

HIGH LEVEL STRATEGY For the ONE CHURCH PLAN

Saturday

Before Sunday morning

OCP supporting delegates should sign up for the Uniting Methodists WhatsApp channel for floor communications at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqv166MxiZgkIEXtVRBbMkGWd3kqfGGmV8YiBB6gOhD2x1Qg/viewform>

Some may prefer the MFSA/RMN channel on for progressive delegates.

Delegate meeting and Rally for the One Church Plan

At the Hyatt Hotel at 6:45 there will be a meeting of delegates supportive of the One Church Plan to build community and connect to the group. The Rally for the One Church Plan is meant for everyone, delegates, alternates, visitors. It will be at the Hyatt hotel from 7:30PM until 8:30PM. Please invite all OCP supporters, whether delegates or not.

Sunday through Tuesday

We will huddle in a place on the way to the floor where we will share Voter's Guides for the day. Please come by and get a guide so we are on the same page towards OCP passage.

Sunday

Prioritization Plan

- The One Church Plan should be voted as a high priority.
- All other plans and petitions should be voted low priority.

Legislative Leadership

- Chair – Connie Clark, Tennessee
- Vice Chair – Betty Musau Kazadi, North Katanga++
- Secretary – Salvador Malana, Northern Philippines

Please note these persons were selected for their fairness and ability to manage what promises to be a complex legislative process. There is no expectation that these leaders will tilt the balance on our behalf.

Monday

One Church Plan

Only willing to support 4 amendments to the plan:

- #90004 – delete the sentence “The Bishop may choose...in its work” to comply with JC1366
- #90008 – Amend “shall be reassigned” to “may seek reassignment” to comply with JC1366
- #90013 – delete the final sentence proposed for addition to comply with JC1366
- #90015 – Europe will offer amendment to change adoption time in central conferences to after their meetings in 2020.
- We will ask people to vote against all other amendments. We worry that what might be an improvement in one person’s eyes will lose a vote on the opposite end of the coalition. The Commission probably got it right in balancing these interests and we ask people to resist all amendments except those itemized above.

Traditionalist Plan

- Reform coalition will attempt many amendments on several of the petitions, including substitution of the Modified Traditional Plan on two of the petitions.
- We will ask our delegates to vote against all of them. The Traditionalist Plan should not be improved. This will leave elements of the Traditional Plan unconstitutional.
- We can foresee some making amendments that further the obedience standards to other aspects of a holiness code, such as prohibitions against re-married pastors, etc.
- We should be ready for calling the question when we feel confident the body will defeat the plan.

Exit Petitions

- We will move to refer or table all 5 exit petitions
- How exit would be portrayed in the press will have great impact
- We must resist efforts to add an exit to the OCP. Exit votes should stand alone.

It is not consistent with the intent of the One Church Plan to publicly support exit provisions, but there is wide recognition that we don’t want to hold congregations hostage. We also recognize that current discipline allows conference discretion around exits and that some will use those provisions for immediate action. We believe current discipline is more practical given the wide variety of situations where a congregation may seek exit. It’s hard to imagine a single provision applicable in all states and all scenarios. Our non-legislative approach on exits include: 1) any provision around exit must be for matters of conscience, and not for matters of opportunity; 2) on Monday night we will need to evaluate the need for exit provisions in sessions on Tuesday. We expect WCA types to focus their energies on this should MTP fail.

Other Petitions

- The Connectional Conference Plan will also have an airing, but there does not seem to be a reason to marshal energy in defeating it.
- We should probably not take a position on the other petitions.

Tuesday

Tuesday agenda is to pass the One Church Plan. The method will need to be determined Monday night when we have a better grasp of the context, situation.