

## FAQs 1.1

- 1. FAQ 1.0 Most Frequently Asked Questions, Question 3, paragraph 2, seems to say that if the US delegation is again confronted with a conservative international delegation that holds to the past BoD and is indeed in the majority, the U.S. conference will make the changes it wants despite being in the minority. To me this says the U.S. conference is breaking with the UMC as a worldwide organization. Is this right? Only time will tell. But if this is truly a plan in place today we need to know. What you have stated makes me very concerned.**

**ANSWER:** The legislation referred to in this answer is known as the Christmas Covenant. It is likely to be proposed at the 2024 General Conference. The Christmas Covenant, which has many valuable and valid purposes, and thus is likely to be enacted, will create five autonomous but connected regions in the worldwide UMC. The United States UMC will be one of these five regions, the others being international.

In the context of the vote on human sexuality issues, if the Christmas Covenant is enacted, votes for changing the BoD language on human sexuality in the U.S. will not apply to an international regions. Likewise, the expected traditional votes of the international regions will not apply to the vote in the United States to change the BoD language. In that case, the international regions could continue to prohibit same-sex marriage and homosexual ordination while the U.S. region permits the same-sex marriage and homosexual ordination. These differing rules can exist without breaking the connectional relationship between U.S. and international regions.

- 2. Regarding FAQ 1.0, Most Frequently Asked Question 5, Paragraph 3, after the straw vote Pastor Steve will inform the District Superintendent of his intentions, will he also inform the congregation at that time?**

**ANSWER:** Since FAQ 1.0 was published, the UMC Judicial Counsel issued Ruling 1482, which held that pastors cannot be required to disclose their intent to the District Superintendent in the event that a church votes to disaffiliate, either in the straw vote or the official vote. Pastor Steve loves Burnt Factory UMC and whatever the church decides, we can trust him to make the best decision for the

church. Whichever way the church decides, Pastor Steve will try to the best of his ability to continue to serve Burnt Factory, as he always has.

FAQ 1.1, May 16, 2023