



The Columns *Online*

March 9, 2022 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

United Methodists delay General Conference again

(RNS) — The United Methodist Church has delayed its General Conference meeting for a third time due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. In response, some conservative United Methodists have announced they will preemptively leave the denomination rather than wait for the long-anticipated meeting.

Delegates to the General Conference were expected to take up a proposal to split the denomination over disagreements on the full inclusion of its LGBTQ members at the meeting of its global decision-making body scheduled for Aug. 29 to Sept. 6 in Minneapolis.

But General Conference organizers announced Thursday evening (March 3) they are postponing that meeting to 2024 because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Obtaining vaccines and travel visas remains a challenge for delegates traveling outside the United States, according to the Commission on General Conference.

continued

COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000 from the Virginia Dept of Health.

Augusta County:	23.7
Harrisonburg	4.3
Rockingham	10.2
Staunton	15.3
Waynesboro	11.9
Average/100K	13.8

Level of Community Transmission

High

Substantial

Moderate

Low

United Methodists delay General Conference again, *continued*

The General Conference, which usually gathers delegates from across the globe every four years, originally had been set for May 5–15, 2020, in Minneapolis. That meeting was rescheduled for Aug. 29–Sept. 7, 2021, when the Minneapolis Convention Center announced it was restricting events during the pandemic. The Commission on General Conference postponed the denominational meeting again because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, delaying an expected vote on a proposal to schism after a decades-long debate over whether LGBTQ United Methodists can marry or be ordained.

It is not immediately clear whether the postponed 2020 General Conference will replace the regularly scheduled 2024 General Conference.

Delegates to the General Conference are expected to take up a proposal to split the denomination, called “A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation.” The proposal, negotiated by 16 United Methodist bishops and advocacy group leaders from across theological divides, would allow churches and conferences to leave with their buildings and other assets to form new Methodist denominations, including a conservative “traditionalist” Methodist denomination that would receive \$25 million over the next four years.

Calls to split one of the largest denominations in the United States have grown since the 2019 special session of the United Methodist General Conference approved the so-called Traditional Plan strengthening the church’s bans on the ordination and marriage of LGBTQ United Methodists.

One group of theologically conservative United Methodists said Thursday it is not willing to wait any longer to discuss a split and announced plans, through its Transitional Leadership Council, to launch the *Global Methodist Church* on May 1.

“Many United Methodists have grown impatient with a denomination clearly struggling to function effectively at the general church level,” said the Rev. Keith Boyette, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and chairman of the Transitional Leadership Council that has been guiding the creation of the Global Methodist Church for the past year.

“Theologically conservative local churches and annual conferences want to be free of divisive and destructive debates, and to have the freedom to move forward together. We are confident many existing congregations will join the new Global Methodist Church in waves over the next few years, and new church plants will sprout up as faithful members exit the UM Church and coalesce into new congregations.”

Meanwhile, the Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates the full inclusion of LGBTQ United Methodists, said Thursday it supports the commission’s decision to once again postpone the General Conference.

Still, the statement said, leaders of the Reconciling Ministries Network lament the delay in discussing a possible split.

“These circumstances only prolong the road to justice for our LGBTQ+ kin and to parity in the global Church,” it said.



Music Notes.

The first reading for the second Sunday of Lent will be Psalm 27, and FPC soprano Jean Hashagen will sing a 19th century setting of the Psalm for the anthem. *The Lord Is My Light* was written by Frances Allisten, the pen name for Mary Bumpus (1848-1912). The English composer began her musical career as a singer, but devoted herself primarily to composition for the last three decades of her life. Allisten wrote mostly vocal music, including more than fifty songs in various styles, many of which were setting of poetry by Percy Shelley, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Heinrich Heine, among others. Her patriotic songs were very popular, presented by leading singers of the day, including Hayden Coffin (1862-1935) and Clara Butt (1872-1936). Allisten also composed song cycles, dramatic cantatas, a music drama and an opera. *The Lord Is My Light* is Allisten's most famous work, which continues to resonate with listeners more than a century after its composition.



Our Worship Channels

click on the logos



Liturgist this week: Joan Berry

Scripture lessons: Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1

Sermon: A civics lesson.

11 Days 'til Spring

Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, Noon

Book Study- and Lunch

Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt

Wednesdays at Noon

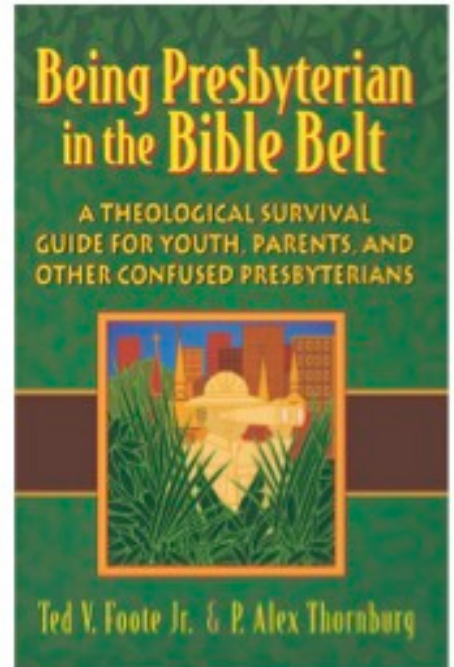
March 9 March 16

March 23 March 30

April 6

Maundy Thursday Simple meal with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

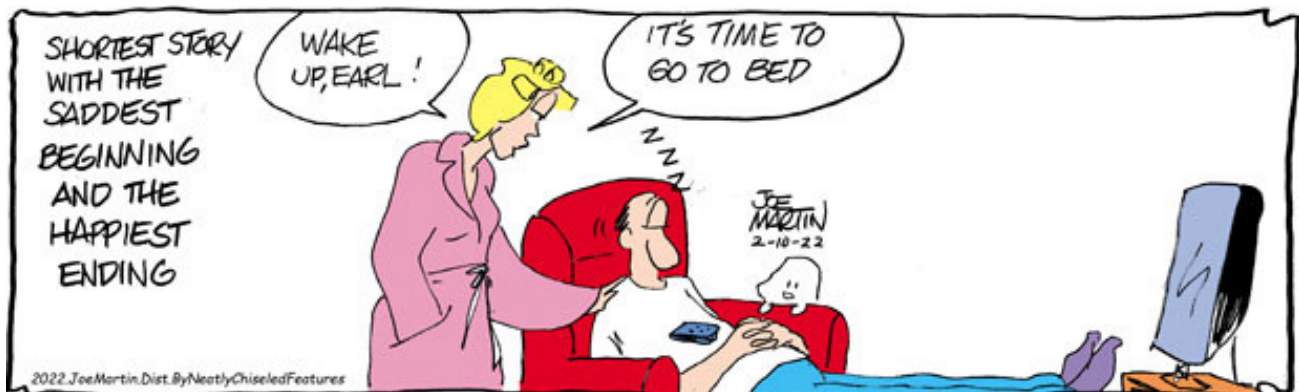
April 14, Noon



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MISTER BOFFO

BY JOE MARTIN



This Week in History.



Texans defending the Alamo
fall to Mexican troops under Gen. Santa Anna
March 6, 1836



Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni
born in the Republic of Florence
March 6, 1475



Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin born
in Gzhatsk, Russia
March 9, 1934



Paper money, known as 'Greenbacks,'
first issued by U.S. Government
March 10, 1862



"Spanish" Influenza reaches U.S.
as 107 soldiers fall ill at Ft. Riley KS
March 11, 1918



First women ordained as priests
by the Church of England
March 12, 1994