

The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church



Formal conversations between Methodists in the United States and Episcopalians began in the 1940s, and relations continued through national ecumenical consultations (COCU and CUIC) and the formation of the United Methodist Church in 1968. However, Methodist-Anglican relations have been complex since the beginnings of the Wesleyan movement in the eighteenth century. The current United Methodist - Episcopal Church dialogue began meeting in 2002; it was endorsed by the 2000 General Convention and reauthorized in 2006. At that time the General Convention approved interim Eucharistic Sharing. Episcopal parishes are now authorized to hold joint celebrations of the Eucharist with United Methodist churches. The guidelines for joint Eucharist celebrations can be found at iam.ec/umctec.

What is Happening in the United Methodist Church?

In 2016, the United Methodist General Conference, meeting in Portland, Oregon, addressed controversies related to issues of ordination and marriage of gay and lesbian clergy. The bishops' Way Forward Committee was created in order to present proposals at a Special General Conference in 2019 in St. Louis, where a small majority of the votes called for more stringent adherence and consequences to the current Book of Discipline. In the years following, a diverse group of clergy and lay members participated in a mediation process which will propose a set of protocols called "[The Protocol of Grace through Separation](#)" at their upcoming General Conference in September of 2022.

What Does This Have to do with the Episcopal - United Methodist Dialogue?

The dialogue committee has met regularly during this time, in prayer and solidarity with our United Methodist siblings. We agree to walk alongside as we continue to work toward full communion, even as we put a pause to our voting processes until after the United Methodist Church has come to some resolution in 2022. The communique that describes this work, including a link to the proposal, is here: iam.ec/umccomm.

There are, however, already a number of shared ministries including campus and even parishes that share space and worship, along with joint advocacy and more. Each, no doubt, has special working agreements with bishops in its jurisdictions.

Episcopal Church Dioceses and United Methodist Episcopal Areas

The Episcopal Church consists of nine provinces, subdivided into 111 dioceses in 17 countries. 99 of those dioceses are domestic. The United Methodist Church consists of five jurisdictions and 46 episcopal areas in the United States.

For more information and to see the dioceses of the Episcopal Church and Presbyterian synods, visit iam.ec/dioareas.



More Resources

Contact the Rev. Margaret Rose, Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, at mrrose@episcopalchurch.org.

Read *A Gift to the World*, the proposal for full communion between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church at iam.ec/agttw.

Visit the webpages for the [Episcopal - United Methodist Dialogue](#), [Ecumenical Dialogues](#) from the Methodist Council of Bishops, and our corresponding [Facebook Group](#).

Meet our committee co-chairs: Bishop Gregory Palmer, North Central Jurisdiction Ohio West Episcopal Area, and Dr. Deirdre Good, The Episcopal Church.