

EVANGELICAL CHURCH AFFILIATION COMPARISON

Category ↓	United Methodist Church	Global Methodist Church	Free Methodist	Wesleyan Church
Theology?	Book of Discipline is Orthodox/Classic Wesleyan. However after church separation it is expected to be pluralistic, meaning Jesus is one of many ways to be saved.	Orthodox/Classic Wesleyan	Book of Discipline 2019. One living God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Bible is God's written Word and written authority.	Orthodox/Classic Wesleyan
Progressive or Conservative Belief System?	Started as Conservative but becoming increasingly Progressive.	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative
General Conference?	Conducts General Conference every 4 years. Elects reps from every Annual Conference and every Central Conference (Global) to represent the body as a whole.	General Conference with district boundaries. General Conference will meet every 2 years while the denomination is organizing and then every 6 years thereafter.	Conducts General Conference every 4 years. Elects reps from every Annual Conference to represent the body as a whole.	General Conference Yearly
Boards and Agencies?	Yes; currently there are 13 general boards and agencies with staff and overhead.	New, leaner structure with 1 connectional officer/office overseeing it.	Board of Bishops, Superintendents and Annual Conferences. Very Few agencies.	Yes around 5
International Membership?	Yes	Yes; global representation expected (U.S., Eastern Europe, part of the Philippines and Africa). Some former UMC conferences in Latin America and Asia have indicated interest in joining.	Yes, there are over 1 million world wide.	Yes
Trust Clause on Local Church Properties?	All local church properties, bank accounts and assets are owned by the Annual Conference.	All local church properties, bank accounts and assets are owned by the local church.	All local church properties, bank accounts and assets are owned by the Free Methodist Church.	All local church properties, bank accounts and assets are owned by the Wesleyan Church.
Apportionments?	Yes; 10% to 12% of annual church budget.	Yes, expected to be 1/2 of UMC. 5 to 6.5% of annual church budget.	Yes	Yes
Bishops?	Yes; Bishops are elected for life. They are accountable to each other.	Yes; Bishops are term limited and accountable to the local churches.	Yes 3 bishops oversee the US branch.	No
District Superintendents?	Yes; appointed by the Bishop.	Presiding Elders (the historic term for DS's) and may also serve a local church. They will be selected by the Bishop from a nominated slate elected at a district conference. District size will be smaller.	Yes	Yes
Clergy Deployment?	Bishop consults with local church on appointments but has the power to move and appoint pastors regardless of church input.	Collaborative appointment between Bishop and local church. Local church can select their pastors or request one be appointed. Bishops sign off on choices.	Pastors of Free Methodist churches who are ordained are called elders, and our denomination appoints its pastors. However, our system is collaborative with a preference for longer appointments.	Call system
Clergy Appointment Length?	One year at a time	Open-ended. The local church can initiate a change when/if needed or desired.	Longer, Generally, moves are only initiated with the agreement of the pastor, church, or both.	At least 2 year commitments unless otherwise specified.
Clergy Pensions?	Yes; secured and administered by Wespath.	Yes; secured and administered by Wespath.	Yes, administered by their benefits committee.	Yes, administered by the Wesleyan Pension Fund, Inc.
Female Clergy At All Levels of Leadership?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ordination?	Elder and Deacons are separate orders. Commissioning is a step toward ordination in both orders. Many clergy are non-ordained, licensed local pastors with limited sacramental authority. Deacons do not have full sacramental authority.	Under development. In an effort to restore the connection between ordination and the sacraments, there may be a return to pre-1992 understanding that elders are first ordained deacons. Local pastors will be ordained as deacons. There will be permanent deacons and deacons on their way to becoming elders. Deacons have sacramental authority.	Each Candidate is first licensed and then ordained as and Elder.	Start ministerial student, then licensed minister, then commissioned minister or ordained minister.
Position on matters of sexuality?	Traditional Orthodox Conservative in BOD. However this is being challenged and ignored in many places. Clergy are mandated to celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage. This is not enforced or being executed now.	Traditional Orthodox Conservative. Clergy are mandated to celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage.	Traditional Orthodox Conservative. Clergy are mandated to celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage.	Traditional Orthodox Conservative. Clergy are mandated to celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage.
Primary Church Focus?	Book of Discipline promotes saving of souls however after church separation it is expected to be more focus on social justice.	Saving souls	Saving Souls	Saving Souls