

Comparative analysis: Church affiliation options after disaffiliation from the UMC

10/3/2022

Themes/Topics	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	The Foundry Network of Independent Churches	Independent (full autonomy)	Notes/Comments
Affiliations (announced)				
Former UMCs	Bulgaria/Romania Annual Conference **Currently building as waves of traditional UMCs join after formal disaffiliation. More than 150 North Alabama Conference Churches have now affirmed plans for affiliation.	The Orchard, Tupelo, MS; Christ Church, IL; The Story Church, Houston, TX; Quest Church, Grovetown, GA; Asbury, Madison, AL **Currently, there are only 5 large leader churches recognized in the network.	Old Brashiers Chapel, Arab, AL	Considers UMC congregations who are in or have completed the process of disaffiliation who have announced a new affiliation.
History				
Established	Launched May 1st, 2022 Officially, the 17 member Transitional Leadership Council is leading the Global Methodist Church during its transitional phase. However, over a thousand people have had a role in giving shape to it and bringing it into existence. Clergy and lay people in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, the Philippines and the United States have sacrificially given of their time, talent, and resources to discern God's will for the formation of the Global Methodist Church. During its transitional phase, the church will be governed by the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. Ultimately, duly elected delegates to the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference will prayerfully seek God's will for the church's future. The convening General Conference will adopt a Book of Doctrines and Discipline to replace the transitional document.	When, why, and by who? Being discussed, not yet defined. The Foundry: Established in July 2022, this network is currently composed of 5 very large, disaffiliated UMCs throughout the United States which average more than 1,000 members in Sunday service attendance. Each large leader church will seek and/or plant smaller feeder churches in the Network.	Local Church incorporation date	Considers foundational information of when an organization was established, as well as reasons for being and who prompted it.
Governance	The Global Methodist Church's highest governing body is the General Conference, which is comprised of delegates, representing both lay and clergy, from all countries with a Global Methodist Regional Conference. THE RESTRICTIVE RULE. In continuity with our Wesleyan heritage, the governing body of the Global Methodist Church shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion or Confession of Faith, or establish any new standards of rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.	What is the highest governing body? Loosely networked group of very large, self-governing churches. The highest governing body for any church in the Network is the local church.	Local Church	Considers what the highest body for enforcing accountability to be.

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Members	Within five years of its official initiation date (May 1, 2022), we believe the Global Methodist Church will have local churches in a number of countries all around the world. Some local churches will join one-by-one, and other local churches will join in regional groups. And new churches will be planted in missional settings around the world.	How many members across the Network? The total number of members across the Network is currently not known. Lead Churches currently involved in the Network have regularly more than 1,000 members in Sunday service attendance.	Local Church membership	Considers the depth of the church body in both the number of members and their location.
Connections				
Conference - US	District Conferences Annual Conferences	A loose network of 5 very large "like-minded" former UMCs across the United States. Operation of the network and the degree to which the churches are "like-minded" has not been defined.	None	Considers US connection structure
Conference - Global	Regional Conferences General Conferences	Any global churches in the Network? None are known at this time.	None	Considers global connection structure
Shared Resources	Reflecting the shared mission of each of our congregations, connectional entities may be formed at the general, regional, and annual conference levels to effectively support the task of making disciples and spreading scriptural holiness. These organizations shall prioritize resourcing the work of local churches, functioning where possible in and through partnerships with existing ministries, congregations, annual conferences, and other bodies, rather than creating new structures.	What are shared resources and how will sharing be accomplished? As the Foundry Network of churches is evolving and not formally defined, shared resources and costs are yet to be determined and agreed upon.	Local Church Defined	Considers overlap of resources across the entire church body and how they can be used as a force multiplier.

