

Presented for action to: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS  
Presented for action to: GENERAL CONFERENCE 2022

10/1/2021  
5/23-25/2022

857

**APPROVAL PROCESS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM THE DENOMINATION**

Whereas, There is unrelenting pressure for denominations to forsake the orthodox interpretation of biblical teaching on the prohibition of sexual immorality, including homosexuality, and to affirm same sex marriages;

Whereas, No local church should be compelled to remain in denominations that compromise the biblical prohibitions against sexual immorality, including homosexuality, or fail to affirm God's divine order of marriage between one man and one woman; and

Whereas, No local church should be forced to choose between faithfulness to God's Word or being forced to walk away from the sanctuary and property in which they have invested for God's Kingdom;

*Resolved*, That a new paragraph 4785 be added to *The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (after paragraph 4780) that reads, "If The Wesleyan Church modifies the Articles of Religion or the Membership Commitments or other portions on *The Discipline* to allow for 'same sex marriage' or the membership and ministry of non-celibate persons who are same sex attracted, an established local church may vote, by a 2/3 majority of their membership present at a specially-called session of the local church conference (633) presided over by the district superintendent, to withdraw from The Wesleyan Church and may retain ownership of all church property. Any indebtedness to The Wesleyan Church or its entities must be satisfactorily resolved before the withdrawal process is finalized. This provision shall be the only exception to the withdrawal and property restrictions of paragraph 4780."

NORTHEAST DISTRICT  
Dwight Addington, District Secretary

Committee on Memorials

Recommended       Not Recommended, cared for in Memorial 864

General Conference

Adopted       Not Adopted **Referred for Study**