

## Proposals for UMC 2024 General Conference on *Regional Conferences*

The proposal from **The Christmas Covenant** concerning Regional Conferences would:

- Restructure the UMC into regional conferences, including a United States Regional Conference
- Decentralize our global church governance, and each regional conference would be self-governing
- The United States and each of the seven non-U.S. Central Conferences (Africa, Europe, Philippines) would become a separate Regional Conference.
- Each Regional Conference would be empowered to change or add any provision to the ***Book of Discipline*** for its particular region.

The proposal from **UMCNext** regarding creating Regional Conferences would:

- Keep intact the United Methodist Church as a denomination while allowing for greater regional autonomy across the entire connection
- Allow the ***Book of Discipline*** to be adaptable across the Regional Conferences
- Remove language and policies from the ***Book of Discipline*** that are harmful to and exclusive of LGBTQIA+ persons
- Creates a Commission on the 21st Century Church to prepare a comprehensive structure and governance plan that addresses historic inequities and injustice and includes clarification related to the adaptability of the ***Book of Discipline***.

### References:

<https://umcnext.com/proposal>

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/connectional-tables-us-regional-conference-legislation-now-available>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/conference-acts-on-protocol-christmas-covenant>

<https://baptistnews.com/article/united-methodists-learning-more-about-christmas-covenant-through-videos/#.YxOWHHbMJPY>

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Understanding-the-Christmas-Covenant.html?soid=1108936514096&aid=htRTHRuBTok>