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Accountability	<p>In the event of conflict or complaint, connectional activity is governed by the GMC BoDD. The Transitional Leadership Council shall approve the Judicial Practices and Procedures (JPP) that govern the complaint, supervisory, administrative, and judicial processes. Such JPP shall have the force of church law, but not be included in the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline. In the event of a conflict between the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline and the JPP, the Transitional Book Doctrines and Discipline shall govern.</p>	<p>How are churches in the Network accountable to one another?</p> <p>As the Foundry Network of churches is evolving and not formally defined, an accountability structure between the churches has not been determined nor agreed upon. The current position is that accountability will be very relational.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the handling of conflict and issue resolution for the entire church body.
Funding	<p>Connectional Support: Capped at 6.5% of church operating income (GMC capped at 1.5% and Local Conference Administration capped at 5%)</p> <p>Transitional Leadership Council Update: Within the GMC, apportionments will not be established. Connectional support costs have been defined with "not-to-exceed" caps. As of 7/18/22, connectional support administration for the GMC and the Local Conference is set at 2% of church operating income (GMC1% + Local Conference 1%). Churches joining the GMC who are under financial duress from UMC disaffiliation may waive their connectional administration costs for the first two years.</p>	<p>What are Network Costs?</p> <p>No apportionments. Connectional costs/shared resources in the Network have not been determined. Exact amount of costs are TBD.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers how connectional resources are funded.

Theology

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Protestant	Wesleyan - Articles of Religion defined in the GMC Book of Doctrines and Discipline (BoDD)	<p>Local church (Asbury) - to remain Wesleyan and operate under the 2016 UMC Book of Discipline (BoD) while a new BoD is developed and approved for local church operation in the Foundry Network of churches.</p> <p><i>Are all churches in the Network of the same Theology?</i></p> <p>As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on theology.</p> <p><i>If not, how are they "like-minded"?</i></p> <p>As all currently involved churches are former UMCs it is expected that they would remain Wesleyan. However, Network governance does not exist to confirm and enforce this among all involved churches.</p>	Theological positions are determined by the local church and defined in local church policy/governance.	Considers the fundamental theology which will guide the entire church body in worship.
Doctrine/Creeds/Articles of Religion(Confession of Faith)				
Standards	2022 The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of The Global Methodist Church	2016 UMC Book of Discipline will be used to begin local church operation until something is created and agreed upon.	Determined by the local church. Standards vary from church to church.	Considers the standard by which the entire church body will be governed.

Themes/Topics	The Foundry			Notes/Comments
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Statement of Belief	<p>HOLY SCRIPTURE: The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (as specified in the Articles of Religion) are the primary rule and authority for faith, morals, and service, against which all other authorities must be measured.</p> <p>THE WESLEYAN WAY OF SALVATION: 1. The gift of grace is available to all persons. 2. Grace is the manifestation of God’s love toward fallen creation, to be freely received and freely given. 3. God’s <i>prevenient or preventing grace</i> refers to “the first dawning of grace in the soul,” mitigating the effects of original sin, even before we are aware of our need for God. 4. God’s <i>convincing grace</i> leads us to what the Bible terms “repentance,” awakening in us a desire to “flee the wrath to come” and enabling us to begin to “fear God and work righteousness.” 5. God’s <i>justifying grace</i> works by faith to bring reconciliation to God through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, what God does for us. 6. God’s <i>sanctifying grace</i> begins with God’s work of regeneration, sometimes referred to as “being born again.” 7. Our ultimate hope and promise in Christ is glorification, where our souls and bodies are perfectly restored through this grace.</p>	<p><i>Is this the same for all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same statement of belief.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the fundamental position on the beliefs of the entire church body.
Creeds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE APOSTLES’ CREED 2. THE NICENE CREED (A.D. 381) 3. THE DEFINITION OF CHALCEDON (A.D. 451) 	<p><i>Is this the same for all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on creeds.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the creeds which are used during worship by the entire church body.
Articles of Faith	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. THE 25 ARTICLES OF RELIGION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH 2. THE 16 ARTICLES OF CONFESSION OF FAITH OF THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH 3. NORMATIVE WESLEYAN STANDARDS (Based on sermons of John Wesley) 	<p><i>Is this the same for all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same Articles of Faith.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the Articles of Faith which are used by the entire church body to harmonize the basis of individual belief in witness of Christ to the world.

