

Some information related to General Conference and matters of LGBTQ in the UMC

As the Sr. Pastor of Grace UMC and a member of our task force planning an informational meeting for February 21st, I volunteered to put together a bibliography along with some web links to provide more information for those seeking a better understanding about the 2021 General Conference of the UMC and matters relating to LGBTQ inclusion in the Church. Although all members of the task force were invited to contribute the names of theologians and biblical scholars representing their perspectives, I only heard back from a few.

Below I have listed for you some theologians and biblical scholars to whom centrists, progressives and traditionalist might turn to inform their theology on LGBTQ inclusion.

Likely more Traditionalist:

William Abraham, Maxie Dunnam, Tim Keller (Reformed Tradition) N.T. Wright

Likely more Centrist (some are now Centrist/Progressives):

Tom Berlin, Adam Hamilton, Julius Dotson, Tony Campolo

Likely more Progressive:

Barbara Brown Taylor, Rachael Held Evans, Walter Brueggemann , Brain McLaren

A few informational links and pages for various perspectives:

Article about Scripture, Science and LGBTQ. (current understandings)

<https://mainstreamumc.com/scripture/additional-study-tools/scripture-science-sexuality/>

What is a Centrist in the UMC

<https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/umc-future/so-what-is-a-centrist/>

<https://goodnewsmag.org/2017/10/218362/>

<https://mainstreamumc.com/blog/the-wesleyan-character-of-methodist-centrists/>

Facebook pages for non-centrist views:

Wesleyan Covenant Association/ Facebook (Traditionalist) and

Reconciling Ministries Network Facebook (Progressive)

Following our Last General Conference

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/centrists-progressives-to-discuss-churchs-future>

Liberia's Conference in February 2020 related to General Conference 2021

<https://mainstreamumc.com/blog/5-problems-with-liberias-protocol-vote/>

<https://mainstreamumc.com/blog/philippines-part-2-protocol-christmas-covenant-affirmed/>

Current Plans Proposed to GC <https://www.umnews.org/-/media/UMC%20Media/2020/03/24/13/54/General-Conference-UMC-Plans-Chart-V8>

Current Social Principles of the UMC <https://www.umcsc.org/PDF/SocialPrinciples.pdf>

The Official UMC Website www.umc.org

The preeminent concern for most Christians about LGBTQ matters in the church is related to scripture. Therefore, further reading to clarify a biblical precedence for inclusion may be helpful. If you desire to know more about matters relating to the lives of LGBTQ individuals and how the church might respond, and other related information, I invite you to google search Cokesbury books on homosexuality, where you will find many works by biblical scholars and theologians on the subject. Or if any of you, or anyone in your family desire more direction about specific books or readings of theology related to this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.