

ISSUE 2 | VOLUME 2
DSCUMC.ORG/WAY-FORWARD



DSC WAY FORWARD

MOVING FORWARD THROUGH
GOD'S CALL TO BE A
COURAGEOUS CHURCH



Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

INVITATION

Primary Goal

Moving forward through God's call to be a courageous church.

This resource is designed to provide information about what has been happening within The United Methodist Church since General Conference 2016. The hope is that this resource will encourage congregations to engage in conversation regarding the church's future. This just-the-facts guide seeks to answer the questions:

- What happened?
- What does this mean for the local church?
- How did the Desert Southwest Conference respond?
- What happens next?
- What can the local church do?
- How can I stay informed?

Following the discussion of these questions is a 2019-2020 timeline.

The local church is where the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church is carried out. Use this resource to clarify what has happened and what is at stake for the local church and to gather for prayer and discernment about the next steps for the health and vitality of the church's ministries.

Terms & Definitions

General Conference

The global meeting of The United Methodist Church that gathers every four years, and when specially called. Voting delegates (half clergy, half laity) are elected from each Annual Conference to vote on matters of church law. General Conference is the only body that speaks on behalf of the entire denomination.

Central Conference

The regional collection of Annual Conferences outside of the United States that meets to determine how to carry out contextually appropriate ministry in accordance with General Conference and elect bishops for their geographical region.

Jurisdictional Conference

The regional collection of Annual Conferences in the United States that meets after General Conference to elect bishops for their geographical region and determine how to organize for regional ministry in accordance with The Book of Discipline. The Desert Southwest Conference is in the Western Jurisdiction.

Annual Conference

The terms Annual Conference and Conference are interchangeable, referring to the collection of churches within a geographical area. The Annual Conference is the basic body of The United Methodist Church that represents churches (laity and clergy) to the General Conference and holds these churches in community and connection throughout the year, culminating in an annual meeting. This annual meeting, led by a bishop and composed primarily of clergy and lay members, is where the decisions of how to live faithfully in community as United Methodists are made. The Desert Southwest Conference includes Arizona, southern Nevada, and the river cities of California.

Districts

Each Conference is subdivided into districts, which are led by a district superintendent. There are four districts within the Desert Southwest Conference: North, East, West, and South.

LBGTQIA+

This term is used throughout this document consistently as an attempt to be inclusive of the diverse community that does not identify under "traditional" heterosexual and gender identity labels. The letters stand for: Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual and sometimes allies, with a plus + indicating that even this term is not as inclusive as it could be. Each group labeled by this term is impacted in very different ways by the decisions of General Conference 2019.

This resource will focus on the broadest formal impacts of the 2019 legislation and Judicial Council decisions on The United Methodist Church and on the LBGTQIA+ community as a whole.

What Happened?

What happened in the church's deliberations regarding human sexuality?

At General Conference 2016, delegates reached a stalemate in the decades-long conversation regarding full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in the ministries of the church, most specifically marriage and ordination. In an unprecedented gesture, the delegates of General Conference asked the Council of Bishops to provide a way for the denomination to move forward and remain united as a global church.

The Commission on a Way Forward, a group of bishops, clergy, and laity, was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by General Conference 2016 to design a plan for The United Methodist Church to move past the stalemate while remaining a connectional and united denomination. Discussions about legislation on sexuality were postponed until a special session of General Conference in February 2019.

The Commission on a Way Forward developed three plans: the Connectional Conference Plan, the One Church Plan, and the Traditional Plan. The Council of Bishops voted overwhelmingly to support the One Church Plan. However, at General Conference 2019, the One Church Plan did not pass through the Legislative Committee to be considered by the delegates. By the end of the General Conference 2019, the Traditional Plan passed by 53% of the vote (438-384).

The Traditional Plan redefines and limits how local churches, pastors, Boards of Ordained Ministry, district superintendents and bishops can be in ministry with members of the LGBTQIA+ community and restricted how members of the LGBTQIA+ community can answer God's call to serve in The United Methodist Church. The Traditional Plan excludes any person living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union or any person publicly acknowledging such a relationship, from participating fully in the life and ministry of The United Methodist

Church. Finally, the Traditional Plan imposes mandatory minimum penalties that only go into effect after a guilty verdict in a church trial. These penalties are a one-year suspension without pay for offenses related to ministry of and with members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In addition to the Traditional Plan, General Conference 2019 passed a petition protecting clergy pensions and also a disaffiliation process for dissenting congregations to exit the denomination.