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Social Principals (Witness)				
Moral Standards	<p>We believe that all persons irrespective of their station or circumstances in life have been made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity, justice, and respect. We denounce as sin racism, sexism, and other expressions that unjustly discriminate against any person (Genesis 1-2, Deuteronomy 16:19-20, Luke 11:42, 19:9, Colossians 3:11).</p> <p>We believe that life is a holy gift of God whose beginnings and endings are set by God, and that it is the particular duty of believers to protect those who may be powerless to protect themselves, including the unborn, those with disabilities or serious illness, and the aged (Genesis 2:7, Leviticus 19:32, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:41-44).</p> <p>We believe that followers of God have been called to exercise self-control and holiness in their personal lives, generosity and kindness in their relations with others, and grace in all matters of life (Romans 12:9-21, Galatians 5:22-23).</p>	<p><i>Is this the same for all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on moral standards.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the entire church body position on how members are to live in the world.
Abortion	<p>The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the wellbeing of the mother and the child are at stake. We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of Life to prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources (Exodus 22:23-23, Psalm 139:13-16, James 1:27).</p>	<p><i>Is this the same for all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on abortion.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the specific governance position held by the entire church body.

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Marriage and Human Sexuality	<p>We believe that human sexuality is a gift of God that is to be affirmed as it is exercised within the legal and spiritual covenant of a loving and monogamous marriage between one man and one woman (Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:22-33).</p> <p>We are saddened by all expressions of sexual behavior, including pornography, polygamy, and promiscuity, that do not recognize the sacred worth of each individual or that seek to exploit, abuse, objectify, or degrade others, or that represent less than God’s intentional design for His children. While affirming a scriptural view of sexuality and gender, we welcome all to experience the redemptive grace of Jesus and are committed to being a safe place of refuge, hospitality, and healing for any who may have experienced brokenness in their sexual lives (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20).</p>	<p>We affirm that marriage and sexual intimacy are good gifts from God. In keeping with the teachings of Scripture historically and throughout the Church universal, we believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the specific governance position held by the entire church body.
Local Church				
Ministerial Candidates	<p>ENTRANCE INTO ORDAINED MINISTRY (¶ 406):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Persons who hear a call to ordained ministry should meet with their local pastor or presiding elder (district superintendent) to inquire about candidacy. After local church approval, a certified candidate shall spend a minimum of six months in discernment, which must include a supervised internship or employment in a ministry setting. Once accepted as a candidate for ministry by the annual conference board of ministry, a candidate shall undergo a process of ministerial and spiritual formation developed by the annual conference board of ministry. 	<p><i>Will requirements for all churches in the Network be the same?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling ministerial candidates. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on ministerial candidates.</p> <p><i>If not, how will differences be handled?</i></p> <p>As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if differences could be defined in a single process. Ordination requirements and standards are the responsibility of each local church.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the scriptural requirements for how ministerial candidates are determined for ordination in serving the entire church body. (1 Timothy 3:1-13)

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Pastoral Charge	A pastoral charge shall consist of one or more churches that are organized under and subject to the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church, with a charge conference, and to which a pastor is appointed to serve.	Local church defined	Local Church Defined	Considers the organization of what constitutes the makeup of a local church charge. Also, considers whether there is more than one church in a given charge.
Membership	The membership of a local Global Methodist church shall include all people who have been baptized and all people who have professed their faith. All baptized or professing members of any local Global Methodist congregation are members of the Global Methodist Church and members of the church universal.	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD.	Local Church Defined	Considers the requirements for church membership across the entire church body.
Member Care	<p>MEMBER INVOLVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>1. Each member is called to fulfill their vows of baptism and membership, being faithful by participating in the spiritual formation, worship, stewardship, and service opportunities each church provides.</p> <p>2. The pastor is responsible for ensuring that members are cared for by implementing a discipleship process focused on helping members to “go on to perfection” by loving God with all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and by loving their neighbor as themselves.</p> <p>3. All members of the church are called into a loving accountability with one another. The congregation shall use every means of encouraging a negligent member to return to an active faith and to lovingly restore them to the fellowship of the church (Matthew 18:15-17). See ¶1322 Member Involvement and Accountability for all process step details.</p>	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD.	Local Church Defined	Considers member accountability across the entire church body.

