

## **Traditional Plan was upheld**

- New church-wide definition of self-avowed, practicing homosexual: “*Self-avowed practicing homosexual*” is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states that she or he is a practicing homosexual.
- Bishops are prohibited from consecrating self-avowed homosexual bishops even if they are elected.
- There are mandatory sentences for performing same-sex weddings: A one year suspension without pay for the first offense and loss of credentials for the second offense.
- District committees on ordained ministry and boards of ordained ministry are forbidden from approving candidates who do not meet the requirements and bishops are instructed to rule approval of any such candidates out of order.
- Limits the complaints that can be dismissed by bishops to those having no basis in law or fact.
- Every effort shall be made to include those making a complaint against a clergy in the just resolution process.
- The prosecution may appeal a trial against a clergy where there was jury nullification or other egregious errors of church law or administration.

*The above becomes effective on January 1, 2020*

### **There is a gracious exit plan that is effective now:**

- Must be completed by December 31, 2023
- Conference Superintendent determines if the church has a viable future (if not, the church closes)
- Conference Superintendent calls for a church conference of all professing members. The conference must be held within 120 days following the call for the meeting.
- The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference.
- Approval of terms and conditions by the conference board of trustees
- Approval for disaffiliation must also be obtained from the Annual Conference
- The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments.
- All grants received by the local church from the annual conference or its ancillary organizations within five (5) years from the date of disaffiliation shall be repaid.
- The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference.
- The local church shall satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation.
- A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church.

Information obtained from blog by Chris Ritter

### **What's next?**

Invitation only meetings of groups on one side of the issue or the other are being convened. Talk of starting an alternative version of Methodism (traditional/progressive/centrist?). May be an attempt at the 2020 General Conference to overturn everything.