After the vote, the legislation was sent to the Judicial Council, a nine-member body, to decide if the proposed legislation was constitutional.

How did the Judicial Council rule on the Traditional Plan?

The Judicial Council, a nine-member body that functions as the supreme court for The United Methodist Church, was tasked with deciding how the Traditional Plan aligned with the denomination's constitution and existing rules. The council convened in April 2019 and ruled the following petitions of the Traditional Plan constitutional in Decision 1378:

- The expansion of the definition of a "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" to include persons living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or someone who openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, Board of Ordained Ministry, or Clergy Session that he or she is a "practicing homosexual" or who publicly states they are "practicing homosexuals." (Petition 90032)
- If a complaint against a pastor goes to church trial and the pastor is found guilty of conducting a same-gender marriage, the minimum penalty after a guilty verdict in a church trial shall be a one-year suspension without pay for a first offense and termination of clergy status for a second offense. (Petition 90042)

What Happened?

- The Board of Ordained Ministry must fully examine candidates for licensing, commissioning or ordination, and shall not recommend anyone who does not meet the qualifications for ministry regarding sexuality. The Bishop must rule the recommendation of any such person out of order. (Petition 90043)
- A bishop cannot consecrate a "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" as a bishop, or commission or ordain a self-avowed, practicing homosexual. (Petition 90036)
- The person filing a complaint against a pastor for violating The Book of Discipline must participate in any efforts to reach a just resolution, and every effort must be made to have the person filing the complaint agree to the resolution before it takes effect. If a just resolution is reached, all identified harms and how each harm will be addressed must be stated. (Petitions 90045 and 90046)
- A bishop cannot dismiss a complaint unless it has no basis in church law or in fact. (Petition 90044)
- The church may appeal the outcome of a trial based on egregious errors of church law or administration. (Petition 90047)
- Disaffiliation is a congregational/conference cooperative discernment process for a local church to leave The United Methodist Church. This process is limited to local churches with objections to General Conference's decisions regarding human sexuality or an annual conferences' interpretation of that decision. (Petition 90066)

Voting irregularity and disaffiliation legislation

A deeper look at the voter irregularity and disaffiliation: There was an allegation of voting irregularity raised during General Conference 2019 that resulted in an investigation. This investigation found that there were two votes that were invalid. The only vote that passed with a margin impacted by two votes was on the minority report of the Disaffiliation Legislation which passed 402/400. Because votes are confidential there is no way to know how those two invalid votes were cast. The Council of Bishops have asked Judicial Council for a review to inform the denomination on how to proceed regarding this legislation. Once Judicial Council has made a decision about disaffiliation there will be more information about how to proceed.

What Does That Mean For Us?

Doesn't the Church remain the same since the Traditional Plan passed?

No. The Traditional Plan requires significant changes to The Book of Discipline, including the addition of penalties for bishops and clergy for any offense against the prescribed exclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in ordination and marriage. These changes fundamentally alter the role and relationship of the Board of Ordained Ministry, bishop, and district superintendents, with the clergy they serve. It also means that all United Methodist churches are limited in certain ways when it comes to ministry with members of the LGBTQ+ community.

What Does That Mean For Us?

How does this affect our clergy?

Effective January 1, 2020, clergy are at an increased risk of being punished for acting against the new rules in The Discipline. LBGTQIA+ clergy, particularly those in same-gender marriages, are at significant risk for complaints which may result resulting in trials that could remove them from ministry. In addition, LBGTQIA+ candidates for licensed and ordained ministry who are in committed relationships are at risk of removal from appointment and/or candidacy. district superintendents, Boards of Ordained Ministry, and bishops are at risk if they violate the new rules of The Discipline.

Penalties for all clergy who are tried and found guilty of violating new rules include a one-year suspension without pay for the first offense and termination of conference membership and clergy credentials for the second offense, if a clergy person is brought up on charges AND a resolution cannot be reached AND the clergy person is found guilty of the charge upon the conclusion of a church trial.

