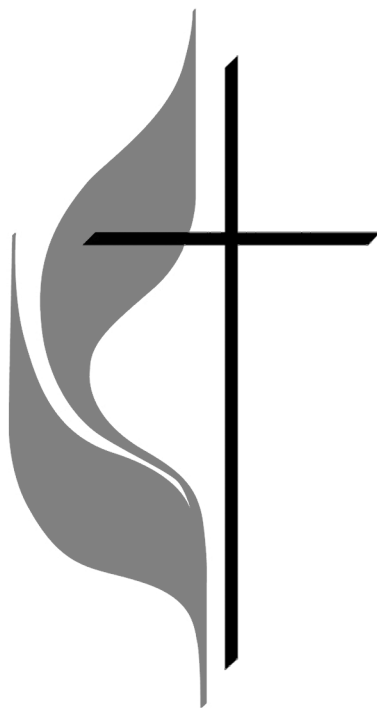


# DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE



**2019 SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**VOLUME 1**  
DELEGATE HANDBOOK, REPORTS, AND PETITIONS



# Contents

<b>Letter from the Commission on the General Conference</b> .....	4
<b>Letters from the Bishops of the Illinois Great Rivers and Missouri Conferences</b> .....	6
<b>General Conference Schedule</b> .....	8
<b>Registration, Arrival, and Other Important Information</b> .....	9
Registration and Arrival .....	9
Map of St. Louis City Center .....	10
Plenary Area Diagram .....	11
Plenary Seating Assignments .....	12
Accountability Covenant .....	15
<b>Reports and Legislation Information</b> .....	16
Budget for the 2019 General Conference .....	16
Plan of Organization and Rules of Order .....	18
Legislative Process .....	60
Parliamentary Procedure Chart .....	61
Abbreviations and Codes .....	62
<b>Delegates to the 2019 General Conference</b> .....	63
Alphabetical List of Voting Delegates and First Reserves .....	63
Voting and Reserve Delegates by Conference .....	73
Legislative Committee .....	114
<b>Purpose of the Special Session of the General Conference</b> .....	115
Council of Bishops’ Call for the Special Session of the General Conference, April 24, 2017 .....	115
Amended Call for the Special Session of the General Conference, July 9, 2018 .....	116
Judicial Council Decision No. 1360 .....	118
<b>Report of the Commission on a Way Forward</b> .....	123
Commission on a Way Forward’s Report to the General Conference .....	123
A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The One Church Plan .....	129
A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The Connectional Conference Plan .....	136
A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward: The Traditionalist Plan .....	147
Appendix 1: The Work of the Commission on the Possibility of Churches Desiring to Change Their Relationship with The United Methodist Church .....	149
Appendix 2: The Council of Bishops’ Collaboration with the Commission on a Way Forward .....	151
Appendix 3: A Conversation Within the Council of Bishops: A Traditional Plan .....	153
Appendix 4: A Wespath Resource .....	157
<b>Proposed Legislation</b> .....	164
Proposed Legislation from the Commission on a Way Forward .....	164
Proposed Legislation from Other Organizations and Individuals .....	196

---

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the Common English Bible. Copyright © 2011 by the Common English Bible. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked NRSV are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org/>



General Conference

## Officers

### *Chairperson*

Samuel “Duncan” McMillan IV

### *Vice Chairperson*

Rev. Mujinga Kashala

### *Secretary*

Kim Simpson

## Committee Chairs

### *Education and Innovation*

#### *Committee*

Rev. Juliet Spencer

### *Program Committee*

Rev. A. Lynn Hill

### *Rules Committee*

Stephanie Henry

## Ex Officio

### *Secretary of the General Conference*

Rev. Gary W. Graves

### *Business Manager of the General Conference*

Sara Hotchkiss

### *Council of Bishops Representative*

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

## Staff

### *Coordinator of the Calendar*

Susan Brumbaugh

### *Petitions Secretary*

Abby Parker Herrera

### *DCA Editor*

Brian Sigmon

### *Worship and Music Director*

Raymond Trapp

### *Assistant Business Manager*

Raquel Perez-Molloy

For updated information, find us at [www.generalconference.org](http://www.generalconference.org) or follow us on Facebook at @umcgeneralconference.

## Commission on the General Conference

Greetings, and welcome to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference!

The Commission on the General Conference has been praying, worshipping, talking, planning, and working for the past three years to plan not one, but two sessions of the General Conference. Many thanks to those who have invested extra effort in all the steps that have been needed. For this Special Session, these efforts have included creating a daily schedule; providing the *Daily Christian Advocate*; securing the infrastructure required for conferencing; accommodating the travel, housing, and dining needs of delegates, staff, and guests; providing a process for reviewing petitions allowed by Judicial Council Decision 1360; and many other tasks. We appreciate the work of the annual conference teams from the Missouri and Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conferences who are providing local hospitality. We have all been supported in these ministries by the very able staff of Go! St. Louis and America’s Center.

The Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* is in one volume for this General Conference. You will find information about the delegations (clergy names in the delegate lists are in italics), seating assignments, the Conference schedule, the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, and other useful information. Also included in this volume is the Report from the Commission on a Way Forward and the petitions submitted with it. In addition, valid petitions submitted in accordance with Judicial Council Decision 1360 are included and will be reviewed by the Committee on Reference to determine if they are in harmony with the purpose stated in the call from the Council of Bishops to gather in Special Session (see ¶ 14 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*). The call letter is printed on pages 115-117 in its original and amended versions.

Three changes made by the 2016 General Conference, now included in the *Book of Discipline*, directly impact this publication and the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate* that will be published during the General Conference:

¶ 507.5, 507.6, and 507.7 now have a deadline of submitting petitions no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference (the previous deadline was 210 days).

¶ 507.10 and 507.11 now require that all petitions receive a vote in legislative committee and that all those approved by legislative committee receive a plenary vote. Therefore, since two steps are required, even though there will be only one legislative committee comprised of all delegates, that same body,

meeting as the plenary, will be required to vote a second time on the material previously passed by the legislative committee. Those items will appear in the calendar section of the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

¶ 511.4c now requires daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information published in the English version of the *Daily Christian Advocate* to be made available in French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili in a timely and convenient way.

Delegates and first reserves will be issued free copies of the daily editions of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. If other reserve delegates are seated, they may use the material provided for the people they replace, or they may purchase copies. All issues of the *Daily Christian Advocate* are published under the authority of the Commission on the General Conference.

Grace and peace,

Samuel “Duncan” McMillan IV, Chairperson, Commission on the General Conference  
Rev. Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference  
Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference



## Letter from the Bishop of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference

Delegates of the 2019 General Conference

Delegates and Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. It is my honor to extend a warm welcome to the great *gateway to the Midwest*, St. Louis, Missouri. We have been eagerly awaiting your arrival and will do our very best to make you feel welcomed.

The work you are about to engage in has been bathed in prayer. Our hope is that as you participate in holy conferencing with sisters and brothers from across the globe, you will sense the power and presence of Christ. Please know that millions of folks are supporting you and your work through their intercessory prayers. Be mindful to keep an ear open to hear what the Lord would say as together you discern *a way forward!*

Thank you for the sacrificial service you are giving. Your unselfish gift will enable The United Methodist Church to continue to offer the life-changing love of God, through Jesus Christ, to everyone.

The Host Committee, Conference Staff, Directors, Superintendents, Clergy, and Laity of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference extend their greetings and welcome to each of you. We are all eager to see where the Lord will lead as we confront the challenges we are facing.

God bless you as you tackle the task of helping our denomination move forward. Please remember that we are here to serve you and to assist you in order that you will be able to complete this challenging assignment.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve during this Special Session. Let me know if you need anything. Welcome! I hope you have a positive experience while you are with us.

God Bless,

Frank J. Beard  
Resident Bishop, Illinois Great Rivers Conference  
The United Methodist Church



## Letter from the Bishop of the Missouri Conference

Delegates of the 2019 General Conference

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Missouri Annual Conference, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you attending the 2019 Special Session of General Conference of The United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Missouri Conference includes 781 local churches, approximately 1,000 active and retired clergy, and 72,000+ weekly worshippers, offering ministry through local churches, colleges, campus ministries, social services, and mission projects throughout the world. Our vision helps us live out the Church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world: *The Missouri Conference will relentlessly lead our churches to become outwardly focused and spiritually centered Christ followers.*

During this Special Session of the General Conference, it is my prayer that we will follow covenantal practices of centering our lives in Christ, prayer, active listening, honest conversations, asking for clarity when needed, and sowing mutual love and respect. Most importantly, I pray we will be open to hear where God is leading us, as servants of Christ and leaders of the church, in finding a *way forward*.

We are honored to co-host this Conference alongside the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and we look forward to showcasing our midwestern hospitality to those around the world. If you need anything, please feel free to contact one of our Hospitality Team members identified with a red shirt and Hospitality Team badge. I would like to offer a special thank-you to the Reverend Kim Jenne and Nancy Patton, co-chairs of the Hospitality Team. It is only by the Hospitality Team's faithful work and commitment to offer their very best that we are able to welcome you with the radical hospitality for which the Missouri Conference is well known.

In Christ,

Robert D. Farr  
Resident Bishop, Missouri Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## 2019 Special Session of the General Conference Schedule

### *Registration*

<i>Friday, February 22</i>	<i>9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Central Conference Delegate and Reserve Registration</i>
	<i>2:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Registration (all categories)</i>
<i>Saturday, February 23</i>	<i>7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Registration (all categories)</i>
<i>Sunday, February 24</i>	<i>7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Registration (all categories)</i>
<i>Monday, February 25</i>	<i>7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Registration (all categories)</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 26</i>	<i>7:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.</i>	<i>Registration (all categories)</i>

Following is the general program of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. A more detailed schedule will be published in the first daily edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

### **Saturday, February 23**

**9:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

Day of Prayer and Preparation  
Detailed Schedule to Be Announced.

### **Sunday, February 24**

**8:00 – 8:20 A.M.**

Opening Worship

**8:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Morning Session 1

*Break*

Morning Session 2

**12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

*Lunch*

**1:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

Afternoon Session 1

*Break*

Afternoon Session 2

Worship

**6:30 P.M.**

Adjournment

### **Monday, February 25**

**8:00 – 8:20 A.M.**

Worship

**8:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Morning Session 1

*Break*

Morning Session 2

**12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

*Lunch*

**1:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

Afternoon Session 1

*Break*

Afternoon Session 2

Worship

**6:30 P.M.**

Adjournment

### **Tuesday, February 26**

**8:00 – 8:20 A.M.**

Worship

**8:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Morning Session 1

*Break*

Morning Session 2

**12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

*Lunch*

**1:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

Afternoon Session 1

*Break*

Afternoon Session 2

Closing Worship

**6:30 P.M.**

Final Adjournment



## Registration, Arrival, and Other Important Information

### ***Registration and Arrival***

Registration for delegates, official participants, and visitors will be held at The Dome at America's Center Entry B. Registration for the press will be held at The Dome at America's Center Broadway Central Entry. Everyone in attendance will be required to register and wear a nametag issued by the General Conference. Registration dates and times are as follows:

Friday, February 22

9 A.M. – 2 P.M. Central Conference Delegate and Reserve Registration Only

2 P.M. – 9 P.M. All registration will open and continue through the following times:

Saturday, February 23: 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, February 24: 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Monday, February 25: 7:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 26: 7:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Delegates and reserves are required to present the credential card issued by the Secretary of the General Conference, signed and distributed by the annual conference secretary, when registering.

### ***Reserve Delegate Seating***

A reserve delegate officially taking the place of a delegate will be given a Temporary Seating Permit, signed by the

delegation chairperson, which will authorize his or her admittance within the bar of the conference for a specific session. At the end of the session, the permit should be surrendered to the chairperson of the delegation.

### ***What to Bring***

- Your credential card
- *Advance DCA*, which delegates and first reserves receive by mail
- 2016 *Book of Discipline*; useful when considering legislation
- 2016 *Book of Resolutions*; reference when considering new resolutions

### ***Weather during General Conference***

Average high temperature: 48 F° / 9° C

Average low temperature: 30° F / -1° C

Average precipitation for the month: 2.24 in. / 5.69 cm

Cloudiness (Days per month): 13 days

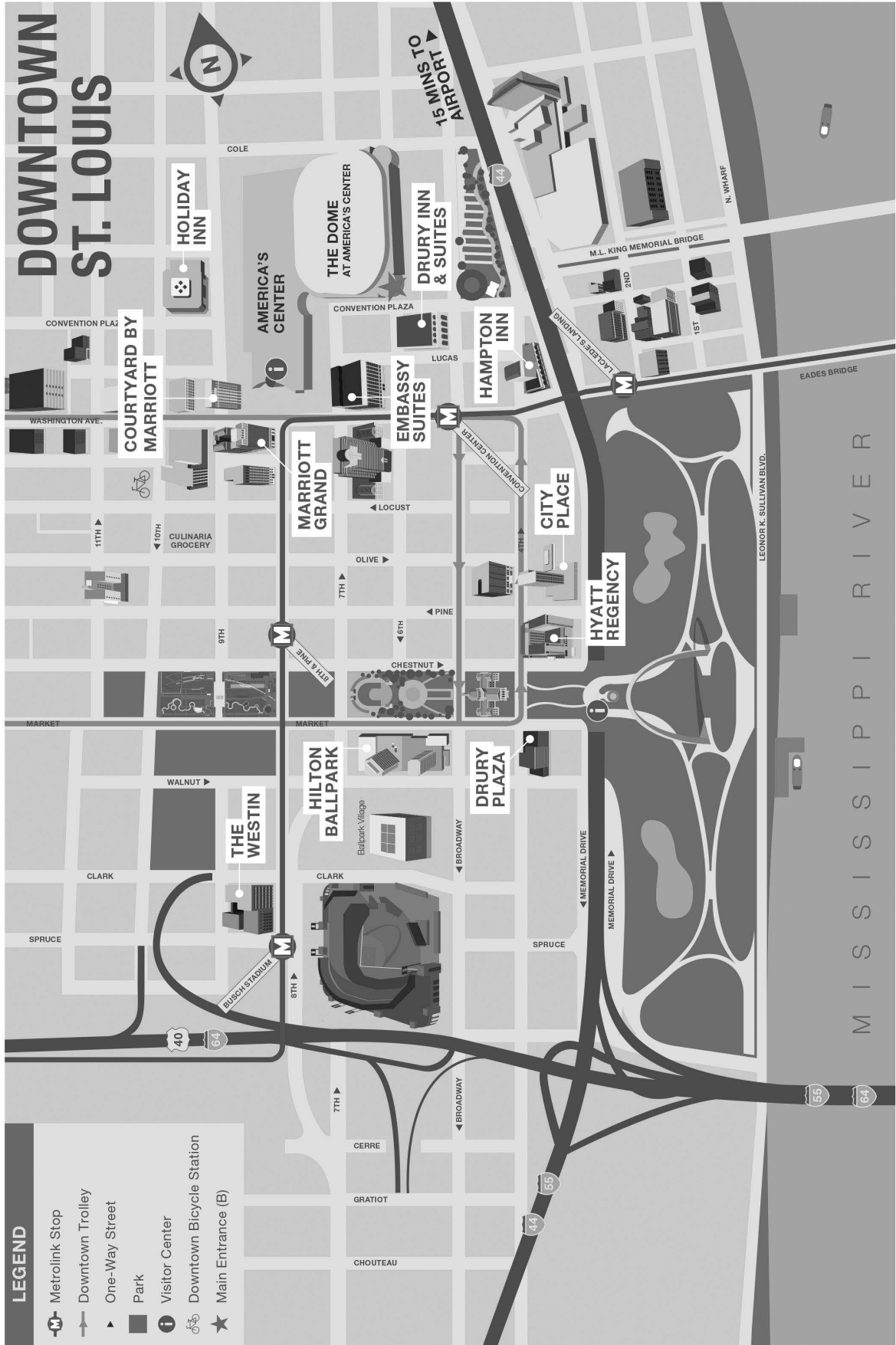
The hotels and America's Center are heated; dress accordingly.

### ***Smoking Restrictions***

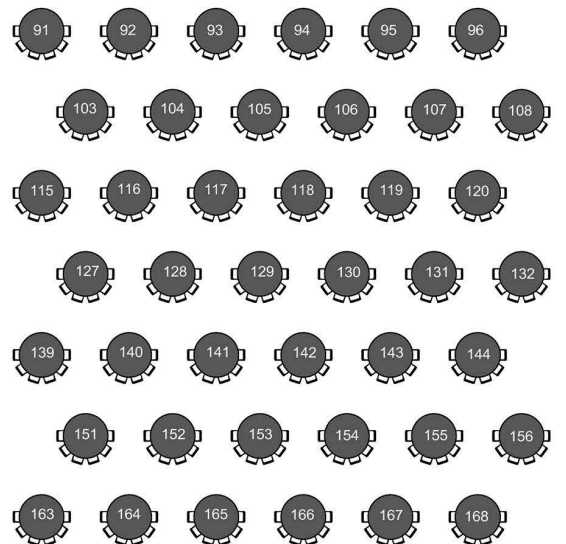
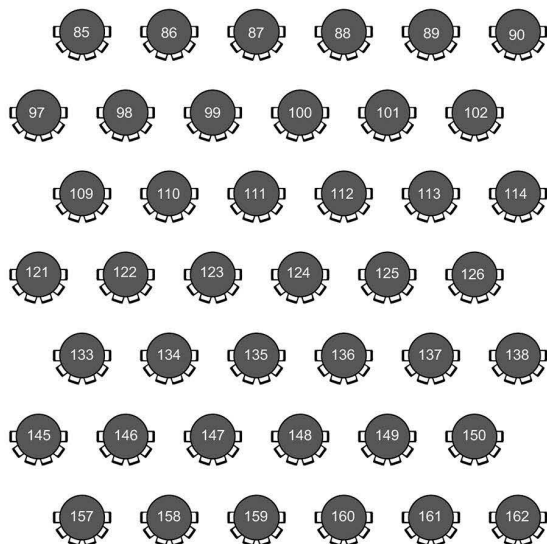
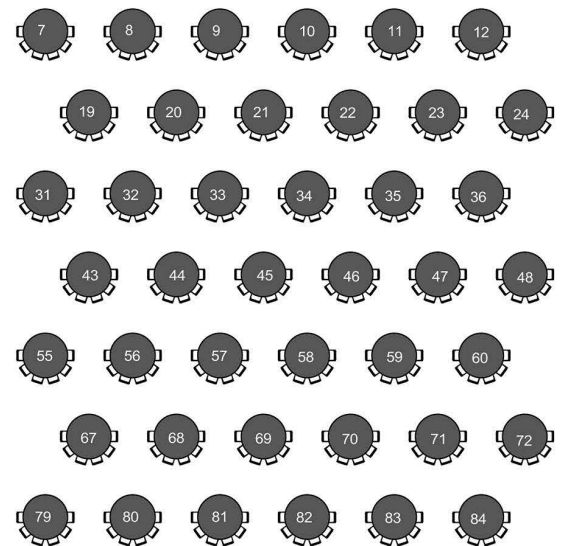
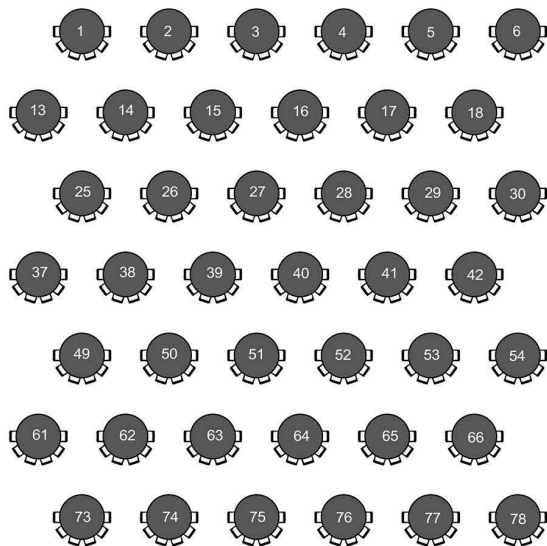
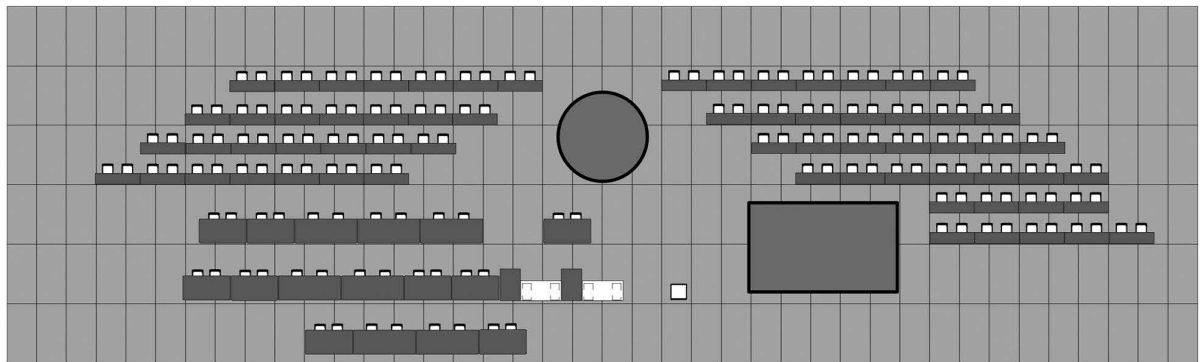
There is no smoking allowed anywhere within America's Center.

# 2019 Special Session of the General Conference

February 23-26, 2019



# Plenary Area Diagram



## Plenary Seating Assignments Alphabetically by Conference

<b>Concordat Churches</b>	<b># Delegates</b>	<b>Row</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Conferences</b>	<b># Delegates</b>	<b>Rows</b>	<b>Tables</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Caribbean and the Americas	2	8	90	5-6	East Ohio	12	10	109	1-6
Great Britain	4	4	48	3-6			10	110	1-6
Mexico	2	5	54	5-6	East Zimbabwe	4	3	28	1-4
Puerto Rico	2	5	54	3-4	Eastern Angola	2	2	16	3-4
					Eastern Pennsylvania	8	12	141	1-6
							12	142	1-2
<b>Conferences</b>	<b># Delegates</b>	<b>Rows</b>	<b>Tables</b>	<b>Seats</b>	Eastern Russia and Central				
Alabama-West Florida	10	12	137	3-6	Asia Provisional	2	6	69	5-6
		12	138	1-6	Estonia	2	6	71	3-4
Alaska	2	3	36	1-2	Finland-Finnish				
Arkansas	8	13	148	5-6	Provisional	2	6	71	5-6
		13	149	1-6	Finland-Swedish				
Austria Provisional	2	2	16	5-6	Provisional	2	6	72	1-2
Baltimore-Washington	12	7	82	1-6	Florida	18	1	7	1-6
		7	83	1-6			1	8	1-6
Bicol Philippines							1	9	1-6
Provisional	2	1	1	1-2	Germany East	2	4	42	1-2
Bulacan Philippines	2	2	19	1-2	Germany North	2	4	42	3-4
Bulgaria-Romania					Germany South	2	4	42	5-6
Provisional	2	2	17	1-2	Great Plains	12	2	23	1-6
Burundi	8	11	129	1-6			2	24	1-6
		11	130	1-2	Greater New Jersey	8	12	134	5-6
California-Nevada	6	12	140	1-6			12	135	1-6
California-Pacific	8	2	13	1-6	Holston	12	2	14	3-6
		2	14	1-2			2	15	1-6
Central Congo	6	7	78	1-6			2	16	1-2
Central Luzon Philippines	2	4	45	5-6	Hungary Provisional	2	2	17	5-6
Central Nigeria	6	4	37	1-6	Illinois Great Rivers	10	1	4	3-6
Central Russia	2	6	69	3-4			1	5	1-6
Central Texas	8	11	124	3-6	Indiana	16	5	49	1-6
		11	125	1-4			5	50	1-6
Cote d'Ivoire	34	8	85	1-6			5	51	1-4
		8	86	1-6	Iowa	12	11	127	1-6
		8	87	1-6			11	128	1-6
		8	88	1-6	Kasai	2	7	77	3-4
		8	89	1-6	Kentucky	10	9	103	1-6
		8	90	1-4			9	104	1-4
Czech and Slovak					Kivu Provisional	2	5	51	5-6
Republics	2	2	17	3-4	Liberia	12	10	113	1-6
Dakotas	2	9	106	1-2			10	114	1-6
Denmark	2	6	71	1-2	Louisiana	8	12	136	1-6
Desert Southwest	2	6	72	5-6			12	137	1-2
Detroit	6	7	79	1-6	Lukoshi	14	5	55	1-6
East Africa	4	11	130	3-6			5	56	1-6
East Congo	12	5	52	1-6			5	57	1-2
		5	53	1-6	Malawi Provisional	2	3	27	5-6
East Mindanao									
Philippines	2	1	1	3-4					

Conferences	# Delegates	Rows	Tables	Seats	Conferences	# Delegates	Rows	Tables	Seats
Memphis	4	3	31	1-4	Oklahoma	14	9	97	1-6
Middle Philippines	2	2	19	3-4			9	98	1-6
Mindanao Philippines	2	1	1	5-6			9	99	1-2
Minnesota	4	9	106	3-6	Oklahoma Indian				
Mississippi	12	3	29	1-6	Missionary	2	9	99	3-4
		3	30	1-6	Oregon-Idaho	2	3	36	3-4
Missouri	12	10	115	1-6	Oriental and Equator	2	5	54	1-2
		10	116	1-6	Pacific Northwest	2	3	36	5-6
Mozambique North	2	10	101	1-2	Palawan Philippines	2	2	19	5-6
Mozambique South	6	10	100	1-6	Pampango Philippines	2	2	20	1-2
New England	6	12	139	1-6	Pangasinan Philippines	2	4	47	5-6
New Mexico	2	1	6	1-2	Peninsula-Delaware	4	12	142	3-6
New York	8	8	93	5-6	Philippines	2	2	20	3-4
		8	94	1-6	Philippines Cavite	2	2	20	5-6
North Alabama	8	7	80	3-6	Poland	2	2	18	1-2
		7	81	1-4	Quezon City	2	2	21	1-2
North Carolina	16	4	43	1-6	Red Bird Missionary	2	9	104	5-6
		4	44	1-6	Rio Texas	10	12	133	1-6
		4	45	1-4			12	134	1-4
North Central					Rizal Philippines East	2	2	21	3-4
Philippines	2	4	46	1-2	Rocky Mountain	6	4	41	1-6
North Georgia	22	13	145	1-6	Serbia-Macedonia				
		13	146	1-6	Provisional	2	2	18	3-4
		13	147	1-6	Sierra Leone	12	10	111	1-6
		13	148	1-4			10	112	1-6
North Katanga	48	6	61	1-6	South Africa Provisional	2	9	99	5-6
		6	62	1-6	South Carolina	16	3	25	1-6
		6	63	1-6			3	26	1-6
		6	64	1-6			3	27	1-4
		6	65	1-6	South Congo	14	6	67	1-6
		6	66	1-6			6	68	1-6
		7	73	1-6			6	69	1-2
		7	74	1-6	South Georgia	8	11	125	5-6
North Texas	10	13	151	1-6			11	126	1-6
		13	152	1-4	South Nueva Ecija				
Northeast Luzon					Philippines	2	2	21	5-6
Philippines	2	4	46	3-4	Southern Nigeria	12	4	38	1-6
Northeast Philippines	2	4	46	5-6			4	39	1-6
Northern Illinois	6	3	35	1-6	Southern Russia				
Northern Nigeria	4	4	40	1-4	Provisional	2	6	70	3-4
Northern Philippines	2	4	47	1-2	Southern Tagalog				
North-West Katanga	10	5	57	3-6	Philippines Provisional	2	2	22	1-2
		5	58	1-6	South-West Katanga	6	5	59	1-6
Northwest Mindanao					Southwest Philippines	2	2	22	3-4
Philippines	2	1	2	1-2	Susquehanna	10	9	101	3-6
Northwest Philippines	2	4	47	3-4			9	102	1-6
Northwest Russia					Switzerland-France-				
Provisional	2	6	70	1-2	North Africa	2	2	18	5-6
Northwest Texas	4	1	6	3-6	Tanganyika	8	7	76	1-6
Norway	2	6	72	3-4			7	77	1-2
					Tanzania	6	7	75	1-6

Conferences	# Delegates	Rows	Tables	Seats
Tarlac Philippines	2	4	48	1-2
Tennessee	8	3	31	5-6
		3	32	1-6
Texas	18	1	10	1-6
		1	11	1-6
		1	12	1-6
Ukraine and Moldava				
Proviaional	2	6	70	5-6
Upper New York	12	3	33	1-6
		3	34	1-6
Virginia	22	13	152	5-6
		13	153	1-6
		13	154	1-6
		13	155	1-6
		13	156	1-2
Visayas Philippines	2	1	2	3-4
West Congo	2	7	77	5-6
West Michigan	2	7	80	1-2

Conferences	# Delegates	Rows	Tables	Seats
West Middle Philippines	2	2	22	5-6
West Ohio	16	8	91	1-6
		8	92	1-6
		8	93	1-4
West Virginia	6	9	105	1-6
West Zimbabwe	2	3	28	5-6
Western Angola	10	1	2	5-6
		1	3	1-6
		1	4	1-2
Western North Carolina	20	11	121	1-6
		11	122	1-6
		11	123	1-6
		11	124	1-2
Western Pennsylvania	12	10	117	1-6
		10	118	1-6
Wisconsin	6	13	150	1-6
Yellowstone	2	4	40	5-6
Zambia	6	5	60	1-6

## Accountability Covenant

*This accountability covenant was used by the Commission on a Way Forward to guide their work together. It is offered here in hope that it will similarly guide the delegates and other participants of the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.*

### **What are the covenantal practices that are so essential to our work together that we must perform them with excellence in order to fulfill our mission?**

We covenant to pray for one another, for The United Methodist Church, for the mission of Christ, and for a way forward together.

