



Justice-seeking.  
People of faith.



# Plumbline: Schism & Restructuring Discrimination

Methodist Federation for Social Action

[www.mfsaweb.org](http://www.mfsaweb.org)

Facebook: [MFSAVoices](#) or Twitter: [@MFSAVoices](#)

“I am setting a plumbline in the midst of my people...” - Amos 7:8

## Definition of LGBTQI:

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex

## Plan Websites:

Covenantal Unity Plan:

[www.covenantalunity.org](http://www.covenantalunity.org)

Jurisdictional Solution Plans:

[www.jurisdictionalsolution.org](http://www.jurisdictionalsolution.org)

Connectional Table Third Way:

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_Properties/connectional-table/documents/A-Third-Way-Values-and-Context-revised.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/connectional-table/documents/A-Third-Way-Values-and-Context-revised.pdf)

## Blogs:

<http://hackingchristianity.net/2016/03/faceless-accountability-is-no-way-to-save-the-umc-covenant.html>

<http://hackingchristianity.net/2016/01/primer-on-structural-proposals-for-umc-general-conference-2016.html>

<https://oboedire.wordpress.com/2016/03/14/umc-schism/>

## But what about Adam Hamilton and Mike Slaughter's plan, A Way Forward?

To put it simply, **this plan does not exist in legislation.** As in 2012, we anticipate Hamilton and Slaughter may wield their notoriety to develop a legislative plan during General Conference. As with the other plans, MFSA believes the specifics of [A Way Forward](#) are counter to the values we have outlined in this Plumbline.

## Values at Stake

LGBTQI United Methodists are coming to this General Conference (GC) to say again that the harm done to us by this church, our Church, is unbearable. Telling LGBTQI persons that we are an abomination, we are incompatible with God, is unbearable. Giving cover to our families when they kick us out, creating a breath-taking number of LGBTQI homeless youth, is unbearable. Attacking our humanity and destroying our self-worth to such a degree that we commit suicide is unbearable. Denying blessings and celebrations of our marital covenants is unbearable. Denying recognition of God's radical calls to us of ministry within a United Methodist context is unbearable. Claiming that your interpretations of Scripture justifies

all of this and cloaking yourselves in piety is unbearable.

We come to this GC to force this system to recognize our humanity. We come to this GC to embody Jesus' example in overturning the tables in the Temple. We come to this GC inspired by MLK's message in *A Letter From a Birmingham Jail* when he spoke of "creat[ing] such a crisis and establishing such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the [harm]. We "seek so to dramatize the [harm] that it can no longer be ignored...to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation." We come to this GC to demand fulfillment of Je-

sus' proclamations and to make the kingdom of God a lived reality in the present.

The GC cannot holy conference its way out of the harm, where LGBTQI persons are often talked about but not talked with. GC cannot find resolution by restructuring the harm and discrimination. GC will not be able to "amicably separate" us from the body; we are everywhere, in every corner of the church, even when you scare us into hiding.

We call on all people, delegates included, to stand with us. God's values of love, justice and compassion are at stake. Our Wesleyan values are at stake. The nature of The UMC is at stake. The lives of LGBTQI persons are at stake.

## Key Legislation: DO NOT SUPPORT

### Schismatic Legislation:

**CO 60993, 60994** : Plan of Separation; **LC 60812** : Disaffiliation

### Covenantal Unity Plan (CUP):

**JA 60027** : Complainant as Party to Just Resolution; **JA 60028**: Definition of Just Resolution

**JA 60029** : Revision of Episcopal Complaint Process; **JA 60810**: Mandatory Penalty

**LC 60811** : Disaffiliation; **MH 60648**: Clergy Pension Preserved

### Jurisdictional Proposals:

Organic Jurisdictional Solution: **CO 61001, 61002, 61003, 61004, 61005, 61006, 61007, 61011, 61013; JA 61014; LC 61009; MH 61008, 61010, 61012**

Two-Jurisdiction Solution: **CO 61015, 61016, 61017, 61019, 61020; FO 61018**

Progressive Jurisdictional Solution: **CO 61021, 61022, 61023, 61024, 61025, 61026**

### Connectional Table Third Way:

**CB 60784**: Marriage; **MH 61035**: Amend Footnote; **MH 60788**: Remove Prohibition