How does this affect apportionments and other monetary giving to The United Methodist Church?

Local churches are still asked to pay apportionments as before. More than 90% of apportionment funds stay within the Desert Southwest Conference to support the ministry of the local church in the Desert Southwest Conference, churches on equitable compensation, new church starts, clergy salaries for new church starts, Conference staff salaries, urban ministries, and more. The apportionment funds that go beyond this region serve important work among Methodist organizations, such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Other monetary giving to The United Methodist Church is designated to support the work of specific projects and ministries around the world.

Withholding apportionments and designated monetary giving will limit these ministries and efforts to help those around the world who are currently receiving our help.

How does this affect our property?

All United Methodist property is held in trust by the Conference where it is located (e.g., the Desert Southwest Conference). The trust clause exists because all churches begin through the energy, imagination, support, and investment of the other churches, including laity and clergy, in an Annual Conference. This means that in the event of a church closure, the property or its resources can be used to start or support new and ongoing ministries in the Conference.

The current provisions in The Book of Discipline for selling or transferring church property can be found starting in paragraph 2501. The provisions for disaffiliation passed by General Conference 2019 are currently under review and cannot be pursued by congregations considering the path of leaving the denomination.

If the disaffiliation legislation from General Conference 2019 is upheld, a decision to leave The United Methodist Church through disaffiliation will involve a long process of discernment, cooperative evaluation, several Conference-level committees, and an Annual Conference vote.

When do the new rules of The Book of Discipline go into effect?

The rules approved by General Conference 2019 are scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2020. It is unknown how the current structure of The United Methodist Church will enforce these rules. The Judicial Council has been asked to further clarify the provisions of the actions of General Conference 2019. This will have an impact on the information outlined here. An update will be released as soon as Judicial Council has completed its work.

What Happens Next?

What happens at the next General Conference?

The next General Conference will be May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN. The mechanism exists within The United Methodist Church to change or overturn previous decisions through debate and voting. New plans and ideas for how the denomination moves forward with diverse theological beliefs and scriptural understandings may also be proposed and voted upon. There are currently several new legislative plans that consider the future of the denomination including:

Indianapolis Plan

Envisions the birth of new expressions of Methodism (Traditionalist and Centrist/Progressive) under the intact, common heritage of The United Methodist Church.

Bard-Jones Plan

Envisions multiple churches branching out of The United Methodist Church, each equipped with its own book of discipline and structural elements.

UMC Next Plan

Envisions a reformed United Methodist Church that repeals the Traditional Plan, opens opportunities for new expressions of Methodism, and seeks to reform the denomination into the future.

New Expressions Worldwide (N.E.W.) Plan

Envisions the dissolution of The United Methodist Church and the creation of four new global Methodist denominations.

Unlike the special session of General Conference 2019, which was called to address specifically LGBTQIA+ inclusion within the church, the agenda of General Conference 2020 will be determined by the variety of petitions received by the September 2019 deadline.

For more information about the proposed plans and other legislation proposed visit dscumc.org/way-forward/resources.

Does the Desert Southwest Conference have a plan?

“We are living between the present moment and the future hope that we cling to as people of a living God. We are living in the gap. This sometimes feels like a very scary place to be. Leaping from today toward tomorrow, between current reality and our highest aspirations, we do not exactly yet know what tomorrow will be. But like any leap of faith, it is a leap into the gap that we take knowing that God is with us.”

- Bishop Robert T.Hoshibata

In June 2019, the Annual Conference formed the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward comprised of ten teams—Amicable Separation, Communications, Connections, Conversations, Dreaming, Disaffiliation, Finance, Legal, Spiritual, and Theology—to research, discuss, and discern a way forward for the Desert Southwest Conference. Their work was affirmed and further directed by the actions of the special session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference held on September 14, 2019.

What happens next?

The scope of their work falls within the framework of the theological statement of the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward, which was adopted during the special session:

The Desert Southwest Conference takes seriously its mission statement that we are to be “A Courageous Church loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope.” Our contemporary culture is a remarkable cacophony of voices that come from social, cultural, political, economic, and religious diversity...

