

GLOSSARY OF UNITED METHODIST LINGO AND ACRONYMS

It's not uncommon for groups of people to develop insider language, including acronyms and other shortcuts in language for efficiency, which can leave others scratching their heads and feeling left out. Well, we've got you covered with a cheat sheet for understanding the denominational lingo you might encounter in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

AC	Annual Conference or Annual Conference Session
Ad Council	Administrative Council: a blending of the Administrative Board and Council on Ministries in the local church
Advance	Or Advance Special: second mile giving to an approved ministry through your local church
Apportionment	An amount assigned to a local church, Annual Conference, or other United Methodist body by a proper church authority to be raised as its share of a church fund. Each Annual Conference uses its own approved formula
Asbury, Francis	Started the Methodist church in the US along with Thomas Cooke
BAC	Business of the Annual Conference
Benevolences	Gifts to causes that carry out United Methodist mission, ministry and program around the world
Bishop	The episcopal leader of each conference
BMCR	Black Methodists for Church Renewal
BOD	<i>The Book of Discipline</i>
BOM/BOOM	Board of Ordained Ministry
Cabinet	The meeting of the Bishop and the Superintendents of the Conference. Area Cabinet refers to a meeting of the Bishop and Superintendents across the Greater Northwest Area
Cal-Pac	Short for California-Pacific Conference
Cal-Nev	Short for California-Nevada Conference
COB	Council of Bishops, United Methodist
CCOYM/CCYM	Conference Council on Youth Ministries
CCOYAM	Conference Council on Young Adult Ministries
CEF	Christian Educators Fellowship
CFA/CF&A	Conference Council on Finance and Administration
Chancellor	Or Conference Chancellor: the attorney that handles legal work for the Annual Conference
Charge	A term for the local church
Charge Conference	Annual meeting of members of the local church with the superintendent to elect officers, report and conduct other church business
Circle	Name used for small groups organized by United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women)
Coke, Thomas	Started the Methodist church in the US along with Francis Asbury

Cokesbury	The United Methodist bookstore and church supply house
Congregational Development	Another term for new church starts and revitalization
COM	Council on Ministries: a form of governance used by some of our local churches
Commissioned	A person who has been approved on probation by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is working towards Elder Orders
CONAM	Committee on Native American Ministries
Connection, Connectional	Adjectives that describe the networked nature and commitments of the UMC
COSROW/GCSRW	General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Connectional Table/CT	A structure of our Annual Conference to gather leaders of our ministry teams for reporting and decision making. Replaced the previous, CCOM, or Conference Council on Ministries
Cross and Flame	The UMC logo, representing the Holy Spirit with the cross of Christ. It reflects the words of our founder, John Wesley, when he said “I felt my heart strangely warmed”
CRSP	Clergy Retirement Security Program: clergy retirement plan; to be replaced in 2026 by Compass plan
CWJFON	Central Washington Justice for our Neighbors
Deacon	A person consecrated and hired by the local church to be in ministry (does not itinerate)
DCOM	District Committee on Ordained Ministry
Discipline/BOD	<i>The Book of Discipline</i> contains the laws that govern our church. These laws may be adopted, amended or discarded during the meeting of the General Conference
DS	District Superintendent (see below)
DSC (not DSW)	Desert Southwest Annual Conference
District	A sub-region of the Annual Conference
District Superintendent	Superintendent of the pastors and churches of a given district
Elder	A clergy person ordained for ministries of Service, Word, Sacrament and Order
Equitable Comp	Equitable Compensation provides salary support to clergy whose churches are unable to provide a full salary and benefit package
ERT	Early Response Team
ESL	English as a Second Language
EUB	Evangelical United Brethren, a predecessor denomination to the United Methodist Church
Fellowship	A new church start that has not yet chartered as a church
Full Member	A Deacon or Elder who is a full member of the Annual Conference
GBCS	General Board of Church & Society
GBGM	General Board of Global Ministries

