



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Myths about the Global Methodist Church

THE MYTH: The Global Methodist Church is a break-away denomination that has worked for schism for years.

THE TRUTH: For decades the leaders of the GMC have been loyal United Methodists and have labored to keep the church faithful to our Wesleyan heritage. The GMC was created only after a dozen Annual Conferences and their bishops declared they would no longer follow or enforce the *Book of Discipline*, placing themselves in schism.

If we still had hope that present and future bishops would teach our doctrines and be held accountable for enforcing our policies as determined by General Conference, we would continue our efforts to renew the UMC. But we have come to the sad conclusion that future efforts to prevent many of our bishops, pastors and denominational leaders from undermining our doctrines and our discipline will be unsuccessful. We are not leaving the UMC nearly as much as it has left us.

THE MYTH: The Global Methodist Church is not truly “Methodist” or “Wesleyan.”

THE TRUTH: The founders of the GMC are lay persons, pastors, seminary professors and bishops who have been faithful United Methodists and who have no desire to be anything but Methodists who follow the teachings of John Wesley. We fully embrace *The Articles of Religion of The Methodist Church* and *The Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren*. We espouse the Christian faith as declared in *The Standard Sermons of John Wesley* and his *Explanatory Notes on the New Testament*.

We are not, as some have charged, Calvinists, fundamentalists or Southern Baptist in disguise. We believe in infant baptism, open communion, and welcoming all.

THE MYTH: The Global Methodist Church will not ordain or promote women in ministry.

THE TRUTH: The GMC website states “Women, like men, are called to serve in the Global Methodist Church and are entitled to serve at all levels of the Global Methodist Church.” The Council Chair of The Wesleyan Covenant Association (which gave birth to the GMC) is the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Moore, and its Vice President of Clergy and Church Relations is the Rev. Angela Pleasants, a former District Superintendent in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Women are well represented both on the WCA Council and on the GMC Transitional Leader Council, including our own Rev. Jessica LaGrone.

THE MYTH: The Global Methodist Church will be an unwelcome place for ethnic minorities and persons of color.

THE TRUTH: The truth is the present UMC in the US is one of the whitest, most monochromatic denominations in the country. But the GMC is committed to doing better. Again, from the GMC website: “As a truly global church the denomination insists on equal treatment of all the church’s members.” Of the nine bishops present when the GMC was formed a minority were white. Seven of the sixteen members of the GMC’s Transitional Leadership Team are international leaders and/or persons of color.

THE MYTH: The Global Methodist Church is forming because it is not open to gay persons.

THE TRUTH: The GMC was created because the UMC has bishops and pastors who deny that the Bible is God’s word, who do not believe that Jesus is divine, and who promote a view of sexuality that is in contradiction to the Scriptures and to the *Book of Discipline*. And there is no way to hold them accountable.

The words “gay” and “homosexual” do not appear in the GMC’s *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* which states, “While affirming a scriptural view of sexuality and gender, we welcome all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus and are committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20).”

The Global Methodist Church desires to be nothing more or less than what John Wesley dreamed the People Called Methodist would become – a united, Spirit-anointed, disciplined movement of God, committed to bringing the lost to faith and spreading Scriptural holiness across the land. Churches who join the GMC will own their property with no trust clause, will have much more authority to determine who their pastor is, and will pay much less in apportionments. It is also proposed that annual conferences will elect their own bishops and will be able to remove them, as well.

For more information about the Global Methodist Church visit the website at:

www.globalmethodist.org.

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Our Vision is to join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of Christ.