We covenant to attend all meetings unless unexpected urgencies prevent us, to prepare adequately for meetings by reading assigned books or papers, to stay engaged and focused, to participate actively in learning experiences and conversations, and to follow through with any assignments or projects that we agree to accept. We will offer our best and highest to the work we share as servants of Christ and leaders of the Church.

We covenant to treat one another with respect, to assume the best in others, to represent one another in the best possible light, to speak the truth with love, and to practice and expect trustworthiness. We will each do our part to offer grace, to create an atmosphere of hospitality, and to moderate our anxiety through mutual encouragement, good humor, and with genuine love for one another.

We covenant to listen actively to others; to seek first to understand rather than to be understood; to ask for clarity or help from others; to remain attentive to cultural, language, and contextual diversity; to be patient with one another; and to foster hopefulness and mutual encouragement.

We covenant to maintain strict confidentiality, and so we will avoid inappropriate sharing of personal information, stories, or perspectives of others without their consent.

### **What are the behaviors that are so harmful that failure to avoid them will cause us to fail?**

We covenant to avoid harmful speech toward or about others, during our meetings and outside our meetings. We will refrain from blaming others, misrepresenting others, making judgments about others, or using derogatory speech about others.

We covenant to avoid the practices of interrupting others, ignoring others, discounting others, speaking for others, or exhibiting dominating or domineering behavior. We shall practice self-monitoring, gently holding one another accountable for divisive or hurtful behaviors.

We covenant to avoid dividing into factions, politicizing our processes, and retreating into camps and silos based on ideology or regional affinities, and so we will intentionally seek to cultivate deeper relationships with those we do not know rather than merely spend time with those we already know.

We covenant to restrain ourselves from distracting behaviors during our meeting sessions so that we may remain attentive to one another and to our work, and so we will refrain from checking e-mails, reading online news, and otherwise letting ourselves become distracted for outside obligations.

We covenant to abide by the agreed-upon protocols for sharing news, information, or photos on social media.

### **Additional Commitment:**

We will use Matthew 18 as a model for how to work with each other.

## Reports and Legislation Information

### 2019 Special Session of the General Conference Budget Report

The original plan to fund the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference included a reduction of days at the 2020 General Conference, allowing a portion of the 2020 General Conference budget to provide partial funding for the 2019 Special Session. The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) would fund the remainder of the Special Session. However, after reviewing the changes to the *Book of Discipline* enacted by the 2016 General Conference (specifically ¶¶101 and 507.10-11), the Commission on the General Conference decided not to reduce the number of days in 2020.

Paragraph 101 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* states that “The Commission on the General Conference is directed to set aside adequate time in the first three days of the 2020 General Conference for plenary consideration and action on *Part VI, General Administration and Organization*, submitted by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.” Paragraph 507.10-11 states that “All petitions that have been approved by a legislative committee shall receive a vote by the plenary session at that year’s General Conference,” and “All petitions that have been submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee.”

In light of these new disciplinary requirements, the Commission on the General Conference found that a shortened 2020 General Conference would be unrealistic.

GCFA’s board of directors approved up to \$3 million in funding to go toward the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. United Methodist Communication’s (UMCom) leadership approved funds to pay for the production-related needs of the General Conference, leading to an estimated savings of \$300,000 in the General Conference budget. In addition, the UMCom board of directors approved a grant of \$450,000 to cover communication-related needs outside the scope of their responsibility that would normally come from the General Conference budget. Collaboration with other ministry partners resulted in an additional income of \$154,000.

Significant efforts were made to implement cost saving measures to fund the 2019 General Conference within budget. Joint contracts for major vendors were done together for both the 2019 and 2020 General Conferences, including translation, decorator, and voting systems. Housing will be done by direct payment to the hotels for delegates, which will eliminate approximately 10% in Missouri state taxes.

The full budget for the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference is presented on page 17.



2019 Special Session Budget

**Income**

GCFA Approved Funding <sup>1</sup>	\$2,986,000
United Methodist Communications' Grant <sup>2</sup>	450,000
Ministry Partners	154,000
Other Income	25,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$3,605,000</b>

**Expenses**

<b>General Conference Commissions &amp; Committees –</b> Commission on the General Conference, Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision,	27,000
<b>General Conference Staff Offices –</b> Business Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer	57,000
<b>Operations –</b> convention center and equipment rental, publishing and distribution of ADCA and DCA, worship and music, labor	816,000
<b>Language Services –</b> Translation and Interpretation	500,000
<b>Delegate Expenses –</b> Travel and Per Diem Allowance	2,205,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,605,000</b>

**Surplus / (Deficit)** \$0

<sup>1</sup> The General Council on Finance and Administration's funding is up to \$3,000,000. Any changes in other incomes or expenses will directly affect this amount, but the amount will not exceed \$3,000,000.

<sup>2</sup> United Methodist Communications also provided funding for the production costs (approximately \$300,000) in addition to the \$450,000 grant.

# Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the 2019 General Conference

## Table of Contents

<b>PREAMBLE</b> .....	Line 2
<b>PLAN OF ORGANIZATION</b>	
I. Opening Session and Organization.....	Line 29
II. Episcopal, Laity, and Young People Addresses .....	Line 52
III. Presiding Officers .....	Line 62
IV. Secretary of the General Conference .....	Line 66
V. Nominations and Elections.....	Line 92
VI. Commission on the General Conference .....	Line 117
VII. Committees.....	Line 132
A. Administrative Committees .....	Line 136
1) Agenda and Calendar .....	Line 147
2) Correlation and Editorial Revision.....	Line 189
3) Courtesies and Privileges .....	Line 207
4) Credentials .....	Line 227
5) Journal.....	Line 236
6) Presiding Officers .....	Line 241
7) Reference.....	Line 250
B. Advance Legislative Research Panel .....	Line 288
C. Committee on Ethics .....	Line 316
D. Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.....	Line 328
E. Legislative Committees .....	Line 349
F. Membership of Legislative Committees .....	Line 359
G. Meetings of Committees .....	Line 393
H. Function and Authority of Committees .....	Line 472
VIII. Proposal Involving Expenditure of Unbudgeted Funds .....	Line 480
IX. Delegates Expenses .....	Line 506
X. Material to be Included in the <i>Book of Discipline</i> .....	Line 539
XI. Distribution of Materials within the Bar of Conference.....	Line 572
XII. Distribution of Materials Outside of the Plenary or Committee Room .....	Line 579
XIII. Reports to Be Mailed Before General Conference.....	Line 600

**RULES OF ORDER**

**I. Daily Schedule**

*Rule 1. Hours of Meetings* . . . . . Line 622  
*Rule 2. Order of Christian Conferencing* . . . . . Line 639

**II. Presiding Officers**

*Rule 3. Authority of the Presiding Officer* . . . . . Line 646  
*Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order* . . . . . Line 666

**III. Rights and Duties of Delegates**

*Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves* . . . . . Line 670  
*Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Plenary Floor* . . . . . Line 697  
*Rule 7. Plenary Speakers For and Against* . . . . . Line 709  
*Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker* . . . . . Line 735  
*Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech* . . . . . Line 739  
*Rule 10. Point of Order* . . . . . Line 749  
*Rule 11. Bar of the Conference* . . . . . Line 764  
*Rule 12. Distracting Behavior* . . . . . Line 769  
*Rule 13. Electronic Recording* . . . . . Line 779  
*Rule 14. Right to Make Motions* . . . . . Line 784  
*Rule 15. Plenary Voting Procedure* . . . . . Line 787  
*Rule 16. Elections* . . . . . Line 801  
*Rule 17. Division of Question* . . . . . Line 813

**IV. Behavior of Guests and Observers**

*Rule 18. Distracting Behavior* . . . . . Line 820  
*Rule 19. Electronic Recording* . . . . . Line 831

**V. Business Procedure**

*Rule 20. Motion for Adoption of Legislative and Administrative Committee Reports* . . . . . Line 837  
*Rule 21. Required Forms for Reports, Resolution, Motions, Amendments* . . . . . Line 842  
*Rule 22. Alterations of Motions* . . . . . Line 847  
*Rule 23. Non-Debatable Motions* . . . . . Line 852  
*Rule 24. Rights of the Main Question* . . . . . Line 867  
*Rule 25. Precedence of Secondary Motions* . . . . . Line 873  
*Rule 26. Motion to Adjourn* . . . . . Line 889  
*Rule 27. Final Adjournment* . . . . . Line 901  
*Rule 28. Procedure for Amending by Substitution* . . . . . Line 903  
*Rule 29. Minority Report* . . . . . Line 922  
*Rule 30. Unlawful Motion After Speech* . . . . . Line 951  
*Rule 31. Exceptions to Majority Vote* . . . . . Line 954  
*Rule 32. Reconsideration* . . . . . Line 979  
*Rule 33. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar* . . . . . Line 984  
*Rule 34. Report of Non-Calendar Items* . . . . . Line 1023  
*Rule 35. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees* . . . . . Line 1041  
*Rule 36. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees* . . . . . Line 1044  
*Rule 37. Unfinished Business in Legislative Committee* . . . . . Line 1078  
*Rule 38. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate* . . . . . Line 1082  
*Rule 39. Published Reports in Possession of Conference* . . . . . Line 1096  
*Rule 40. Preparation and Publishing of Reports* . . . . . Line 1106

**VI. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

*Rule 41. Suspension of the Rules* . . . . . Line 1120  
*Rule 42. Amending Rules* . . . . . Line 1124  
*Rule 43. Robert’s Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority* . . . . . Line 1133

# 1 **Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the General Conference**

## 2 **PREAMBLE**

3 From the days of John Wesley, the “People called Methodist” have gathered and  
4 continue to gather for Christian conferencing as a means of grace. The early  
5 Methodists, even as they attended to practical needs of the movement, focused  
6 primarily on spiritual matters. The spiritual affairs of the Church and its mission  
7 are always before the body whether or not they are apparent in the passions of  
8 debate on temporal concerns. Through Christian conferencing the Church comes  
9 together, seeking unity in the midst of diversity, always desiring to know the  
10 mind of Christ. The General Conference is the representative, deliberative body  
11 for The United Methodist Church. It has developed an orderly, rational, and fair  
12 process for making majority decisions in the practical affairs of the Church; yet,  
13 it also protects the rights of minority positions. The delegates come together in  
14 firm conviction that the unity of United Methodism is God’s will and the best  
15 way to “spread scriptural holiness” in this global movement of the Church.

16 The purpose of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is to help the  
17 General Conference be a means of grace, discerning God’s will and striving for  
18 Christ-like wisdom in all of our decisions. In the midst of deliberation, we may  
19 pause, listen in silence, pray together, and refocus our vision on where the Spirit  
20 is leading the Church. These times of silence, prayer, and discernment may be  
21 varied and surprising. While they are not substitutes for respectful and orderly  
22 debate, they do serve to hold our temporal affairs up to the light of the larger,  
23 common mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus  
24 Christ for the transformation of the world. Trusting that God is at work  
25 throughout all of life, the General Conference invites the Church and others to  
26 observe our deliberations by conducting our business in open meetings  
27 (consistent with ¶ 722 of the *Book of Discipline*).

28 **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

29 **I. Opening Session and Organization**

30 The General Conference will assemble at the set time and place beginning with  
31 worship. The opening business session of the Conference shall be called to  
32 order by the bishop designated, as provided in the *Book of Discipline* ¶ 16.11.

33 The following order of business shall be observed:

34 A. Roll Call. The record of attendance shall be made in writing to the Secretary  
35 of the General Conference by:

- 36 1) The Secretary of the Council of Bishops for the bishops,  
37 2) The Secretary of the Judicial Council for that body,  
38 3) The Executive Secretary of the Connectional Table for all general  
39 secretaries,  
40 4) The chairperson of each annual conference delegation for its  
41 membership (See Rule 5), and  
42 5) The chairperson of each delegation for Concordat, Affiliated  
43 Autonomous Methodist and United Churches.

44 B. Establish the bar of the conference.

45 C. Report of the Commission on the General Conference.

- 46 1) Adoption of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

47 D. Elections

- 48 1) Coordinator of Calendar (See IV.C)

49 E. Report of Committee on Agenda.

50 F. Miscellaneous Business.

51 G. Adjournment.

52 **II. Episcopal, Laity, and Young People Addresses**

53 The Quadrennial Addresses shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such  
54 hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference. The Council  
55 of Bishops shall coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial  
56 Episcopal Address. The Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall  
57 coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Lay Address.

58 This opportunity shall be open to all annual conference lay leaders. The United

59 Methodist Division of Ministries with Young People shall coordinate the  
60 preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Young People Address. This  
61 opportunity shall be open to all young people.

### 62 **III. Presiding Officers**

63 The presiding officers for the plenaries of the Conference, the opening plenary  
64 excepted (See Section I), shall be chosen from among the effective bishops by  
65 the Committee on Presiding Officers (See Section VII.A.6).

### 66 **IV. Secretary of the General Conference**

67 A. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for all  
68 functions of the office assigned by ¶ 504.3 in preparation for the session of the  
69 General Conference, and shall be accountable to the Commission on the General  
70 Conference.

71 B. The Secretary of the General Conference shall select persons from the clergy  
72 and lay membership of The United Methodist Church to serve on the secretarial  
73 support staff.

74 C. The Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Secretary of the General  
75 Conference, a Coordinator of Calendar, who shall assist the Committee on  
76 Agenda and Calendar in presenting reports in such order as to expedite the  
77 business of the Conference, and in other responsibilities of the committee (See  
78 I.D.1 and VII.A.1).

79 D. The Secretary of the General Conference shall appoint a Petitions Secretary  
80 who shall prepare the petitions, resolutions, and reports that meet the  
81 requirements of *Book of Discipline* ¶ 507 for reference to the appropriate  
82 legislative committee, subject to review by the Committee on Reference (See  
83 Section VII.A.7).

84 E. A budget for the work of the Secretary of the General Conference shall be  
85 presented by the Commission on the General Conference to the General Council  
86 on Finance and Administration. Such budget shall be paid out of the General  
87 Administration Fund.

88 F. If in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference the  
89 office of the Secretary of the General Conference shall be vacated for any  
90 reason, the Council of Bishops shall elect a successor to serve until the next  
91 session.

92 **V. Nominations and Elections**

93 The Secretary of the General Conference shall develop a timeline for the  
94 submission of nominations, elections and appointments by the Council of  
95 Bishops. In making these nominations, elections and appointments, attention  
96 shall be given to ensuring continuity of membership from the previous  
97 quadrennium. It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Bishops to present  
98 nominations for the Commission on the General Conference, Standing  
99 Committee on Central Conference Matters, General Conference administrative  
100 committees, and secretary-designate of the General Conference. These  
101 nominations shall be presented to the General Conference for election.

102 Disciplinary provisions shall govern the nomination and election procedures for:

103 General Council on Finance and Administration (§ 805.1)

104 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1)

105 General Commission on Archives and History (§ 1704.2)

106 The University Senate (§ 1414.2)

107 The Judicial Council (§§ 2602, 2603, 2604.1)

108 and Episcopal membership on:

109 General Board of Church and Society (§ 705.4d)

110 General Board of Discipleship (§ 705.4d)

111 General Board of Global Ministries (§§ 705.4d, 1311.6)

112 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§ 705.4d)

113 The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall publish the list of nominees for election to  
114 the Judicial Council and the University Senate. Biographical sketches not to  
115 exceed 100 words in length shall be submitted by each nominee and shall be  
116 published as submitted.

## 117 **VI. Commission on the General Conference**

118 A. There shall be a Commission on the General Conference comprised of lay  
119 and clergy membership as defined by ¶ 511 of the *Book of Discipline*. They  
120 shall have oversight responsibility for all arrangements necessary for the  
121 meeting of the General Conference.

122 1. Languages of the General Conference: The *Daily Christian Advocate*  
123 will be published in English.<sup>1</sup> Simultaneous and/or one-on-one  
124 interpretation of plenary and legislative committee sessions will be  
125 offered in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Kiswahili, German, Russian,  
126 Korean, and American Sign Language and/or others as determined by  
127 the Commission on the General Conference in consultation with the  
128 Multilingual Resources of the General Board of Global Ministries.

129 2. Duly credentialed interpreters or other personal assistants for persons  
130 with special needs may be seated when necessary with voting delegates  
131 in all committee and plenary sessions.

## 132 **VII. Committees**

133 The General Conference shall have standing committees and special committees  
134 as it may order, with such functions, responsibilities, and limitations as  
135 assigned.

### 136 **A. Administrative Committees**

137 The members of the following committees shall be appointed by the Council of  
138 Bishops at its fall meeting preceding the General Conference. All except the  
139 Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be from the elected  
140 delegates to the General Conference (See Section V). Members of  
141 administrative committees that meet prior to the day on which the General  
142 Conference convenes shall receive the delegate per diem for each additional day  
143 on which their attendance is required. Delegates who are appointed to such

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 511.4.c requires that daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information in the *DCA* must also be made available in French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. These will be provided electronically.



144 committees less than 60 days prior to the opening session of General  
145 Conference shall be entitled to reimbursement for any additional transportation  
146 costs.

147 *1) Agenda and Calendar*

148 (a) There shall be a Committee on Agenda and Calendar composed of fifteen  
149 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of  
150 whom shall be laypersons; the Coordinator of the Calendar; the Chairperson of  
151 the Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference or  
152 designee; and the Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference or  
153 designee.

154 No member of the committee shall be chairperson of a legislative committee or  
155 a staff person of any general agency. The committee shall be convened, for the  
156 purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference, or  
157 designee, at least the day before the opening of the General Conference.

158 Following the presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the  
159 General Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the  
160 Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately become responsible for  
161 guiding the order of business of the Conference.

162 (b) The Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall:

163 (1) Present calendar reports in such an order as to expedite the business  
164 of the Conference,

165 (2) Inform the bishop presiding as soon as possible of the agenda items,  
166 including order of priority, to be considered,

167 (3) Keep an overview of calendar progress;

168 (4) Report recommendations to each session of the General Conference  
169 concerning business agenda, including time allocation and order in  
170 which legislative committee reports shall be presented;

171 (5) Give priority in plenary for legislative consideration as calendar  
172 items become available: first to items affecting the global church,

- 173 second to items with financial implications, and third to items with  
174 minority reports;
- 175 (6) Announce, at the last plenary session of each day, a tentative agenda  
176 for the next day;
- 177 (7) Consult daily with the legislative committee chairpersons to  
178 expedite the business of the General Conference; and
- 179 (8) Receive all requests for special orders of the day, except those in the  
180 report of the Commission on the General Conference on the first day of  
181 the Conference.

182 (c) Proposals, questions, communications, resolutions, and other matters not  
183 included in the regular business of the General Conference shall be referred to  
184 the Committee on Agenda and Calendar without motion or debate. This  
185 committee shall determine whether the matter presented shall be considered by  
186 the General Conference. A decision of this committee may be appealed by  
187 submitting to the Conference the signatures of ten delegates. The item shall be  
188 presented to the Conference if the appeal is supported by a one-third vote.

189 *2) Correlation and Editorial Revision*

190 There shall be a Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision of eight  
191 persons and two alternates not delegates to the General Conference, and the  
192 Book Editor or designee, who shall be an ex-officio member. They shall be  
193 entitled to reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the  
194 committee. The Book Editor or designee shall convene the committee for the  
195 purpose of organization. During the session of General Conference and  
196 following its adjournment, the function of this committee shall be:

- 197 (a) To review all proposed legislation reported in the *Daily Christian Advocate*  
198 or presented in special reports to the General Conference. The committee shall  
199 report to the committees concerned, or to the General Conference as the  
200 situation may warrant, all contradictions, duplications, and inconsistencies  
201 discovered.

202 (b) To assure that, when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or  
203 under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another calendar  
204 item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item discussed and  
205 voted shall prevail.

206 (c) To edit the *Book of Discipline* in accordance with Section X.B.

### 207 3) *Courtesies and Privileges*

208 There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges composed of twelve  
209 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of  
210 whom shall be laypersons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the  
211 purpose of organization. The committee has the following duties and  
212 responsibilities:

213 (a) To consider all matters of privilege and, if they are such, to recommend to  
214 the Conference that they be heard.

215 (b) To consider resolutions of commendation, courtesy, appreciation, etc.,  
216 submitted in writing by delegates. The committee may initiate similar  
217 resolutions and may edit and amend those submitted to it. Resolutions approved  
218 by the committee shall be published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* and  
219 brought to the floor if the committee considers them of unusual importance or  
220 urgency.

221 (c) To arrange for extending appropriate courtesies of the Conference.

222 (d) To limit its report, including the statement of the chairperson and the hearing  
223 of such persons as may be presented, to a maximum of ten minutes in any one  
224 business day. No person or persons shall be presented whose request has been  
225 denied by the Commission on the General Conference, nor after the sixth day  
226 unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Conference (See Rule 31.6).

### 227 4) *Credentials*

228 There shall be a Committee on Credentials composed of twelve members, one  
229 from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of whom shall be  
230 laypersons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the purpose of  
231 organization. The committee shall provide guidance to the Secretary of the

232 General Conference regarding the approval of credentials of delegates, and may  
233 review decisions regarding the seating of delegates, including reserve delegates.  
234 The committee shall report to the General Conference its decisions and  
235 recommendations regarding challenges to the seating of any delegates.

236 *5) Journal*

237 There shall be a Committee on the Journal of three delegates to approve daily  
238 the record of Proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the Secretary  
239 of the General Conference and assistant(s). The committee shall be convened by  
240 a bishop for the purpose of organization.

241 *6) Presiding Officers*

242 There shall be a Committee on Presiding Officers composed of twelve  
243 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, six of whom shall  
244 be clergy and six of whom shall be laypersons. The committee shall be  
245 convened by a bishop for the purpose of organization. The committee shall  
246 select and notify the presiding officer(s) of each plenary session at least 24  
247 hours in advance, insofar as possible. The committee shall be free to select a  
248 bishop for more than one session and to change the presiding officer during the  
249 session, whenever it seems advisable (See Section III).

250 *7) Reference*

251 There shall be a Committee on Reference composed of twenty-four members,  
252 one clergy and one lay person from each central conference and jurisdiction.  
253 The membership of this committee shall include at least one member from each  
254 legislative committee who will be designated as petition coordinator for their  
255 legislative committee. If possible, petition coordinators should have served  
256 previously on a General Conference legislative committee. These petition  
257 coordinators shall serve as advisors to the officers of the legislative committee  
258 of which they are members. Additional members from the Committee on  
259 Reference shall assist the petition coordinator in the legislative committee of  
260 which they are members. This committee shall be convened, for the purpose of  
261 organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference, or designee, the day  
262 prior to the opening of the General Conference.

263 (a) After reviewing the proposed assignments by the Secretary of the General  
264 Conference of the petitions, resolutions, and similar communications dealing  
265 with the regular business of the Conference to legislative committees, this  
266 committee shall refer the same to the appropriate legislative committees (See  
267 Section IV.D). This committee shall also be responsible for reviewing the  
268 assignment, by the Secretary of the General Conference, of all reports,  
269 recommendations, and resolutions from general agencies, standing or special  
270 commissions and committees, and all other communications which are  
271 submitted to the Secretary of the General Conference after the convening of the  
272 General Conference, all of which shall be referred directly to appropriate  
273 legislative committees without presentation to a plenary session of the General  
274 Conference.

275 (b) The Committee on Reference may withdraw an item that has been assigned  
276 to a committee, either upon a request or upon its own motion. It may also  
277 withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper.

278 (c) The Secretary of the General Conference, or the Petitions Secretary, may  
279 withhold from publication any petitions deemed defamatory to a private  
280 individual or obscene. The Committee on Reference shall review all such  
281 decisions.

282 (d) Where the committee finds two or more substantially identical petitions, it  
283 may group them under one title and number, indicating the total number of  
284 petitions.

285 (e) No petitions shall be assigned by the Committee on Reference to any  
286 General Conference committee unless they meet the requirements of the *Book of*  
287 *Discipline*.

## 288 **B. Advance Legislative Research Panel**

289 (a) There shall be an Advance Legislative Research Panel chosen by the  
290 Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference, composed  
291 of a number of members equal to the number of legislative committees.

292 (b) Panel members shall be chosen based on their comprehensive knowledge of  
293 the *Book of Discipline* as evidenced by their previous participation in the life of  
294 the general church through service on the Judicial Council, the Committee on  
295 Correlation and Editorial Revision, or as a conference chancellor. Panel  
296 members must be willing to volunteer significant hours prior to General  
297 Conference.

298 (c) All petitions received, after being compiled by Disciplinary paragraphs, shall  
299 be assigned by legislative committee among the panel members. The panel  
300 members, in turn, will review all the petitions they have been assigned and  
301 locate any other paragraphs of the *Book of Discipline*, including the  
302 Constitution, which are closely related to the subject matter of the petition, as  
303 well as closely related Judicial Council decisions and memoranda. The panel  
304 member shall then record the related paragraph, decision, or memoranda with  
305 each petition.

306 (d) No judgment or editorial comment about any petition shall be included.

307 (e) The notation of related paragraphs shall become a permanent attachment to  
308 the petition as it goes through the General Conference legislative committee  
309 process.

310 (f) The legislative committees will consider how related paragraphs would  
311 impact or be impacted by adopting such a petition.

312 (g) The Advance Legislative Research Panel's work shall be coordinated by the  
313 Petitions Secretary.

314 (h) A panel member is not precluded from being a delegate to General  
315 Conference.

### 316 **C. Committee on Ethics**

317 There shall be a Committee on Ethics, comprised of the members of the  
318 Committee of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General  
319 Conference. Individual delegates may report their concerns about alleged  
320 violations of the rules to the Secretary of the General Conference who shall

321 investigate, attempt to resolve all such claims, and report the resolution to the  
 322 Committee on Ethics and to the delegate(s) who raised the concern. Based on  
 323 the severity of the concerns, the Secretary of the General Conference may refer  
 324 the matter to the Committee on Ethics. Alleged violations of the rules may also  
 325 be referred directly to the Committee on Ethics by a one-fifth vote of the  
 326 Plenary. The Committee on Ethics shall review all matters referred to it and  
 327 report its findings to the Plenary with recommended action.

328 **D. Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters**

329 (For membership, see *Book of Discipline* ¶ 2201.)

330 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the  
 331 Central Conferences, Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated Autonomous  
 332 Methodist Churches, Affiliated United Churches and Concordat relationships.

333 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

- 334 28-31.....Constitution: Central Conferences
- 335 423.....Conference of Methodist Bishops
- 336 540-548.....Central Conferences
- 337 560-567.....Provisional Central Conferences
- 338 570-575.....Autonomous Methodist, Affiliated Autonomous
- 339 Methodist, Affiliated United, Covenanting, and Concordat Churches
- 340 2201.....Standing Committee on Central Conference
- 341 Matters

342 The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall submit its report  
 343 and any legislative proposals related to the paragraphs assigned to it directly to  
 344 the General Conference. If the Standing Committee on Central Conference  
 345 Matters has a concern for any paragraphs assigned to one of the legislative  
 346 committees, the Committee shall offer its recommendation to the appropriate  
 347 legislative committee for consideration and recommendation to the General  
 348 Conference.

349 **E. Legislative Committees**

350 There shall be legislative committees to whom all properly submitted petitions  
 351 and reports shall be assigned. The Commission on the General Conference shall  
 352 set the number of legislative committees and the assignment of Disciplinary  
 353 paragraphs and topics to those committees in consultation with the Secretary of  
 354 the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference (§  
 355 511.4.f). Any legislative committee considering legislation affecting the  
 356 responsibilities assigned to the Standing Committee on Central Conference  
 357 Matters shall consult with the committee before submitting its proposed  
 358 legislation to the Conference.

359 **F. Membership of Legislative Committees**

360 1) Within the annual conference delegation, each delegate shall choose one  
 361 legislative committee on which to serve, the choice being made in order of  
 362 election.

363 In 2016, the laity first elected, shall be entitled to the first choice, the clergy  
 364 delegate first elected, the second choice, and thus the right of choice shall  
 365 continue to alternate between lay and clergy delegates in the order of their  
 366 election. For subsequent General Conferences, first choice shall alternate  
 367 between the clergy and lay delegates according to the following schedule:

368	2020	clergy
369	2024	laity
370	2028	clergy
371	2032	laity
372	2036	clergy
373	2040	laity

374 Two members of a delegation may not serve on the same legislative committee  
 375 unless the said delegation is represented on all of them. Whenever a delegation  
 376 has more than one delegate on a legislative committee, its delegates shall be  
 377 divided as equally as possible between lay and clergy. Thus, if there are three  
 378 delegates on a committee, they shall be two clergy and one lay or vice versa.  
 379 The Secretary of the General Conference shall provide these instructions and



380 examples with the election of delegate instructions sent to each annual  
381 conference secretary.

382 2) If a matter is under consideration in any legislative committee which in the  
383 judgment of any annual conference delegation vitally affects the interests of its  
384 constituency, and if the said annual conference is not represented in the  
385 membership of said committee, then the delegation may choose one of its  
386 delegates to represent its annual conference in the committee when the  
387 aforementioned matter is under consideration. This delegate shall be entitled to  
388 sit with the committee while this particular matter is being considered and shall  
389 have voice, but not vote (See Section VII.G.3.(e)).

390 3) Each person seated in the General Conference with voice but not vote may  
391 submit to the Secretary of the General Conference a choice of a legislative  
392 committee and shall have the same right in that committee to voice but not vote.

### 393 **G. Meetings of Committees**

394 1) Organization and Quorum of Committees. All legislative and administrative  
395 committees shall meet for organization at a time determined by the Commission  
396 on the General Conference. A majority of the members shall constitute a  
397 quorum for the transaction of business in all committees.

