

A Comparison of Wesleyan Denominations



Denominational Giving

Church	Yes/No	Percentage
United Methodist Church	Yes	7—15% of church's budget – varies by annual conference
Global Methodist Church	Yes	2% of previous year's income – set by General Conference & capped at 6.5%
Free Methodist	Yes	10%-13% of previous year's income – varies by annual conference
Wesleyan Church	Yes	11%
Church of the Nazarene	Yes	Approximately 15% - includes pastor's retirement
Congregational Methodist	Yes	Decided by local church
Independent	No	N/A

Bishops

Church	Yes/No	Description
United Methodist Church	Yes	Elected for Life
Global Methodist Church	Yes	Elected for term of years to be determined by first General Conference (likely two 6-year terms)
Free Methodist	Yes	Elected for up to 12 years
Wesleyan Church	Yes	One General Superintendent for the denomination – elected for 4 years – can be re-elected
Church of the Nazarene	Yes	Called General Superintendents
Congregational Methodist	Yes	President – has minimal authority
Independent	No	N/A

Trust Clause

Church	Yes/No	Description
United Methodist Church	Yes	Local church owns property in trust for its annual conference
Global Methodist Church	No	
Free Methodist	Yes	UMCs that transfer in can keep property they transfer in with, but newly acquired property or buildings fall under trust clause
Wesleyan Church	Yes	Local church owns property in trust for annual/general conference
Church of the Nazarene	Yes	Local church owns property in trust for annual/general conference
Congregational Methodist	No	
Independent	No	

Clergy Deployment

Church	Method	Description
United Methodist Church	Appointed by Bishop	One year appointment
Global Methodist Church	Appointed by Bishop	Indefinite – bishop projects appointment & local church can ask for new projected appointment for missional reasons
Free Methodist	Appointed by General Super.	Indefinite
Wesleyan Church	Call System	Four Year Term
Church of the Nazarene	Call System	At least Five Years
Congregational Methodist	Call System	Indefinite
Independent	Call System	Indefinite

Denominational Size

Denomination	Size
United Methodist Church	Approx. 13 million members around world
Global Methodist Church	Growing – hundreds of churches on five continents & soon thousands of churches
Free Methodist Church	Approx. 70,000 members in U.S.
Wesleyan Church	Approx. 141,000 members in U.S.
Church of the Nazarene	Approx. 627,000 members in U.S.
Congregational Methodist Church	Approx. 15,000 members in U.S.
Independent	N/A