



**2022**  
**Listening Session**  
**With Bishop Bob Farr**

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**FUTURE**

To foster unity within the United Methodist Church and build excitement for the future of the Church and the Missouri Annual Conference, molded by all of us.



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## ROMANS 8:18-25

<sup>18-21</sup> That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.



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<sup>22-25</sup> All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.



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## MISSION

- Making **NEW** disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*Matthew 28:18-20*



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## VISION

- Relentlessly lead our churches to become outwardly focused and spiritually centered Christ followers.

*Luke 9:1-4 & 6*



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## CORE PRACTICES

- Congregational Development
- Leadership Development
- Missional Justice



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## EXPECTATIONS

The Missouri Conference has six expectations of all clergy and lay members: Christ-centeredness, accountability, collaboration, excellence, diversity and fruitfulness.

These values are central to our pursuit of Unity in Christ through Diversity in the Kingdom.



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## THREE PRIORITIES

- New Places for New People
- Missional Leaders
- Missional Justice



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## RACE AND CULTURE INITIATIVE

The Missouri Conference wants to become a brave, empowering place for people from diverse cultures and generations so that we can become a Church for all God's people.

We seek to do this by equipping Conference leaders and local churches for multicultural leadership, cross-cultural connection and healing justice.

*Galatians 3:28*



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General Conference Postponed

**Spring 2024**

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## GENERAL CONFERENCE QUESTIONS

- Postponed or canceled?
- Delegates?
- 2020 Legislation?
- Protocol?



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Jurisdictional Conference

**November 2-5**

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## WHAT DO THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS MEAN?

- Continuing under 2016 Book of Discipline
- Disaffiliations
  - How to disaffiliate
  - ¶2553 *Book of Discipline*
  - Global Methodist Church



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## STEPS FOR CHURCHES WANTING TO DISAFFILIATE

- Church Conference
- 2/3 vote in favor of disaffiliation
- Paid pension liability
- 3-year apportionments paid
- Pay back grants received in the last 5 years
- Missouri Annual Conference approval



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## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH (GMC)

- Launches May 1, 2022
- Complete the process for withdrawal ASAP
  - GMC votes to receive churches who have left the UMC
- Pathway to be created for ordained UMC clergy to be recognized by GMC
  - Ordained UMC clergy required to withdraw and surrender credentials



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## GMC – PENSION LIABILITY

- Required to pay pension liability
  - GMC will not assume pension liability for active pastors
  - Unfunded pension liability for past service remains with the UMC
    - Ensures protection of health and wellbeing of clergy who remain and those who depart.



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Missouri Annual Conference

## Bishop Farr's Hopes and Dreams for the Future of the UMC and MOAC

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## FUTURE

- Focus Mission Fields
- Reorganize
- Plant More Churches
- Become More Missional



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## FUTURE

The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in scripture and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit where all of God's children are welcome; not just some.



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## 1 - DISCIPLE-MAKING

First and foremost, we are dedicated to the mission of making **NEW** disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



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## 2 – ALL PEOPLE CAN BELONG

All belong and will be loved in the United Methodist Church. All will be heard, respected and engaged. All will be free to develop their personal relationship with God and to serve fully in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

*Three Simple Rules*



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## 3 - CONNECTION & IMPACT

To continue to be a powerful connection, living and sharing the grace of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are committed to the mission and witness of Jesus Christ to work for global health, education, creation care, child welfare, racial reconciliation, disaster recovery and countless other missional efforts.

*Head, Heart and Hands*



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## 4 - EXPERIENCE GOD

We embrace a Church where we experience our triune God in personal and community relationships, transforming our own lives, the lives around us and the entire world.

*Personal Piety & Social Holiness*



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## QUESTION OF THE DAY – HOLD THE MESSY MIDDLE

We continue to be the church of the *via media*. (John Wesley's vision)

- Diversity in thought and unity in Christ
- Conviction without conformity
  - You may or you may not
  - Rather than ... shall or shall not



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## LIVING THE GOSPEL

- We embrace a Church that has uplifted our own lives and the lives of our friends, family and those we cherish.
- We embrace a Church built in loving relationships rather than uniformity in thought and action.
- We embrace a church where everyone does not have to agree and where everyone is welcome.
- We embrace the Wesleyan process through the lens of scripture, tradition, reason and experience.