398 Consistent with the spirit of ¶ 722 in the *Book of Discipline*, meetings of  
399 General Conference committees and subcommittees shall be open.

#### 400 2) Administrative Committees

401 (a) A bishop appointed by the Council of Bishops and an organizing secretary  
402 appointed by the Secretary of the General Conference shall serve, respectively  
403 as chairperson and secretary, to organize the committees, except where other  
404 provision is specified.

405 (b) The election of chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary of each  
406 administrative committee shall be by separate sequential written ballot for each  
407 position. Due consideration shall be given for inclusiveness that reflects the

408 global nature of the church, including gender, age, ethnicity, geography, young  
409 people, clergy, and lay.

### 410 3) Legislative Committees

411 All legislative committees shall meet for organization at such time as the  
412 Commission on the General Conference shall determine. A bishop appointed by  
413 the Council of Bishops and an organizing secretary appointed by the Secretary  
414 of the General Conference shall serve, respectively, as chairperson and  
415 secretary, to organize each of the several committees. The first meeting of the  
416 legislative committees shall be held as soon as possible following the first  
417 plenary session of the General Conference. The orientation of the committee,  
418 followed by the election of officers, shall be the order of business of the first  
419 meeting of the committee.

420 (a) Election of Officers. The chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and sub-  
421 committee chairpersons of each committee shall be elected by separate  
422 sequential written ballot for each position. Due consideration shall be given for  
423 inclusiveness that reflects the global nature of the church, including gender, age,  
424 ethnicity, geography, young people, clergy, and lay. If no election by simple  
425 majority vote of those voting has occurred after three (3) consecutive ballots,  
426 the floor will be reopened for nominations.

427 (b) Training. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for  
428 training all chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, secretaries, and sub-committee  
429 chairpersons of legislative committees. The training shall include instruction in  
430 their duties, all procedures in the handling of petitions, the times of the daily  
431 deadline for publishing reports, and other information to expedite the work of  
432 the committees. The Commission on the General Conference shall arrange for a  
433 time and place for such a training session. No officer shall serve without  
434 completing this training.

435 (c) Parliamentarians. Each legislative committee shall be assigned a  
436 parliamentarian by the Secretary of the General Conference. Retired bishops  
437 nominated by the Council of Bishops shall be included in the pool of  
438 parliamentarians. It shall be the responsibility of the Business Manager of the

439 General Conference to develop a pool of other people not currently delegates to  
440 serve as parliamentarians. It is preferred that these persons be members of The  
441 United Methodist Church, have knowledge of the Rules of the General  
442 Conference, and have training in parliamentary procedure. The retired bishops  
443 shall be given priority in being assigned to legislative committees. At the  
444 invitation of the presiding officer, the parliamentarian advises on matters of  
445 parliamentary procedure.

446 (d) Regular Meetings. The legislative committees shall meet for business as  
447 scheduled by the Agenda and Calendar Committee unless otherwise ordered by  
448 the Conference, and at such other times as the committees may determine  
449 provided that no legislative committee shall meet at times that conflict with  
450 plenary sessions. Any legislation not completed by the legislative committee at  
451 the time of the Saturday evening adjournment of the first week of General  
452 Conference shall remain unfinished and legislative committees shall be  
453 adjourned (See Rule 37).<sup>2</sup>

454 (e) Voting Area. Each legislative committee and sub-committee shall establish  
455 an area in which only voting committee members and their properly  
456 credentialed assistant or translator will be seated. The Business Manager of the  
457 General Conference shall provide four designated seats in each legislative  
458 committee for the monitors from the General Commission on Religion and Race  
459 and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. An area shall  
460 also be established for those present with voice but not vote (See Section  
461 VII.F.2). Staff members of the Secretary of General Conference and Business  
462 Manager of General Conference may speak in the performance of their duties.  
463 General agency staff, other resource persons, and visitors may speak only when  
464 authorized, in each instance by vote of 1/3 of the committee or sub-committee  
465 or by invitation of the chair (See Rule 31.3).

---

<sup>2</sup> *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.11 requires that all petitions submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee. The disciplinary requirement takes precedence over this sentence and Rule 37.

466 (f) Minority Reports. Minority reports allow for the expression of differing  
467 views held by a significant portion of a legislative committee and may be  
468 offered in accordance with Rules 29, 38, and 39.

469 (g) Reports. Legislative Committee Reports should be submitted as soon as  
470 possible following the action of the committee. All Legislative Committee  
471 Reports shall be submitted prior to 5 P.M. on Monday of the second week.

#### 472 **H. Function and Authority of Committees**

473 1) The administrative committees, without specific instruction or direction from  
474 the Conference, shall assume responsibility for considering and reporting to the  
475 Conference upon all matters that fall within their respective responsibilities (See  
476 Section VII.A).

477 2) The legislative committees shall consider and report upon that which is  
478 referred to them by the Committee on Reference or which has been referred to  
479 them directly by the Conference (See Rule 36).

#### 480 **VIII. Proposal Involving Expenditure of Unbudgeted Funds**

481 A. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary to establish an  
482 interim or continuing board, commission, committee, or task force shall be  
483 referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration and the  
484 Connectional Table or their executive committees or their expenditure review  
485 group for a report and recommendation before final action is taken. The General  
486 Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table or their  
487 executive committees or their expenditure review group shall provide the  
488 General Conference with the following before action is taken:

489 1) an estimated budget for the proposed board, commission, committee or task  
490 force for the next quadrennium; and

491 2) a statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board, commission,  
492 committee, or task force will affect the budget or budgets for existing boards,  
493 commissions, committees and task forces already presented by the General  
494 Council on Finance and Administration.

495 B. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary that involves the  
496 expenditure of funds shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and  
497 Administration and the Connectional Table or their executive committees or  
498 their expenditure review group for advice and recommendation before final  
499 action is taken. Any general agency requests for supplemental funds shall be  
500 identified as such; otherwise, they shall be considered as having been included  
501 within the agency budget.

502 C. Any proposal falling under the provisions of this section shall be referred to  
503 the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table  
504 or their executive committees or their expenditure review group at least seventy-  
505 two hours prior to the scheduled adjournment of the General Conference.

#### 506 **IX. Delegate Expenses**

507 A. Full travel expenses and per diem shall be paid for the number of allotted  
508 voting delegates from each conference according to the report of the chairperson  
509 of each annual conference delegation. If during the conference, a reserve  
510 delegate is seated for a principal delegate for one or more full days, the principal  
511 delegate shall adjust the per diem with such reserve based on the time served by  
512 each.

513 B. Air travel shall be by the most economical round-trip coach airfare directly to  
514 and from the site of the General Conference. Special excursion and promotional  
515 fares shall be utilized whenever possible. Additional expenses may be allowed  
516 delegates from conferences outside the United States for arrival and departure  
517 not to exceed two days before or after General Conference. The per diem  
518 expense allowance for all such days before and after General Conference shall  
519 be at the same rate as granted delegates during General Conference. Exceptions  
520 to these limitations must be approved by the Business Manager of the General  
521 Conference.

522 C. When one or more delegates come in the same automobile, the owner will be  
523 reimbursed for the actual cost of travel (parking, en route mileage and tolls, en  
524 route meals and lodging). Mileage shall be reimbursed at the business rate  
525 established by the IRS and will be measured from point of origin to the site of

526 General Conference and return. Meals and lodging shall be reimbursed up to the  
 527 established General Conference per diem. When the round trip exceeds 1,000  
 528 miles for any one round trip, the cost of transportation shall be paid either on the  
 529 actual costs as defined above or at the most economical airfare available plus  
 530 airport-related ground transportation cost, whichever is less. Passengers who are  
 531 the principal voting delegates to the General Conference shall submit only the  
 532 cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per  
 533 diem rate.

534 D. For the dates General Conference is in session, no General Conference  
 535 delegate shall receive expense money from the general Church or any of its  
 536 boards and agencies other than approved per diem and travel expenses available  
 537 to all delegates. This provision is not to restrict official assistance to delegates  
 538 from their own annual conferences.

539 **X. Material to Be Included in the *Book of Discipline***

540 A. Non-legislative material (Pages 1-22, 2012 *Book of Discipline*)<sup>3</sup> shall be  
 541 referred to the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for  
 542 consideration and possible consultation with the General Commission on  
 543 Archives and History or referral to the Committee on Reference.

544 B. The Book Editor, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Publisher of  
 545 The United Methodist Church, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial  
 546 Revision shall be charged with editing the *Book of Discipline*. Any Disciplinary  
 547 amendments that are not dependent on constitutional amendments for their  
 548 effective date will be incorporated in the appropriate paragraphs of the *Book of*  
 549 *Discipline* in the order of their adoption.

550 The editors, in the exercise of their judgment, shall have the authority to make  
 551 changes in wording as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without  
 552 changing its substance. The editors, in consultation with the Judicial Council,  
 553 shall also have authority to delete provisions of the *Book of Discipline* that have  
 554 been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Any challenge of a decision  
 555 made by the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be in

---

<sup>3</sup> This is equivalent to pages 1-24 in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

556 writing. If the matter should go to the Judicial Council, the appealing party shall  
557 give notice thereof to the committee. Any established errata in the *Book of*  
558 *Discipline* shall be forwarded by The United Methodist Publishing House to the  
559 Council of Bishops, the Secretary of the General Conference, Annual  
560 Conference Secretaries, and Annual Conference Directors of Connectional  
561 Ministries, and shall be published by the Book Editor on The United Methodist  
562 Publishing House website.

563 Constitutional amendments certified in accordance with ¶ 59 and enabling  
564 legislation adopted in anticipation of the constitutional amendments shall be  
565 published by the Book Editor on the United Methodist Publishing House  
566 website following certification. They shall be published in the subsequent *Book*  
567 *of Discipline*. The constitutional amendments take effect at the time of  
568 certification. The enabling legislation will be effective on January 1, of the year  
569 following the certification of the constitutional amendments and will be given  
570 effect as if it had been adopted after all other Disciplinary changes affecting a  
571 particular paragraph.

#### 572 **XI. Distribution of Materials within the Bar of the Conference**

573 After the first day, only the *Daily Christian Advocate* and materials related to  
574 General Conference presentations and produced by official bodies of The  
575 United Methodist Church approved by the Secretary of the General Conference  
576 shall be distributed by the pages. Pages will distribute communications to  
577 individual delegates provided the communication bears the name and location of  
578 both the recipient and the sender.

#### 579 **XII. Distribution of Materials Outside of the Plenary or Committee Room**

580 Newsletters or any special interest material from United Methodist boards,  
581 agencies, and related United Methodist groups may be distributed under the  
582 following conditions:

583 A. One copy of each item shall be submitted to the office of the Commission on  
584 the General Conference in advance of distribution.

585 B. Material distributed shall be relevant to the General Conference and not for  
586 soliciting membership in an organization.

587 C. No distributor shall be allowed to distribute within the convention center  
588 unless they have obtained written approval from the Business Manager of the  
589 General Conference. Each group shall have one contact person who shall  
590 register all group members and receive identification for each member.

591 D. Distribution shall be at least 30 feet outside any entrance door to the plenary  
592 or committee meeting room.

593 E. Distribution shall be done by representatives of the above named groups. It is  
594 the responsibility of the distributors not to impede or interfere with the entrance  
595 or exit of persons or to hamper the general flow of pedestrian traffic.

596 F. Distributors are responsible for the disposal of unused or unclaimed  
597 materials.

598 G. Distributors violating these regulations will be prohibited from future  
599 distributions.

### 600 **XIII. Reports to Be Mailed Before General Conference**

601 The reports, recommendations, and resolutions requiring action by the General  
602 Conference, as well as petitions submitted in accordance with the *Book of*  
603 *Discipline* ¶ 507.7, shall first be assigned a Petition Number by the Secretary of  
604 the General Conference or the Petitions Secretary and then shall be published in  
605 an Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and distributed to all  
606 delegates and to the first clergy and first lay reserve delegates at least ninety  
607 days prior to the opening of the General Conference. Reports shall be published  
608 in the same style as the *Daily Christian Advocate*. In order to accomplish this,  
609 the finished copy of all such reports and recommendations shall be submitted to  
610 the editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate* at least 210 days prior to the opening  
611 of the General Conference.<sup>4</sup> Reports and recommendations not published in an

---

<sup>4</sup> *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.6-7 requires that petitions be submitted to the petitions secretary at least 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference. The disciplinary requirement takes precedence over this sentence.



612 Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* may be received by the  
613 General Conference only upon three-fourths vote of the General Conference.  
614 The General Council on Finance and Administration shall be exempt from this  
615 requirement to the extent necessary to allow inclusion of general funds receipts  
616 information for the first three years of the quadrennium. The General Council  
617 on Finance and Administration will provide data including the third year of the  
618 quadrennium and other appropriate information to delegates prior to the  
619 convening of the General Conference.

620 **RULES OF ORDER**

621 **I. Daily Schedule**

622 *Rule 1. Hours of Meetings*

623 The following shall be the daily order for the General Conference, Sundays  
624 excepted:

- 625 (1) 8:00 A.M. Morning Praise and Prayer  
626 (2) 8:20 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Christian conferencing through plenary or  
627 committee meetings  
628 (3) 1:30 or 2:30 P.M. (as specified by the daily schedule) to 5:00 P.M.  
629 Christian conferencing through plenary or committee meetings  
630 (4) During a Memorial Service, the names of the bishops, bishops'  
631 spouses, and delegates-elect who have died since the adjournment  
632 of the previous General Conference shall be called.  
633 (5) Recess may be called during any plenary session at a time deemed  
634 appropriate by the presiding officer.  
635 (6) Daily adjournment shall be called by 6:30 P.M. each evening, except  
636 for the day when leader training is scheduled and Saturday when  
637 adjournment shall be called by 9:30 P.M. Adjournment shall be an  
638 order of the day.

639 *Rule 2. Order of Christian Conferencing*

640 The daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

- 641 (1) Reports of administrative and special committees  
642 (2) Agenda and calendar items  
643 (3) Consent calendar (See Rule 33.5)  
644 (4) Miscellaneous business

645 **II. Presiding Officers**

646 *Rule 3. Authority of the Presiding Officer*

647 (1) The presiding officer (plenary, administrative committees, legislative  
648 committees, and sub-committees) shall decide and rule on points of order. A  
649 delegate may appeal the ruling to the body without debate, except that the  
650 presiding officer and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have

651 three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote  
652 in the case of appeal shall sustain the presiding officer (See Rule 31.5). Any  
653 delegate who raises a point of order shall cite the rule believed to have been  
654 violated.

655 (2) At the discretion of the presiding officer, a time for prayerful discernment  
656 may be taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for group meditation  
657 and prayer and shall end at the call of the presiding officer, at which time  
658 deliberation shall be resumed.

659 (3) The presiding officer shall have the right to recess a session of the body at  
660 any time at the presiding officer's discretion and to reconvene at such time as  
661 the presiding officer shall propose. Consistent with the spirit of ¶ 722 of the  
662 *Book of Discipline*, in rare circumstances the presiding officer shall also have  
663 the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene in closed session with only  
664 delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such  
665 a session following recess (See Section VII.G.1).

666 *Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order*

667 When the presiding officer calls the body to order, no delegate shall speak,  
668 address the chair, or stand.

### 669 **III. Rights and Duties of Delegates**

670 *Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves*

671 The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a form on which to  
672 report daily the attendance of its delegates. Any reserve seated in the place of a  
673 regular delegate shall have been duly elected as a reserve delegate by the annual  
674 conference and shall meet the requirements set forth in the *Book of Discipline* ¶¶  
675 34-36. Delegates, including reserves when the latter are substituted for a  
676 delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election, except when  
677 a reserve is seated temporarily or in case of special need as determined by the  
678 delegation chairperson. The reserve shall occupy the seat of the delegate for  
679 whom the substitution is made. Reserves shall not be seated for delegates  
680 presenting on the platform. All delegates arriving after the opening roll call shall  
681 be reported by the chairperson of the delegation to the Secretary of the General

682 Conference or designee. No delegate who is duly registered, unless hindered by  
683 sickness or other emergency, shall be absent from the sessions of the  
684 Conference without permission of the Conference. All absences shall be  
685 reported by the chairpersons of the delegations to the Secretary of the General  
686 Conference or designee on a form provided for this purpose. Reserve delegates  
687 are to function within the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference (See  
688 Rules 29 and 33). A reserve delegate may be seated upon authority of the  
689 chairperson of the delegation who shall report the substitution in writing to the  
690 Secretary of the General Conference or designee on a form provided for this  
691 purpose. Reserves are chosen to be seated:

692 (1) by reason of being of the same order as the absent delegate,

693 (2) in order of their election as reserve delegates.

694 If the substitution is challenged, the Committee on Credentials after consultation  
695 with the chairperson of the delegation may report its recommendation to the  
696 General Conference.

697 *Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Plenary Floor*

698 A delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall use the tablet at the table to  
699 register and make a request to speak. The presiding bishop shall choose from the  
700 requests and direct the speaker to the appropriate microphone. Unless raising a  
701 point of order or parliamentary inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until given  
702 the floor. The bishop presiding shall consider the various sections of the  
703 auditorium in rotation. The delegate recognized shall first announce her or his  
704 name and the name of the conference represented and their reason for speaking.  
705 A delegate recognized by the presiding bishop may not yield the floor to another  
706 delegate. In the event of tablet failure, a delegate desiring to speak to the  
707 Conference shall hold up the appropriate placard to be recognized by the bishop  
708 presiding.

709 *Rule 7. Plenary Speakers For and Against*

710 (1) When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of  
711 the bishop presiding to ascertain, when recognizing a delegate to the  
712 Conference, on which side the delegate proposes to speak; the bishop presiding

713 shall not assign the floor to any delegate proposing to speak on the same side of  
714 the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any delegate  
715 desires to speak on the other side.

716 (2) Except for non-debatable motions (Rule 23), no report shall be adopted or  
717 question relating to the same decided, without opportunity having been given  
718 for at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal.

719 (3) The motion to call for the previous question, which is itself non-debatable, is  
720 not in order without opportunity having been given for at least two speeches for  
721 and two against the proposal. Any delegate who moves the previous question  
722 (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending) shall also  
723 indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are  
724 also pending. If said delegate does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as  
725 applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion shall be taken  
726 without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting  
727 for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions  
728 to which it applies without further debate (See Rule 23). After three speeches  
729 for and three against and provided no secondary motions come before the floor,  
730 the questions shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson and/or duly  
731 authorized delegate or delegates presenting the committee's report, and if there  
732 is a minority report, the presenter shall be entitled to speak before the vote is  
733 taken (See Rule 29). These speeches shall be limited to three (3) minutes (See  
734 Rule 9).

735 *Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker*

736 No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a  
737 parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, to challenge a misrepresentation,  
738 or to call attention that the time has arrived for an order of the day.

739 *Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech*

740 (1) No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate  
741 who has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.

742 (2) No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same  
743 motion, except as provided in Rule 7.2

744 (3) No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is  
745 extended by the body (See Rule 7.3). Time of translation shall not count against  
746 the three-minute limit.

747 (4) The three-minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority  
748 vote of the body at any time and for any period of duration.

749 *Rule 10. Point of Order*

750 A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall use the tablet at the table to  
751 register and make a request to speak. The presiding bishop shall choose from the  
752 requests, interrupt the proceedings, and direct the speaker to the appropriate  
753 microphone. In the event of tablet failure, a delegate wishing to raise a point of  
754 order shall address the presiding officer and say, "I rise to a point of order." The  
755 presiding officer shall interrupt the proceeding. If a delegate is speaking, that  
756 one shall immediately yield the floor. The presiding officer shall then direct the  
757 delegate raising the point of order to first cite the rule involved and then state  
758 the point as briefly and concisely as possible. The delegate shall not presume to  
759 decide the question or argue the point. A point of order is decided by the  
760 presiding officer without debate unless in doubtful cases the presiding officer  
761 submits the question to the body for advice or decision. When the presiding  
762 officer rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed (See  
763 Rule 3).

764 *Rule 11. Bar of the Conference*

765 The bar of the conference shall provide for the integrity of the General  
766 Conference. It is for delegates, pages, and others who have been granted access  
767 to the area for General Conference business as provided through the Rules or  
768 through the suspension of the Rules.

769 *Rule 12. Distracting Behavior*

770 A spirit of Christian conferencing is expected. Delegates are not to distract  
771 others. Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the plenary hall or the  
772 legislative committee rooms. All electronic devices shall be muted or turned off.  
773 In addition, the use of electronic devices should be in a manner that does not  
774 disturb other participants. Respect should be shown in the use of social media at  
775 all times. Verbal and non-verbal distractions are prohibited. The presiding

776 officer or members of the General Conference staff may ask individuals to leave  
777 the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if they persist in behavior that  
778 interferes with the participation of other delegates.

779 *Rule 13. Electronic Recording*

780 No electronic recording by either video or audio may be made of any portion of  
781 the General Conference unless specifically authorized by the Business Manager  
782 of the General Conference in order to maintain the integrity of all performance  
783 licenses.

784 *Rule 14. Right to Make Motions*

785 Only voting delegates have the right to make or second motions in accordance  
786 with the rules and upon recognition by the presiding officer.

787 *Rule 15. Plenary Voting Procedure*

788 (1) Voting shall be by electronic means unless otherwise ordered by the  
789 Conference, provided, however, that in elections, voting may be by written  
790 ballot. Electronic voting devices shall be available on the platform for delegates  
791 making a presentation to the Conference.

792 (2) When electronic voting is not in use or operating, a standing count vote or  
793 vote by written ballot may be ordered on call of any delegate, supported by one-  
794 third of the delegates present and voting, with pages serving as tellers.

795 (3) Only delegates within the bar of the Conference when the vote is taken shall  
796 be entitled to vote. No delegate shall cast a vote in place of any other delegate.

797 (4) No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the  
798 previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as  
799 relates to the vote itself or such business as the presiding officer may deem  
800 appropriate.

801 *Rule 16. Elections*

802 For any election requiring balloting by the plenary, an election shall occur when  
803 the number of ballots cast for a nominee meets or exceeds the required  
804 percentage of the total valid ballots cast.

805 A ballot is valid if it meets the following standards:

806 (1) It is cast by a voting delegate or properly seated reserve delegate.

807 (2) It contains votes for the same number of nominees, as there are  
808 vacancies to be filled.

809 (3) Every name receiving a vote has been properly nominated according  
810 to the provisions.

811 (4) No more than one vote is cast for the same nominee.

812 (5) No vote is cast for a person who has already been elected.

813 *Rule 17. Division of Question*

814 Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of  
815 any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no  
816 delegate objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the  
817 presiding officer shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a  
818 second.

#### 819 **IV. Behavior of Guests and Observers**

820 *Rule 18. Distracting Behavior*

821 A spirit of Christian conferencing is expected. Guests and observers are not to  
822 distract others. Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the plenary hall or the  
823 legislative committee rooms. All electronic devices shall be muted or turned off.  
824 In addition, the use of electronic devices should be in a manner that does not  
825 disturb other participants. Respect should be shown in the use of social media at  
826 all times. Verbal and non-verbal distractions are prohibited. The presiding  
827 officer or members of the General Conference staff may ask individuals to leave  
828 the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if they persist in behavior that  
829 interferes with the participation of delegates. Guests and observers are not to  
830 enter the bar of the conference except as provided in Rule 11.

831 *Rule 19. Electronic Recording*

832 No electronic recording by either video or audio may be made of any portion of  
833 the General Conference unless specifically authorized by the Business Manager  
834 of the General Conference in order to maintain the integrity of all performance  
835 licenses.



836 **V. Business Procedure**

837 *Rule 20. Motion for Adoption of Legislative and Administrative Committee*  
838 *Reports*

839 Whenever a report of a legislative committee or an administrative committee is  
840 presented to the Conference for action, it shall be deemed in proper order for  
841 consideration by the Conference without the formality of a second.

842 *Rule 21. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions, Amendments*

843 All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared in accordance with  
844 instructions from the Secretary of the General Conference; and all motions,  
845 including amendments, shall be presented in writing (See Rules 33.2, 34.3, 36.2,  
846 38).

847 *Rule 22. Alterations of Motions*

848 When a motion is made and seconded, a resolution is introduced and seconded,  
849 or a committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, it  
850 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be  
851 altered except by action of the Conference (See Rule 39).

852 *Rule 23. Non-Debatable Motions*

853 The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

854 (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except for final adjournment.

855 (2) To suspend the rules.

856 (3) To lay on the table.

857 No motion, which adheres to another motion or has another motion  
858 adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid  
859 on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or  
860 which adhere to them.

861 (4) To take from the table.

862 (5) To call for the previous questions, when in order (See Rules 7 and  
863 24).

864 (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 32).

865 (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate.

866 (8) To take time for prayerful discernment at the immediate moment.

867 *Rule 24. Rights of the Main Question*

868 The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to  
869 adopt, to refer, to substitute, to postpone, or to reconsider. No new motion,  
870 resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall  
871 have been disposed of except as provided in Rule 15.4. This rule does not apply  
872 to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

873 *Rule 25. Precedence of Secondary Motions*

874 If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more  
875 other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one  
876 another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

- 877 (1) To fix the time the conference shall adjourn (This motion is subject  
878 to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.);
- 879 (2) To adjourn;
- 880 (3) To take a recess;
- 881 (4) To lay on the table;
- 882 (5) To order the previous question (See Rules 23.5, 28);
- 883 (6) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- 884 (7) To postpone to a given time;
- 885 (8) To refer;
- 886 (9) To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being  
887 allowed to an amendment);
- 888 (10) To postpone indefinitely.

889 *Rule 26. Motion to Adjourn*

890 The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and  
891 shall always be in order, except:

- 892 (1) When a delegate has the floor;
- 893 (2) When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it  
894 is finally decided;
- 895 (3) When the previous question has been ordered and action is pending;
- 896 (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate  
897 has intervened;

898 (5) When the motion to fix the time to which the Conference shall  
899 adjourn is pending.

900 This rule does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

901 *Rule 27. Final Adjournment*

902 At final adjournment all unfinished business shall remain unfinished.

903 *Rule 28. Procedure for Amending by Substitution*

904 (1) When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for  
905 consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be  
906 offered by any delegate moving that the same be substituted for the report,  
907 resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an  
908 alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main  
909 motion.

910 (2) Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of  
911 substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be  
912 considered during this period of initial consideration.

913 (3) Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will  
914 occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by majority vote, the substitute motion  
915 becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to receive a majority  
916 vote, the original main motion remains on the floor for consideration. Debate  
917 including the offering of amendments moves forward on the main motion as per  
918 the rules of procedure.

919 (4) The motion for the previous questions shall not be in order on the motion to  
920 substitute until opportunity has been given for at least two speakers on each side  
921 of the question.

922 *Rule 29. Minority Report*

923 A minority report may be attached to a report from a legislative committee in  
924 the following manner:

925 (1) Delegates intending to offer a minority report must notify the chair  
926 of the committee within two hours (excluding breaks) of final  
927 committee action on the relative petition.

928 (2) The chair of the legislative committee shall receive the minority  
929 report signed by 10 persons or 10% of the legislative committee  
930 membership (whichever is less) who voted against the proposal, whose  
931 names shall be attached to the request. A reserve delegate may sign the  
932 minority report only while seated as a voting delegate in the legislative  
933 committee or if seated at the time the committee acted upon the relevant  
934 petition. The committee and minority reports shall be submitted and  
935 presented together in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

936 (3) A minority report shall be presented as a substitute for the report of  
937 the committee, in conformity with Rule 28 and Rule 36 respectively,  
938 and it shall be managed in the plenary according to Rule 28 for  
939 substitute motions. The signers of the minority report shall select one of  
940 their signers to present the report as a substitute motion. In closing  
941 debate on the motion to substitute, the delegate presenting the minority  
942 report shall speak first and the presenter of the committee report shall be  
943 last.

944 (4) If the motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report  
945 prevails by majority vote of the plenary, the minority report becomes  
946 the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to prevail by a majority  
947 vote of the plenary, the majority report of the committee remains on the  
948 floor as the main motion for consideration. Debate including the  
949 offering of amendments moves forward on the main motion as per the  
950 rules of procedure.

951 *Rule 30. Unlawful Motion After Speech*

952 After making a speech on a pending question, a delegate may not make a  
953 motion that would limit or stop debate without first relinquishing the floor.

954 *Rule 31. Exceptions to Majority Vote*

955 A majority of those voting, a quorum being present (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 506),  
956 shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

957 (1) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall be required to request a  
958 Judicial Council decision (*Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 56.1, 2609.1).

959 (2) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall refer a matter to the  
960 Committee on Ethics.

961 (3) A non-delegate may be invited to a full legislative committee or sub-  
962 committee either by invitation of the chair or by one-third (1/3) vote of  
963 either body to speak for no more than three (3) minutes on any one  
964 matter.

965 (4) One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call  
966 for a recorded vote in case the decision of the presiding officer is  
967 challenged (See Rule 15.2).

968 (5) A tie vote sustains the presiding officer (Rule 3.1).

969 (6) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend  
970 (Rule 41) or amend (Rule 42) the rules; to set aside a special order  
971 (Rule 33.1); to consider a special order before the time set therefore; to  
972 sustain the request of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for  
973 the presentation of any person after the sixth day of the General  
974 Conference (See Section VII.A.3).

975 (7) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a call for the previous  
976 question.

977 (8) A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a  
978 constitutional amendment (*Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 59-61).

979 *Rule 32. Reconsideration*

980 A motion to reconsider an action of the body shall be in order at any time if  
981 offered by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed

982 for reconsideration was non-debatable, the motion to reconsider shall be non-  
983 debatable (See Rule 23).

