

# Summary of Judicial Council decision 79922

7.5 pieces of the Traditional Plan were found constitutional and will go into effect Jan. 1.

Everything unconstitutional before General Conference 2019 remains so, including any amended pieces. The Taylor Exit Plan is constitutional and now in effect

What happens when implemented:

## Traditional Plan

The ban on same-sex wedding ceremonies and openly gay clergy remains in place, but so does the church's stance on all people being deemed of sacred worth.

- New minimum penalties of a one-year suspension for first offense and a loss of orders for second offense for clergy who celebrate same-sex unions.
- Expanded definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” to include someone “living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.”
- More specific prohibitions against bishops consecrating or ordaining bishops or clergy who are “self-avowed homosexuals.” (Note the now-missing “practicing.”)
- District committees on ordained ministry and boards of ordained ministry are forbidden from recommending “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” for ordination.
- More opportunities to appeal church trials.
- Complainants in a just resolution process receive explanations of dismissals as well as a statement of harms.

## Disaffiliation

- Churches must leave by Dec. 31, 2023.
- Decision to disaffiliate requires 2/3 vote of professing church members at a charge conference.
- Annual conference board of trustees sets terms and conditions for disaffiliation agreement between conference trustees and local church trustees, with following required provisions:
  - GCFA must develop standard form for disaffiliation agreements (BoD ¶807.9., ¶2501).

- The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments.
- Local church can retain its “real and personal, tangible and intangible property.” Transfer of property takes place before disaffiliation, and all legal costs are paid by the local church.
- Local church pays its share of unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference, determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- Local pays all other debts, loans and liabilities or transfer them to its new entity before leaving.
- Disaffiliating churches (BoD ¶2553) remain eligible to sponsor voluntary employee benefit plans through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- Once all funds due are paid by exiting church, annual conference releases the church from the trust clause (mainly BoD ¶2501).

More info:

[www.umc.org/decisions/79922](http://www.umc.org/decisions/79922)

[www.umnews.org/en/news/court-oks-part-of-traditional-plan-exit-plan](http://www.umnews.org/en/news/court-oks-part-of-traditional-plan-exit-plan)