant that brings two people of faith, an adult man and an adult woman, or two adult persons of consenting age into union with one another."*
- Regionalization legislation was adopted. This was an effort to put all geographic regions on equal footing. Ratification requires 2/3 vote at the NM annual conference and consequently, 2/3 vote of all annual conferences. The legislation will *not* be taken up at the 2024 NM Annual Conference.
- Deacons are authorized to offer Sacraments in their ministry settings.
- The Wespath Compass clergy retirement plan was adopted.
- The 2025-2028 budget was approved at \$373.4 million. Annual Conferences will be asked to pay less in apportionments.
- Disaffiliation policy Paragraph 2553 is removed from the *Book of Discipline*. With a spirit of grace, a re-affiliation measure was approved to be developed by each Annual Conference.
- As John Wesley said, *"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may."*

Additional information may be found at www.nmconfum.com/general-conference-2020.

Questions – Please contact your District Superintendent.