GBHEM	General Board of Higher Education and Ministries
GBOD/DM	General Board of Discipleship, aka Discipleship Ministries
GBPHB/Wespath	General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
GCAH	General Commission on Archives and History
GCCUIC	General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns
GCC	General Commission on Communications (United Methodist Communications)
GCF&A/GCFA	General Committee on Finance and Administration
GCORR	General Commission on Religion and Race
GCUMM	General Commission on United Methodist Men
General	Refers to national/international level of the Church
General Conference /GC/UMCGC	The national/worldwide meeting of the Church; General Conference meets every four years
GNW or GNW Area	Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
Grade Point or GPA	The formula by which apportionments are arrived
Igniting Ministry	The television and welcoming ministry of the UMC
Itinerancy	The system of The United Methodist Church by which clergy are appointed to their charges by the bishop and are under discipline to accept such appointments
JFON	Justice for our Neighbors
Journal or Conference Journal	A record of the meeting of the Annual Conference; includes a directory of clergy and lay leadership and of local churches (CD or printed versions available)
Jurisdictional	Refers to the regional level of the church
Jurisdictional Conference	The Jurisdictional meeting of the church; Jurisdictional Conference meets every four years. An important function of the Jurisdictional Conference is to elect Bishops.
Laity	Members of a congregation; literally “people of God”
Lay Leader	The lay person elected to provide lay leadership at the local church, district or Conference level
Local Pastor	A non-ordained clergy member approved by the district and licensed by the Bishop to perform pastoral duties, including the Sacraments in the church to which they have been appointed
MARCHA	Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa de los Hispano Americanos (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans)
MPP	Ministerial Pension Plan
Mtn Sky	Short for Mountain Sky Annual Conference
NAMS	Native American Ministries Sunday
NCC	National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

NCJ	North Central Jurisdiction
NEJ	Northeastern Jurisdiction
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OR-ID	Short for the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
Parsonage	The name of the house provided to clergy by the local church; many churches in our Conference provide a housing allowance rather than a parsonage
PAUMCS	Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries
PNW/PNWAC	Short for the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference
PNW Camps	Camp & Retreat Ministries; Our four conference camps include Indianola, Lazy F, Ocean Park, and Twinlow
PNW UWF	Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith
PPR	Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (See SPRC)
SCJ	South Central Jurisdiction
SEJ	Southeastern Jurisdiction
SFTJ	Strength for the Journey: a three-day retreat for HIV+/AIDS campers and their care givers
Sessions	The Committee that plans the meeting of the Annual Conference
Social Principles	Statements decided at General Conference that declare our position on issues and areas that relate to our church and our world
SPRC	Staff-Parish Relations Committee (see PPR): The church's personnel committee
TFWS	The Faith We Sing hymnal
Trust Clause	A denominational law that says that all local church holdings belong to the Annual Conference
Trustees	The group that oversees the property of the local church. There is also an Annual Conference Trustees Committee.
UMC	The United Methodist Church
UMCGC	United Methodist Church General Conference
UMCOR	The United Methodist Committee on Relief
UMDF	The United Methodist Development Fund: a source of loans for new church starts
UMF	The United Methodist Foundation
UMFCU	The United Methodist Federal Credit Union
UMFSA/MFSA	The United Methodist Federation for Social Action
UMCOM	The United Methodist Communications
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UWF	United Women in Faith (new name for UMW)
UMH	United Methodist Hymnal
UMITA	United Methodist Information Technology Association
UMM	The United Methodist Men

UMNS/UM News	The United Methodist News Service
UMPH	The United Methodist Publishing House
UMVIM	United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
UMW	The United Methodist Women (old name for United Women in Faith)
UMYF	United Methodist Youth Fellowship
US-2	A person who serves a 2-year term in a United States mission project
VBS	Vacation Bible School
VIM	Also UMVIM: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
WCC	World Council of Churches
Wesley Foundation	College Campus Ministries
Wesley, John	An Anglican priest, the founder of Methodism
Western Jurisdiction	The region which encompasses seven Annual Conferences in the western part of the United States
WJ	Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church
WJCOB	WJ College of Bishops
World Service Fund	The primary source of support for ministry through the general agencies. The World Service apportionment allows United Methodists to participate in God's global mission.
World Service and Conf. Benevolences	The Annual Conference's share of the total World Service Fund and its approved Annual Conference benevolences
YA	Young adults
YSF	Youth Service Fund