984 *Rule 33. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar*

985 (1) The Secretary of the General Conference shall keep the Calendar which  
986 includes the orders of the day and the reports of committees (See Rule 39).  
987 Business placed on the calendar shall be considered in the order recommended  
988 by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, unless by two-thirds vote of the  
989 Conference, an item is taken up out of order (See Rule 31.6).

990 (2) Whenever possible, a legislative committee shall recommend for adoption  
991 only one calendar item for each paragraph or sub-paragraph in the *Book of*  
992 *Discipline*. All other related petitions shall be combined for rejection or referral.

993 (3) Action from a legislative committee shall be placed on the Consent Calendar  
994 if:

995 (a) No more than ten votes were cast against the prevailing position in  
996 the committee;

997 (b) The item has been previously published in the *Daily Christian*  
998 *Advocate*;

999 (c) The item has been in the hands of delegates for at least 24 hours;

1000 (d) The item is neither a constitutional amendment nor one having  
1001 financial implications; and

1002 (e) No minority report is attached (See Rule 29).

1003 (4) The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall clearly identify the Consent Calendar,  
1004 which will list items in three sections sub-headed as follows:

1005 (a) Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.

1006 (b) Non-Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.

1007 (c) Items Recommended for Referral.

1008 (5) The Consent Calendar shall be called up daily pursuant to Rule 2. Adoption  
1009 of the Consent Calendar by vote of the Conference shall be deemed action on all  
1010 calendar items on the Consent Calendar.

1011 (6) If an error in assignment of a Consent Calendar item is discovered and  
1012 reported by the legislative chair to the Coordinator of the Calendar, the  
1013 Coordinator of the Calendar shall have the authority to report the error to the  
1014 plenary session for reconsideration.

1015 (7) Any 20 delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having  
1016 such a request on file with the Secretary of the General Conference by 3:00  
1017 P.M. of the day the calendar item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.  
1018 Reserve delegates may sign requests to remove item from the Consent Calendar  
1019 only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up in the  
1020 regular order of business.

1021 (8) Items lifted from the Consent Calendar may not be returned to the Consent  
1022 Calendar.

1023 *Rule 34. Report of Non-Calendar Items*

1024 (1) In addition to calendar items to be presented to the plenary, each legislative  
1025 committee shall report all items not presented in the following categories:

1026 (a) Petitions not acted upon because another petition dealing with the  
1027 same subject was acted upon.

1028 (b) Petitions not supported by the legislative committee. The committee  
1029 shall report the vote of the committee.

1030 (c) Petitions assigned to but not considered by the legislative  
1031 committee.<sup>5</sup>

1032 (2) These reports shall be printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1033 (3) Any 20 delegates may have an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above presented to the  
1034 plenary by having such a request on file with the Secretary of the General  
1035 Conference by 3:00 P.M. of the day the item first appears in the *Daily Christian*  
1036 *Advocate*. Reserve delegates may sign requests to present an item in (1)(b) or  
1037 (1)(c) above only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up  
1038 in the regular order of business while the chair of the relevant committee is on

---

<sup>5</sup> *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.11 requires that all petitions submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee. The disciplinary requirement takes precedence over this sentence.

1039 the platform. Those supporting consideration of said items shall select one of  
1040 their number to present the item to the plenary.

1041 *Rule 35. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees*

1042 The rules of order of the General Conference, except for Rule 7, shall be  
1043 observed in meetings of standing legislative committees insofar as they apply.

1044 *Rule 36. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees*

1045 (1) Following orientation of officers, committee leadership, utilizing the  
1046 resources of its petitions coordinator, shall evaluate the petitions assigned to the  
1047 committee, establish priorities, and outline the committee's work on the basis of  
1048 those priorities unless it is given special instructions by the General Conference  
1049 (See Section VII.A.(7)(a)).

1050 (2) A legislative sub-committee chair shall ensure that all votes taken within a  
1051 sub-committee are recorded and reported to the legislative committee plenary on  
1052 the forms provided by the Secretary of the General Conference.

1053 (3) When a petition or resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the  
1054 legislative committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with  
1055 which the item has to do is referred to that committee for such action as it may  
1056 deem wise. Every matter supported by the legislative committee shall be  
1057 reported to the plenary with a motion to adopt or a motion to refer to a board,  
1058 council, commission, or committee either for action or for report to the next  
1059 General Conference.

1060 (4) Committees shall report to the Conference upon all matters referred to them  
1061 by the Conference, directly or through the Committee on Reference. Committee  
1062 reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by  
1063 numbers they bear respectively in the published reports of the Committee on  
1064 Reference or in some other suitable manner.

1065 (5) When a committee ascertains that another committee is, or in its judgment  
1066 should be, considering a subject that the former is considering, it shall report the  
1067 matter to the Committee on Reference for such adjustment as the situation may  
1068 require.



1069 (6) The chairperson of each legislative committee shall coordinate the report of  
1070 the committee to the plenary.

1071 (7) When the chairperson of a committee is not in agreement with a report  
1072 adopted by the committee, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to  
1073 the committee. The committee shall elect one of its members for the  
1074 presentation and discussion of the report in the plenary. If, in such a case, the  
1075 committee shall fail to select a representative, the chairperson shall designate a  
1076 member to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the  
1077 rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such a report.

1078 *Rule 37. Unfinished Business in Legislative Committee*

1079 Any legislation not acted upon by the legislative committee at the time of the  
1080 Saturday evening adjournment of the first week of General Conference shall  
1081 remain unfinished (See Rule 1.6 & See Section VII.G.3(d)).<sup>6</sup>

1082 *Rule 38. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate*

1083 (1) As quickly as material can be prepared, each secretary of a legislative  
1084 committee shall present each of the committee's reports to a recorder assigned  
1085 to the committee. The recorder will prepare the report and the report will be  
1086 approved and signed by the chair, vice-chair and secretary. After the report has  
1087 been approved, it will be electronically transmitted to the Coordinator of the  
1088 Calendar. A calendar number will be assigned and it will be published as  
1089 approved.

1090 (2) Committee and minority reports that propose changes in the *Book of*  
1091 *Discipline* shall give the paragraph number to be affected and shall be prepared  
1092 in the following manner: Existing words used as reference points shall be in  
1093 quotation marks; words to be deleted shall be in strike through; words to be  
1094 added shall be bolded. In the publication of these reports, the *Daily Christian*  
1095 *Advocate* will use the same convention (See Rule 40).

---

<sup>6</sup> *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.11 requires that all petitions submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee. The disciplinary requirement takes precedence over Rule 37.

1096 *Rule 39. Published Reports in Possession of Conference*

1097 Reports submitted by the committee according to the deadline, as announced by  
1098 the Secretary of the General Conference, shall appear in the next day's *Daily*  
1099 *Christian Advocate*. The report as published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* is  
1100 the official copy, subject only to grammatical or other obvious editorial changes  
1101 and shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference. On the day  
1102 following its first appearance in the *Daily Christian Advocate* or any time  
1103 thereafter, a report is in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference.  
1104 The same rule shall apply to a minority report from any committee (See Rules  
1105 22, 29).

1106 *Rule 40. Preparation and Publishing of Reports*

1107 (1) All committee reports shall be prepared using the approved General  
1108 Conference Legislative System.

1109 (2) The report to the Coordinator of the Calendar for items voted in committee  
1110 shall include the name of the committee, its total membership, the number  
1111 present at the time the item was adopted, and the number voting for and against  
1112 the item.

1113 (3) Reports of the legislative committees shall be published in the *Daily*  
1114 *Christian Advocate* at least one day before being presented for consideration by  
1115 the Conference. Committee reports with minority reports shall be published in  
1116 sequence, and so numbered.

1117 (4) Every effort should be made by the secretary of the legislative committee to  
1118 report consecutively all petitions that address the same issue.

1119 **VI. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

1120 *Rule 41. Suspension of the Rules*

1121 The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization and Rules of  
1122 Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Conference  
1123 (See Rule 31.6).

1124 *Rule 42. Amending Rules*

1125 The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a  
1126 two-thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment  
1127 has originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or  
1128 has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee,  
1129 which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day (See Rule  
1130 31.6).

1131 The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as adopted at the opening session  
1132 shall be published in the next *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1133 *Rule 43. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority*

1134 In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization and  
1135 Rules of Order, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the  
1136 current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

## Legislative Process

Petitions are sent by agencies, conferences, churches, and individuals.



The Petitions Secretary assigns petition numbers. The numbers indicate the legislative committee, the chronological order, if it affects the Constitution, if there are any financial implications, if there is global significance, and whether the petition applies to the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Resolutions*, or other.



The Committee on Reference reviews the assignments by the Petitions Secretary. It has authority to combine petitions and make new assignments to legislative committees as deemed necessary.



Requested changes in the *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions* and other petitions are printed in the *ADCA*.



Legislative committee acts upon petitions and makes recommendations to plenary session.



Recommendations are reported as approved by legislative committee officers to the Coordinator of the Calendar, assigned a calendar number, and printed in the *DCA*.



Plenary (the whole assembly) session acts upon calendar items.



The actions are used to update the *Book of Discipline* or the *Book of Resolutions*. The *DCA* becomes the official journal of the General Conference.

# General Conference Parliamentary Procedure Chart

To Do This: SECONDARY MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE	You Say This:	(See Key Below)					
		I	S	D	A	Vote	R
Adjourn	<i>"I move to adjourn."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj	
Call an intermission	<i>"I move we recess until . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	
Suspend further consideration of an issue, especially in an emergency	<i>"I move we table the motion . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj	
End debate and amendments	<i>"I move the previous question . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	R
Limit or extend the limits of debate	<i>"I move the debate be limited (or extended) to . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	Yes	Maj*	R
Postpone debate to a specific time	<i>"I move to postpone this matter until . . ."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
Have the matter studied further	<i>"I move that this matter be referred to . . ."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
Amend a motion, including amend by substitution	<i>"I move to amend by . . ." or "I move to substitute . . ."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
Postpone indefinitely (Kills the main motion)	<i>"I move to postpone indefinitely."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
<b>MAIN MOTION (Introduction of a Petition)</b>							
Introduce New Business	<i>"I move that . . ."</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	R
<b>INCIDENTAL MOTIONS (Pertaining to the business under consideration)</b>							
Correct an error in parliamentary procedure	<i>"I rise to a point of order"</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules	
Obtain advice on parliamentary procedure	<i>"I raise a parliamentary inquiry"</i>	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Rules	
Request information	<i>"Point of information."</i> (must be in form of a question)	Yes	No	No	No		
Question the ruling of the presiding officer	<i>"I appeal the chair's decision."</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Maj	R
Suspend the rules temporarily	<i>"I move to suspend the rules so that . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	
<b>BRING A MATTER BACK BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY</b>							
Take up a matter previously tabled	<i>"I move that we take from the table . . ."</i>	No	Yes	No	No	Maj	
Reconsider previous action (May be made only by a member who voted previously on the prevailing side)	<i>"I move to reconsider the vote on . . ."</i>	No	Yes	**	No	Maj	

I = Interrupt Speaker?; S = Second Needed?; D = Debatable?; A = Amendable?; R = May be Reconsidered.

\*See GC rule 9.4 (an exception to usual 2/3 vote parliamentary procedure).

\*\* See GC Rules 23 and 32.

## Abbreviations and Codes

### Petition Packets

During General Conference, petition packets, including copies of each multiple submission, will be issued to the Committee on Reference and the legislative committees to which they are assigned. Any delegate desiring to see a petition packet may contact the petitions secretary.

### Petition Text

Proposed deletions to existing material are indicated by ~~strike through~~.

Proposed additions to existing material are indicated by single underline.

Each petition is numbered using the following code:

### Petition Coding:

- First series of numbers . . . . . Chronological listing of petitions (begins with 90001)
- Petition Number . . . . . Positions 1-5
- Separator 1 . . . . . Position 6 Value “-”
- The type of petition determines the next several positions.*
- Discipline* paragraph number with Petition Symbol . . . . . ¶XXXX.XXXX
- Petitions with an even one hundred number (200, 400, 1200, etc.) indicate that the petition requests a new paragraph.
- Or resolution number . . . . . RXXXX
- R9999 indicates that a petition requests a new resolution.
- Or the word, “NonDis” for a petition that does not deal with *Discipline* paragraphs or resolutions
- Separator 2 . . . . . Next Available Position Value “-”
- The type of petition determines the next position.*
- “C” if a petition impacts the Constitution, all other petition types are not signified in the Petition Identification Code.
- The financial indicator code occupies the next available position.*
- Blank if petition does not impact budget.
- Or “\$” if petition has Financial Implications for an existing budget line item.
- Or “!” if petition has Financial Implications for a new budget line item.
- The global indicator code occupies the next available position.*
- Blank if petition does not impact the global church.
- Or “G” if petition impacts the global church.

### General Agencies

- |              |   |             |  |
|--------------|---|-------------|--|
| GBCS . . . . | General Board of Church and Society                     | GCSRW . . . | General Commission on the Status and Role of Women     |
| GBOD . . . . | General Board of Discipleship (Discipleship Ministries) | GCUMM . .   | General Commission on United Methodist Men             |
| GBGM . . . . | General Board of Global Ministries                      | GBUMPH .    | General Board of The United Methodist Publishing House |
| GBHEM . . .  | General Board of Higher Education and Ministry          | UMW . . . . | United Methodist Women                                 |
| GBPHB . . .  | General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)  |             |  |
| GCAH . . . . | General Commission on Archives and History              |             |  |
| GCOC . . . . | General Commission on Communications                    |             |  |
| GCFA . . . . | General Council on Finance and Administration           |             |  |
| GCRR . . . . | General Commission on Religion and Race                 |             |  |

### Other Organizations

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| CT . . . . .  | Connectional Table   |
| OCUIR . . . . | Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops |
| SCCCM . . .   | Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters                                     |

## Delegates to the 2019 General Conference

### Alphabetical List of Voting Delegates and First Reserves

Clergy are *italics*.

The delegate information is provided by the respective secretaries of the annual conferences as a part of the credentialing process. Corrections may be sent to the Reverend Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference, ggraves@umcgc.org.

<p><i>Abel, Russell L.</i> . . . . . Indiana</p> <p>Aboua, Louis Roi Nondenot . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Abro, Alain Patrick A. . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Adams, Andrew Stephen</i> . . . . . Illinois Great Rivers</p> <p><i>Adams, Donald Lee</i> . . . . . South Georgia</p> <p>Adamu, Doris Jenis . . . . . Northern Nigeria</p> <p>Adamu, Napoleon Grummetti . . . . . Central Nigeria</p> <p><i>Adjobi, Ameya P.</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Adjrabe, Mathurin Djoman . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Aguila, Pedro P. . . . . Louisiana</p> <p><i>Akaffou Yao Aye, Raymond Claude</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Akpes Epse AKA, Hermance Iphigenie D'Aphrodite</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Akre, Michel A. . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Alfred, Darlene Rochelle . . . . . Central Texas</p> <p><i>Alimasi, Mwanias Willy</i> . . . . . Oriental and Equator</p> <p><i>Allen, David</i> . . . . . Florida</p> <p>Allen, Emily Ruth . . . . . California-Nevada</p> <p>Allen, James (Jim) R. . . . . Tennessee</p> <p><i>Allen, William Arthur</i> . . . . . Upper New York</p> <p><i>Allouco Epse Sedji, Niche Suzanne</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Almeida, Adilson Leitão</i> . . . . . Western Angola</p> <p><i>Alstott, Richard Anthony</i> . . . . . Indiana</p> <p><i>Alvarez-Alfonso, Iosmar</i> . . . . . Kentucky</p> <p><i>Ambi, Norlito Tapia</i> . . . . . Bulacan Philippines</p> <p>Ambrusz, István . . . . . Hungary Provisional</p> <p>Andrawus, Emmanuel . . . . . Southern Nigeria</p> <p><i>André, Manuel João</i> . . . . . Western Angola</p> <p>Amey, Bethany Lin . . . . . Greater New Jersey</p> <p><i>Amon, Aka Pierre</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Amon, Darlene Van Camp . . . . . Virginia</p> <p><i>Amundsen, Robert Earl</i> . . . . . Red Bird Missionary</p> <p><i>Amundson, Tyler Flint</i> . . . . . Yellowstone</p> <p>Andasan, Helen Francisco . . . . . Tarlac Philippines</p> <p><i>Anderson, Zachary Lee</i> . . . . . Great Plains</p> <p><i>Andone, Herzen De Vega</i> . . . . . North Georgia</p> <p>Angoran, Yed Esaie . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Apson, Gladys Maisule . . . . . Southern Nigeria</p> <p>Arant, Andy Turner . . . . . Mississippi</p> <p><i>Arant, Athon Melton</i> . . . . . South Carolina</p> <p><i>Archer, Patricia H.</i> . . . . . North Carolina</p> <p><i>Arellano, Armando Contreras</i> . . . . . East Ohio</p> <p><i>Armstrong, Jacob Clark</i> . . . . . Tennessee</p>	<p><i>Armstrong, Megan Marie</i> . . . . . Rocky Mountain</p> <p><i>Arnold, William T.</i> . . . . . Kentucky</p> <p>Arpellet, Abraham Koffi . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Aspey, Amy Barlak</i> . . . . . West Ohio</p> <p><i>Assale, Niamien Eugene</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><i>Austin, Sharon G.</i> . . . . . Florida</p> <p><i>Auta, John Pena</i> . . . . . Central Nigeria</p> <p><i>Avitia-Legarda, Edgar</i> . . . . . Rio Texas</p> <p>Ayiba, Yebrou Omer . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Ayuba, Tanko Lawrence . . . . . Southern Nigeria</p> <p>Bader, Matthew Cole . . . . . Dakotas</p> <p>Bailey, Marshall Siddons . . . . . Virginia</p> <p>Baião, Juscelina Domingos . . . . . Western Angola</p> <p><i>Bakeman, T. Brian</i> . . . . . Oklahoma</p> <p>Bala, Habila Balasa . . . . . Southern Nigeria</p> <p>Balasa, Dauda Idris . . . . . Central Nigeria</p> <p><i>Baliyanga, Marc</i> . . . . . East Africa</p> <p>Ballard, Emily Elizabeth . . . . . Holston</p> <p>Bank, Wayne Herbert . . . . . Detroit</p> <p>Banks, Martha E. . . . . East Ohio</p> <p><i>Bankurunaze, Lazare</i> . . . . . Burundi</p> <p><i>Barrett, Joy Anna</i> . . . . . Detroit</p> <p><i>Basse, Doudou Gabriel</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Beard, John Herschel . . . . . Oklahoma</p> <p>Beasley, Jacob Michael . . . . . North Carolina</p> <p><i>Beasley, Zachary Carl</i> . . . . . Mississippi</p> <p>Beckley, David L. . . . . Mississippi</p> <p><i>Behi, Gnanago Felix</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Bell, Elyse Jeanette . . . . . Memphis</p> <p>Bender, Lisa Dromgold . . . . . Susquehanna</p> <p>Benedyktowicz, Olgierd Krzysztof . . . . . Poland</p> <p>Benz, Dorothee Elisabeth . . . . . New York</p> <p><i>Bergland, Robert E.</i> . . . . . North Carolina</p> <p><i>Bergquist, Greg Becker</i> . . . . . California-Nevada</p> <p><i>Berlin, Thomas Martin</i> . . . . . Virginia</p> <p>Best, Gregory Tyler . . . . . Indiana</p> <p><i>Beugre, Hearle Antony</i> . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p>Biggerstaff, Randy Lee . . . . . Missouri</p> <p><i>Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J.</i> . . . . . West Michigan</p> <p>Bindl, Helene . . . . . Austria Provisional</p> <p>Binuya, Sheila Faye Dayrit . . . . . Bulacan Philippines</p> <p>Bishop, Nathaniel Leon . . . . . Virginia</p>
---	--

- Björklund, Leif-Göte* . . . . . Finland-Swedish Provisional
- Blagojevich, Mele (Mary) Faiva (Manu). . . . . California-Pacific
- Blehschmidt, Joachim . . . . . Germany East
- Blystone, Donald Carlyle . . . . . Western Pennsylvania
- Boayue, Charles S. G.* . . . . . Detroit
- Bobo, Togara* . . . . . East Zimbabwe
- Bodje, Dougbou Isaac* . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire
- Boggs, John Sherrod* . . . . . Western North Carolina
- Bogro, Isaac Douzou* . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire
- Bongolan, Ruby Taoagen* . . . . . Northwest Mindanao Philippines
- Bonner, Jane L. . . . . Eastern Pennsylvania
- Borgen, Margaret Platt . . . . . Iowa
- Bosko, Joyce Cletus . . . . . Tanzania
- Braddon, David Verne . . . . . South Carolina
- Brewington, Frederick K. . . . . New York
- Brewster, Dixie K. . . . . Great Plains
- Bridgeforth, Cedrick D.* . . . . . California-Pacific
- Briggs, Margie Marie . . . . . Missouri
- Brim, Jefferson (Jay) Kearn . . . . . Rio Texas
- Brinkley, Eston C. . . . . North Carolina
- Britton, Fred Shell* . . . . . Mississippi
- Brock, Josiah Wesley . . . . . Kentucky
- Bromley, Edward Royal* . . . . . Memphis
- Brooks, Jane Newman* . . . . . North Georgia
- Brooks, John Edward* . . . . . Alabama-West Florida
- Brown, Clarence Rutherford* . . . . . Virginia
- Brown, Diane Louise . . . . . Detroit
- Brown, George Mead . . . . . Tennessee
- Brown, Randy . . . . . North Georgia
- Brown-Thompson, Janis N. . . . . Kentucky
- Brownson, William H. . . . . West Ohio
- Brumbaugh, Susan M. . . . . New Mexico
- Bruster, Timothy Keith* . . . . . Central Texas
- Bryan, Harriet Jean* . . . . . Tennessee
- Bryan, Robert Andrew* . . . . . Missouri
- Bryant, Dan C.* . . . . . East Ohio
- Bryars, Paul Lawrence* . . . . . Alabama-West Florida
- Buan, Modesto Malit . . . . . Pampanga Philippines
- Buimba, Mekembe Albert* . . . . . East Congo
- Bulinjiye, Merida Ndaheberanye . . . . . Tanzania
- Bulus, Christy Yusuf* . . . . . Central Nigeria
- Burdsall, Donald E. . . . . East Ohio
- Burgess, Gail L. . . . . Wisconsin
- Burian, Lawrence Lee . . . . . Virginia
- Burnett, Sandra . . . . . Memphis
- Burris, James Todd . . . . . Arkansas
- Bwalya, Laishi* . . . . . Zambia
- Caducoy, Elizabeth Lugares . . . . . Mindanao Philippines
- Caluya, Hector Santos . . . . . Northeast Philippines
- Campbell, William Martin* . . . . . New England
- Canlas, Louise Ann Barlit . . . . . West Middle Philippines
- Cantor, Emma Alamin . . . . . North Central Philippines
- Cantrell, James Carlton* . . . . . North Georgia
- Cantrell, Robert Wilson* . . . . . Holston
- Capulong, Julie Fernandez . . . . . Southern Tagalog Provisional Philippines
- Caramanzana, Darlene M . . . . . Philippines
- Carey, Melanie Lee* . . . . . Detroit
- Carlos, Adelia Pascual . . . . . Philippines-Cavite (Pacc)
- Carlos, Eduard Vicente . . . . . Northwest Mindanao Philippines
- Carlos, Ramon Umali . . . . . Rizal Philippines East
- Carlton, Charles B. . . . . North Alabama
- Carpenter, Kelly Jo . . . . . North Texas
- Carter-Rimbach, Joan Eileen* . . . . . Baltimore-Washington
- Carver, Philip H. . . . . Iowa
- Caterson, Evelyn S. . . . . Greater New Jersey
- Cauffman, Shirley Marie . . . . . Virginia
- Cayaba, Pablo Talal* . . . . . North Central Philippines
- Celzo, Jowey Carany . . . . . Pangasinan Philippines
- Chabuka, Evaristo . . . . . East Zimbabwe
- Chafin, Lonnie Arthur . . . . . Northern Illinois
- Chang, We Hyun* . . . . . New England
- Chattin, Terri Rae* . . . . . Baltimore-Washington
- Cheatham, Laurence Michael . . . . . South Carolina
- Chikomb, Rukang . . . . . North-West Katanga
- Chikut, Andre Mwayimb A Karumb* . . . . . North-West Katanga
- Chikuta, John . . . . . Zambia
- Childs, Carl Espy . . . . . South Georgia
- Chin, Noel Newton* . . . . . New York
- Chingonzo, Annie Grace* . . . . . East Zimbabwe
- Chlupáček, David . . . . . Czech and Slovak Republic
- Choi, Thomas S.* . . . . . California-Pacific
- Christensen, Faye Blanch . . . . . Minnesota
- Christian, Elizabeth Nicola . . . . . Virginia
- Christy, David Harold* . . . . . Western North Carolina
- Chukpue-Padmora, Isaac* . . . . . Liberia
- Cimpaye, Valentine* . . . . . Burundi
- Clark, Cornelia Anne . . . . . Tennessee
- Clark, Doris Faye . . . . . Indiana
- Clark, Irma . . . . . Northern Illinois
- Cleaver, Emanuel* . . . . . Missouri
- Clemons, Reginald Gerard . . . . . Texas
- Cohen, Dale Robin* . . . . . North Alabama
- Coles, Amy Louise* . . . . . Western North Carolina
- Collier, Theodore Cody* . . . . . Missouri
- Colmenares, Nora Elizabeth* . . . . . North Georgia
- Colorado, Judy C. . . . . Greater New Jersey



<i>Concepcion, Allan Asuncion</i> . . . . .	Central Luzon Philippines	<i>Dodge, David Allen</i> . . . . .	Florida
<i>Conley, Ellis Evins</i> . . . . .	West Virginia	<i>Dodson, Christine</i> . . . . .	North Carolina
<i>Cook, Beth Ann</i> . . . . .	Indiana	<i>Dogo, Calvin John</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria
<i>Cook, Karen M.</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Domingo, Melvin Sayco</i> . . . . .	Southwest Philippines
<i>Cosby, James Stanley</i> . . . . .	Northwest Texas	<i>Dondja, Henriette Ohumi</i> . . . . .	Oriental and Equator
<i>Cosme, Eva Sebastiao</i> . . . . .	Western Angola	<i>Douglas-Boykin, Gail</i> . . . . .	New York
<i>Cosmiano, Phebe Namoca</i> . . . . .	Visayas Philippines	<i>Dove, Carolyn Ann</i> . . . . .	Louisiana
<i>Cowart, James Arch</i> . . . . .	South Georgia	<i>Dozier, Henry Washington</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina
<i>Cox, Keith M.</i> . . . . .	North Georgia	<i>Dry, Steven Michael</i> . . . . .	New England
<i>Crise, Katie Elizabeth</i> . . . . .	Wisconsin	<i>Dunah, Isa Audu</i> . . . . .	Northern Nigeria
<i>Crisler, Timothy Earl</i> . . . . .	Mississippi	<i>Dunn, Alyce Weaver</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania
<i>Cristobal, Evangeline Justo</i> . . . . .	East Mindanao Philippines	<i>Dunnam, Maxie D.</i> . . . . .	Kentucky
<i>Crouch, Timothy Charles</i> . . . . .	North Texas	<i>Dyke, Lynn Ann</i> . . . . .	Missouri
<i>Cruz, Edgardo Dellova</i> . . . . .	Southern Tagalog Provisional Philippines	<i>Earls, Janet Butler</i> . . . . .	Florida
<i>Cua, Noel Syjucco</i> . . . . .	Philippines-Cavite (Pacc)	<i>Ebalo, Roger Morete</i> . . . . .	West Middle Philippines
<i>Cunanan, Apolinario Vidal</i> . . . . .	Middle Philippines	<i>Eberhart, Diane G. Wasson</i> . . . . .	Iowa
<i>Curimenna, Rita Maria</i> . . . . .	Western Angola	<i>Ehninger, Judith Kay</i> . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania
<i>Curts, Allison Christine</i> . . . . .	Indiana	<i>Elfving, Andreas Jan Martin</i> . . . . .	Finland-Swedish Provisional
<i>Dablo, Munda Varona</i> . . . . .	Palawan Philippines	<i>Ellis, Kenneth M.</i> . . . . .	California-Pacific
<i>da Cruz, Orlando Manuel</i> . . . . .	Western Angola	<i>Emmanuel, Ande Ikimun</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria
<i>Dado, Arleen Damaso</i> . . . . .	West Middle Philippines	<i>Enns, Ron</i> . . . . .	Northwest Texas
<i>Dahlman, Laurie A.</i> . . . . .	West Michigan	<i>Equila, Egmedio Balbona</i> . . . . .	South Nueva Ecija Philippines
<i>Damron, Douglas Alan</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Erwin IV, Edgar Lee</i> . . . . .	Texas
<i>Daniel, Haruna Ibrahim</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria	<i>Estep, Tammy Lynn</i> . . . . .	Virginia
<i>Daniels, Joseph Wayne</i> . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington	<i>Ester, Clara Jean</i> . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida
<i>Dannenber, Kai Uwe</i> . . . . .	Germany North	<i>Euper, Jacqueline K.</i> . . . . .	Detroit
<i>Davis, Charlotte All</i> . . . . .	Red Bird Missionary	<i>Exiomo, Edwin Rey De Vera</i> . . . . .	Mindanao Philippines
<i>Davis, Jennifer Pharr</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina	<i>Fagan, Larry Ray</i> . . . . .	Missouri
<i>Dawson, Katie Z.</i> . . . . .	Iowa	<i>Fankhauser, Lukas</i> . . . . .	Switzerland-France-North Africa
<i>Day, Ronald Pat</i> . . . . .	Louisiana	<i>Farris, Patricia Ellen</i> . . . . .	California-Pacific
<i>Dease, Robin</i> . . . . .	South Carolina	<i>Fassett, Thom White Wolf</i> . . . . .	Upper New York
<i>Deere, Josephine</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma Indian Missionary	<i>Feliciano, Amone Felimone</i> . . . . .	Mozambique North
<i>Dela Cruz, Febe Rinonos</i> . . . . .	Middle Philippines	<i>Fenstermacher, Edwin A.</i> . . . . .	Indiana
<i>Dela Rosa, Ricky Lacsamana</i> . . . . .	Pampanga Philippines	<i>Ferrariz, Manolo Cortez</i> . . . . .	Palawan Philippines
<i>De Los Santos, Jesus Nabor</i> . . . . .	Pangasinan Philippines	<i>Ferris, Beata Kay</i> . . . . .	Dakotas
<i>De Ocampo, Jeanne</i> . . . . .	East Mindanao Philippines	<i>Fidlin, Billie K.</i> . . . . .	Desert Southwest
<i>Denardo, Nancy L.</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania	<i>Figueiredo, Manuel</i> . . . . .	Western Angola
<i>Denham, John Rees</i> . . . . .	Kentucky	<i>Finegan, Mary Ellen</i> . . . . .	West Virginia
<i>De Pano, Arnel</i> . . . . .	Quezon City	<i>Fink, Elizabeth Ashley</i> . . . . .	Arkansas
<i>DeSilva-Souto, Alexandre</i> . . . . .	New York	<i>Finley, Margaret Jane</i> . . . . .	North Georgia
<i>Detjen, Anne Marie</i> . . . . .	Germany North	<i>Fisher, Jeffery Miles</i> . . . . .	Northwest Texas
<i>DeVile, Terrel Jones</i> . . . . .	Louisiana	<i>Flemming, Thomas</i> . . . . .	Poland
<i>Deviney, Aislinn Elizabeth</i> . . . . .	Rio Texas	<i>Flick, Christine Dagmar</i> . . . . .	Germany South
<i>Dick, Barbara Anne Buehler</i> . . . . .	Wisconsin	<i>Flynn, Mark Roger</i> . . . . .	Holston
<i>Dick, Daniel Robert</i> . . . . .	Wisconsin	<i>Fogle-Miller, Carlene Rebecca</i> . . . . .	Florida
<i>Dillozon, Susan Estrada</i> . . . . .	Palawan Philippines	<i>Forrester, Gregory Alan</i> . . . . .	Upper New York
<i>Dio Jen, Mike</i> . . . . .	Central Nigeria	<i>Fowler, Courtney Meria</i> . . . . .	Great Plains
<i>DiPaolo, Joseph Frank</i> . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania	<i>French Goffe, Tiffany Marie</i> . . . . .	New York
<i>Dizon, Rio Anne Balbin</i> . . . . .	Middle Philippines	<i>Frye, William Randall</i> . . . . .	Holston