Anything that diminishes or denies the full humanity of an individual is evil and may lead to inconceivable injustice. There is a need to address those statements in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church that articulate those Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (¶161, pages 105-133) that are in conflict with its own theology of full inclusion. Full inclusion may be understood in different ways given a cultural and social context. Although we are many voices, we must be one spirit as we bring together our statements of faith, our theology, our social principles, and our witness to a world that desperately needs to know the love of God in Jesus Christ. In this quest, we seek unity, not uniformity.

Please read the full statement and discover more about each of these teams and the work they are doing to find a way forward for the Desert Southwest Conference by visiting www.dscumc.org/way-forward. Team updates are available at the bottom of the webpage.

In June 2019, the Desert Southwest Conference petitioned the Western Jurisdiction bishops to call a special session of the Western Jurisdictional Conference for the purpose of considering and developing a process in which the jurisdiction separates from The United Methodist Church if it becomes necessary.

Desert Southwest Conference Legislation

Summary of related legislation passed at the regular session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference

1) Petition: General Conference to Amend The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶362.

- If passed by General Conference 2020, this petition would limit the complaint process by requiring that non-criminal complaints could only be made against clergy and laity of an annual conference by lay and clergy members of that same annual conference. This would not impact the process of complaints regarding abuse or criminal behavior.

2) Petition Judicial Council for a Declaratory Decision regarding the Constitutionality of the Book of Discipline (2016) ¶ 362.1.e.1 and 413.3.d.i in light of their breaches of separation of powers through violation of ¶ 49 and violation of ¶ 51 of the constitution.

- This change would restore episcopal presidential and residential authority to what it was before General Conference 2019.

3) Resolution: Call for the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to Convene Special Western Jurisdictional Conference.

- To consider how the Western Jurisdiction can faithfully live into its call to “a home for all God's people” and consider the appropriate courses of action to take should separation from The United Methodist Church become inevitable.
- Find creative ways of bringing people together, and working toward the future, and for there to be a plan prior to 2020 to respond to what might happen at General Conference.
- That the elected Jurisdictional Delegation and key leaders be sent to such a session.

4) Resolution: Affirm Our Covenant

- Calls all members of the Desert Southwest Conference to respect and honor others in all dialogue and discussion.
- Express deepest beliefs, concerns, and hopes with one another.
- Listen to understand and embrace expressions without judgement and without demeaning one another's faith.

5) Resolution: Disavowal of the Traditional Plan

- States that the Desert Southwest Conference condemns the 2019 General Conference passage of the Traditional Plan.
- The DSC apologized for the harm that it has caused LGBTQ+ persons, their families, friends, and the Body of Christ.
- Affirms that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God
- Asserts and affirms the decade long stance of the DSC that no human being is incompatible with Christian teaching.

6) Resolution: Source of noncriminal complaints

- Urges the bishop and cabinet of the Desert Southwest Conference to only process noncriminal/religious complaints against DSC members when the complainant is also a member of the Desert Southwest Conference.
- This does not impact criminal complaints.

Summary of Legislation passed at the special session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference

1) Resolution: Adoption of Desert Southwest Conference Theological Statement

- Adopts the theological statement of the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward.
- Adopts the Executive Summary.
- Commits to a theological foundation that all persons are welcomed.

2) Resolution: Integrity of Faithfulness

- Commits the conference to protecting the rights of all people to follow their hearts and live from a place of integrity of faith.
- Encourages the Bishop and Annual Conference leaders to explore conditions that would support the ability of all people to live by their integrity of faith.

3) Resolution: Respecting Cultural Differences

- Asks the Conference to work with the Western Jurisdiction to advocate for the Jurisdictions to be subject to a General Book of Discipline that allows for adaptation and contextualization similar to the process used in Central Conferences.
- Calls on General Conference to find a way for Jurisdictions to be organized in the same manner as Central Conferences to bring the denomination into more unified alignment around the practice of interpreting The Discipline for contextually relevant ministry across the globe.
- Calls on the Western Jurisdiction to live into a new way of being that values all United Methodist communities of faith in our connection.

