

**The 2019 General Conference took the following actions  
regarding homosexuality:**

- Retained the Book of Discipline's restrictions against ordaining "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" - ¶304.3 in the Book of Discipline still states:

*"self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church."*

- Retained the Book of Discipline's restrictions against officiating at or hosting same- sex marriage ceremonies- ¶341.6 in the Book of Discipline still states:

*"Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."*

- Provided an expanded definition of "self-avowed practicing homosexual" ¶ 304.3, footnote 1 states:

*"Self-avowed practicing homosexual" is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is 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. Created the council relations committee, as part of the Council of Bishops, to hold bishops accountable to restrictions related to homosexuality."*

- Added stricter enforcement for violations of church law including Minimum penalties for clergy convicted at trial of performing a same-sex wedding. ¶2711.3 *where the conviction is for conducting ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies under ¶ 2702.1(b) or (d), the trial court does not have the power to and may not fix a penalty less than the following:*
  - a) *First (1st) offense – One (1) year's suspension without pay.*
  - b) *Second (2nd) offense – Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of*

*licensing, ordination, or consecration.*

- Required that Boards of Ordained Ministry examine and not recommend ministry candidates who do not meet standards regarding sexuality. It also empowers bishops to rule a proposed ministry candidate out of order. ¶304.5

*“The district committee on ordained ministry and the Board of Ordained Ministry*

*shall not approve or recommend any person for candidacy, licensing, commissioning, or ordination who does not meet the qualifications of ¶ 304.1-3, based on the full examination and thorough inquiry into the person’s fitness by the committee and board (see Judicial Council Decisions 1343 and 1344). The bishop presiding in the clergy session shall rule any such unqualified candidate out of order and not eligible to be acted upon.*

- ¶ 415.6 Prohibits bishops from consecrating, commissioning or ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexuals (including candidates elected to become bishops). *“Bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals, even if they have been duly elected by the jurisdictional or central conference. Bishops are prohibited from commissioning those on the deacon or elder track if the Board of Ordained Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed practicing homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. Bishops are prohibited from ordaining deacons or elders if the Board of Ordained Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed practicing homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. As these services are acts of the whole Church, text and rubrics shall be used in the form approved by the General Conference.”*