Fukumoto, JoAnn Yoon . . . . .	California-Pacific	Harkrider, John Thomas . . . . .	Central Texas
Fuller, Gary . . . . .	North Georgia	Harper, Caleb Jeffrey . . . . .	West Ohio
Fullerton, Rachel . . . . .	North Georgia	Harper, Warren Randolph . . . . .	Virginia
Furr, Steven Paul . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida	Harrington, Mary Anne . . . . .	Mississippi
<i>Gabriel, Maximo Galang</i> . . . . .	Philippines	Harris, James A. . . . .	Liberia
Gabriel, Rey Galang . . . . .	South Nueva Ecija Philippines	<i>Harris, Joseph</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma
<i>Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise</i> . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington	<i>Harrison, Tom</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma
Galindo, Ofelia Lualhati Gironella . . . . .	Northwest Philippines	<i>Haruna, Nibron Galadima</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria
<i>Gallo Seagren, Lilian</i> . . . . .	Iowa	Haselden, Leslie Powell . . . . .	South Carolina
Garza, Oscar Luis . . . . .	Texas	Hatcher, William Stanley . . . . .	South Georgia
Gately, Wesley Neil . . . . .	Great Plains	Hauser, Joshua William . . . . .	Oregon-Idaho
Gatz, Elisa Jean McGee . . . . .	Northern Illinois	Hawkins, Stacie Yvonne . . . . .	Texas
<i>George, Gary Mark</i> . . . . .	East Ohio	<i>Hawxhurst, Jean G.</i> . . . . .	Kentucky
<i>Gilbert, Janice Arlene</i> . . . . .	Texas	Hayden, Jo Anne Kay . . . . .	Alaska
Gilbert, Mary Lynne . . . . .	Western North Carolina	<i>Hayden, Karen Koons</i> . . . . .	Missouri
<i>Gipson, Mattie Dickens</i> . . . . .	Mississippi	Hearn, Jeremy Kirk . . . . .	Florida
<i>Goddard, Kimberly Mustard</i> . . . . .	Holston	Hearne, Richard Bailey . . . . .	North Texas
<i>Goff, Edward Andrew</i> . . . . .	Louisiana	<i>Heckaman, Christopher Todd</i> . . . . .	West Ohio
<i>Gonyi, Wilson Gana</i> . . . . .	Northern Nigeria	<i>Hedgepeth, Mitchell B.</i> . . . . .	Mississippi
Gonzales, Edgar C. . . . .	Bicol Philippines	Heeren, Rebecca Lea . . . . .	Iowa
<i>Goodrich, Leigh Elizabeth</i> . . . . .	New England	Heil, Warren Alexander . . . . .	Susquehanna
Goodwin, Kevin G. . . . .	Peninsula-Delaware	<i>Henderson, Gary Ray</i> . . . . .	East Ohio
Graca, João Manuel da . . . . .	Western Angola	<i>Henderson, Ronald D.</i> . . . . .	North Texas
<i>Grace, Roger L.</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Henley, Mary Bendall</i> . . . . .	North Alabama
<i>Graham, Curnell</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Henry, Jackson Wayne</i> . . . . .	Tennessee
Grant, Holly Jean . . . . .	East Ohio	Hernandez, Andrew (Andy) Ramirez . . . . .	Texas
Graves, William Russell . . . . .	Florida	<i>Hernandez, Reynaldo Bucacao</i> . . . . .	Rizal Philippines East
Green, Oliver D. . . . .	Great Plains	<i>Hernandez, Rinaldo D.</i> . . . . .	Florida
<i>Green, Sharletta Michelle</i> . . . . .	West Virginia	Heyward, Joseph E. . . . .	South Carolina
Greer, Virginia Leigh . . . . .	Virginia	Hickey, Kirby Keith . . . . .	Susquehanna
<i>Gregorio, Percival Jimena</i> . . . . .	Quezon City	Hieronimus, Sandra (Sandy) Lovelace . . . . .	Western North Carolina
Gregory, Ethan Scott . . . . .	Central Texas	<i>Hingano, Siosifa</i> . . . . .	California-Nevada
Gregory, Sharon J. . . . .	Western Pennsylvania	Hobson, Leslie Jeanne . . . . .	Minnesota
<i>Grieb, Thomas B.</i> . . . . .	Kentucky	Hoffman, Richard Christian . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania
<i>Grinna, Frøydis</i> . . . . .	Norway	<i>Holland, Mark R.</i> . . . . .	Great Plains
<i>Gross, Gregory Dean</i> . . . . .	Northern Illinois	Holley, James Delray . . . . .	Holston
Guambe, Titos . . . . .	Mozambique North	<i>Hollman, Taavi</i> . . . . .	Estonia
Gume, José Jamisse . . . . .	Mozambique South	<i>Honeycutt, Jane Denise</i> . . . . .	Virginia
Guy, Beverly Ann . . . . .	West Michigan	Honrubia, Nymfa Ebres . . . . .	Southern Tagalog Provisional Philippines
Habonimana, Silas . . . . .	Burundi	<i>Hood, Elizabeth Hackney</i> . . . . .	North Carolina
Hall, Rebecca Jo . . . . .	Holston	Hood, Stacy Elizabeth . . . . .	Louisiana
<i>Hamilton, Adam Joseph</i> . . . . .	Great Plains	Hooker, Jr., Coley . . . . .	Western North Carolina
<i>Hammond, Dionne Chandler</i> . . . . .	Florida	Horton, Margaret Anne . . . . .	Susquehanna
Hammons, Brian Kent . . . . .	Missouri	Hotze, Margaret Ellen . . . . .	Rocky Mountain
<i>Handy, Stephen E.</i> . . . . .	Tennessee	House, Donald (Don) Reed . . . . .	Texas
<i>Hansen, Kristina D.</i> . . . . .	New York	<i>Howard, Clifton O.</i> . . . . .	Central Texas
<i>Hanson, Jay David</i> . . . . .	South Georgia	Howard, George Glenn . . . . .	West Ohio
Hare, Dawn Wiggins . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida	<i>Howell, James Comer</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina
<i>Harker, Linda M.</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma		

Huhlo, Adolfo . . . . .	Mozambique South	<i>Kasong, Isidore Mwindamb</i> . . . . .	North-West
<i>Hurlbert, Daniel D.</i> . . . . .	Desert Southwest		Katanga
<i>Huycke, Mary Kohlstaedt</i> . . . . .	Pacific Northwest	<i>Kasongo, Lyemo Honore.</i> . . . . .	South Congo
<i>Idom, Merle Matthews</i> . . . . .	Texas	<i>Kasongo, Peniel Mutombo Irund</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi
Ihlo, Jennifer Ellon . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington	<i>Kasongo, Pierre Mutamba</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika
Ilac, Victor Illustrado . . . . .	Northern Philippines	<i>Katiyo, Betty Spiwe</i> . . . . .	West Zimbabwe
<i>Iliya, Eunice Musa</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria	<i>Katsheka, Ikuku Cliff</i> . . . . .	South-West Katanga
Iliyasu, Matis. . . . .	Northern Nigeria	<i>Katut, Claude Mukund</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi
<i>Ilunga, Tshikala Sylvain</i> . . . . .	South Congo	<i>Kaumba, John Makalu</i> . . . . .	South Congo
<i>Im, Woojae.</i> . . . . .	Minnesota	<i>Kawang, Rosalie Mwamb</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi
<i>Ingram, Kent P.</i> . . . . .	Rocky Mountain	<i>Kayemb, Chipeng Francois.</i> . . . . .	South Congo
<i>Ingram, Kimberly Tyree</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina	<i>Keese, Teresa L.</i> . . . . .	Rio Texas
Innes, Emily D. . . . .	North Carolina	<i>Kenaston, Connor Sheldon</i> . . . . .	West Virginia
Irambona, Pacis Alarine . . . . .	Burundi	<i>Kenaston, Judith Modlin.</i> . . . . .	West Virginia
<i>Isbell, Sara Lynn</i> . . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers	<i>Kibatuli, Hilaire Bununu.</i> . . . . .	East Congo
<i>Jackson-Sears, Jill Ann</i> . . . . .	North Texas	<i>Kilembo, Robert Shakikupe.</i> . . . . .	Zambia
Jam Jam, Nomfundo Faith . . . . .	South Africa Provisional	<i>Kilpatrick, Joe.</i> . . . . .	North Georgia
James, Ivan Cecil . . . . .	Missouri	<i>Kim, Donald Hyungtoon.</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma
<i>Jefferson Bell, Cheryl</i> . . . . .	Great Plains	<i>Kim, Khen Su</i> . . . . .	Northwest Russia Provisional
Jenkins, Jacquelyn G. . . . .	South Carolina	<i>Kim, Sergey</i> . . . . .	Central Russia
<i>Jernigan, June Elizabeth.</i> . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida	<i>King, Linda U.</i> . . . . .	Kentucky
<i>Jeter, Narcie Jo McClendon</i> . . . . .	South Carolina	<i>King, Lisa M.</i> . . . . .	Wisconsin
Johnson, Amy Long . . . . .	Western North Carolina	<i>Kipembwe, Kabuya Daniel Moffat</i> . . . . .	South Congo
<i>Johnson, Bernadine.</i> . . . . .	Louisiana	<i>Knowlin, Tiffany Denise</i> . . . . .	South Carolina
Johnson, Krystl Dawn . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania	<i>Koffi, Aboua Joseph</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Johnson, Sandra James.</i> . . . . .	Holston	<i>Koffi, Sachou Marcel</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Jones, Beth E.</i> . . . . .	Susquehanna	<i>Kohutka, Vasylyna Babych.</i> . . . . .	Ukraine-Moldava Provisional
<i>Jones, Edward Cecil</i> . . . . .	Texas	<i>Koloso, Etwanyongo</i> . . . . .	East Congo
<i>Jones, Richard Anthony.</i> . . . . .	Northwest Texas	<i>Kombi, Ramazani Simon.</i> . . . . .	Kivu
Jordan, Shayla Allyssa RaeAnne . . . . .	Great Plains	<i>Kombo Epse Angui Eboi, Suzanne.</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Jung, Markus.</i> . . . . .	Germany South	<i>Kongolo, Clement Chijika</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi
Junk, William Anthony . . . . .	Oklahoma	<i>Kopo, Maria De Fátima.</i> . . . . .	Western Angola
Kabaka, Alphonsine Ndala. . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Kovács, Zoltán Mihály</i> . . . . .	Hungary Provisional
Kabila, Alphonsine Moma . . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Kpaan, Anna S.</i> . . . . .	Liberia
Kabwita, Yava Alain . . . . .	South-West Katanga	<i>Krall, Clarita Anderman</i> . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania
Kadima, Cathrine . . . . .	Zambia	<i>Kreutziger, Sarah Sloan</i> . . . . .	Louisiana
<i>Kaji, Mujinga Jollette.</i> . . . . .	South Congo	<i>Kuan, Kah-Jin Jeffrey</i> . . . . .	California-Nevada
Kakese, Mujinga Frederick. . . . .	South Congo	<i>Kuch-Stanovsky, Marie Louise.</i> . . . . .	Pacific Northwest
Kakou, Jonathan . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Kufarimai, Tiwirai.</i> . . . . .	North Alabama
<i>Kalumba, Eric Nkulu</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Kulah, Jerry Paye-Manfloe</i> . . . . .	Liberia
Kamenan, N'Doua Marcellin . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Kulanga, Yunisi Lupiana</i> . . . . .	Tanzania
<i>Kanama, Ilenga Jeannette.</i> . . . . .	South-West Katanga	<i>Kwak, Jisun.</i> . . . . .	Greater New Jersey
Kanzal, Lutgarde Chiteng Mutombu . . . . .	North- West Katanga	<i>LaBau, Vernon James</i> . . . . .	Alaska
Kapend, Daniel Mbaz Kapwapu . . . . .	North-West Katanga	<i>Laferty, Allen Dean.</i> . . . . .	East Ohio
Kashal, Avul Josue . . . . .	South-West Katanga	<i>Laguardia, Denis Tabuzo</i> . . . . .	Bicol Philippines
Kashala, Henri Kanyimbu. . . . .	Lukoshi	<i>Lake, Matthew Earl.</i> . . . . .	Susquehanna
Kasiga, Shedrack Ramadhani . . . . .	Tanzania	<i>Land, Amy Louise.</i> . . . . .	Indiana
		<i>Landrock, Steffen</i> . . . . .	Germany East
		<i>Langa Bacela, Hortência Américo</i> . . . . .	Mozambique South

- Lanier, Tonya Ann . . . . . Western North Carolina  
*Lank, Thomas Albert* . . . . . Greater New Jersey  
 LaSalle, Opal Ann . . . . . Mississippi  
 Lasmé, Niagne Eugene . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire  
*Laurvick, Bradley David* . . . . . Rocky Mountain  
 Lawan, Jacob Apari . . . . . Northern Nigeria  
*Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth* . . . . . Susquehanna  
*Ledford, Laura Fine* . . . . . North Carolina  
*Lee, In-Yong* . . . . . Western North Carolina  
*Leland, Larry Lee* . . . . . Susquehanna  
*Leonard, Susan P.* . . . . . South Carolina  
 Letshu, Tsheke Richard . . . . . East Congo  
*Leveron, Jacqueline P. M.* . . . . . Florida  
*Levingston, Kenneth R.* . . . . . Texas  
*Lewis, Harold DeSantis* . . . . . Florida  
 Lewter, Joy Stammer . . . . . Tennessee  
 Li, Tatiana . . . . . Northwest Russia Provisional  
 Lightsey, Herman B. . . . . South Carolina  
 Lilleoja, Tarmo . . . . . Estonia  
 Lindsey, Allison Ross . . . . . South Georgia  
 Lineberry, Jennifer Burton . . . . . Western North Carolina  
*Link, Conrad O.* . . . . . Baltimore-Washington  
*Lippoldt, Amy E.* . . . . . Great Plains  
*Livingston, David Scott* . . . . . Great Plains  
*Lobo, Neuba Michel* . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire  
 Lockaby, Robert Lee . . . . . Holston  
 Locklear, Gary W. . . . . North Carolina  
 Lockward, Jorge Alfonso . . . . . New York  
 Loeb, Carol K. . . . . Rio Texas  
*Lohalo, Malamba Celestin* . . . . . East Congo  
 Lokale, Senga Cudins . . . . . East Congo  
 Lomperis, John Scott Anders . . . . . Indiana  
 Londwa, Kaumbu Nsenga . . . . . Tanganyika  
*Long, Robert E.* . . . . . Oklahoma  
*Longena, Charles Itunda* . . . . . Lukoshi  
 Lovland, Jon . . . . . Norway  
*Lowe-McCracken, Schuyler J.* . . . . . Memphis  
 Loyer, Milton W. . . . . Susquehanna  
 Luat, Elizabeth Jill Casupanan . . . . . Pampanga Philippines  
 Ludoru, Alex Jalan Oliver . . . . . East Africa  
 Luhahi, Nembe Songu . . . . . East Congo  
 Luka, Bitrus Chindo . . . . . Southern Nigeria  
 Lukenge, Kapwibwe Therese . . . . . South Congo  
 Lumbadisha, Senga Jean Claude . . . . . Kivu  
 Luna, Patricia Adele . . . . . Alabama-West Florida  
 Lundgren, Monica . . . . . Finland-Swedish Provisional  
*Lyall, Alka* . . . . . Northern Illinois  
 Lyles, Steve . . . . . North Alabama  
 Maddox, Beverly Baggett . . . . . Alabama-West Florida
- Mafunda, Simon . . . . . East Zimbabwe  
*Maganda, Laura Uetimane* . . . . . Mozambique South  
 Magno, Antonio S. . . . . Philippines-Cavite (Pacc)  
*Mahamud, Ngereza Benoit* . . . . . East Congo  
*Mainsa, Daiman* . . . . . Zambia  
 Maka, Mele . . . . . California-Pacific  
 Malana, Salvador III Cacatian . . . . . Northern Philippines  
*Maleka, Jean Claude Kayombo* . . . . . Lukoshi  
*Malicki, Andrzej Jacek* . . . . . Poland  
*Maliwa, Mills Na* . . . . . South Africa Provisional  
 Malloy, Alison Marie . . . . . Virginia  
 Mambwe, Kyasowela Guy . . . . . South Congo  
 Manisha, Marie . . . . . Burundi  
 Mann, Karon Sue . . . . . Arkansas  
*Manuel, Jorge* . . . . . Western Angola  
 Manuel, Rolando . . . . . Northwest Philippines  
 Marden, Bonnie I. . . . . New England  
*Marshall, Christopher Ganneh* . . . . . Liberia  
*Martin, Joanes* . . . . . Florida  
*Martin, John A.* . . . . . Upper New York  
 Martin, Martha Delores . . . . . Baltimore-Washington  
*Masengo, Tshiwewa Albert* . . . . . South Congo  
 Masiso, Khuliswa Thyra . . . . . South Africa Provisional  
*Matonga, Forbes* . . . . . West Zimbabwe  
*Matthis, Morris Franklin* . . . . . Texas  
 Maupin, Lisa L. . . . . Great Plains  
 McCammon, Donald L. . . . . Yellowstone  
*McClellan, Geraldine Williams* . . . . . Florida  
*McClendon, William Timothy* . . . . . South Carolina  
 McCray, Marian B. . . . . Illinois Great Rivers  
 McEntire, Molly Rebecca . . . . . Florida  
*McGhee, Delaine K.* . . . . . East Ohio  
 McIver, Steven Mark . . . . . Central Texas  
*McKellar, John E.* . . . . . Central Texas  
 McKinney, Sarah Eileen Hanco . . . . . Western North Carolina  
 McMillan, Samuel (Duncan) D. . . . . North Carolina  
*McNabb, Meredith Leigh* . . . . . Virginia  
*Meekins, William Bright* . . . . . Western Pennsylvania  
 Melegrito, Noel Camus . . . . . Central Luzon Philippines  
 Melesse Epse Kpokpo, Marie-Louise . . . . . Côte d'Ivoire  
 Melnikov, Alexandr . . . . . Southern Russia Provisional  
 Mendita, Julius Fontanilla . . . . . Northeast Luzon Philippines  
 Mendoza, Lauro Garcia . . . . . South Nueva Ecija Philippines  
 Merab, Rudolph J. . . . . Liberia  
*Merrill, Laura Anne* . . . . . Rio Texas  
*Miles, John Pershing* . . . . . Arkansas

<i>Miles, Rebekah L.</i> . . . . .	Arkansas	<i>Nanguy Epse Adou, Worohon Dorcas A.</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Milford, Brian Kent</i> . . . . .	Iowa	<i>Nawej, Simon Rubemb</i> . . . . .	North-West Katanga
<i>Millar, Karen L.</i> . . . . .	Arkansas	<i>Neal, Holly Shaw</i> . . . . .	Tennessee
<i>Miller, Diane M.</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania	<i>Neckers, David K.</i> . . . . .	Indiana
<i>Miller, Layne Maree</i> . . . . .	Susquehanna	<i>Nelson, Janice E.</i> . . . . .	Oregon-Idaho
<i>Miller, Randall Harlan</i> . . . . .	California-Nevada	<i>Nelson, Kenneth Lee</i> . . . . .	South Carolina
<i>Mims, Gene Dwight</i> . . . . .	Virginia	<i>Neto, Francisco Bernardo</i> . . . . .	Western Angola
<i>Minikhanova, Iuliia Flaritovna</i> . . . . .	Eastern Russia-Central Asia Provisional	<i>Nguz, Maguy Aimee Karumbu</i> . . . . .	North-West Katanga
<i>Miofsky, Matthew Thomas</i> . . . . .	Missouri	<i>Nhamajeho, Júlia Lampião</i> . . . . .	Mozambique North
<i>Mitchell, Samuel James</i> . . . . .	Peninsula-Delaware	<i>Niamkey, Ezani Kodjo Emmanuel</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Moffatt Seay, Jessica Farish</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma	<i>Nibbelink, James Charles</i> . . . . .	Desert Southwest
<i>Momo, Jean Tambulananga</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi	<i>Nicholls, Lewis Dunn</i> . . . . .	Kentucky
<i>Moon, Bob Mark</i> . . . . .	South Georgia	<i>Nichols, Sarah Malloy</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma
<i>Moon, Peter Mason</i> . . . . .	Virginia	<i>Nicklas, Cara Sue</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma
<i>Moore, Charles Eric</i> . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington	<i>Nikolaev, Sergei</i> . . . . .	Central Russia
<i>Moore, James Frank</i> . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida	<i>Niyukuri, Abel</i> . . . . .	Burundi
<i>Moore, Joyce E.</i> . . . . .	Holston	<i>Njau, Alfred Kundasai</i> . . . . .	Tanzania
<i>Moore, Samuel Howard</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina	<i>Norman, Mark Kelly</i> . . . . .	Arkansas
<i>Moots, Philip R.</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Norwood, Mitchell H.</i> . . . . .	Indiana
<i>Morelli, Paul Michael</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania	<i>Ntakarutimana, Claude</i> . . . . .	Burundi
<i>Morrison, Norma</i> . . . . .	Iowa	<i>Nuckols, David Branch</i> . . . . .	Minnesota
<i>Morsbol, Andreas</i> . . . . .	Denmark	<i>O'Flynn, Riley Reba</i> . . . . .	Upper New York
<i>Moude, Anoh Séraphin</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Obonou, Samuel</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Mpemba, Shepard</i> . . . . .	West Zimbabwe	<i>Oduor, Ralph R.</i> . . . . .	New England
<i>Mudge, William A.</i> . . . . .	Upper New York	<i>Ogren, Mark Victor</i> . . . . .	Virginia
<i>Mufume, Clara Zacarias</i> . . . . .	Mozambique South	<i>Ohouo, Djoman Nathanael</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Mukalay, Mulume Wa Ilunga</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Olewine, Sandra Kay</i> . . . . .	California-Pacific
<i>Mukaz, Dieudonne Rufum Waranakong</i> . . . . .	North- West Katanga	<i>Olyphint, J. Clayton</i> . . . . .	North Texas
<i>Mulonda, Obed Bupe</i> . . . . .	Zambia	<i>Olsen, Keith Richard</i> . . . . .	Great Plains
<i>Mundji, Emile Chikanda</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi	<i>Omba, Dissashi Djamba</i> . . . . .	East Congo
<i>Muñoz, Lydia Esther</i> . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania	<i>Omba, Ndjovu Thérèse</i> . . . . .	Kivu
<i>Murphy, Tonya</i> . . . . .	North Georgia	<i>Onotamba, Albert Tonondjo</i> . . . . .	Oriental and Equator
<i>Museng, Esther Muvula</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi	<i>Ortiz, Joselito Javien</i> . . . . .	Northwest Philippines
<i>Musolo, Tshijika Remy</i> . . . . .	South-West Katanga	<i>Osborne, Marilyn Ruth</i> . . . . .	Red Bird Missionary
<i>Musombu, Elie Ntambu</i> . . . . .	North-West Katanga	<i>Ososo, Carol Alois</i> . . . . .	East Africa
<i>Musumb, Christine Kapend</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi	<i>Ottjes, James H.</i> . . . . .	Indiana
<i>Muteb, Henri Nawej</i> . . . . .	North-West Katanga	<i>Ow, Kenneth</i> . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington
<i>Muteba, Mwongenu Pasa</i> . . . . .	South Congo	<i>Palmer, Douglas William</i> . . . . .	Rocky Mountain
<i>Muthoma, Bushiri Sylvestre</i> . . . . .	East Congo	<i>Palmer, Kathy E.</i> . . . . .	East Ohio
<i>Mutwale, Ntambo Wa Mushidi</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Panda, Emmanuel Kasonga</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika
<i>Muwaya, David Kubona</i> . . . . .	East Africa	<i>Panovec, Kay Lee</i> . . . . .	East Ohio
<i>Mwamakamba, Gloria Edson</i> . . . . .	Tanzania	<i>Panuyas, Arnel Tamallana</i> . . . . .	Central Luzon Philippines
<i>Mwayera, Molly Hlekani</i> . . . . .	East Zimbabwe	<i>Park, Eric Stephen</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania
<i>Mwayuma, Ayenda Lolima Veronique</i> . . . . .	East Congo	<i>Park, Jong Woo</i> . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington
<i>Mwayuma, Ngoy Jacqueline</i> . . . . .	Tanganyika	<i>Parker, Mack B.</i> . . . . .	North Carolina
<i>Nabua, Jaime Legaspi</i> . . . . .	Pangasinan Philippines	<i>Parks, Linda Moore</i> . . . . .	North Texas
<i>N'Dehou Epse Beda, Nana Marcelline</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Pascasio, Hedelyn Africano</i> . . . . .	North Central Philippines
<i>Nah, Sarah Quire</i> . . . . .	Liberia		
<i>Namukose, Sarah Cissy</i> . . . . .	East Africa		