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Congregational Fidelity	<p>CONGREGATIONAL FIDELITY (¶ 354): Central to the integrity of both local congregations and the Global Methodist Church as a whole, the doctrines and discipline of the denomination as outlined in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline shall be voluntarily and joyfully embraced and practiced by all. Additionally, local congregations covenant to provide connectional funding as set forth in ¶ 349. Congregations that for reason of conscience find themselves unable to do so are accordingly encouraged to affiliate with another Christian denomination more in keeping with their beliefs or practices.</p>	<p><i>Are expectations the same for all persons in churches across the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on congregational fidelity.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers member fidelity expectations across the entire church body.
Discipleship	<p>GROWTH IN FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP: As members involve themselves in private and public prayer, worship, the sacraments, study, Christian action, systematic giving, and holy discipline, they grow in their appreciation of Christ, understanding of God at work in history and the natural order, and an understanding of themselves. Faithful discipleship includes the obligation to participate in the corporate life of the congregation with fellow members of the body of Christ. A member is bound in sacred covenant to shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys of fellow members. A Christian is called to speak the truth in love, always ready to confront conflict in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.</p>	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on Discipleship.	Local Church Defined	Considers the spiritual growth of members and approach for discipleship across the entire church body.

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Ministry				
Education Requirements	<p>The GMC requires candidates for ordination as deacons and elders to fulfill basic educational requirements prior to ordination. Courses in the following five areas are required for all persons seeking ordination as a deacon plus one additional course for those who will be pastoring a church or planning to pursue elder's orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old Testament Courses ● New Testament Courses ● Christian Leadership/Conflict Resolution ● Methodist Theology ● Denominational History and Polity ● Basics of Preaching <p>Additional courses in Church Finance and Administration, History of Christianity, Theology, Mission, Church Renewal, Spiritual Formation, and Advanced Preaching are required to complete full education requirements. The Transitional Commission on Higher Education and Ministry will determine whether courses at a given institution meet the requirements. Each annual conference board of ministry shall certify that the courses taken by a person correspond sufficiently to these areas.</p>	<p><i>Are requirements the same across all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on ministerial candidate education requirements.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the education requirements for ministerial candidates across the entire church body.
Ordination	<p>Within the Global Methodist Church, certified candidates must first be ordained as deacons and, after ordination as deacons, may be ordained as elders.</p> <p>A candidate for elder must complete the educational requirements for ordination as an elder and be approved by two-thirds vote by the elders of the annual conference in executive session and be approved by the bishop.</p>	<p><i>Are requirements the same across all churches in the Network?</i></p> <p>Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling the ordination of ministerial candidates. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. Network leaders have taken the position that "we don't ordain". It is fully expected that churches in the network will have different positions on the ordination of ministerial candidates.</p>	Local Church Defined	Considers the process for the ordination of ministerial candidates across the church body.

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Lay Pastor	A bishop may appoint a layperson to serve as a supply pastor under the immediate supervision of an elder who can provide mentoring to the supply pastor and sacramental ministry to the congregation. Such layperson must be a candidate for ordained ministry and must be ordained as deacon within three years of being appointed to serve as a supply pastor.	Are requirements the same across all churches in the Network? Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling lay pastors. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is fully expected that churches in the network will have different positions on the handling of lay pastors.	Local Church Defined	Considers requirements for church members seeking the role of Lay Pastor and seeking appointment as part of church supply.
Office of Bishop	Bishops are elected from among those within the order of elders and set apart for a ministry of visionary servant leadership, general oversight, and supervision in support of the Church in its mission. As followers of Jesus Christ, bishops are charged with guarding the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church. The Office of Bishop is not a life time appointment and is subject to the term limits set by the convening General Conference.	None	None	Considers the role of Bishops across the entire church body.
Clergy Appointments	Prior to the convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church, it is expected that the appointments of clergy serving congregations in which both transition into the Global Methodist Church will be retained, unless a change is needed because of illness, family situation, death, the election of senior status, clergy misconduct, or the financial exigencies of the congregation. Appointments are to be made with consideration of the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of congregations and institutions, the gifts and evidence of God's grace of those appointed, and in faithfulness to our commitment to an open itinerancy.	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling clergy appointments. The Foundry Network will not ordain nor appoint pastors. The local church is completely responsible for acquiring their pastor(s).	None	Considers the process for clergy appointments across the entire church body.

