

## Monday, February 25, 2019 - The Legislative Committee Day at General Conference 2019

Legislative committee work is the order of the day for General Conference. Here are stories about what has happened, what will be happening, why some of it is happening, and what's happening outside of the meeting space.

Start time is 8:00 a.m. CST.

### Key Links:

- [Live Feed of General Conference \(Start time 8:00 a.m. CST\)](#)
- [Daily Christian Advocate \(updates and tracking for everyday!\)](#)
- [Advance Daily Christian Advocate \(The legislation and rules\)](#)
- [Past issues of WJ Update](#)
- [United Methodist News Website](#)
- [Western Jurisdiction Website](#)
- [A chart of the four plans under consideration](#)
- [See the official online schedule](#)

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## What happened yesterday

Sunday at General Conference was filled with anticipation. Delegates and observers have been waiting since May of 2016 for the day to come. The day began with an [hour of worship](#), then organizing and implementing motions for the conference.

The morning centered around the [report from The Commission on a Way Forward](#). Members of the commission shared about the process and experience of their work in addition to giving highlights of the three plans included in the report.

After lunch the body voted on prioritization of the plans and petitions and elected officers for the Legislative committee.

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## Legislative committee begins its work

[Prioritization of the legislation](#) created a work order for the legislative committee. With newly elected officers, they were able to begin their work Sunday.

Now led by Rev. Joe Harris, the delegates became a legislative committee. The first two items they reviewed were petitions from Wespeth related to pension funds (Petitions 90016 and 90017). After proposed amendments, questions and explanations the committee voted to recommend the petitions to the full plenary session.

Today the one legislative committee will continue to work in priority order, beginning with review of petitions related to the traditional plan.

The challenge for the committee is the schedule. They now have just one day to review about seventy-four pieces of legislation.

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## **Why General Conference is calling for one legislative committee**

In this 2019 Called Special Session of General Conference, all petitions will be reviewed and voted upon in one legislative committee before moving onto the plenary session, which will be the same people. What and why is this?

A plenary session is defined as being the gathering of all members of a group, in this case, that's all the voting delegates of the General Conference.

Especially with a large group of people meeting to do legislative work, it is often not feasible with time constraints for the plenary session to address every individual piece of legislation. Therefore, plenary sessions will often delegate an initial review of petitions to a sub-set of the body, which we United Methodists call "Legislative Committees." The Commission on the General Conference determines the number of legislative committees, which was 12 in 2016. For this meeting, that number is one.

[Learn more about the legislative process on the Western Jurisdiction website](#)

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## **Happenings off the floor of the General Conference**

There is much, however, that takes place off the floor of General Conference and will not be seen by those who are sitting in front of their computers or watching Twitter on their phones. When Conference is in a large convention center with multiple floors and rooms, as in previous years, delegates and observers could wander shelves of books from Cokesbury, booths from General Agencies, get their health screened, and spend time quiet prayer rooms or even getting a massage. While an occasional diversion from the activity of the proceedings, these also provide valuable self-care over more than a week of meetings.

General Conference 2019 is different. It's shorter. It has one major focus. And the venue — an indoor football arena with one accessible concourse level — doesn't provide the space or the warmth of previous settings.

[Read more about what happens at General Conference on the Western Jurisdiction website.](#)

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## **Mountain Sky members offer radical hospitality at GC2019 with "Love-in-Action" welcome bags**

As attendees of the special called General Conference arrived at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri on Feb. 23, they were greeted by volunteers with the Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church — who were handing out "Love-in-Action" welcome bags filled with chocolate and conversation prompts.

The bags were a way for people to "Pass the Peace" with one another through dialogue and some treats, according to the Rev. Margaret Gillikin, a district superintendent in the Mountain Sky Conference.

[Read more about these gifts on the Western Jurisdiction website.](#)

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## **Former lay leader reflects on the long journey toward inclusion for the UMC**

Amory Peck, former delegate and lay leader from the Pacific Northwest Conference, part of the team chosen to deliver the Lay Address to the 2012 General Conference, took the time to bring her wisdom to the people gathered at [Nameoki United Methodist Church](#). Her remarks were layered in a rich awareness of Methodist history and the slow march of justice. They were also deeply personal.

[Read more on the Western Jurisdiction website.](#)

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## **Commentary:**

### **Dear Papa and Mama: A "coming out" letter**

Rev. Carlo Rapanut, Conference Superintendent for the Alaska Conference and a delegate to General Conference opened his heart in a message to his parents about his call to accept LGBTQIA people into full inclusion in The United Methodist Church saying, "If I am wrong on this, then God have mercy on my soul but I would rather err on the side of love in obedience to the God whose nature is love and calls me to love."

[Read his full message on his personal blog page, "Reflections of a Running Reverend."](#)

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## **Social connection during GC2019**

During General Conference 2019, you'll be able to engage with the people at the Special Session and others around the world that want to be a part of the historic conversation.

Western Jurisdiction will be present on Facebook ([/wjumc](#)), Twitter ([@wjumc](#)), Instagram ([@wjumc](#)), and SnapChat ([@wjumc](#)). Follow ongoing updates, and tag us with your questions, news, and photos.

[Read more about using Social Media on the Western Jurisdiction Website](#)

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