- Patterson, Jeffrey Scott* . . . . . Western North Carolina  
*Pererva, Alexander* . . . . . Southern Russia Provisional  
*Perez, Manuel Perez* . . . . . Bicol Philippines  
*Perry, Joy L.* . . . . . West Ohio  
*Philipp, Werner Eberhard* . . . . . Germany East  
*Phillips, Robert Joseph* . . . . . Illinois Great Rivers  
*Pico, Rodel Pastores* . . . . . Northern Philippines  
*Pierson, Christopher L.* . . . . . Northern Illinois  
*Pimentel, Fe Corpuz* . . . . . Southwest Philippines  
*Pinson, Mathew* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Plimpton, Lovinia Marguerite* . . . . . Yellowstone  
*Plum, Alexander James* . . . . . Detroit  
*Porte, Frances Meyoo* . . . . . Liberia  
*Porter, Derrick Emmanuel* . . . . . Peninsula-Delaware  
*Postel, Gesine Von* . . . . . Germany South  
*Postell, Andrew Lathem* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Powers, Samuel Tyler* . . . . . Oklahoma  
*Preuninger, Colleen Hallagan* . . . . . Upper New York  
*Price, James Larry* . . . . . South Georgia  
*Price, Joseph Thomas* . . . . . Baltimore-Washington  
*Pridgeon, Jeremy Kimble* . . . . . Alabama-West  
 Florida  
*Pritchard, Donna Marie Lowman* . . . . . Oregon-Idaho  
*Procházka, Petr* . . . . . Czech and Slovak Republics  
*Procházková, Lenka* . . . . . Czech and Slovak  
 Republics  
*Pugachev, Sergei* . . . . . Central Russia  
*Puno, Carlito Serrano* . . . . . Quezon City  
*Pwisa, Kalevu Fabrice* . . . . . South Congo  
*Quigg, Stephen Paul* . . . . . Greater New Jersey  
*Raffauf, Jeffrey Alan* . . . . . Eastern Pennsylvania  
*Rambo, Robert Elliott* . . . . . Mississippi  
*Ramos, Ramil* . . . . . Tarlac Philippines  
*Rapanut, Carlo Axibal* . . . . . Alaska  
*Razon, Jonathan Pimentel* . . . . . Northeast Philippines  
*Reaves, Timothy Lloyd* . . . . . North Carolina  
*Reed, David Ralls* . . . . . Memphis  
*Reinholz, David Alan* . . . . . Pacific Northwest  
*Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam* . . . . . Indiana  
*Reynolds, Cynthia Jean* . . . . . Indiana  
*Richards, Yvette Kim* . . . . . Missouri  
*Riddle, William Zachary* . . . . . North Alabama  
*Rios, Rosa Maria* . . . . . California-Pacific  
*Riss, Timothy J.* . . . . . New York  
*Ritter, Christopher M.* . . . . . Illinois Great Rivers  
*Rivera, Eduardo* . . . . . New Mexico  
*Roberts, Deidre Jo* . . . . . Arkansas  
*Robier, Kelly Allison* . . . . . Baltimore-Washington  
*Rogers, Patricia Alice* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Rogers, Timothy Julian* . . . . . South Carolina  
*Rohlfs, Carl Walter* . . . . . Rio Texas  
*Rohrs, Katherine Susan* . . . . . West Ohio  
*Rosario, Ileana Rosario* . . . . . Virginia  
*Ross, Owen K.* . . . . . North Texas  
*Rothlisberger, John Charles* . . . . . Iowa  
*Royappa, Samuel John* . . . . . Wisconsin  
*Rubenking, Darcy Lynn* . . . . . Iowa  
*Rudolph, Etienne* . . . . . Switzerland-France-  
 North Africa  
*Ruedas, Prudencio Bacquian* . . . . . Southwest  
 Philippines  
*Rufino, Janeth Laquindanum* . . . . . East Mindanao  
 Philippines  
*Runyenyeri, Ezechiel* . . . . . Burundi  
*Russell, Jasper* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Russell, Timothy John* . . . . . North Carolina  
*Ryder, John E.* . . . . . Northern Illinois  
*Sakanono, Oliver Izwela* . . . . . Lukoshi  
*Salatan, Gideon Camangege* . . . . . Northeast Philippines  
*Salley, James Henry* . . . . . South Carolina  
*Salonga, Edwin Adriano* . . . . . Bulacan Philippines  
*Salsgiver, Thomas L.* . . . . . Susquehanna  
*Samson, Velian Seth* . . . . . Tanzania  
*Sanio, Heinz-Juergen* . . . . . Germany North  
*Santos, Isidro Mendoza* . . . . . Visayas Philippines  
*Savage, Charles Walter* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Sayeh, Frederick S.* . . . . . Liberia  
*Schauer mann, Henrik* . . . . . Hungary Provisional  
*Schneider-Oesch, Christine* . . . . . Switzerland-France-  
 North Africa  
*Schonert, Steven Lee* . . . . . Illinois Great Rivers  
*Schroeckenfuchs, Stefan* . . . . . Austria Provisional  
*Schroeder, Philip Daniel* . . . . . North Georgia  
*Schubert Nowling, Lisa Dianne* . . . . . Indiana  
*Scott, Derrick* . . . . . Florida  
*Scott, Robin Bradley* . . . . . North Alabama  
*Scott, Vernon Craig* . . . . . Iowa  
*Sears, Erin Elizabeth* . . . . . West Virginia  
*Selman, Scott Young* . . . . . North Alabama  
*Sengando, Yangana Sebege* . . . . . South Congo  
*Sermonia, Jovito J.* . . . . . Philippines  
*Seth, John William* . . . . . Western Pennsylvania  
*Shaffer, Richard Allen* . . . . . West Virginia  
*Shahan, Alyson Elizabeth* . . . . . Oklahoma  
*Shakirova, Nelya* . . . . . Eastern Russia-Central Asia  
 Provisional  
*Shanks, Alex Arthur* . . . . . Florida  
*Shearman, Gayle Anne* . . . . . California-Nevada  
*Sheetz, Brian D.* . . . . . East Ohio  
*Shelkovich, Vitalii* . . . . . Southern Russia Provisional  
*Sherfey, Shannon Marie Haszard* . . . . . Western North  
 Carolina  
*Shettle, Daphne Manet* . . . . . Indiana  
*Shinkle, Thomas Craig* . . . . . Iowa



<i>Shitama Weston, Megan Kyoko</i> . . . . .	Peninsula-Delaware	Thompson, Ralph Gene . . . . .	Rio Texas
Siegrist, Roland . . . . .	Austria Provisional	<i>Tibalbag, Roy Rafael</i> . . . . .	Visayas Philippines
<i>Simon, Sheriff Isaac</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria	Todorova, Desislava Angelova . . . . .	Bulgaria-Romania Provisional
Simpson, Kim Quetone . . . . .	Central Texas	Toler-Debus, Gretchen Faye . . . . .	North Texas
<i>Sjanta, Daniel</i> . . . . .	Serbia-Macedonia Provisional	<i>Tomlinson, Kyle Edward</i> . . . . .	North Georgia
<i>Slaughter, Michael Barrett</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	Toney, Carol Y. . . . .	North Alabama
Sledge, Lauren Frances . . . . .	Mississippi	<i>Trefz, Rebecca</i> . . . . .	Dakotas
Smith, Blenda Elisabet . . . . .	Upper New York	<i>Tritle, Barrie Michael</i> . . . . .	Iowa
Smith, LaNella D. . . . .	North Carolina	<i>Troxler, Jeremy Issac</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina
<i>Smith, Theodore</i> . . . . .	Virginia	Tshene, Kanyempa Simon . . . . .	South Congo
Soliz, Daniel . . . . .	North Texas	Tshikunka, Patrick Mukanda . . . . .	Lukoshi
<i>Soulen, Richard Kendall</i> . . . . .	Virginia	<i>Tshinevwa, Gregoire Mwasakachiza</i> . . . . .	Lukoshi
<i>Southern, H. Gray</i> . . . . .	North Carolina	Tukutau, Havea Hikule'o . . . . .	Rocky Mountain
<i>Sparks, Stephen Lawrence</i> . . . . .	Mississippi	Tunda, Kasongo Lukali Prosper . . . . .	East Congo
<i>Spencer, Juliet Padgham</i> . . . . .	Louisiana	<i>Underwood, Donald Wallace</i> . . . . .	North Texas
Stahlman, Vicki Jean . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania	Upchurch, Robert Douglas . . . . .	Western North Carolina
<i>Stanley, Ashley Crowder</i> . . . . .	Western North Carolina	Urriola, Ian Carlos . . . . .	Upper New York
<i>Starodubets, Yulia</i> . . . . .	Eastern Russia-Central Asia Provisional	<i>Valdez, Ferdinand Joaquin</i> . . . . .	Northeast Luzon Philippines
Stearns, Lyndsey Ann . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Valverde, Eradio</i> . . . . .	Rio Texas
<i>Stefanov, Mihail Vaskov</i> . . . . .	Bulgaria-Romania Provisional	<i>Vaughn, Robert Emory</i> . . . . .	Virginia
Steiner, Chris E. . . . .	West Ohio	Vega, Abel . . . . .	Rio Texas
Stewart, Charles Roy . . . . .	Oklahoma	<i>Vega-Perez, Eunice</i> . . . . .	Greater New Jersey
<i>Stickley-Miner, Deanna E.</i> . . . . .	West Ohio	Velasco, Stanley Cruz . . . . .	Rizal Philippines East
Stikes, William Henry . . . . .	North Georgia	Velez, Alexia Valle . . . . .	Florida
Stoilkova, Daniela . . . . .	Serbia-Macedonia Provisional	Vianese, Carmen F. S. . . . .	Upper New York
Stokes, Martha Ensley . . . . .	Virginia	Viernes, Gloria Lagoc . . . . .	Northeast Luzon Philippines
Stotts, James David . . . . .	Mississippi	Vilanculo, Horácio Zedequias . . . . .	Mozambique South
Strebeck, Sidney G. . . . .	New Mexico	<i>Vilanculos, Julio André</i> . . . . .	Mozambique South
Subillaga, Joyce Manuel . . . . .	Mindanao Philippines	Vuksta, Vitaliy . . . . .	Ukraine-Moldava Provisional
Sullivan, Catherine Sue . . . . .	Texas	<i>Vukszta, Laszlo</i> . . . . .	Ukraine-Moldava Provisional
Sumner, Rachael Preston . . . . .	Florida	<i>Wagner, Amy R.</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania
Sweet, Marthalyne Kellogg . . . . .	Upper New York	<i>Walsh, Scott Thomas</i> . . . . .	East Ohio
<i>Sweet, Rebekah Beth</i> . . . . .	Upper New York	Ware, Barbara Joyce . . . . .	South Carolina
Taiwo, Kunle . . . . .	Rocky Mountain	<i>Warner, Lacey Cammarano</i> . . . . .	Texas
<i>Taliwaga, John Macadangdang</i> . . . . .	Tarlac Philippines	Warren, Jeffrey Joseph . . . . .	Upper New York
Tankler, Meeli . . . . .	Estonia	Watts, Michael B. . . . .	Kentucky
Tate, John Robert . . . . .	Holston	<i>Weagba, George Klay</i> . . . . .	Liberia
Tay, Harris Kodjie Glover . . . . .	West Ohio	<i>Weatherall, Sylvester</i> . . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers
Taylor, Cynthia Ann . . . . .	Baltimore-Washington	Weber, Larry Earl . . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers
Taylor, Steve . . . . .	North Carolina	<i>Weems, Cynthia Dee</i> . . . . .	Florida
<i>Taylor-Storm, Dawn Elizabeth</i> . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania	<i>Welborn, Teresa Gayle</i> . . . . .	Rio Texas
<i>Temple, Charles Chappell</i> . . . . .	Texas	Wembokoko, Ngandu Paul . . . . .	East Congo
<i>Thaarup, Jorgen</i> . . . . .	Denmark	<i>Wende, Stephen Paul</i> . . . . .	Texas
Thaarup, Susanne . . . . .	Denmark	Westad, Audun . . . . .	Norway
<i>Thomas, Byron Eric</i> . . . . .	North Georgia	Westbrook, William . . . . .	Peninsula-Delaware
Thompson, Lenora . . . . .	Eastern Pennsylvania	Whitaker, Asa . . . . .	Arkansas
Thompson, Martha Fridy . . . . .	South Carolina	<i>Whitaker, Keith Conan</i> . . . . .	Texas
		Whitaker, Rhonda Joy . . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers
		<i>Wier, Brenda Wilson</i> . . . . .	Central Texas

Wilbur, Lorene Betty . . . . .	New England	Wright, Marianne Mackey . . . . .	South Georgia
Williams, Alice Marie . . . . .	Florida	<i>Wright, Varlyna Donae</i> . . . . .	Greater New Jersey
Williams, Leia Danielle . . . . .	Northwest Texas	Wussow, Thomas (Tom) Roderick . . . . .	Texas
Williams, Rosa M. . . . .	Greater New Jersey	<i>Yakku, Eli Sule</i> . . . . .	Central Nigeria
<i>Wilson, Carol Elaine</i> . . . . .	Holston	Yao, Assoma . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
<i>Wilson, David Mark</i> . . . . .	Oklahoma Indian Missionary	<i>Yapi, Aye Julien</i> . . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
Wilson, Janey Louise . . . . .	Oklahoma	Yapi, Djoman C. . . . .	Côte d'Ivoire
Wilson, Melba Augustine . . . . .	Texas	<i>Yebuah, Lisa Naa-Shormey</i> . . . . .	North Carolina
Wilson, Milton E. . . . .	Florida	Yin, Burt Phillip . . . . .	California-Nevada
<i>Wilson, Robin Crews</i> . . . . .	Alabama-West Florida	<i>Yoila, Baziel Yayuba</i> . . . . .	Southern Nigeria
<i>Wilson, Jr., George D.</i> . . . . .	Liberia	Yola, Habila Charles . . . . .	Central Nigeria
<i>Winn, Richard Don</i> . . . . .	North Georgia	Yugay, Marina . . . . .	Northwest Russia Provisional
Winston, Joyce Cecile . . . . .	Virginia	<i>Zabel, Judith Kreager</i> . . . . .	Minnesota
Wlemus, Pentee J. . . . .	Liberia	Zaev, Emil . . . . .	Serbia-Macedonia Provisional
Wolfe, Bunny D. . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers	Zakaria, Maimuna Tikka . . . . .	Southern Nigeria
Wolo, Mai Welleh . . . . .	Liberia	<i>Zekoff, Steven E.</i> . . . . .	Wisconsin
Wondel, Jill Alison . . . . .	Missouri	<i>Zilhaver, Robert Frank</i> . . . . .	Western Pennsylvania
<i>Wood, Steven Doyle</i> . . . . .	North Georgia	Zimmerman, Leanna Kay . . . . .	Indiana
Woods, Kimberly Dawn . . . . .	Illinois Great Rivers	<i>Zinga, Kamwimba Marie Jeanne</i> . . . . .	South-West Katanga
Wright, Karen Kallstrom . . . . .	Holston	Zueva, Desislava . . . . .	Bulgaria-Romania Provisional



## Voting and Reserve Delegates by Conference

Voting delegates are listed in order of election. Names of clergy appear in *italics*. Reserves are those elected in accordance with ¶ 34 of the Constitution.

The chairperson of a delegation is indicated with an asterisk.

The delegate information is provided by the respective secretaries of the annual conferences as a part of the credentialing process. Corrections may be sent to the Reverend Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference, ggraves@umcgc.org.

### *Alabama-West Florida (10)*

**Row 12**      **Table 137**      **Seats 3-6**  
**Row 12**      **Table 138**      **Seats 1-6**

#### Delegates

\*Furr, Steven Paul; 214 Plantation Trace, Jackson, AL 36545

*Bryars, Paul Lawrence*; 9323 Preston Place, Montgomery, AL 36117

Luna, Patricia Adele; 110 Eve Circle, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

*Pridgeon, Jeremy Kimble*; 553 Grove Park Loop, Wetumpka, FL 36093

Maddox, Beverly Baggett; 34171 Nims Fork Rd., Robertsdale, AL 36567

*Wilson, Robin Crews*; 702 Avenue A, Opelika, AL 36801  
 Ester, Clara Jean; 517 Highland Woods Drive East, Mobile, AL 36608

*Brooks, John Edward*; 602 Coleman Way, Prattville, AL 36067

Hare, Dawn Wiggins; PO Box 833, Monroeville, AL 36461

*Jernigan, June Elizabeth*; 519 Whistlewood Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

#### Reserves

Moore, James Frank; PO Box 482, Daleville, AL 36322-0482

*Ausley, Rurel Reuben*; 214 Partin Drive South, Niceville, FL 32578

Powell, Robert L.; 326 Hidden Creek Circle, Unit 2, Dothan, AL 36301

*Smith, Cory Russell*; 2091 S. Evergreen Drive, Auburn, AL 36830

Dunnwind, Frank Smitton; 7343 Old Mitylene Rd., Montgomery, AL 36117

*Elmore, Tonya Lynn*; 203 Winterberry Way, Enterprise, AL 36330

*Gulledge, Robert I.*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Kincaid, Emily Dueitt*; 26229 Martinique Drive, Orange Beach, FL 36561

Floore, Malcolm Eugene; 115 Indian Bayou Dr., Destin, FL 32541

*Morris, Daniel Wesley*; 2401 Main St., Daphne, AL 36526

### *Alaska (2)*

**Row 3**      **Table 36**      **Seats 1-2**

#### Delegates

Hayden, Jo Anne Kay; 3604 East 18th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508-3371

\**Rapanut, Carlo Axibal*; 1660 Patterson St., Anchorage, AK 99504

#### Reserves

LaBau, Vernon James; 2951 Admiralty Bay Drive, Anchorage, AK 99515

*Wilcox, Daniel Paul*; 5137 S. Fairview Loop, Wasilla, AK 99654

### *Arkansas (8)*

**Row 13**      **Table 148**      **Seats 5-6**  
**Row 13**      **Table 149**      **Seats 1-6**

#### Delegates

Mann, Karon Sue; 1806 Martha Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212

\**Norman, Mark Kelly*; 1320 Heartwood St., White Hall, AR 71602

Burris, James Todd; 800 W. Daisy Bates Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202

*Roberts, Deidre Jo*; 800 W. Daisy Bates Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202

Millar, Karen L.; 33 Country Club Circle, Searcy, AR 72143

Miles, Rebekah L.; 2424 Park Pl. Ave., Ft. Worth, TX 76110

Whitaker, Asa; 160 Ottinger St., Batesville, AR 72501

Miles, John Pershing; First United Methodist Church, 801 S. Main St., Jonesboro, AR 72401

### Reserves

Fink, Elizabeth Ashley; 3 Lois Lane, Bella Vista, AR 72715

Hilliard, James Wesley; 1604 Pointer Trail, Van Buren, AR 72956

Wilbourn, Gordon Miller; 12 Ridgeview Ct., Little Rock, AR 72227

Richardson Watson, Brittany Stanton; 6 Cape Cod Ct., Little Rock, AR 72212

Swain, Brian Todd; 64 St. John Place, Farmington, AR 72730

Embrey, John David; 1750 Meadow Bridge Drive, Greenwood, AR 72936

Bates, Brandon Kyle; 723 Center St., Little Rock, AR 72201

Allen, Maxine Yvonne; 2912 Dorchester Dr., Little Rock, AR 72204

### *Austria Provisional (2)*

**Row 2                      Table 16                      Seats 5-6**

### Delegates

Bindl, Helene; Wienerstrasse 254, Linz 4030, Austria

\*Schroeckenfuchs, Stefan; Sechshauser Str. 56/2/1, Vienna AT-1150, Austria

### Reserves

Siegrist, Roland; address unavailable at time of printing

Handschin, Esther; address unavailable at time of printing

### *Baltimore-Washington (12)*

**Row 7                      Table 82                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 7                      Table 83                      Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

\*Martin, Martha Delores; 16505 Magnolia Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20905

Chattin, Terri Rae; 37 Cedar Hill Road, Randallstown, MD 21133

Ihlo, Jennifer Ellen; 6263 Masefield Ct., Alexandria, VA 22304-3536

Daniels, Joseph Wayne; 14629 Stonewall Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20905

Moore, Charles Eric; 1168 River Bay Rd., Annapolis, MD 21409

Park, Jong Woo; 7 Diamond Hill Court, Germantown, MD 20874

Taylor, Cynthia Ann; 4800 Coyle Rd. #409, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Gaines-Cirelli, Ginger Elise; 1216 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002

Price, Joseph Thomas; 16617 Cutlass Drive, Rockville, MD 20853

Link, Conrad O.; 7191 Stillwater Ct., Frederick, MD 21702

Ow, Kenneth; 13415 Rippling Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906

Carter-Rimbach, Joan Eileen; 6316 Gentle Light Ln., Columbia, MD 21044

### Reserves

Robier, Kelly Allison; 5137 Clavel Terrace, Rockville, MD 20853

Rivera, Edgardo; 200 Shannonbrook Ln., Frederick, MD 21702

Lauber, Melissa Morris; 9905 Portland Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Young, Evan DeZelle; 3010 Arden Forest Lane, Bowie, MD 20716

Schlieckert, Christopher John; 9818 Golden Russet Dr., Dunkirk, MD 20754

Schlieckert, Sarah Andrews; 9818 Golden Russet Dr., Dunkirk, MD 20716

Jordan, Adrian; 22789 Bayside Way, California, MD 20619

Love, Antoine Carlton; 5238 Kenstan Drive, Temple Hills, MD 20748-5446

Koob, Sherie Lynne; 3819 S. Mountain Road, Knoxville, MD 21758

Jordan-Griffin, Jason Odell; 612 Realm Ct. W., Odenton, MD 21113

Ford, Sarah Virginia; 2525 Park Heights Ter., Baltimore, MD 21215

Totty, Mary Kay; 3133 Dumbarton Street N.W., Washington, DC 20007

### *Bicol Philippines (2)*

**Row 1                      Table 1                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

\*Perez, Manuel Perez; Blk41 Lot67 Phase2 VillaGrande Homes Ave., Naga City 4400, Philippines  
*Laguardia, Denis Tabuzo*; 2450 Vinzons Ave., Daet, Camarines Norte, Philippines

**Reserves**

Gonzales, Edgar C; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Alvarez, Jerome D.*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Bulacan Philippines (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 19                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Salonga, Edwin Adriano; Block 2, Lot 14, Dolores Home-site, City of San Fernando, Philippines  
 \**Ambi, Norlito Tapia*; 9 Peso St., Saint Michael Subd., Meycauayan3020, Philippines

**Reserves**

Binuya, Sheila Faye Dayrit; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Mendiola, Glenn Mendoza*; Guiguinto Immanuel Methodist Church, Inc, Tabang, Guiguinto, Philippines  
 Dela Cruz, Sheba Dayrit; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Fajardo, Francis Vinuya*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Clavio, Melody Dayrit; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Roxas, Danilo J.*; Baliuag United Methodist Church, Bagong Nayon, Baliuag, Philippines

***Bulgaria-Romania Provisional (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 17                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Todorova, Desislava Angelova; 86 G.S. Rakovski Str., Sofia, Bulgaria  
 \**Stefanov, Mihail Vaskov*; ul. G.S. Rakovski 86, Sofia1000, Bulgaria

**Reserves**

Zueva, Desislava; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Altunian, Samuel*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Popova, Antonia; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Topalski, Daniel Georgiev*; PO Box 416, Ruse, Bulgaria

***Burundi (8)***

**Row 11                      Table 129                      Seats 1-6**  
**Row 11                      Table 130                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Habonimana, Silas; B.P. 814, Burundi  
 \**Bankurunaze, Lazare*; B.P 328, Burundi  
 Manisha, Marie; B.P. 328, Gitega, Burundi  
*Niyukuri, Abel*; c/o Ceni-Burundi, B.P. 1128, Bujumbura, Burundi  
 Runyenyeri, Ezechiel; UMC, PO Box 328, Gitega, Burundi  
*Cimpaye, Valentine*; B.P. 42, Burundi  
 Irambona, Pacis Alarine; 970 Bujumbura I, Bujumbura, Burundi  
*Ntakarutimana, Claude*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing

***California-Nevada (6)***

**Row 12                      Table 140                      Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Allen, Emily Ruth; 1988 San Luis Ave. #1B, Mountain View, CA 94043  
 \**Kuan, Kah-Jin Jeffrey*; Claremont School of Theology, 1325 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711  
 Yin, Burt Phillip; 25299 Buckeye Dr., Castro Valley, CA 94552  
*Bergquist, Greg Becker*; 903 Catlow Court, Brentwood, TN 37027  
 Miller, Randall Harlan; 8001 Sterling Drive, Oakland, CA 94605  
*Hingano, Siosifa*; 220 S. Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

**Reserves**

Shearman, Gayle Anne; 429-A Enfrente Road, Novato, CA 94949  
*Weatherspoon, Dale Maurice*; 6132 Bernhard Ave., Richmond, CA 94805  
 Hingano, Wesley; 1631 Queens Crossing Drive, San Jose, CA 95132  
*Cao, Felicisimo Santos*; 1350 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 Bennett, Emily Dale; 844 Rosewood Ave., Sanger, CA 93657

*Brick, Elizabeth Ann*; 4747 North Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608

*Dunning, Robert*; 1910 G Street, Eureka, CA 95501

*Agtarap, Bener Baysa*; 3227 Gulf Island Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691

*Kawaguchi, Mari Anne*; 372 Sussex Street, San Francisco, CA 94131

*Rhodes, Schuyler James*; California-Nevada Conference, 1350 Halyard Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95691

*Bago, Ruby Ramos*; 4660 N. Island View, Clovis, CA 93619

*La Point-Collup, Kathleen Fay*; 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

*Kim, Katherine Oknam*; 200 Thyme Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

*Bernadel-Huey, Myrna*; 1600 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

### **California-Pacific (8)**

**Row 2                      Table 13                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 2                      Table 14                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

\*Rios, Rosa Maria; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Bridgeforth, Cedrick D.*; 4112 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90043

*Ellis, Kenneth M.*; 11939 Miranda Street, North Hollywood, CA 91607

*Choi, Thomas S.*; 1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814

*Maka, Mele*; 4469 Appleglen Court, Moorpark, CA 93021  
*Farris, Patricia Ellen*; First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403

*Fukumoto, JoAnn Yoon*; 1796 Hoolehua St., Pearl City, HI 96782

*Olewine, Sandra Kay*; FUMC, 500 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91101

#### **Reserves**

*Blagojevich, Mele (Mary) Faiva (Manu)*; 4429 E. Village Road, Suite 235, Long Beach, CA 90808

*Vetter, Molly Elizabeth*; 243 S. Broadway, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

*Stephenson, Mark Kinsey*; 11723 Riverside Dr. #5, Valley Village, CA 91607

*Dang, Bau N.*; 12741 Main St., Garden Grove, CA 92840

*Hogan, Ralph Lee*; 987 Avenal Way, Beaumont, CA 92223

*Wulf, Frank Dale*; 8021 S. Vermont Ave. #44, Los Angeles, CA 90044

*Kehrberg, Norma Jean*; 712 Ainapo St., Honolulu, HI 96825

*Chung, Judy Yangmi*; General Board of Global Ministries, 458 Ponce De Leon Ave. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308

*Taylor, Dione Brooks*; 4291 Fifth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103

*Harris, Tonya Sanita*; First United Methodist Church, 18120 Saticoy St., Reseda, CA 91335

*Hawkins, Mary Hoke*; 926 College Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374

*Ala'ilima, Piula Elia*; 5052 Kilauea Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816

*Tu'itahi, Monalisa*; 2610 N. Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705

*Zuill, Charlene Kaye*; 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Box 284, Boston, MA 02215

### **Central Congo (6)**

**Row 7                      Table 78                      Seats 1-6**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

### **Central Luzon Philippines (2)**

**Row 4                      Table 45                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

\*Panuyas, Arnel Tamallana; 73 Executive Avenue, Central Luzon State Univ., Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines

*Concepcion, Allan Asuncion*; The United Methodist Church, Padapada, Santa Ignacia 2303, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

*Melegrito, Noel Camus*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Pacheco, Antonio P.*; New Salem, Philippines

*Rombaoa, Edna Ferrer*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Rimando, Roderick L.*; The United Methodist Church, Faigal St., Nueva Ecija, Philippines

*Rombaoa, Dion Balgos*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Biasbas, Feliciano Mosquito*; address unavailable at time of printing

### **Central Nigeria (6)**

**Row 4                      Table 37                      Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Yola, Habila Charles; UMCN Secretariat Mile Six, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

\**Yakku, Eli Sule*; address unavailable at time of printing  
Adamu, Napoleon Grummetti; UMCN, PO Box 185, Jalingo, Nigeria

*Auta, John Pena*; UMCN, PO Box 746, Jalingo, Nigeria  
Dio Jen, Mike; College of Education, Zing PMB 1021, Jalingo, Nigeria

*Bulus, Christy Yusuf*; Central Nigeria Annual Conf. Secretariat, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

**Reserves**

Balasa, Dauda Idris; UMCN Karim Lamido Charge, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

*Usman, Yunusa Zubairu*; UMCN PO Box 774, Gwaten Bambur, Karim, Nigeria

Aliyu, Bakoji Mbiko; UMCN, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

*Philip, Habibu Audu*; UMCN Mutum Daya, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

Bandiam, Rate; UMCN PO Box 774, Gwaten Bambur, Karim, Nigeria

*Obadiah, Dennis*; UMCN PO Box 774, Gwaten Bambur, Karim, Nigeria

**Central Russia (2)**

**Row 6                      Table 69                      Seats 3-4**

**Delegates**

Kim, Sergey; App. 41, bldg 7, constr. 1, Sivashskaya Str, 117149, Russian Federation

\**Nikolaev, Sergei*; U1 Profsoyuznaya, d. 92, kv. 187, Moscow 117485, Russian Federation

**Reserves**

Pugachev, Sergei; Khamovnichesky val 24/2, stroenie 2, office 116, Moscow 119048, Russian Federation

*Prokhorov, Stanislav*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Central Texas (8)**

**Row 11                      Table 124                      Seats 3-6**

**Row 11                      Table 125                      Seats 1-4**

**Delegates**

Harkrider, John Thomas; 6658 Gascony Place, Fort Worth, TX 76132

\**Bruster, Timothy Keith*; 800 W. 5th St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3599

Simpson, Kim Quetone; 3905 Lake Powell Dr., Arlington, TX 76016

*McKellar, John E.*; White's Chapel United Methodist Church, 185 S. Whites Chapel Blvd., Southlake, TX 76092-7308

McIver, Steven Mark; PO Box 545, Ferris, TX 75125

*Howard, Clifton O.*; 1133 Redcloud Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76120

Alfred, Darlene Rochelle; 2811 Chisholm Trail, Salado, TX 76571

*Wier, Brenda Wilson*; 334 Cove Road, Gordon, TX 76453

**Reserves**

Gregory, Ethan Scott; 2938 Crockett St., #422, Fort Worth, TX 76107

*Robbins, Thomas Q.*; 102 North Second St., Temple, TX 76501

McCready, Darcy P.; 6925 Allen Place Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76116

*Hayes, Christopher J.*; 1419 Chase Oaks Dr., Keller, TX 76248

Campbell, Kylie Heather; 590 N.E. McAlister Road, Burleson, TX 76028

*Conner, James David*; 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr., Mansfield, TX 76063

Gregory, Kevin Blake; 5226 S. Woodlawn Ave., Apt. 2E, Chicago, IL 60615

*Crumpton, Debra Marie*; 2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, TX 76018-1981

**Côte d'Ivoire (34)**

**Row 8                      Table 85                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 8                      Table 86                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 8                      Table 87                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 8                      Table 88                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 8                      Table 89                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 8                      Table 90                      Seats 1-4**

