

**(Please note, duplicate questions and answers from both sessions have been combined to form this document)**

1. Why is there no presence in South America?  
**Response** - There are Methodists in South America, particularly Brazil but they are not members of the United Methodist Church.
2. When do we get a new Bishop?  
**Response** - There is a possibility that Bishop Holston may be retiring but this is not certain at this time. If this is the case, then a new Bishop will be elected.
3. Where is the Holston Conference?  
**Response** - The Holston Conference is located in Tennessee.
4. Why are husband and wife allowed to go to the Annual Conference as delegates?  
**Response** - It is difficult to find church members to volunteer to attend this week conference. Also, it is a cost effective measure for the church as there is a savings with hotel accommodations.
5. What levels vote on what?  
**Response** - The Jurisdictional Conference elects bishops, the General Conference deals with legislative issues and also can change the Book of Discipline.
6. If the South Carolina Conference says all paper work must be done by December 31st, Why are we starting now, is it too late?  
**Response**- If SUMC chose to disaffiliate in 2024, the Annual Conference would not approve/disapprove the request until June/July 2025. Disaffiliation is not a closed window. Paperwork is submitted to the Annual Conference, not the General Conference. .  
  
General Conference meets every 4 years. The last update to the Book of Discipline was 2016. This is due to COVID. Jurisdictional Conference meets every 4 years. This allows people to solidify relationships and also get more business done.
7. At General Conference, do they usually change the Book of Discipline.  
**Response** - No. A large majority is needed to make a change in the Book of Discipline. It is difficult to make a change to the Book of Discipline due to the limited time they meet. The United Methodist Church supports various social issues such as organ and tissue donation, adoption and a belief structure for AIDS.
8. General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference do they meet the same year or are they on some type of cycle?  
**Response**-Both conferences meet the same year, therefore they are on the same cycle.
9. Why did some churches already leave?  
**Response**-There is not a time frame in leaving. The church will be given adequate time to make a decision. Also there is no sunset clause. It is an extremely serious decision and far reaching consequences for years down the road.
10. At each level of the organization, how does a resolution pass and go to the next level?  
**Response** - at the Annual Conference there are resolutions. Oftentimes the resolutions are recommendations from the Annual Conference with very little standing. The resolutions are recorded and may be published but overall do not have a major impact.

11. "At the Very Top, how does it pass?"  
**Response** - will be covered during Session 2. For a resolution to pass at the General Conference, to change the Book of Discipline a large majority is needed. When you have hundreds of thousands of people present it passes very slowly, if ever.
12. "Does anyone but God have the veto?"  
**Response** - yes and there will be further discussion on this question. Not certain but once the answer is found, this question will be updated on the website.
13. "Why would you disaffiliate now if the Book of Discipline not been changed?"  
**Response** - We have not spoken to other churches for their reasons for leaving before any changes to the Book of Discipline have been made.  
  
Many are leaving because of the General Conference possibly changing the Book of Discipline. People are upset with the topic of who can be married and who can serve as a minister and what is their sexual orientation. This topic is different all over the world. As an example in the US we are far more progressive where as Africa, West Africa and Congo, if you have progressive thought processes you could be killed. To have the Book of Discipline change to this extent is highly unlikely as it has far consequences to the point of death for some people.  
  
Yes it is possible. The main topic, sexual orientation will be a topic of discussion. This level is political in nature and there are usually many topics up for discussion.
14. "Who presides over General Conference Elected Officials?"  
**Response** - The Council of Bishops.
15. At the General Conference, what other issues are being discussed?  
**Response** - I will contact some general delegates for those issues and get back to you. (Once these issues are provided, this question will be updated on this page)
16. When does the Annual Conference and General Conference meet?  
**Response** - Annual Conference meets in June and the General Conference meets the end of April/beginning of May. During Annual Conference this year there will be discussion of what is discussed during General Conference. If there is a lot of special business that needs to be addressed, the Bishop can call a "Special Annual Conference" and there has been discussion this may occur this year. General Conference meets for one week. This year the General Conference will be held in Charlotte. All the delegates all over the world will be in attendance. The majority needed to pass a change is more than 51%.
17. Will the General Conference be televised?  
**Response** - It may be televised but will be live-streamed on line.
18. Will Bishops be voted this year?  
**Response** - No. There is not going to be any votes on Bishops this year. I am not sure when the next vote will be.
19. Will The Brook remain United Methodist?  
**Response** - We believe so. Due to the buyout cost as well as they are in the process of adding on to their church. This church is in its infancy as it was just formed last year when 3 churches were combined to one, thus forming The Brook.