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Ministry Effectiveness	Clergy are one of the vital resources the Global Methodist Church has to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the land. To carry out our God-given mission, clergy must be effective in their leadership and ministry. Accordingly, within the Global Methodist Church, neither elders nor deacons shall have the right to a guaranteed appointment. If a bishop chooses not to appoint a clergy person, the bishop must provide a written rationale for that decision to the individual involved. Clergy are free to seek an appointment in an annual conference other than their own.	<i>Will the evaluation process be the same across all churches in the Network?</i> Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling ministry effectiveness. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. The handling of ministry effectiveness is the responsibility of the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the ministerial review process across the entire church body.
Pastoral Fidelity	¶ 801. ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CHURCH: Founded in the gospel call to faithfulness, and as set forth in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, ordination in the Global Methodist Church and membership in an annual conference is a sacred trust. As such, individual clergy, whether in active ministry, honorable or administrative location, or in senior status, are accountable to the whole church for their behavior and actions as long as they hold orders within the denomination.	<i>Are expectations the same for all pastors in churches across the Network?</i> Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling pastoral fidelity. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. As the Network is evolving and undefined, it is not known if all of the churches will have the same position on the handling of pastoral fidelity. Pastoral accountability standards are to be defined and handled by the local church. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers standards for leadership accountability across the entire church body.
Leaves of Absence	Clergy may request in writing a voluntary temporary leave of absence of up to one year from their ministerial duties due to medical needs, family circumstances, or other personal issues. Clergy who have been serving in a full-time appointment for six consecutive years may be granted sabbatical leave for a program of study, travel, or renewal. Sabbatical leaves of three months or less may be granted by the pastor-parish relations committee, with the approval of the presiding elder (district superintendent).	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling clergy leave of absence. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist.	Local Church Defined	Considers how leaves of absence are handled for clergy appointments across the entire church body.

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Retirement	<p>Wespath - Personal retirement accounts already established within the UMC. This approach would be continued by the GMC.</p> <p>Following the scriptural pattern, there is no retirement for clergy or laity from the work of God's Kingdom. However, clergy persons serving in appointments may choose senior status within the annual conference, with the approval of a majority of the board of ministry and a majority of the clergy session. There is no mandatory age for such status. Senior status releases clergy members from any obligation to accept an appointment to ministry from the bishop, though clergy in senior status may voluntarily accept an appointment from the bishop to any ministry setting for which they qualify.</p>	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC process for handling clergy retirement. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist.	Local Church Defined	Considers the retirement process for clergy across the entire church body.
Complaints/Charges	The process of accountability is initiated when a formal complaint is filed. A complaint is a written and signed statement alleging misconduct as defined in ¶ 808.1-2 (a judicial complaint) or unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties (an administrative complaint, ¶¶ 806-807).	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC judicial process for handling complaints/charges. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Consider how complaints and charges are to be handled across the entire church body.
Education/Seminary	<p>1. Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY</p> <p>**Update: The GMC is currently evaluating seminaries for formal affiliation. As of now, only Asbury is formally aligned with the GMC.</p>	As the Foundry Network is not going to have any set education or ordination standards, pastor education requirements are to be determined by the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the list of approved education/seminary schools associated with the church body.

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Laypersons				
Supply Pastor	A bishop may appoint a layperson to serve as a supply pastor under the immediate supervision of an elder who can provide mentoring to the supply pastor and sacramental ministry to the congregation.	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC connection for handling supply pastors. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist.	Local Church Defined	Consider the role of Supply Pastor and how it is handled across the church body.
Ordination	Such layperson must be a candidate for ordained ministry and must be ordained as deacon within three years of being appointed to serve as a supply pastor.	Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC connection for handling the ordination of supply pastors. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist.	Local Church Defined	Considers the process for the ordination of supply pastor ministerial candidates across the church body.
Church Governance				
Governing System	The conference system provides for collective discernment and collective decision-making as the governing principle of our church polity (Proverbs 15:22, Acts 15:1-35).	What is it? A network of fully independent very large "like-minded" churches. The local church is the highest governing authority.	Local Church Defined	Considers the system used for governance and accountability across the entire church body.
Structure Levels (Local to Global)	Church Charge Conference District Conference Annual Conference Regional Conference General Conference	No defined structure	N/A	Considers the organization structure level from local to global used across the entire church body.