**Delegates**

Aboua, Louis Roi Nondenot; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

\**Bodje, Doughtou Isaac*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Angoran, Yed Esaie; 01 BP 1282, Adbijan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Assale, Niamien Eugene*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Adjrahe, Mathurin Djoman; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Basse, Doudou Gabriel*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Akre, Michel A.; BP 2304, Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire  
*Akpes Epse AKA, Hermance Iphigenie D'Aphrodite*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Melesse Epse Kpokpo, Marie-Louise; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Yapi, Aye Julien*; 01 BP 1252, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Yao, Assoma; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Obonou, Samuel*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire  
Nanguy Epse Adou, Worohon Dorcas A.; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Lobo, Neuba Michel*; 01 BP 1252, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Kamenan, N'Doua Marcellin; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Akaffou Yao Aye, Raymond Claude*; 01 BP 1252, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Arpellet, Abraham Koffi; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Adjobi, Ameya P*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Kakou, Jonathan; 06 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Beugre, Hearle Antony*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

Lasme, Niagne Eugene; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Bogro, Isaac Douzou*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Kombo Epse Angui Eboi, Suzanne; 12 BP 177, Abidjan 120, Cote d'Ivoire

*Moude, Anoh Séraphin*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

N'Dehou Epse Beda, Nana Marcelline; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 010, Cote d'Ivoire

*Ohouo, Djoman Nathanael*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Ayiba, Yebrou Omer; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Allouco Epse Sedji, Niche Suzanne*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Yapi, Djoman C.; Abidjan Cocody Plateau Dokui, 01 BP 11930, Cote d'Ivoire

*Koffi, Sachou Marcel*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Koffi, Aboua Joseph; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Behi, Gnanago Felix*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Niamkey, Ezani Kodjo Emmanuel; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote D'Ivoire

*Amon, Aka Pierre*; 01 BP 1252, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

### Reserves

Abro, Alain Patrick A.; 10 BP 1037, Abidjan 100, Cote d'Ivoire

*N'guessan, Roland N'drin*; 01 BP 1252, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Ake, Nathan Ble Leon; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

*Gnagne Epse Nangui, Agnime Aurelie Brigitte*; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

Assa Epse Akoh, Kichi Simone; 01 BP 1282, Abidjan 01, Cote d'Ivoire

### Czech and Slovak Republics (2)

**Row 2                      Table 17                      Seats 3-4**

#### Delegates

\*Procházková, Lenka; Agatova 19, 90045, Malinovo, Slovakia

*Procházká, Petr*; Jecna 19, Prague 120 00, Czech Republic

#### Reserves

Chlupáček, David; address unavailable at time of printing

*Prochazka, Pavel*; address unavailable at time of printing

Salková, Miluse; address unavailable at time of printing

*Krizova, Jana*; address unavailable at time of printing

Absolon, Pavol; address unavailable at time of printing

*Kocev, Pavle*; address unavailable at time of printing

### Dakotas (2)

**Row 9                      Table 106                      Seats 1-2**

#### Delegates

Ferris, Beata Kay; address unavailable at time of printing

\*Trefz, Rebecca; PO Box 460, 1331 University Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301

#### Reserves

Bader, Matthew Cole; 1200 W. University Ave., Box 793, Mitchell, SD 57301

*Spahr, Roger Carl*; 232 N. Lake Dr., Watertown, SD 57201

### Denmark (2)

**Row 6                      Table 71                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Thaarup, Susanne; Sondervej 11, Strandby9970 Denmark  
 \*Thaarup, Jorgen; Stokusgade 2,3. 1317, Copenhagen K  
 Denmark

**Reserves**

Morsbol, Andreas; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Risager, Thomas; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Flinck, Mathias Alsted; address unavailable at time of  
 printing  
 Lewis, Mark; address unavailable at time of printing

**Desert Southwest (2)**

**Row 6                      Table 72                      Seat 5-6**

**Delegates**

\*Nibbelink, James Charles; 63327 E. Desert Crest Drive,  
 Tucson, AZ 85739  
 Hurlbert, Daniel D.; 335 E. Huber, Mesa, AZ 85201

**Reserves**

Fidlin, Billie K; 19018 N. 42nd Way, Phoenix, AZ 85050  
 Tang, Anthony; 1550 East Meadowbrook Ave., Phoenix,  
 AZ 85014-4040  
 Hrabe, Majorie Irene; 7031 W. Saucedo Dr., Tucson, AZ  
 85743  
 Rambikur, Elizabeth Ann; 915 E. 4th Street, Tucson, AZ  
 85719  
 Volere, Diana Marie; 1276 Plum Canyon Street, Las  
 Vegas, NV 89142  
 Ragland, Sharon Ellen; 8887 N. Treasure Mountain Drive,  
 Tucson, AZ 85742  
 Gomez, Paul; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Olivares, Javier; 7901 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

**Detroit (6)**

**Row 7                      Table 79                      Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Euper, Jacqueline K.; 11463 S. State Road, Morrice, MI  
 48857  
 \*Boayue, Charles S. G.; 35361 Stratton Hill Court, Farm-  
 ington Hills, MI 48331  
 Bank, Wayne Herbert; 6551 Lakeshore Road, Lexington,  
 MI 48450  
 Barrett, Joy Anna; 10 Sycamore St., Chelsea, MI 48118  
 Brown, Diane Louise; 4512 Cottonwood Drive, Ann Ar-  
 bor, MI 48108

Carey, Melanie Lee; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing

**Reserves**

Plum, Alexander James; 1815 Church St., Detroit, MI  
 48216  
 Walther, Megan Jo Crumm; address unavailable at time  
 of printing  
 Bowers, Claudia Louise; 2020 Calumet Street, Flint, MI  
 48503  
 Hook, Matthew James; 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter, MI  
 48130  
 Anderson, Ruby Deloris; 25180 Thorndyke Street, South-  
 field, MI 48033  
 Speiran, Laura Crawford; 7801 Hoffman Dr., Waterford,  
 MI 48327

**East Africa (4)**

**Row 11                      Table 130                      Seats 3-6**

**Delegates**

Namukose, Sarah Cissy; 2118 Sherman Ave., Apt. 3W,  
 Evanston, IL 60201  
 \*Ososo, Carol Alois; PO Box 3124-00200, Kenya  
 Ludoru, Alex Jalan Oliver; Yei State  
 Baliyanga, Marc; PO Box 4485, Kigali, Rwanda

**Reserves**

Muwaya, David Kubona; Plot No. 1259, Block 213, Mu-  
 kalazi Zone, Bukoto, Uganda  
 Njuguna, Paul Matheri; Box 119-20117, Naivash, Kenya  
 Nanyonjo, Agnes Katende; PO Box 36886, Kampala,  
 Uganda  
 Kiberu, Badru; PO Box 11841, Uganda

**East Congo (12)**

**Row 5                      Table 52                      Seats 1-6**  
**Row 5                      Table 53                      Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Muthoma, Bushiri Sylvestre; 42, Avenue des Clin-iques,  
 Gombe. BP1899, Congo, The Democratic Republic  
 of the  
 Mwayuma, Ayenda Lolima Veronique; BP126, Congo,  
 The Democratic Republic of the  
 Wembokoko, Ngandu Paul; 12/12/65 Mission Lokole,  
 Methodiste Unie au Congo Est, BP:126, Kindu, Con-  
 go, The Democratic Republic of the

*Lohalo, Malamba Celestin*; BP126, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Lokale, Senga Cudins; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Mahamudi, Ngereza Benoit*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Tunda, Kasongo Lukali Prosper; Mission Methodiste Lokole, Kindu BP126, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
*Omba, Dissashi Djamba*; BP 126, Kindu, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 \*Letshu, Tsheke Richard; 42, Avenue des cliniques Kinshasa/Gombe, BP1900, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
*Kibatuli, Hilaire Bununu*; 12/12/65 Mission Lokole, Eglise Methodsite Unie au Conngo Est BP, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Luhahi, Nembe Songu; BP 14 685 Kinshasa, Congo  
*Buimba, Mekembe Albert*; 12/12/65 Mission Lokole, Eglise Methodiste Unie au Congo Est, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

### Reserves

Koloso, Etwanyongo; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Lange Avilo Omesumba, Clement*; Av. du 12/12/1956, Mission Lokole C/Mikelenge, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Okondji, Emile Douglas; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Ketoka, Lokondo Paul*; 12/12/65 Mission Iokole, Kindu Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Amuri, Fimbo; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Nyenda, Okoko*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Furaha Mwayuma, Fancis; BP:126, Kindu Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
*Kombe, Atumishi*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Thaluhumbu, Jean Mwinyi; Mission Methodiste Lokole/Kindu, BP126, Kindu Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
*Wembo Lushima, Francois*; 12/12/65 Mission Iokole, Kindu Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Difuku Kekumba, Gilbert; BP126, Kindu Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
*Bulungi, Kaningo*; address unavailable at time of printing

### East Mindanao Philippines (2)

Row 1                      Table 1                      Seats 3-4

### Delegates

Cristobal, Evangeline Justo ; 324 Suntan St., Nafco Subd, KM. 7, Davao City8000, Philippines  
 \**Rufino, Janeth Laquindanum*; St. Mark United Methodist Church, 959 Alley 3 D Santiago St. Sampaloc, Metro Manila 1008, Philippines

### Reserves

De Ocampo, Jeanne; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Inis, Ronnie Pancho*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Nebran, Patrocenio O.; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Salmon, Efipanio Rubert*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Labargan, Ruth Obra; Purok 2 Poblacion New Corella, Davao Del Norte, 8104, Philippines  
*Painit, Israel Maestrado*; 833 Quezon Avenue, Maniki, NA, Kapalong8113, Philippines

### East Ohio (12)

Row 10                      Table 109                      Seats 1-6  
 Row 10                      Table 110                      Seats 1-6

### Delegates

Grant, Holly Jean; 598 N. Main St., Shreve, OH 44676  
*Arellano, Armando Contreras*; 26370 Edgecliff Dr., Euclid, Oh 44132  
 Panovec, Kay Lee; 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085  
*George, Gary Mark*; PO Box 2800, 8800 Cleveland Ave. N.W., North Canton, OH 44720  
 \*Laferty, Allen Dean; 368 Maple Dr., Crestline, OH 44827  
*Bryant, Dan C.*; 1447 Arthur Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107  
 Sheetz, Brian D.; 8800 Cleveland Ave. N.W., North Canton, OH 44720  
*McGhee, Delaine K.*; 312 Broad St., Ashland, OH 44805  
 Banks, Martha E.; PO Box 5108, Fairlawn, OH 44334-0108  
*Walsh, Scott Thomas*; 110 Gateway Ave., Conneaut, OH 44030  
 Palmer, Kathy E.; 154 W. 40th St., Shadyside, OH 43947  
*Henderson, Gary Ray*; 810 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37202-0320

### Reserves

Burdsall, Donald E.; 1298 Township Rd. 229, Cardington, OH 43315



*Oehl, Karen M.*; 25 Kester Dr., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050  
*Crowell, Linda J.*; 6721 Chinkapin Court, Oakwood Village, OH 44146  
*Grant, Michael David*; 598 N. Main St., Shreve, OH 44676  
*Wilson, Betty L.*; 41988 Old Irondale Road, Irondale, OH 43932  
*Call, Andrew Richard*; 2537 Lee Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
*Prusha, Connor James*; 11287 Aquilla Rd., Chardon, OH 44024  
*Rollins, Benita*; 2858 Demington Ave. N.W., Canton, OH Jackson, Magnolia; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Dickriede, Katherine A.*; 129 East Oakmont Way, Northfield, OH 44067  
*Achberger, Susan L.*; 864 Roanoke Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121  
*Harris, Chester Herbert*; 5455 Richville Dr., S.W., Navarre, OH 44662

### ***East Zimbabwe (4)***

**Row 3                      Table 28                      Seats 1-4**

#### **Delegates**

*Mafunda, Simon*; 5 Pringle Road, Greendale, Zimbabwe  
*\*Chingonzo, Annie Grace*; 243 Leonard Road, Waterfalls, Zimbabwe  
*Mwayera, Molly Hlekani*; 24 Christ Church Rd., Westlea, Zimbabwe  
*Bobo, Togara*; HSE No. 4348 Phase 2, Chikanga, Zimbabwe

#### **Reserves**

*Chabuka, Evaristo*; 11160 Murambi East, Mutare, Zimbabwe  
*Chimbwanda, Givemore*; 29 Rukumbati Road, Zengeza 3, Chitungwiza Harare, Zimbabwe  
*Karinda, Mark*; UMC Head Office, Box 666, Mutare, Zimbabwe  
*Machinga, Gift Kudakwashe*; 3 Thirteenth Avenue, Morningside, Mutare, Zimbabwe

### ***Eastern Angola (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 16                      Seats 3-4**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***Eastern Pennsylvania (8)***

**Row 12                      Table 141                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 12                      Table 142                      Seats 1-2**

### **Delegates**

*Ehninger, Judith Kay*; 2620 Gracie Lone, Macungie, PA 18062  
*\*Taylor-Storm, Dawn Elizabeth*; 60 W. Boot Rd., West Chester, PA 19380-1107  
*Johnson, Krystl Dawn*; 9 Patriot Way, Woolrich Twp., NJ 08085  
*Raffauf, Jeffrey Alan*; 15 Woodside Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609-1664  
*Krall, Clarita Anderman*; 611 E. Sedgwick Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119-1329  
*DiPaolo, Joseph Frank*; 1178 Rossiter Lane, Radnor, PA 19087  
*Bonner, Jane L.*; PO Box 259, Media, PA 19063  
*Muñoz, Lydia Esther*; 200 Treaty Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

### **Reserves**

*Thompson, Lenora*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Wilt, Robert Jacobs*; 50 Barren Road, Media, PA 19063  
*Harris, Jordan Marcel*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Bass, Tracy L.*; 3470 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-3727  
*Koch, David Louis*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Kurien, Christopher Jacob*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Brightwell, Ross Alan*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Hynicka, Robin Michael*; 55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

### ***Eastern Russia and Central Asia Provisional (2)***

**Row 6                      Table 69                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

*Minikhanova, Iuliia Flaritovna*; Proletarskay Street 45-66, Chelyabinsk Region, Satka 456910, Russian Federation  
*\*Starodubets, Yulia*; Osmonkula Pereulok, 182, Bishkek720011, Kyrgyzstan

#### **Reserves**

*Shakirova, Nelya*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Starodubets, Oleg*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Stepanova, Yulia*; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Chudinova, Elena*; address unavailable at time of printing

Parfyonova, Klavdia; address unavailable at time of printing

Zubkova, Ekaterina V.; Shirot'naya str 104/1/90, Tyumen625051, Russian Federation

### ***Estonia (2)***

**Row 6                      Table 71                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

Lilleoja, Tarmo; Hamariku Tee 13, Tabasalu 76901, Harku Vald76901, Estonia

\*Hollman, Taavi; Narva str 51, Tallinn10152, Estonia

#### **Reserves**

Tankler, Meeli; Riisika 2, Silla kula, Paikuse vald, Parnu-maa86604, Estonia

Nelson, Mark Philip; Narva str 51, Tallinn10152, Estonia

Sassian, Urmas; address unavailable at time of printing

Tankler, Ullas; address unavailable at time of printing

Matulaitiene, Kristina; address unavailable at time of printing

Pieciaite-Erbele, Jolita; address unavailable at time of printing

Germans, Rihards; address unavailable at time of printing

Grina-Sologuba, Gunta; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***Finland-Finnish Provisional (2)***

**Row 6                      Table 71                      Seats 5-6**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***Finland-Swedish Provisional (2)***

**Row 6                      Table 72                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

Elfving, Andreas Jan Martin; Furuborgsvagen 11, FI-10160, Degerby, Finland

\*Björklund, Leif-Göte; Kyrktorget, 9 A 2, Borga, Finland

#### **Reserves**

Lundgren, Monica; Hansavägen, 2 A 16, Borgå, Finland

Forsback, Stefan; Koriston Rantatie, 52, Piispanristi, Finland

Fred, Marie; Österändsvägen, 126, Södra Vallgrund, Finland

Tiainen, Sarah; Långbrogatan, 25 B 40, Karleby, Finland

### ***Florida (18)***

**Row 1                      Table 7                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 1                      Table 8                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 1                      Table 9                      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

\*McEntire, Molly Rebeccah; 914 Frank Lloyd Wright Way, Apt. 3, Lakeland, FL 33801

Shanks, Alex Arthur; 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815

Scott, Derrick; 1411 Inwood Terrace, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Hernandez, Rinaldo D.; 7655 Trillium Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34241

Williams, Alice Marie; 5209 Fieldview Ct., Orlando, FL 32819

Hammond, Dionne Chandler; 110 East New Haven Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32901

Wilson, Milton E.; 3500 Hopkins Street, Nashville, TN 37215

Dodge, David Allen; 934 Lexington Street, Lakeland, FL 33801

Graves, William Russell; 2260 Front Street # 204, Melbourne, FL 32901-7374

Weems, Cynthia Dee; 6000 Maynada St., Coral Gables, FL 33146

Hearn, Jeremy Kirk; 1730 Turtle Rock Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803

Leveron, Jacqueline P. M.; 5407 Turnpike Feeder Rd., Fort Pierce, FL 34951

Sumner, Rachael Preston; 2723 Yorkshire Drive, Titusville, FL 32796

Austin, Sharon G.; 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Lakeland, FL 33815

Fogle-Miller, Carlene Rebecca; 722 N. Boston Ave., Deland, FL 32724

McClellan, Geraldine Williams; 625 S.E. 15th Street, Gainesville, FL 32641

Earls, Janet Butler; 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815

Allen, David; 116 Wedge Circle, Daytona Beach, FL 32124

#### **Reserves**

Velez, Alexia Valle; address unavailable at time of printing

McEntire, W. David; 72 Lake Morton Dr., Lakeland, FL 33801

Duncan, Martha Gay; 4225 Pebble Pointe Dr., Lakeland, FL 33813

Warren, Audrey Blaine; 400 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132

Pierre-Louis, Marie Anne; 1770 N.E. 191 Street, Apt #312, North Miami Beach, FL 33179

Therrell, James Joseph; 1415 LaSalle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32207

Monroe, Paulette T.; 6550 Royal Tern St., Orlando, FL 32810

Bushong, Bob Bruce; address unavailable at time of printing

Groom, Rod Lee; 5712 39th St. Cir. E, Bradenton, FL 34203

Rodriguez, Armando Joel; 455 S. Broadway Ave., Bartow, FL 33830

Bright, Joyce Waldon A.; 3491 Colwyn Ct., Orlando, FL 32812-5968

James, Kevin Michele; 5200 Belle Terre Parkway, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Akers, Rodney Shelton; 311 Ellen Way, Brandon, FL 33510

Walker, Vicki Renee; 500 W. Platt St., Tampa, FL 33606

Spangler, Benjamin Dale; 705 W. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, FL 32308

Wiatt, Wayne D.; 120 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301

Kimball, Rushing Johnstone; 1544 Emory Road N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306

Fluck Price, Catherine; 4000 N.W. 53rd Avenue, Lakewood Ranch, FL 32653

### **Germany East (2)**

**Row 4                      Table 42                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

Landrock, Steffen; Wolfener Strasse 16a, Leipzig04155, Germany

\*Philipp, Werner Eberhard; Katharinenst. 17, 01099, Germany

#### **Reserves**

Blebschmidt, Joachim; address unavailable at time of printing

Soellner, Eric; address unavailable at time of printing

Blebschmidt, Reinhard; address unavailable at time of printing

Ruediger, Christhard; address unavailable at time of printing

Lasch, Verona; address unavailable at time of printing

Ringeis, Stephan; address unavailable at time of printing

### **Germany North (2)**

**Row 4                      Table 42                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

Dannenber, Kai Uwe; Breslauer Strasse 8, Clausthal-Zellerfeld38678, Germany

\*Detjen, Anne Marie; Brunnenstrasse 11, Eberswalde16225, Germany

#### **Reserves**

Sanio, Heinz-Juergen; address unavailable at time of printing

Kraft, Irene; Eilbeker Weg 86, D-22089, Hamburg22089, Germany

Wichers, Matthias; address unavailable at time of printing

Bath, Rainer; address unavailable at time of printing

Addison, Sam; address unavailable at time of printing

Lange, Katharina; address unavailable at time of printing

### **Germany South (2)**

**Row 4                      Table 42                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

Flick, Christine Dagmar; Neuffenstr 37/1, Wendlingen73240, Germany

\*Jung, Markus; Hohfederstr. 35, Nuernberg90489, Germany

#### **Reserves**

Postel, Gesine Von; address unavailable at time of printing

Reissing, Siegfried; address unavailable at time of printing

Brodbeck, Ulrike; address unavailable at time of printing

Klaiber, Christoph; address unavailable at time of printing

Vizthum, Michael; address unavailable at time of printing

Kapp, Matthias; address unavailable at time of printing

### **Great Plains (12)**

**Row 2                      Table 23                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 2                      Table 24                      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

Fowler, Courtney Meria; 4835 Tabard Place, Annandale, VA 22003

Hamilton, Adam Joseph; 13720 Roe Blvd., Leawood, KS 66224

\*Green, Oliver D.; 6117 S.W. 4th St., Topeka, KS 66615

*Lippoldt, Amy E.*; Basehor UMC, 18660 158th St., Basehor, KS 66012

Jordan, Shayla Allyssa RaeAnne; 1513 N. Mars, Wichita, KS 67212

*Holland, Mark R.*; 7940 Troup Ave., Kansas City, KS 66112

Brewster, Dixie K.; 1527 W. 140th Ave. N., Milton, KS 67106

*Jefferson Bell, Cheryl*; 13720 Roe Blvd., Leawood, KS 66224-3588

Maupin, Lisa L.; 8311 Karl Ridge #206, Lincoln, NE 68506

*Anderson, Zachary Lee*; 530 W. 9th St., Goodland, KS 67735

Gately, Wesley Neil; 9359 Walmer, Overland Park, KS 66212

*Livingston, David Scott*; 7740 Lackman, Lenexa, KS 66217

### Reserves

Olsen, Keith Richard; PO Box 356, Grant, NE 69140

*Dotson, Junius Boyd*; 818 17th Ave. S., Apt. 1231, Nashville, TN 37203

Hodgkinson, Randall; PO Box 635, Topeka, KS 66601

*Bousson, Hector Eduardo*; 641 Sycamore Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510

Hay, Esther; 14410 Eastbourne St., Waverly, NE 68462

*Ahlschwede, Stephanie M.*; 1019 S. 33rd St., Omaha, NE 68105

Aderholt, Robert L.; 401 E. Elm St., Kenesaw, NE 68956

*Stanton, Nathan David*; 1902 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67212

Simmons, Sandy L.; 2412 Spring Garden St., Leavenworth, KS 66048

*Barlow-Thompson, Ashley Prescott*; 1121 S. Waco St., Wichita, KS 67213

Nord, Carl Oscar; 1449 Autumn Valley, Mulvane, KS 67110

*Kim, Kibum*; 3574 N. Lake Ridge Ct., Wichita, KS 67205

### Greater New Jersey (8)

**Row 12**      **Table 134**      **Seats 5-6**

**Row 12**      **Table 135**      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

Caterson, Evelyn S.; 904 Marlborough Avenue, Absecon, NJ 8201

\**Lank, Thomas Albert*; 6358 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Amey, Bethany Lin; 79 Franklin Cir., Somerdale, NJ 08083

*Vega-Perez, Eunice*; 134 Winding Hill Drive, Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Colorado, Judy C.; 17 Mulberry Lane, Holmdel, NJ 07733

*Kwak, Jisun*; 75 McCarter Ave., Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Williams, Rosa M.; 34 Washington Pl., Teaneck, NJ 07666

*Wright, Varlyna Donae*; 8028 Hillside Climb Way, Snellville, GA 30039

### Reserves

Quigg, Stephen Paul; 2045 Water Crest Ln., Columbus, OH 43209

*Dyson, Drew Adair*; 15 Fawn Run, Bloomsbury, NJ 08804

McCullough, June Dorothy; 2139 E. Chestnut Ave., #15, Vineland, NJ 08361

*Pak, Grace Sinae*; 18 Mountain View Rd., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Park, Jee Hei; 41 Conforti Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052-2824

*Bennett, Tanya Linn*; 38 Park Street 9 A, Florham Park, NJ 07932

Pogue, Creed Samuel; 169 Cumberland Ave., Estell Manor, NJ 08319

*Hendrickson, Regina Allison*; 725 Old Corlies Ave., Neptune, NJ 07753

### Holston (12)

**Row 2**      **Table 14**      **Seats 3-6**

**Row 2**      **Table 15**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 2**      **Table 16**      **Seats 1-2**

### Delegates

Holley, James Delray; 440 Bowers Park Circle, Knoxville, TN 37920

\**Goddard, Kimberly Mustard*; 105 Asbury Lane, Wytheville, VA 24382

Ballard, Emily Elizabeth; 9109 Zesta Lane, Knoxville, TN 37924

*Johnson, Sandra James*; 150 Bogey Drive, Abingdon, VA 24211

Hall, Rebecca Jo; 9217 Magic Mountain Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421

*Wilson, Carol Elaine*; PO Box 1336, Johnson City, TN 37605

Tate, John Robert; PO Box 6741, Maryville, TN 37803

*Cantrell, Robert Wilson*; 11020 Roane Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934

Lockaby, Robert Lee; 7514 Island Manor Drive, Harrison, TN 37341

*Frye, William Randall*; 100 East Church Circle, Kingsport, TN 37660

Wright, Karen Kallstrom; 114 Windsor Drive, Maryville, TN 37803

*Flynn, Mark Roger*; 160 Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

### Reserves

Moore, Joyce E.; 272 Beaumont Lane, Bluff City, TN 37618

*Seay, Paul Daniel*; 552 Man O War Drive, Seymour, TN 37865

Eldridge, John Edward; 5402 Mill Ridge Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919

*Humphreys, Dennie David*; address unavailable at time of printing

McKee, Charlotte Berry; 8195 Lynette Court, Chattanooga, TN 37421

*Fox, Harold Eddie*; 2204 Waldens Creek Road, Sevierville, TN 37862

Kidd, Carolyn Long; 15437 Briarwood Lane, Abingdon, VA 24210

*Russell, Jerald Wayne*; 1228 Raulston Rd., Maryville, TN 37803

Travis, Anne St. Clair; 319 Sunny Springs Lane, Knoxville, TN 37922

*Cranford, Lauri Jo*; 3913 Lake Valley Ct., Kingsport, TN 37664

England, Sam A.; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Burkhart, Kristen Ann*; 4571 West Andrew Johnson Hwy., Morristown, TN 37814

### Hungary Provisional (2)

**Row 2**                      **Table 17**                      **Seats 5-6**

### Delegates

Ambrusz, István; UJ Utca 8, Nyiregyhaza4400, Hungary  
\**Kovács, Zoltán Mihály*; Lehel utca 5, Miskolc3526, Hungary

### Reserves

Schauermann, Henrik; address unavailable at time of printing

*Vigh, Bence*; address unavailable at time of printing

### Illinois Great Rivers (10)

**Row 1**                      **Table 4**                      **Seats 3-6**

**Row 1**                      **Table 5**                      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

Whitaker, Rhonda Joy; 1264 Hickory, Neoga, IL 62447

\**Weatherall, Sylvester*; PO Box 3487, Springfield, IL 62078

Wolfe, Bunny D.; 14 Candi Ct., Chatham, IL 26269

*Adams, Andrew Stephen*; 407 Edwardsville Rd, Troy, IL 62294

Woods, Kimberly Dawn; PO Box 171, Industry, IL 61440

*Isbell, Sara Lynn*; 502 E. Front St., Bloomington, IL 61701

Schonert, Steven Lee; 125 Hawthorne, Olney, IL 62450

*Phillips, Robert Joseph*; PO Box 51, Elsah, IL 62028

Weber, Larry Earl; 115 Cardinal Drive, Bellerville, IL 62221

*Ritter, Christopher M.*; 320 North State St., Geneseo, IL 61254

### Reserves

McCray, Marian B.; 842 Briarwood Drive, Bethalto, IL 62010

*Robinson, Randall Lee*; 1104 W. Voorhees St., Danville, IL 61832

Hermon, Anish; 16 Cloverhill Cir., Bloomington, IL 61705

*Ross, Roger Scott*; 3601 Amron Ct., Columbia, MO 65202

Sims, Carol Ann; 2316 Makemie, Springfield, IL 62704

*Griffith, Janice Louise*; PO Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794-9207

Yockey, Carolyn L.; 508 Normal Ave., Normal, IL 61761

*Booker-Jones, Rose Mary*; 121 Behrens St., Ste. 2, O'Fallon, IL 62208

Wilson, Juliet LaVon; 4165 Hazelcrest Rd., Springfield, IL 62703

*Fender, Elizabeth Anne*; PO Box 19207, Springfield, IL 62794

### Indiana (16)

**Row 5**                      **Table 49**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 5**                      **Table 50**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 5**                      **Table 51**                      **Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

Best, Gregory Tyler; 204 N. Lexington Ave., SPO 170, Wilmore, KY 40390

\**Reisman, Kimberly Dunnam*; World Methodist Evangelism, PO Box 8142, Lafayette, IN 47903

Curts, Allison Christine; 604 Wintergreen Drive, Yorktown, IN 47396

*Alstott, Richard Anthony*; 2100 Highway 150, Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

Fenstermacher, Edwin A.; 2435 Webster Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

*Neckers, David K.*; 11222 Pine Orchard Cove, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Lomperis, John Scott Anders; 5409 S. Drexel Avenue #1,  
Chicago, IL 60615

*Schubert Nowling, Lisa Dianne*; College Ave UMC, 1968  
W. Main St., Muncie, IN 47303

Land, Amy Louise; 417 S. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN  
46563

