

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets,  
and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and  
teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of  
service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we  
all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge  
of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of  
the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*



**Ephesians 4:11-13**

# Conferences, Councils, & creeds



Ephesians 4:11-13

## The Methodist Model

The Methodist Constitution requires that the General Conference serve as the legislative body of the denomination.

*"The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops, and the Judicial Council. Each of these entities is required by our Constitution, a foundational document, to be part of our structure, and plays a significant role in the life of the church."*



## The Methodist Model

The Methodist Constitution requires that the General Conference serve as the legislative body of the denomination. The General Conference produces the “Book of Discipline” which serves as the rule book for the denomination.

The graphic consists of a red circle containing a white cross. To the right of the cross, the words "Conferences, Councils, & Creeds" are written in a light blue, sans-serif font. The letter "C" is significantly larger than the other letters and is colored red, matching the circle's background.

Conferences,  
Councils, &  
Creeds

*"Working within the boundaries of the Church Constitution and General Rules, the General Conference defines and fixes the conditions, privileges and duties of church membership; the powers and duties of elders, deacons, diaconal ministers and local pastors; and the powers and duties of annual conferences, missionary conferences, charge conferences and congregational meetings. It authorizes the organization, promotion and administrative work of the church. The General Conference also defines the powers and duties of the episcopacy, authorizes the official hymnal and book of worship, provides a judicial system and procedures, initiates and directs all connectional enterprises of the church and enacts other legislation for the operation of the church."*



## The Methodist Model

The Methodist Constitution requires that the General Conference serve as the legislative body of the denomination.

The General Conference produces the “Book of Discipline” which serves as the rule book for the denomination.

When issues arise, delegates are sent to gather as the General Conference to vote on what should take place.

## The Issues With This Model

Organizing as an earthly entity larger than the local church.

Voting on something God has already spoken on.

Adopting a creed or set of rules other than that of the teachings of Jesus and His Apostles.

## The Solutions To These Issues

Keep it simple.

Submit wholly to Christ’s authority.

