



Open Hearts.  
Open Minds.  
Open Doors.

The people  
of The United  
Methodist  
Church®

# REGIONALIZATION: EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN EVERY CULTURE

Regionalization allows United Methodists throughout our connection to best serve their unique communities as they share the love of God, make disciples and transform the world.



## WHAT IS REGIONALIZATION?

- Regionalization allows each region of the church to make decisions that will best support outreach and ministry efforts in their specific setting. This ability is already in place in the central conferences; regionalization will bring that ability to the U.S. as well.
- Regionalization was developed collaboratively by United Methodists across the globe.
- It was adopted by an overwhelming majority of General Conference delegates.
- Nine regional conferences will comprise The UMC: one in the U.S. and eight in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.



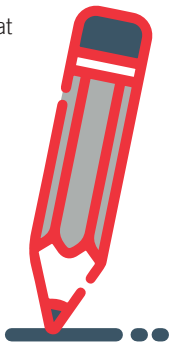
## WHAT CAN'T REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Create their own constitution or adopt any policy in violation of the constitution contained in the General Book of Discipline
- Alter The Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians or The Social Principles



## WHAT CAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES DO?

- Draft and publish their own regional Book of Discipline, hymnals, books of worship and other liturgical resources
- Set requirements for ordination and licensed ministry with respect to their needs and resources
- Set standards for lay membership
- Develop practices around marriage ceremonies, funerals and other rites that align with cultural contexts and laws in each country
- Reorganize their annual conferences, districts or charge conferences to best serve their missional needs and convene their own judicial courts
- Work with annual conferences to ensure policies and practices align with the laws in each country



## WHAT NOW?

- The regionalization plan will require amending the United Methodist Constitution. Constitutional amendments must be passed by at least 2/3 of General Conference, which already happened.
- Now, the amendments must be ratified by annual conferences. Amendments must be supported by 2/3 of the total voting members of all the annual conferences combined – this process could last until 2026.
- The Council of Bishops will announce when the amendments have met the threshold to become church law.

“Regionalization is a pathway to make manifest the world-wide nature of The United Methodist Church. It will expand the Church’s witness, embrace the cultural diversity, strengthen the connection and empower each missional context.”

BISHOP TRACY SMITH MALONE, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

