

Dear Friends,

On Monday, February 24, a group of lay and staff leaders gathered for an informational session focused on the issues that we anticipate will come before the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in May. We were pleased to have two persons join me on a panel. They were:

- Rev. Tami Coleman, Kentucky Conference Clergy Delegate to the General Conference, secretary of our Annual Conference and pastor of Hanson UMC and
- Rev. Adam Shourds, Senior Pastor at Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, KY. Broadway UMC is a church that is the same size of Christ Church and is having discussions regarding the effect that General Conference decisions may have on their church.

Also in leadership was Scott Dickens, CCUM Administrative Council and Servant Leadership Team Chair.

Rev. Coleman had just returned from the pre-Conference meeting and had the most recent information regarding proposed legislation. Please remember that The General Conference is the only body that speaks for the United Methodist Church. She reported that there have been several proposals that have been submitted to the General Conference on the issues of LGBTQ inclusion in the UMC. Rev. Coleman indicated that at this preliminary meeting for delegates held last month, there appeared to be the most discussion around the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” plan (“The Protocol”). It is expected that some of the other plans will be withdrawn in support of The Protocol as it seems to have the best chance of passing.

Please note that anything could happen at General Conference and The Protocol may not ultimately be moved forward; however, we do want you to be informed about this and other plans that may come before the General Conference. You can find details here.

Let me share with you a possible timetable **IF** The Protocol is passed.

1. The Kentucky Annual Conference meets June 8-11. The Conference will vote whether to vote about the direction of the Conference. Christ Church clergy that are members of the Kentucky Annual Conference and Christ Church elected lay delegates will be eligible to vote.

2. If passed, a date has been reserved for a called session of the Kentucky Annual Conference in December to vote on the direction of the Conference. Once again, our church delegates would vote.
3. Once a decision has been made about the direction of the Annual Conference, the local church will have an opportunity to vote on the alignment of their local church. This would be a church conference with all members given an opportunity to vote.

Please know that there are some groups in Kentucky that have been having gatherings. We have shared information about the Wesleyan Covenant Association and Imagine Kentucky, two grass roots organizations. Additionally, the Conference Delegation is meeting with each district in Kentucky. We will continue to list these gatherings on our resources page as we are aware of them.

At the end of our meeting on February 24, we received feedback from the group about next steps. They felt it was important to share this information with the members of Christ Church. This communication is a first step.

I know this period of uncertainty is uncomfortable for some and painful for others. My commitment to you is to keep you informed without bombarding you with too much information or unknown possibilities. Between now and December we will continue to focus on the mission, vision, and ministry of the church as we are *becoming living proof of God's love, one person at a time*. And we will continue to pray.

You may want to join us tomorrow night for The 40 Hours of Prayer and Unity Service at 6 pm in our Chapel.

Blessings,
Becki