4) Resolution: Preserve Our Connectionalism

- Affirms the commitment of the Conference to remain "united in our Wesleyan heritage" and to take steps such as calling for a special session of Jurisdictional Conference to preserve that unity.
- Designates delegates elected to 2020 Western Jurisdiction Conference to serve as representatives to any specially called conference of the Western Jurisdiction.

5) Resolution: Renouncing Divisive and Destructive Strategies

- Renounces future actions to further divide or eliminate The United Methodist Church or its successor denominations.
- Encourages the Conference to contact the Confessing Movement, the Good News Movement, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and other renewal organizations in order to express this desire for unity.
- Encourages the General Board of Church and Society to urge focus on efforts of unity across the denomination.

6) Resolution: Dialogue with Central Conference Leaders

- Encourages Bishop Hoshibata and the Council of Bishops to dialogue with leaders of the Central Conference around ways of preserving unity and contextuality.
- Encourages the U.S. delegates to encourage General Conference to create a two branch structure allowing for U.S. Jurisdictional Conferences and the Global Central Conferences to vote separately on social issues while continuing to work together to support mission and ministry.

7) Resolution: Seeking to Protect Our Connection and Clergy

- Encourages the Conference to explore a pathway of separation from the denomination should that become the only way of allowing for the contextual diversity of our Annual Conference to survive.
- Places the values of equality, amicability, and honor at the center of all moving forward conversations and states, "We simply decline to operate in a vindictive or punitive manner on a personal or corporate level and we hold to processes of honoring each other as we are working out details of division over our differences."

8) Resolution: Moratorium on Complaints, Investigations, and Trials

- Reaffirms our commitment to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms.
- Affirms full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.
- Declares an immediate and indefinite moratorium on complaints, investigations, and trials against LGBTQ clergy as well as clergy officiating same-gender weddings.

What Happens Next?

Are there local churches interested in something new?

Yes. Many churches and Annual Conferences around the world are dissatisfied with the adoption of the Traditional Plan and the ongoing legislative debate. Like-minded congregations on all sides are exploring ways to come together and discern ways of faithfully living into and faithfully resisting or changing these new rules, as well as discern alternative path forward. Things will change in 2020 and churches, conferences, and the Denomination will need to discern what to do to continue to engage in effective mission and ministry.

What Can We Do?

Engage in Conversation

It is important for local churches to engage in intentional conversation about the recent decisions of The United Methodist Church and how they affect the ministries of the local church. Starting with critical conversations about congregational identity and mission, congregations must prayerfully discern where God is calling them to be in disciple-making ministry with their members, their local community, and the world. These conversations are not always easy, but they are necessary; and they can be respectful and Spirit-filled when entered into with intentionality.

Use this resource and other resources mentioned in this booklet to build understanding and encourage discussion within small groups, classes, worship, and congregational meetings.

Pray

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing!” the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 invite us to place prayer at the center of faithful life. John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Movement called prayer

"the breath of our spiritual life" a direct channel of life-giving grace between human beings and God. Find formal and informal ways to be in prayer for our church, our connection, our laity and clergy, and our leaders. Especially be in prayer for our siblings in Christ, members of the LGBTQIA+ community particularly impacted by 2019 General Conference. Provision us God, guide us God, forgive us God, bless us God, work through and in and around and beyond us God, and let our lives and ministry be a reflection of You O God. Amen

Build a Task Force

After conversation, the local church may be ready to engage in a time of discernment led by a team of leaders nominated and affirmed by the congregation. The task force should continue to engage with resources that build understanding around all aspects of the issue while also identifying specific questions for discernment, such as:

- What is our identity as a church?
- How do we support our clergy?
- How will we be in ministry in accordance with our values and the rules of The United Methodist Church? What do we do if these two things are not in alignment with each other?
- Can we stay connected in ministry with the network of churches that make up the Annual Conference and the global connection of The United Methodist Church?
- If not, what are our options? What is our step-by-step plan to leave The UMC, and what will it mean for us to be a non-denominational church?

The task force needs to remember they represent the entire congregation and must remain in communication with the congregation and take its lead from the voice of the church's values, leadership, and membership.

