



GRACE CHURCH

We are in a Critical Season

The 2024 General Conference of the UMC (GC 2024) is scheduled for April 23 to May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. At Grace Church, we're feeling nervous but hopeful about this critical gathering. We value our global connection, we respect the differences throughout our varied ministry contexts, and we're committed to becoming a UMC that is more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

GC 2024 offers the opportunity to take critical next steps toward preserving, honoring, and establishing each of these values. Given these goals, we're asking for your prayerful support of three proposals put forth by the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN):

- **Adopt Global Regionalization:** This would restructure the UMC into regional conferences (Africa, Europe, Philippines and the US). Having regional conferences would allow autonomy in decision-making within each conference while keeping the UMC connected as a global church. At GC 2024, this legislation requires a 2/3 majority vote, plus a 2/3 ratification vote of the annual conferences (most of which meet in the summer of 2024).
- **Adopt revised Social Principles:** This includes removing the language that says "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" and changing the language that defines marriage as "between one man and one woman" to "two people." The vote requirement is 50% plus 1. This does not need a ratification vote from the annual conferences.
- **Remove anti-LGBTQ+ language and policies from the 2024 Book of Discipline:** This goal leans into the global regionalization legislation and makes way for a new structure. The vote needed is also a simple majority: 50% plus 1. No ratification vote from the annual conferences is needed.

What you can do:

1. Attend the General Conference Preview Session at Northaven UMC

On Sunday, April 7, at 5:00 PM, Northaven UMC will host a meeting designed to provide you with details on what to expect at GC 2024. Presenters are members of the North Texas Conference delegation to GC 2024 and include Rev. Rachel Griffin of Oak Lawn UMC, Rev. Clayton Oliphant of FUMC Richardson and Shandon Klein of FUMC Richardson.

2. Pray for delegates to GC 2024

3. Consider joining RMN as an individual member (go to <https://rmnetwork.org>)



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