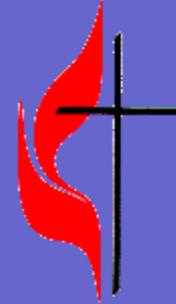
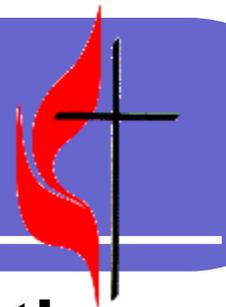


How Did We Get Here?



History of the UMC and the issue of Humansexuality

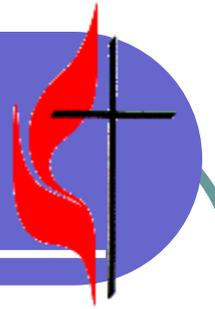
How Did We Get Here?



1972: UMC became the first denomination to adopt a statement favoring civil rights for gay and lesbian persons:

“homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are persons of sacred worth ... we insist that all persons have their human and civil rights ensured”

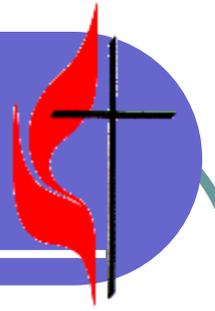
How Did We Get Here?



1972 General Conference added amendment from the floor:

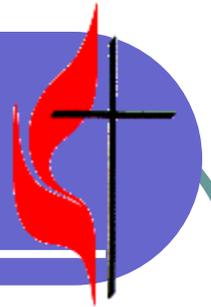
“although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching”

How Did We Get Here?



1976 General Conference defeated motions to rescind the “incompatible” language, and adopted motions to restrict use of any UM funds to any gay caucus or group otherwise used to promote “the acceptance of homosexuality”

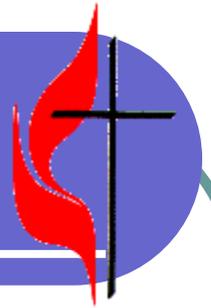
How Did We Get Here?



1980 General Conference debated whether to prohibit self-avowed practicing homosexuals from being ordained and appointed. Defeated that proposal.

Instead adopted: *“The UMC has moved away from the prohibition of specific acts, for such prohibitions are endless. We affirm our trust in the covenant community and the process by which we ordain ministers.”*

How Did We Get Here?



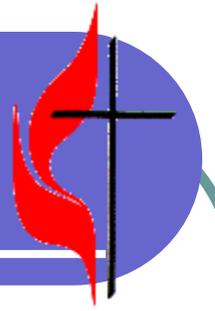
1984 General Conference adopted this standard for ordained clergy:

“commitment to fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness”

They also added:

“Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the UMC”

How Did We Get Here?

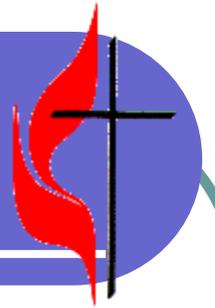


1988 General Conference voted to form a study process for the 1988-1992 quadrennium on homosexuality.

Also voted to add these words to Social Principles:

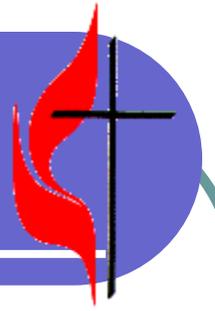
“We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.”

How Did We Get Here?



1992 General Conference heard the report of the study on homosexuality but made no changes in the Discipline by a vote of 710 for and 238 against.

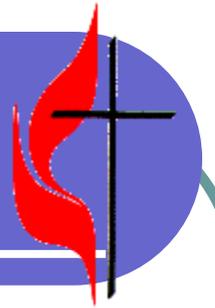
How Did We Get Here?



1996 General Conference added:

“Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

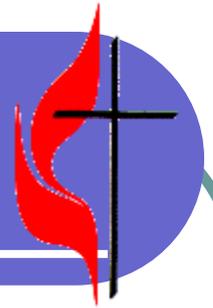
How Did We Get Here?



2000 General Conference affirmed the same statements that previous General Conferences had added. The “demonstrations” against those statements was intensified.

2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 General Conferences also affirmed these statements, and narrowly defeated a proposal to state that we disagree. Demonstrations increased.

How Did We Get Here?

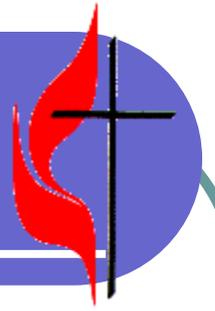


2018 Special Called General Conference gave churches who wanted to leave the UMC a provision to do so. This provision expires in December of 2023. There was also a resolution to bring before the 2020 General Conference a “protocol” for peaceful separation from the UMC.

2020,2021,2022 General Conference was postponed (Covid)

2024 Next called General Conference

How Did We Get Here?



Our UMC has always (at least since 1972) affirmed equal civil rights for gays and lesbians.

Our UMC has always denounced and condemned “hate language” and other forms of prejudice against gays and lesbians.

Our UMC has obvious regional differences, within the US and especially outside the US with regard to opinions on these issues.

C) Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Paragraph 161

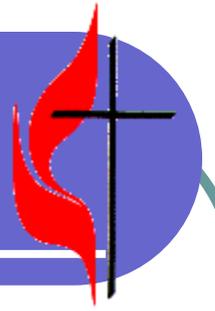
G) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence.

The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.

teaching. We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

How Did We Get Here?



In recent years the protests and acts of “biblical obedience” or disobedience against the Discipline have increased.

Also in recent years the number of “dialogues” and other conversations about these issues have increased in many parts of our UMC.

Recent US court decisions to legalize same-gender marriage have heightened the differences, protests, and dialogue.