If the members of the local church are not ready to build a task force, individuals should consider joining one of the ten Conference teams that are exploring, discerning, and supporting the Desert Southwest Conference's Way Forward.

What Can We Do?

Consider Identity and Vision

Questions your local church might use to discern its identity and vision are:

- Where do I see Jesus alive and active in our life together as a church? In what ways do I experience God here?
- What of the ministry of Jesus will go missing in our local community if our church is no longer here?
- What are the two most important things you pray the people of our church will be known for in this community?
- What needs to happen for me to remain a vital part of this living body of Christ? What are my non-negotiables? Can I say anything more about why I feel this way?
- What 1% change in my own way of participating am I willing to make in order that we may flourish as a vibrant body of Christ?

Commit in Connection

The Desert Southwest Conference will live into the Wesleyan ideal of "going on to perfection." While we know we are not yet there, we will strive to be a place where full acceptance is honored and practiced. We have resolved that we will not operate in a vindictive or punitive manner on a personal or corporate level and hold to processes nurturing, honoring, and embracing of all God's children. We commit ourselves anew to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms. That means that we will build a church that affirms the full participation of persons of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities. We will follow the call of John Wesley to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God as we engage in ministry and mission that demonstrates God's love and affirms that God's love in Jesus Christ is poured out for all.

How Can I Stay Informed?

Learn more about the Desert Southwest Conference:

- www.dscumc.org
- www.dscumc.org/way-forward
- www.dscumc.org/way-forward/resources

Learn more about the Western Jurisdiction:

- www.westernjurisdictionumc.org

Learn about the Reconciling Ministries Network:

- www.rmnetwork.org

Learn more about United Methodist Insight, a forum for discerning God's future for the church:

- www.um-insight.net

Learn more about the UM Forward movement, "launched with the wisdom of queer clergy of color at the helm":

- www.um-forward.org/about-us

Learn more about UMCNext:

- www.umcnext.com

Learn about the Wesleyan Covenant Association:

- www.wesleyancovenant.org

Read articles from United Methodist News Service and other religious news providers:

- www.umnews.org
- www.religionnews.com

TIMELINE

- **JUN 2016** - General Conference 2016 charges bishops with developing a plan to be considered at a special session of General Conference addressing LGBTQ issues in the church. The Commission on a Way Forward is tasked with developing plans.
- **FEB 2019** - Special session of General Conference 2019 approves Traditional Plan.
- **APR 2019** - UMC Judicial Council affirms parts of the Traditional Plan while ruling others unconstitutional by church law.
- **JUN 2019** - The Desert Southwest Annual Conference in Mesa, AZ, calls for a special session in September; disavows the Traditional Plan; petitions the Western Jurisdiction to consider and develop a process of separation; and forms ten teams to work on various aspects of finding a new way forward.
- **SEPT 2019** - The Desert Southwest Annual Conference Special Session adopts nine resolutions, recognizing the values and hopes for inclusivity within the Conference. Petition deadline for General Conference 2020.
- **OCT 2019** - Judicial Council considers actions of the 2019 General Conference including the effect of portions of the Traditional Plan, the constitutionality of disaffiliation legislation, and actions of various annual conferences after GC2019.
- **NOV 2019** - Wesleyan Covenant Association Global Gathering on November 9. The Western Jurisdiction's Fresh United Methodism Summit brings together institutional leaders and emerging voices of diversity to identify areas for greater collaboration and shape a vision for the future of The United Methodist Church on November 15-17.

- **JAN 2020** - Traditional Plan is in effect.
- **APR 2020** - Judicial Council Spring Session
- **MAY 2020** - General Conference 2020 convenes in Minneapolis, MN. Delegates elected at the June 2018 Annual Conference represent the Desert Southwest Conference.
- **JUN 2020** - The Desert Southwest Annual Conference convenes June 11-14 in Mesa, AZ.
- **JUL 2020** - The Western Jurisdiction Conference convenes July 15-18 in Billings, MT.

This booklet is available as a PDF download at www.dscumc.org/way-forward/resources.

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YOUR HEARTS, TO WHICH
INDEED YOU WERE CALLED IN
THE ONE BODY. AND BE
THANKFUL.”