

So what exactly IS WCA up to?

In case you're wondering...in case folks are asking...in case you're hearing rumors and spin... Here are the facts of what WCA is up to:

- + We respect our sisters and brothers in the United Methodist Church who hold views and convictions different from ours regarding the matters before the General Conference in February. This is a complicated season for all in the UMC. Friends and colleagues here in Mississippi hold varying views and support different solutions to the questions before us. We aren't mad at anyone. We aren't acting out of anger. WCA is simply standing on our convictions.
- + We are advocating for a gracious exit for congregations and Annual Conferences which cannot faithfully live with the results of General Conference.
- + We are urging the adoption of the Modified Traditional Plan by General Conference. Why the *Modified* Traditional Plan? The modifications to the Traditional Plan accomplish two things: enhanced accountability to strengthen our unity and enhanced generosity toward those who need to exit the UMC for the sake of conscience (\$200,000 transitional funding provided to exiting Annual Conferences).
- + We are making it clear that the One Church Plan is unacceptable and that we will not be a part of the UMC if the One Church Plan passes.
- + We are doing contingency planning. WCA's "next steps team" is working to envision a revitalized Methodist movement within the UMC or, if necessary, outside the UMC as a new expression of Methodism. We are developing contingency plans in the event that General Conference adopts the One Church Plan or in the event that General Conference is unable to move in a direction we consider to be faithful and positive.
- + We are not desiring to split from the UMC. If the WCA wanted to split, wouldn't we have split a long time ago in order to avoid the drama and anguish of this difficult season? Our highest hope is the faithful renewal of our United Methodist Church.
- + We are preparing to lead. Our Global Council will meet prior to General Conference to receive a report from the next steps team. The Council will meet again for two days in St. Louis immediately following General Conference to consider whether or not to issue a call for a convening conference "should the Council determine it is necessary." Such a convening conference would begin the process of implementing the work of the next steps team.
- + We have not made a decision to hold a convening conference, but we have set a date for such a gathering in case a convening conference were to be called in response to the actions of General Conference. We have a date – April 25-26 – but not a decision

to hold a convening conference. Setting a date is a logistical necessity in order to be prepared in the event that a such a gathering is needed.

+ We are sensitive to the timing of possibly holding a convening conference prior to the meetings of Annual Conferences. We seek to balance these two issues: allowing Annual Conferences time and space to respond to the actions of General Conference, and 2/ responding with appropriate urgency to the developments at General Conference.

+ We are urging churches, pastors, and laity not to react alone to developments which transpire at General Conference.

+ We are encouraging congregations, pastors, and laity who feel anxious regarding the unknown changes coming from the upcoming General Conference that there will be a faithful, orthodox, Wesleyan expression of Methodism – within the UMC or beyond it.

+ We understand that some in the UMC disagree with our convictions, and we understand that some who may agree with our convictions regarding marriage, sexuality, and ordination may not agree with our approach. We respect all who hold differing views, and we acknowledge the deep complexity of this season in our life together.