

Where Do We Go From Here, UMC?

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May 24: So...what's going on in the United Methodist Church?

Guest: Bishop Tom Bickerton

Pastor Molly checks in with Bishop Bickerton--now that General Conference is postponed to 2024 and the Protocol has fallen apart. Maybe it's not all bad news: instead, this can be a season of permission and faithfulness. *Bishop Tom Bickerton* is the President of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, and was a member of the Mediation Team that crafted the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.

Image of Bishop Bickerton:

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May 31: "I am an institutionalist and a revolutionary."

Guest: Randall Miller

Pastor Molly talks with Randall Miller, one of the most United Methodist people she knows. As a lay person, he has served as a delegate to every GC since 1988, as a Director the Board of UMCOR and the General Board of Church and Society, and as an alternate member of the Judicial Council. He has been an active leader in the Reconciling Ministries Network, and serves on their Board RMN, and was a member of the Mediation Team that crafted the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation. He lives in San Francisco with his husband, Glenn.

Image:

<https://www.cnumc.org/files/galleries/annualconferencesession/acs2011laydelegatenominees/randallmiller.jpg>

June 7: What does all this talk about property and pension have to do with the gospel?

Guest: Lonnie Chafin

Pastor Molly draws on Lonnie Chafin's skill in interpreting financial minutiae in ways that help us see the big picture. Conference Treasurer for the Northern Illinois Conference for over 20 years, Lonnie has also served as president of the National Association of Annual Conference Treasurers, and as a member on the Connectional Table. He has been a 4 time General Conference delegate, and a leader in the organizing work of UMCNext and United Methodists. He was a GBGM missionary serving in Hungary and Philadelphia prior to moving to Chicago, where he cares for the world's greatest dog.

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June 14: Why is LGBTQ+ inclusion important? What do we need to do to get better at it?

Guest: Bishop Karen Oliveto

Bishop Karen Oliveto serves as Bishop of the Denver Area. She was elected to the episcopacy in 2016, as the first openly lesbian bishop in The United Methodist Church. Before her election, she was senior pastor of the 12,000-member Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. She is the first woman to serve as senior pastor in one of the denomination's 100 largest U.S. congregations. Her wife, Robin Ridenour, a nurse anesthetist, is a deaconess in The United Methodist Church.

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June 21: Going deeper: What are some of the roots of our present "division"?

Guest: Hannah Adair Bonner

Hannah Adair Bonner is the Director of Frontera Wesley in Tucson, Arizona. As the Curator of The Shout, she worked to bring together a spoken-word poetry focused activism movement seeking to nurture a community of multi-ethnic, multi-generational, justice-seeking, solidarity-building people in Houston, Texas. She is ordained in the United Methodist Church. She graduated from Duke Divinity School and Furman University.

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June 28: Why does being a global church matter? How can we do this effectively?

Guest: Lloyd Nyarota

Lloyd Nyarota is a United Methodist elder in the Zimbabwe East conference, and a GBGM missionary spouse. Lloyd is on an ecumenical appointment in the United Church of Canada, where he serves a shared ministry at St John's United Anglican Church in the province of Alberta; his wife Tazvi is serving ethnic minority congregations in Canada. He has served as a consultant for the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. Nyarota is a founding member of the Central Conference Outreach team, who wrote and promote the Christmas Covenant legislation on regionalization that was submitted to General Conference.

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