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Church Property				
Theology of Property	God owns all of creation (Psalm 50:9-10); we are but stewards of it for a period of time. Property (real, personal, tangible, and intangible) deeded or titled in the name of the Global Methodist Church and its entities (including its local churches) is to be used for the glory of God and to carry out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and to spread scriptural holiness across the land.	Local Church defined	Local Church defined	Considers the theology for the holding of property by the church and its members.
Assets	There is no trust clause for property held by local churches, annual conferences, regional conferences, connectional commissions, the Transitional Leadership Council, or any of their entities. Each local church, annual conference, regional conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed of in the event of the entity's dissolution.	Local Church ownership - No "Trust Clause"	Local Church ownership - No "Trust Clause"	Considers whether there is the use of a trust clause in connection with local church property. <i>Need information from Frazer on what they are doing.</i>
Judicial Administration				
Accountability	Founded in the gospel call to faithfulness, and as set forth in this Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, ordination in the Global Methodist Church and membership in an annual conference is a sacred trust. As such, individual clergy, whether in active ministry, honorable or administrative location, or in senior status, are accountable to the whole church for their behavior and actions as long as they hold orders within the denomination.	<i>How will accountability be managed across the Network of churches?</i> Local church (Asbury) to start operation around the 2016 UMC BoD. However, they will not be part of the UMC judicial process for handling accountability for complaints/charges. This process will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the formal judicial process for accountability across the entire church body.

Themes/Topics	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	The Foundry Network of Independent Churches	Independent (full autonomy)	Notes/Comments
Complaint Handling	Upon receiving a complaint, the duly authorized recipient shall describe the complaint process in writing both to the person making the complaint ("complainant") and the person against whom the complaint is made ("respondent"). As the complaint process progresses, the duly authorized recipient of the complaint shall continue to describe in writing to the complainant and recipient new parts of the process in a timely fashion. All original time limitations may be extended only once for 30 days upon the consent of the complainant and the respondent.	<i>How will complaints be managed across the Network of churches?</i> The process for Complaint Handling will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the formal judicial process for complaint handling across the entire church body.
Fair Process/Investigation	GMC Fair Judicial Process (¶ 805): Special attention shall be given to the timely disposition of all matters and to ensuring racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the committees dealing with complaints. GMC Principles of Fair Process include: 1. Right to Be Heard, 2. Right to Notice, 3. Right to Presence and Accompaniment, 4. Access to Records, 5. Ex Parte Communication, 6. Failure to Respond, 7. Healing, 8. No Double Jeopardy, 9. Immunity From Prosecution, 10. Counsel for the Church.	<i>How will due/fair process be managed across the Network of churches?</i> Fair process and Investigation for Complaint Handling will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the formal judicial approach for fair process and investigation across the entire church body.
Resolution	Complaints may be resolved during the supervisory response stage by a just resolution. A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability, making things right in so far as possible, and bringing healing to all the parties.	<i>How will problem resolution be managed across the Network of churches?</i> The process for Complaint Handling Resolution will need to be defined by the local church in order for one to exist. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Local Church Defined	Considers the formal judicial process for conflict resolution across the entire church body.

