

ONE CHURCH PLAN

A. Codifies identity-based discrimination

Sanctions path for conferences, bishops, congregations, and pastors to choose discrimination against LGBTQIA+ clergy and laity (Petitions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

B. Forced migration/exile

Forces LGBTQIA+ clergy candidates from biased and segregating conferences to move to another conference or denomination in order to serve (Petition 4, ¶304.3)

C. Continues fiscal oppression

Prohibition on UM entities from using funds to educate and advocate the "acceptance of homosexuality" (¶613.19)

D. Expands discrimination

Places new restrictions on commissioning Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Missionaries (Petition 10, ¶ 415.6)

E. Continues harmful language

Removes "self-avowed practicing homosexual" from ¶¶ 304.3 and 2702.1 but reintroduces it in new paragraphs of Petitions 10, 13 affirming discrimination with new language formalizing anti-LGBTQIA+ bias (Petitions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12)

F. Validates exit path/schism

Alters provisions for congregations to leave the UMC (Petition 16)

THE SIMPLE PLAN

A. Does not condone discrimination

Removes ALL discriminatory and punitive language from the BOD

B. Most consistent with Wesleyan theology

"Do no harm." The Simple Plan is the only plan that does not add harmful language and policies

C. Easiest way forward

No ecclesiastical restructuring required

D. No requirement of acceptance or inclusion

Nothing added to the BoD that would require any church, clergy, clergy session, conference, or Bishop, to act counter to what they feel called to do

E. Does not eliminate discrimination

Removal of discriminatory and punitive language will not prohibit continuation of biased actions against LGBTQIA+ clergy and laity

F. Holds the line on unity

Maintains current process for congregations that seek to leave the UMC

1. Removes incompatibility clause
2. Allows willing pastors and congregations to perform and recognize same-gender weddings
3. Does not require pastors and congregations to perform or recognize same-gender weddings
4. Allows willing clergy sessions, Boards of Ordained Ministry, and Bishops to ordain, commission, and license LGBTQIA+ clergy
5. Does not require Boards of Ordained Ministry or clergy sessions to ordain, commission, and license LGBTQIA+ clergy
6. Ends church trials over "self-avowed, practicing, homosexual" clergy
7. Does not require churches to have LGBTQIA+ clergy

[UM-Forward.org](https://um-forward.org)

UNITED METHODISTS FOR
THE SIMPLE PLAN

