

# A Way Forward

Western North Carolina Conference  
United Methodist Women

**INFORMING YOU & EMPOWERING YOU**



## A Way Forward for the United Methodist Church

### What is the Commission on A Way Forward?

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

### Why are United Methodist Women Involved?

As United Methodist Women, we aim to educate for the transformation of the world. Our goal for you is to:

- Be Informed about the Special Session of GC in 2019 and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward
- Clarify our thinking on what holds us together as a Church
- Develop confidence to share our views with other church members, including with our Annual Conference leaders and General Conference delegates around the unity of the Church

### A Message from Harriett Olson, General Secretary, United Methodist Women

The Commission on a Way Forward has been engaging in a conversation as it prepares a report to come to the Special Session of General Conference in 2019. Between now we will also be engaging in conversations as United Methodist Women.

Differences of belief and opinion about how The United Methodist Church should include, minister to and treat our LGBTQ members have been a source of conflict since the first language addressing homosexuality was added to The Book of Discipline in 1972.

Sisters, you have wisdom and experience to share that is born of working together amidst differences for many years. You have seen conflicts resolved well and conflicts resolved poorly. You have families that have stayed close and families that have pulled apart. The church needs your prayers, your wisdom and your willingness to engage.

Excerpts from Responsively Yours, *response magazine*, January 2018

Join us at  
**Mission u**  
for information &  
**conversation**

**Friday, July 20  
or Saturday, July 21**

**4:15 pm – Pfeiffer Chapel**



**Getting Ready for  
the Conversation**

### 1) Come with an open mind having thought about the following:

a. What makes us United Methodist?

What is the shared Mission or Purpose that unites us as The United Methodist Church?

b. Can you Imagine? A creative design of a Church: That includes people with different perspectives; That allows all members to flourish in Christ; And furthers the church's mission and ministry?

### 2) Resources for Further Study

- a. [umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward](http://umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward)
- b. [facebook.com/umcforward/](https://facebook.com/umcforward/)
- c. [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org)

## Resources for Further Study:

- Healthy Conversations Resources on our Conference website: <https://www.wnccumc.org/healthyconversationsresources>
- Video: Remarks on "A Commission on a Way Forward" - Bishop Ken Carter | Western North Carolina Annual Conference 2018 - <https://www.wnccumc.org/bishopcarterremarks>
- Videos from Commission on a Way Forward: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-releases-final-videos-for-2019-general-conferen>
- News updates from Commission on a Way Forward: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-news-and-updates>
- Video: Conversation between Alice Williams and Jorge Acevedo (Commission members) at the Florida Annual Conference: <https://www.flumc.org/ac18-videodetail/alice-williams-jorge-acevedo-a-conversation-11474447>
- Video: Presentation by Bishop Robert Schnase on the Way Forward at the Rio Texas Conference: <https://vimeo.com/276301336>
- Video: Presentation by Bishop Sue Hupert-Johnson on the Way Forward at the North Georgia Conference: <https://vimeo.com/276351658>
- Ongoing news updates from The United Methodist Church: [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

## What you can do:

- **Be in Prayer.** Pray for The United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops, the Commission on a Way Forward, the Commission on General Conference, the work of the General Conference, laity and clergy delegates to General Conference, and the many others providing resourcing & assistance for this work. Pray for our global connection, local congregations, and our clergy & laity members around the world. Join in Praying our Way Forward with other United Methodists around the world using the prayer resources at [www.umcprays.org](http://www.umcprays.org).
- **Be informed.** Follow the news & information coming out as we move toward General Conference. Use the resources above and others that will be shared over the next eight months. Be informed.
- **Join in Holy Conversation.** Be a part of conversations in your district, and in your congregation. Use the Healthy Conversations resources available on our conference website. Intentionally find ways to be in holy conversation, listening and sharing in love, with persons with whom you may not agree.

**Ephesians 4:1-6:** *I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

## Western North Carolina Conference General Conference Delegation:

Laity	Clergy
Jennifer Davis	Kim Ingram
Jennifer Burton	Amy Coles
Lynne Gilbert	David Christy
Coley Hooker, Jr.	Ashley Crowder Stanley
Amy Johnson	In-Yong Lee
Shannon Sherfey	James Howell
Sandy Hieronymus	Jeremy Troxler
Henry Dozier, Jr.	Sam Moore
Robert Upchurch	John Boggs
Tonya Lanier	Jeff Patterson