Themes/Topics	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	The Foundry Network of Independent Churches	Independent (full autonomy)	Notes/Comments
Strengths & Weaknesses/Considerations				
Organization/Structure	<p>Strengths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Affords organization/structure most similar to the UMC. 2.) Lessens the impact of a steep learning curve for church staff and the congregation for handling matters involving higher levels of church polity. 3.) Costs for handling governance, accountability, and connection provided resource management are known, understood, and already accounted for in the annual church finance budget preparation cycle. 4.) Language in the GMC BoDD has been added/removed to account for issues around cross-jurisdictional accountability within offices of leadership. <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) GMC BoDD is still under development and is currently being amended to strengthen areas where language is insufficient for clarity on governance. 2.) With a May 1st 2022 launch, the organization is new and will face administrative demands which could adversely affect planned operation. 	<p>Strengths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Affords nearly complete autonomy within a cooperative network of very large fully independent churches. 2. Affords a large church more direct control of operations without the influence of a higher governing body. <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Organization and structure of the Network is not defined and the local church is considered fully independent within the network. 2.) Near full autonomy demands are significant in that all organization/structures for governance, accountability, and formerly connection provided resource management must be defined and handled by the local church. 3.) Costs for handling governance, accountability, and formerly connection provided resource management are significant, complex, and recurring. 	<p>Strengths:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Affords complete autonomy. (Church can operate to the desires of its members) 2. Affords a large church more direct control of operations without any influence from a higher governing body. <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Fully autonomous, the church operates as an island. 2.) Full autonomy demands are significant in that all organization/structures for governance, accountability, and formerly connection provided resource management must be defined and handled by the local church. 3.) Costs for handling governance, accountability, and formerly connection provided resource management are significant, complex, and recurring. 	Considers the strengths and weaknesses of a given church organization and structure.
Transition Demands	Most similar to the way GFUMC operates as a fully connected Methodist church which affords the lowest transition demands of all the available options.	As a member in an evolving network of very large churches, there will be extreme differences in member cooperation. Significant transition demands are to be expected as the Network has no defined approach for external governance. While the local church (Asbury) will start operations around the 2016 UMC BoD, there is no UMC connectional support for resources and accountability handling. Governance must be specifically defined for an "end-to-end" accountability process, as well as for any other connectional gap. All civil liability issues, whether understood or not, are the complete responsibility of the local church.	Demands will vary based on the size of the local church. Needs relative to shared resources and accountability handling are greater in large churches. Church governance must be specifically defined with provisions for handling exceptional issues that would be ultimately owned by the local church. All civil liability issues, whether understood or not, are the complete responsibility of the local church.	Considers the number of demands placed on a given church undergoing transition from the UMC.
Connection	Local church connection established through the GMC BoDD which considers all churches within the GMC across the globe.	An evolving undefined network of very large fully independent churches in the US. Until formal governance is established to guide behavior of network members, there is limited opportunity for any depth in connection. Connection is considered "relational" between cooperating senior pastors in the network.	None	Considers the width and depth of churches in connection with one another across the entire church body

Themes/Topics	The Foundry			Notes/Comments
	Global Methodist Church (GMC)	Network of Independent Churches	Independent (full autonomy)	
Position on Critical Issues				
Wesleyan Theology	Fully harmonized around Wesleyan Theology and affords an external conference "end-to-end" connectional accountability system for driving any change to discipline governing the local church.	While the local church (Asbury) may start initial operation around Wesleyan theology as per the 2016 UMC BoD, without some form of external accountability, positions on theology can arbitrarily change to serve contrary desires in the congregation. This can introduce a number of permutations to governance which would no longer harmonize with Wesleyan Theology.	While the local church may start initial operation around Wesleyan theology, without some form of external accountability, positions on theology can arbitrarily change to serve contrary desires in the congregation. This can introduce a number of permutations to governance which would no longer harmonize with Wesleyan Theology.	Position on risks relative to long term commitment to Wesleyan theology
Property Trust Clause	No Trust Clause risks - Property is owned by local church	No Trust Clause risks - Property is owned by local church	No Trust Clause risks - Property is owned by local church	Position on risks relative to property trust clause across the entire church body.
Accountability	Pastoral and congregational fidelity expectations are defined with a fully established judicial process for external accountability across all churches in the GMC.	Pastoral and congregational fidelity expectations are defined by the local church with accountability handled completely by the local church. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Pastoral and congregational fidelity expectations are defined by the local church with accountability handled completely by the local church. There is no "due process" outside the local church.	Position on accountability in relation to pastoral and congregational fidelity across the entire church body.
Stability	With an establishment date of 5/1/22, there is insufficient history for taking a strong position on stability. However, as the GMC maintains the most UMC-like organization/structure, with BoDD positions for resolving the most problematic issues facing the UMC, stability of the GMC is considered high.	There is insufficient history on a network of very large fully independent churches for taking a strong position on stability. However, historically, organizations that lack an external accountability (governance) mechanism do not remain stable over long periods of time. Without an effective external accountability mechanism, strong, charismatic personalities tend to drive change which can quickly destabilize a church.	The stability of fully autonomous, independent churches throughout history has been highly erratic since operation/structure is mostly ad hoc. Without an effective external accountability (governance) mechanism, there is little in place to maintain stability as strong, charismatic personalities will tend to drive change which can quickly destabilize a church.	Position on risk as it relates to long term church stability.