*Abel, Russell L.*; 6004 Reed Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
Zimmerman, Leanna Kay; 1046 A Bexley Run,  
Greentown, IN 46143

*Norwood, Mitchell H.*; 700 E. Southway Blvd.,  
Kokomo, IN 46902

Clark, Doris Faye; 7504 Normandy Blvd., Indianapolis,  
IN 46278

*Cook, Beth Ann*; 14 N County Road, 450 E.,  
Logansport, IN 46947

Ottjes, James H.; 132 Dogwood Dr., Warren, IN 46792

*Reynolds, Cynthia Jean*; 301 Pennsylvania Pkwy., Suite  
300, Indianapolis, IN 46280

### Reserves

Shettle, Daphne Manet; 3452 E. 1300 N., Alexandria, IN  
46001

*Howard, Jill Moffett*; 2247 Woodcrest Rd., Indianapolis,  
IN 46181

Worthington, O. Douglas; 2827 Buckhurst Run, Fort  
Wayne, IN 46815

*Dominick, Michael Duane*; PO Box 573, Dayton, IN  
47941

Amerson, William Thomas; 1427 Silver Slate Drive,  
N.W., New Albany, IN 47150

*Pimlott, Gregory Robert*; 222 E. Main St., Boonville, IN  
47601

Hancock, Christopher J.; 204 S. McCann, Kokomo, IN  
46901

*Fenstermacher, Mark Owen*; 219 East 4th Street, Bloom-  
ington, IN 47408

Low, Nancy L.; 2915 Wandering Way, Columbus, IN  
47201

*Cho, Daniel Seunghyun*; 151 Macon St., McDonough,  
GA 30253

Hall, Ian; 301 Pennsylvania Pkwy., Suite 300, Indianapo-  
lis, IA 46280

*Padgett, Samuel Leon*; 1014 Mozart St., Tell City, IN  
47586

Tielking, Greg; 121 Presbyterian Avenue, Hanover, IN  
47243

*Land, Robert Alan*; 417 S. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN  
46563

Singer, Kate; PO Box 1731, Elkhart, IN 46515

*Cushman-Wood, Darren R.*; 4324 N. Park, Indianapolis,  
IN 46205

### Iowa (12)

**Row 11**                      **Table 127**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 11**                      **Table 128**                      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

\*Carver, Philip H.; 1434 Westview Drive, Coralville, IA  
52241

*Gallo Seagren, Lilian*; 1010 E. Washington St. Ste. 101,  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

Morrison, Norma; 2117 Americana Ave, Muscatine, IA  
52761

*Dawson, Katie Z.*; 3412 S.W. 34th Street, Des Moines,  
IA 50321

Heeren, Rebecca Lea; 610 E. Ross St., Toledo, IA 52342

*Milford, Brian Kent*; 2222 Rosa L. Parks Blvd., PO Box  
280988, Nashville, TN 37228-0988

Rothlisberger, John Charles; 5203 Sweet Basil Ln., Cedar  
Falls, IA 50613

*Trittle, Barrie Michael*; First UMC, 214 E. Jefferson St.,  
Iowa City, IA 52245

Rubenking, Darcy Lynn; 605 10th St., Corning, IA 50841

*Eberhart, Diane G. Wasson*; 12321 Hickman Road, Ur-  
bandale, IA 50323

Scott, Vernon Craig; 1120 N. 12th Street, Chariton, IA  
50049

*Shinkle, Thomas Craig*; Grand View UMC, 3342 John  
Wesley Lane, Dubuque, IA 52002

### Reserves

Borgen, Margaret Platt; 2504 Forest Drive, Des Moines,  
IA 50312

*McRoberts, Sean Colin Donnelly*; 2110 Hollywood Blvd.,  
Iowa City, IA 52240

Drake, Lindsay Kay; 233 N.E. 49th St., Ankeny, IA

*Morgan, Michael L.*; 1298 7th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302

Trittle, Kae; 63 Ashford Place, Iowa City, IA 52245

*Plambeck, Lanette Lorelle*; 11 S. 1st Street, Broadway  
UMC, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Young, Marcia; 3902 Aurora St., Dubuque, IA 52002-  
0454

*Carver, Thomas L.*; 701 Senaca St., Ste. 2, Storm Lake,  
IA 50588

Hofmeyer, Richard James; PO Box 626, Fayette, IA 52142

*Nims, Nathaniel Wesley*; 930 Sunrise Blvd., Waterloo, IA  
50701

Steel, Lisa; 4213 Clinton Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310

*Oliver, Brian Keith*; 400 Iowa Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761

***Kasai (2)***

<b>Row 7</b>	<b>Table 77</b>	<b>Seats 3-4</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

***Kentucky (10)***

<b>Row 9</b>	<b>Table 103</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
--------------	------------------	------------------

<b>Row 9</b>	<b>Table 104</b>	<b>Seats 1-4</b>
--------------	------------------	------------------

**Delegates**

\*Nicholls, Lewis Dunn; 1205 Main Street, Greenup, KY 41144

*Arnold, William T.*; 2401 Scenic Court, Lexington, KY 40514

Brown-Thompson, Janis N.; 8906 Gonewind Court, Jeffersontown, KY 40299

*Grieb, Thomas B.*; 12700 West U.S. Hwy. 42, Prospect, KY 40059

King, Linda U.; 9118 Coventry Lane, Louisville, KY 40219

*Dunnam, Maxie D.*; 4488 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38117

Denham, John Rees; PO Box 337, Maysville, KY 41056

*Alvarez-Alfonso, Iosmar*; 318 S. Mill St., Lexington, KY 40508

Watts, Michael B.; 319 Browns Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

*Hawxhurst, Jean G.*; 344 Reed Lane, Simpsonville, KY 40067

**Reserves**

Brock, Josiah Wesley; 613 Edith Road, Louisville, KY 40206

*Love, Julie Hager*; 7400 Floydsburg Rd., Crestwood, KY 40014

Whalen, Paul Lewellin; 113 Ridgeway Avenue, Fort Thomas, KY 41075

*Grout, David T.*; 8585 Old Toll Road, Florence, KY 41042

Roach, William Timothy; 2603 Allen Street, Owensboro, KY 42303

*Powers, Michael Thomas*; 976 Firethorn Place, Lexington, KY 40515

Patterson, Cierra Grace; address unavailable at time of printing

*Hatton, John Wesley*; 202 Burkesville Street, Columbia, KY 42728

Watley Suntken, Mary Truitt; 32 Creech Hollow Road, Pineville, KY 40977-8429

*Bryant, Paul Eric*; 7400 Floydsburg Rd., Crestwood, KY 40014

***Kivu Provisional (2)***

<b>Row 7</b>	<b>Table 77</b>	<b>Seats 3-4</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

**Delegates**

Omba, Ndjovu Thérèse; 42, Avenue des Cliniques, Kinshasa/GombeBP1900 Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

\**Kombi, Ramazani Simon*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Reserves**

Lumbadisha, Senga Jean Claude; address unavailable at time of printing

*Milenge Basilwango, Jean Alexand*; Flory Bwami BP165, ECC-Meru/SUD-Kivu, Cyangugu, Rwanda

***Liberia (12)***

<b>Row 10</b>	<b>Table 113</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
---------------	------------------	------------------

<b>Row 10</b>	<b>Table 114</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
---------------	------------------	------------------

**Delegates**

\*Merab, Rudolph J.; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, Box 10-1010, Monrovia 10, Liberia

*Weagba, George Klay*; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 1010 - 13th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

Harris, James A.; United Methodist Center, LAC/UMC, 13th Street/Box 1010, Sinkor, Liberia

*Marshall, Christopher Ganneh*; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 1010, Monrovia, Liberia

Nah, Sarah Quire; The Conference United Methodist Women Office, c/o Box 10-1010; 12th Street Sinkor, 1000 Monrovia, Liberia

*Kulah, Jerry Paye-Manfloe*; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, 13th Street, Sinkor, PO Box 1010, Monrovia, Liberia

Sayeh, Frederick S.; Baker Tilly Liberia, King Plaza 2nd \_4th Floor Broad Street, PO Box 10-0011, 1000, Monrovia 10, Liberia

*Chukpue-Padmores, Isaac*; Liberia Annual Conference United Methodist Church, Box 1010, Sinkor, Liberia

Wlemus, Pentee J.; The Liberia Annual Conference UMC, PO Box 1010 - 13th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

*Wilson, Jr., George D.*; Upper Caldwell, Monserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia

Porte, Frances Meyoo; Du Port Road Paynesville, Monrovia, Liberia

*Kpaan, Anna S.*; Liberia Annual Conference - United Methodist Church, PO Box 10-1010, Monrovia, Liberia

### Reserves

Wolo, Mai Welleh; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 1010, Monrovia, Liberia

*Nelson, Julius Sarwolo*; Liberia Annual Conference - United Methodist Church, PO Box 10-1010, Monrovia -10, Liberia

Sieh, Cletus Abednego; National Social Security and Welfare Corp, 15th Street, Sinkor, 1000 Monrovia Liberia

*Labala, James Z.*; address unavailable at time of printing  
Mensah, Alfred Kwabena; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 1010 - 13th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

*Dioh, Anthony Gweh*; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 10-0011, 1000, Monrovia 10, Liberia

Hilton, Pauline Doe; Liberia Coordinating Mechanism Secretariat, Ministry of Health Building, Capitol Bypass, Monrovia, Liberia

*Browne, Samuel Bayoegar*; Liberia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 1010 - 13th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

### Louisiana (8)

<b>Row 12</b>	<b>Table 136</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
<b>Row 12</b>	<b>Table 137</b>	<b>Seats 1-2</b>

### Delegates

\*Dove, Carolyn Ann; 102 Turner Lane, Many, LA 71449

*Goff, Edward Andrew*; 1110 Horridge Street, Vinton, LA 70668

Kreutziger, Sarah Sloan; 135 East Livingston Place, Metairie, LA 70005

*Spencer, Juliet Padgham*; 390 Will Road, Dubach, LA 71235

Aguila, Pedro P.; 234 Woodgate Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

*Day, Ronald Pat*; PO Box 1567, Shreveport, LA 71165

DeVille, Terrel Jones; 247 Coleman Loop, Homer, LA 71040

*Johnson, Bernadine*; 5323 Blair Lane, Unit D-1, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

### Reserves

Hood, Stacy Elizabeth; 1641 Ridgewood Drive, N.E. Atlanta, GA 30307

*Malone, Terry Lynn*; 3900 Loop Road, Monroe, LA 71201  
Weiss, Walter R.; PO Box 82916, Baton Rouge, LA 70884  
*Huertas, Juan Carlos*; 9400 Ellerbe Rd., Shreveport, LA 71106

Pruett, Olivia Nicole; 204 Rochelle Ave., Monroe, LA 71201

*Alston, Ellen Rhea*; 404 S. Huntington Street, Sulphur, LA 70663

Fairly, Robert C.; 8337 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

*Mitchell, James W.*; 335 Asbury Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471

### Lukoshi (14)

<b>Row 5</b>	<b>Table 55</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
<b>Row 5</b>	<b>Table 56</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
<b>Row 5</b>	<b>Table 57</b>	<b>Seats 1-2</b>

### Delegates

Katut, Claude Mukund; Eglise Methodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

\**Tshinevwa, Gregoire Mwasakachiza*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Tshikunka, Patrick Mukanda; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Kongolo, Clement Chijika*; UMC, PO Box 20237, Kitwe, Zambia

Kasongo, Peniel Mutombo Irund; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Longena, Charles Itunda*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Mundji, Emile Chikanda; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Maleka, Jean Claude Kayombo*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Museng, Esther Muvula; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Momo, Jean Tambulananga*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Kashala, Henri Kanyimbu; UMC, PO Box 20237, Kitwe, Zambia

*Kawang, Rosalie Mwamb*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Musumb, Christine Kapend; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Sakanono, Oliver Izwela*; address unavailable at time of printing

### Reserves

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.



**Malawi Provisional (2)**

**Row 3                      Table 27                      Seats 5-6**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

**Memphis (4)**

**Row 3                      Table 31                      Seats 1-4**

**Delegates**

\*Reed, David Ralls; 281 Reed Farm Rd., Martin, TN 38237

*Lowe-McCracken, Schuyler J.*; Jackson First UMC, 200 S. Church St., Jackson, TN 38301

Bell, Elyse Jeanette; 235 Henderson Dr., Paris, TN 38242

*Bromley, Edward Royal*; Jackson First UMC, 200 S. Church St., Jackson, TN 38301

**Reserves**

Burnett, Sandra; 145 Pershing Way, Paducah, KY 42001

*Eason-Williams, Autura*; 4725 Riverdale Road, Memphis, TN 38141

Dillard, Isabelle Claire; 3055 Laurecekirk Road, Memphis, TN 38128

*Jeffords, Jonathan Lee*; 1207 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

**Middle Philippines (2)**

**Row 2                      Table 19                      Seats 3-4**

**Delegates**

Dizon, Rio Anne Balbin; 834 Espino Subdivision, Magsaysay Norte, Cabanatuan City 3100, Philippines

\**Cunanan, Apolinario Vidal*; The United Methodist Church, Brgy. Caimito, Palayan City 3132, Philippines

**Reserves**

Dela Cruz, Febe Rinonos; address unavailable at time of printing

*Dulay, Benedicto Manzano*; 137 Magsaysay Street, Brgy. Caimito, Palayan City, Philippines

Vidad, Mary Grace Azurin; address unavailable at time of printing

*Pascua, Gilbert Deus*; address unavailable at time of printing

Vicencio, Crizaldo Bugarin; address unavailable at time of printing

*Santiago, Noel Balajadia*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Mindanao Philippines (2)**

**Row 1                      Table 1                      Seats 5-6**

**Delegates**

\*Caducoy, Elizabeth Lugaes; address unavailable at time of printing

*Exiomo, Edwin Rey De Vera*; Spottswood Methodist Mission Center, Quezon Boulevard, Kidapawan City, Philippines

**Reserves**

Subillaga, Joyce Manuel; address unavailable at time of printing

*Linang, Tito Elarde*; address unavailable at time of printing

Intendencia, Nimfa Pastores; address unavailable at time of printing

*Gaspar, Dionie Galvadores*; address unavailable at time of printing

Agustin, Imelda Medrano; address unavailable at time of printing

*Mella, Connie Semy Painaga*; U.T.S. Palapala, Dasmariñas, 414 Cavite, 0 Philippines

**Minnesota (4)**

**Row 9                      Table 106                      Seats 3-6**

**Delegates**

Christensen, Faye Blanch; 15664 Birchwood Lane, Brainerd, MN 56401

\**Zabel, Judith Kreager*; 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Nuckols, David Branch; 3918 Haven Road, Minnetonka, MN 55345

*Im, Woojae*; 9351 Lancaster Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55369

**Reserves**

Hobson, Leslie Jeanne; 20033 Cty. Rd. 1, Park Rapids, MN 56470

*Zaagsma, Carol Ann*; 8000 Portland Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55420

Brault, Walker Arthur; Hamline University - Box 0192, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

*Ozanne, Jeffrey Steven*; 1818 S.W. 9th St., Willmar, MN 56201

**Mississippi (12)**

**Row 3**            **Table 29**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 3**            **Table 30**            **Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

\*Crisler, Timothy Earl; 2 Pintail Cove, Raymond, MS 39154  
 Gipson, Mattie Dickens; 192 County Road 217, Oxford, MS 38655  
 Arant, Andy Turner; 414 Blaine Rd., Sunflower, MS 38778  
 Sparks, Stephen Lawrence; PO Box 86, Indianola, MS 38751  
 LaSalle, Opal Ann; 6812 Dickens Way Dr., Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
 Britton, Fred Shell; PO Box 854, Tupelo, MS 38802  
 Harrington, Mary Anne; 301 County Road 168, Houston, MS 38851  
 Beasley, Zachary Carl; 175 Highland Place, Brandon, MS 39047  
 Beckley, David L.; 150 Rust Ave., Holly Springs, MS 38635  
 Hedgepeth, Mitchell B.; 209 Mary Ann, Brandon, MS 39042  
 Sledge, Lauren Frances; 206 N. Nash Street, Strakville, MS 39759  
 Rambo, Robert Elliott; 6000 Old Canton Road, Jaskson, MS 39211

**Reserves**

Stotts, James David; PO Box 1541, Madison, MS 39130  
 Burris, Leanne Michelle; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Gabbert, Elmo Pierce; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Genesse, James Peter; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Walters, Connie B.; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Prather, Timothy Thomas; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Barksdale, Kay Barret; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Shelton, Connie Mitchell; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Scott, William D.; address unavailable at time of printing  
 May, Joe Willie; 120 Kristen Court, Jackson, MS 39211  
 McAlilly, Stephen Long; PO Box 1567, Tupelo, MS 38802-1567  
 Male, Barry Lee; address unavailable at time of printing

**Missouri (12)**

**Row 10**            **Table 115**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 10**            **Table 116**            **Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

\*Hammons, Brian Kent; PO Box 140, Stockton, MO 65785  
 Collier, Theodore Cody; 18312 E. 50 Terr. Ct. S., Independence, MO 64055  
 Fagan, Larry Ray; 8611 N. Utica Ct., Kansas City, MO 64153  
 Dyke, Lynn Ann; 560 N. Stewart Suite B, Springfield, MO 65802  
 Briggs, Margie Marie; 1218 Remington Circle, Clinton, MO 64735-2881  
 Cleaver, Emanuel; 5540 Wayne, Kansas City, MO 64110  
 Biggerstaff, Randy Lee; 142 Lake Tucci Circle, Wright City, MO 63390  
 Miofsky, Matthew Thomas; 2001 S. Hanley, Suite 450, St. Louis, MO 63144  
 Wondel, Jill Alison; 807 Sikes Avenue, Sikeston, MO 63801  
 Hayden, Karen Koons; 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO 65202  
 James, Ivan Cecil; 414 Royal Village Dr., Manchester, MO 63011  
 Bryan, Robert Andrew; 515 E. McArthur Drive, Springfield, MO 65810

**Reserves**

Richards, Yvette Kim; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Breon, Stephan Robert; 5005 N.W. 58th St., Kansas City, MO 64151  
 Meister, Shannon Nicole; 54873 State Hwy. T, Edina, MO 63537  
 Nicholson, Trista Soendker; 204 S. 9th St., Columbia, MO 65201  
 Willard, Wendell Kenamer; 7305 Nelsons Mill Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63368  
 Downing, James R.; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Sinn, Meagan Marie; 5940 Highfield Rd., St. Louis, MO 63109  
 Vickers, Jeremy Todd; 24107 Poindexter Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64086  
 Williams, Andrew Joseph Ponder; 3395 Michelson Dr., #2272, Irvine, CA 92612  
 Goodwin-Rosario, Charity LaWanda; 204 S. 9th St., Columbia, MO 65201

Kotan, Kay Lene; 16411 E 36th St. S., Independence, MO 64055

Watts, Ronald Lester; 3102 Lexington Avenue, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

### ***Mozambique North (2)***

**Row 10                  Table 101                  Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

Feliciano, Amone Felimone; Beira address unavailable at time of printing

\*Nhamajeho, Júlia Lampião; address unavailable at time of printing

#### **Reserves**

Guambe, Titos; address unavailable at time of printing

Sinai, Manuel Joao; Muxungue, Beira, Mozambique

Vilanculos, Tiago Cipriano; address unavailable at time of printing

Jenhuro, Jacob; UMC-1991, Beira, Mozambique

### ***Mozambique South (6)***

**Row 10                  Table 100                  Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

Gume, José Jamisse; P.O Box 41, Maxixe-Chicuque, Mozambique

\*Langa Bacela, Hortência Américo; address unavailable at time of printing

Mufume, Clara Zacarias; address unavailable at time of printing

Vilanculos, Julio André; PO Box 135, Maxixe, Mozambique

Vilanculo, Horácio Zedequias; address unavailable at time of printing

Maganda, Laura Uetimane; Av. 24 de Julho, Maputo4200, Mozambique

#### **Reserves**

Huhlo, Adolfo; address unavailable at time of printing

Dabo, Carla Regina; address unavailable at time of printing

Maibasse, Almina; address unavailable at time of printing

Chivale, Benjamin; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***New England (6)***

**Row 12                  Table 139                  Seats 1-6**

### **Delegates**

\*Marden, Bonnie I.; 36 Ansie Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824

Chang, We Hyun; 71 Freemont Street, Lexington, MA 02421

Oduor, Ralph R.; 53 Pillings Pond Rd., PO Box 171, Lawrence, MA 01940-0171

Campbell, William Martin; 439 Paris Hill Rd., South Paris, ME 04281

Wilbur, Lorene Betty; 13 Bliss Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773

Goodrich, Leigh Elizabeth; 505 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60202

### **Reserves**

Dry, Steven Michael; 10 Steeves Circle #2, Somerville, MA 02144

Perez Avalos, Rene Antonio; 55 Birchwood Dr., Holden, MA 01520

Harrell, Oscar W. II; 15 Bent Brook Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776

Abbott, David Jon; 3032 Bodwell Rd., Manchester, NH 03109

Wright, Christine Elizabeth; 42 Church Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Girrell, Rebecca J.; 17 School St., Lebanon, NY 03766

### ***New Mexico (2)***

**Row 1                  Table 6                  Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

Strebeck, Sidney G.; PO Box 1676, Clovis, NM 88102

\*Rivera, Eduardo; 6401 Belton Rd., El Paso, TX 79912

#### **Reserves**

Brumbaugh, Susan M.; 7619 Calhoun Dr. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109

Sharp, Scott Alan; 11816 Lomas Blvd. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112

### ***New York (8)***

**Row 8                  Table 93                  Seats 5-6**

**Row 8                  Table 94                  Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

Brewington, Frederick K.; Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington, 556 Peninsula Boulevard, Hempstead, NY 11550

*Riss, Timothy J.*; 71 Van Dale Road, Woodstock, NY 12498

*Douglas-Boykin, Gail*; 3701 Avenue I, Brooklyn, NY 11210-4331

*Chin, Noel Newton*; 312 Hussey Road, Mount Vernon, NY 10552

\**Lockward, Jorge Alfonso*; 2160 Bronx Park East #6J, Bronx, NY 10422

*Hansen, Kristina D.*; 47 Commodore Place, Milford, CT 06460

*Benz, Dorothee Elisabeth*; 60 Park Terrace West, Apt. A42, New York, NY 10034

*DeSilva-Souto, Alexandre*; 68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776

### Reserves

*French Goffe, Tiffany Marie*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Flippin, Vicki I.*; First & Summerfield UMC, 425 College St., New Haven, CT 06511

*Craig, Jessica Ann*; 2 Bayview Terrace, Newburgh, NY 12550

*Beckford, Sheila M.*; 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

*Littlejohn, Roena Annette*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Vink, Martha E.*; 30 Gleneida Ave, Carmel, NY 10512

*Prudente, Karen Garcia*; 280 First Avenue, #3B, New York, NY 10009-1835

*Kim, Sungchan*; 5 Post Avenue, East Williston, NY 11596

### North Alabama (8)

**Row 7**                      **Table 80**                      **Seats 3-6**

**Row 7**                      **Table 81**                      **Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

\**Lyles, Steve*; 81 Willow Rise, Alexander City, AL 35010  
*Scott, Robin Bradley*; 97 Rena Drive, Springville, AL 35146

*Selman, Scott Young*; 3465 Birchwood Lane, Birmingham, AL 35243

*Cohen, Dale Robin*; 415 N. Seminary Street, Florence, AL 35630

*Riddle, William Zachary*; 128 Peachtree Rd, Mountain Brook, AL 35213-2931

*Henley, Mary Bendall*; 709 Helena Station Drive, Helena, AL 35080

*Toney, Carol Y.*; 269 6th Street, Madison, AL 35756

*Kufarimai, Tiwirai*; 134 9th Street, Madison, AL 35756

### Reserves

*Carlton, Charles B.*; 400 Miller Circle, Indiana Springs, AL 35124

*Conner, Glenn Davis*; 120 Greene Street, Huntsville, AL 35801

*Meadows, John Patton*; 5455 Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, AL 35111

*Sparkman, Robert H.*; 415 North Seminary Street, Florence, AL 35630

*Chastain, Emily Nelms*; 898 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35204

*Parris, Mark Daryl*; 117 College Avenue, Boaz, AL 35957

*Poole, Judith Kay*; 730 8th Ave W., Suite 102, Birmingham, AL 35204

*Holly, Julie Blackwelder*; 900 Arkadelphia Road, BSC 549017, Birmingham, AL 35254

### North Carolina (16)

**Row 4**                      **Table 43**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 4**                      **Table 44**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 4**                      **Table 45**                      **Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

*Locklear, Gary W.*; 667 Locklear Road, Pembroke, NC 28372

\**Southern, H. Gray*; 100 South Hughes St., Apex, NC 27502

*Innes, Emily D.*; 8324 Wycombe Ride Way, Wake Forest, NC 27587

*Hood, Elizabeth Hackney*; 1401 S. College Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403

*McMillan, Samuel (Duncan) D.*; 3301 Kentyre Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28303

*Russell, Timothy John*; 700 Waterfield Ridge Pl., Garner, NC 27529

*Dodson, Christine*; 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner, NC 27529-3365

*Yebuah, Lisa Naa-Shormey*; 228 W. Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27610

*Parker, Mack B.*; 2204 Laurel Valley Way, Raleigh, NC 27604

*Bergland, Robert E.*; PO Box 1423, Wilson, NC 27894-1423

*Taylor, Steve*; 410 W. 18th St., Lumberton, NC 28358

*Archer, Patricia H.*; 3788 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28403

*Brinkley, Eston C.*; 5730 Market Street, Wilmington, NC 28405

*Reaves, Timothy Lloyd*; 241 Stonewall Jackson Dr., Wilmington, NC 28412

Smith, LaNella D.; PO Box 15501, Durham, NC 27704  
*Ledford, Laura Fine*; 700 Waterfield Ridge Pl., Garner,  
 NC 27529

### Reserves

Beasley, Jacob Michael; 506 S. 10th St., Erwin, NC 28339  
*Colon-Emeric, Edgardo A.*; 1120 Orange Factory Road,  
 Bahama, NC 27503

Beasley, Mary Ellen; 506 S. 10th St., Erwin, NC 28339  
*Lowry, Herbert*; 302 W. 32nd Street, Lumberton, NC  
 28358

Walden, Thomas L.; 1504 Highway 96 East, Youngsville,  
 NC 27596

*Williams, David Bennett*; 4801 Six Forks Road, Raleigh,  
 NC 27609

Morrison, Richard Gielen; 1000 Bay Head Circle, Wil-  
 mington, NC 28405

Blount, Jacob Taylor; 110 Forest Dr., Clinton, OH 28328  
*Stanley, Bruce E.*; 1041 Washington St., Raleigh, NC  
 27605

Shuffler, Jacquelyn Waston; 131 McMillan Ave., Wallace,  
 NC 28466

*Wise, Gilliam P.*; 412 Captains Cove, Unit F, Edenton, NC  
 27932

Berg, Johanna Grace; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing

*Coffman, Laurie Hays*; 906 Leon Street, Durham, NC  
 27704

Davis, Ann Rackley; 3806 Blarney Street, Greenville, NC  
 27834

*Roberts, Elizabeth R.*; 117 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh, NC  
 27617

Cox-Woodlief, Claire Maria; 4141 Summer Ridge Ct.,  
 Apex, MA 27539

*Osteen, E. Powell*; 900 Arendell Street, Morehead City,  
 NC 28557

### North Central Philippines (2)

**Row 4                      Table 46                      Seats 1-2**

### Delegates

\*Cantor, Emma Alamin; 21 Constellation, Bel Air1200,  
 Philippines

*Cayaba, Pablo Talal*; Osmena, City of Ilagan, Isabe-  
 la3300, Philippines

### Reserves

Pascasio, Hedelyn Africano; address unavailable at time  
 of printing

*Lamirte, Dalton Palalay*; address unavailable at time of  
 printing

Inis, Cristina Tridanio; address unavailable at time of  
 printing

*Inere, Oscar Cambia*; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing

Acosta, Charles Gambalan; address unavailable at time of  
 printing

*Eusebio, Estrelita Miranda*; address unavailable at time  
 of printing

### North Georgia (21)

**Row 13                      Table 45                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 13                      Table 46                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 13                      Table 47                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 13                      Table 48                      Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

\*Pinson, Mathew; 29 Downshire Circle, Decatur, GA  
 30033

*Schroeder, Philip Daniel*; 1700 Century Circle N.E.,  
 Grayson, GA 30345

Finley, Margaret Jane; 416 Black Mountain Rd., Toccoa,  
 GA 30577

*Brooks, Jane Newman*; 1700 Century Circle N.E., Atlanta,  
 GA 30345

Cox, Keith M.; 165 Willow Brook Drive, Roswell, GA  
 30076-3933

*Rogers, Patricia Alice*; PO Box 1781, Clayton, GA 30525

*Cantrell, James Carlton*; 1053 Cromwell Point, Snell-  
 ville, GA 30078

Stikes, William Henry; 503 South 6th Street, Griffin, GA  
 30224

*Wood, Steven Doyle*; 9820 Nesbit Ferry Rd., Johns Creek,  
 GA 30022

Brown, Randy; PO Box 125, Griffin, GA 30224

*Winn, Richard Don*; PO Box 13, 430 West Poplar Street,  
 Griffin, GA 30224

Postell, Andrew Lathem; 39 Aspen Ln., Cartersville, GA  
 30120

*Savage, Charles Walter*; 115 Brickleberry Drive, Roswell,  
 GA 30075

Fullerton, Rachel; 2400 Parkland Dr., N.E. #359,  
 Atlanta, GA 30324

*Tomlinson, Kyle Edward*; 5234 Pikes Peak Court, Mariet-  
 ta, GA 30062

Kilpatrick, Joe; 1346 Drayton Woods Drive, Tucker, GA  
 30084

*Andone, Herzen De Vega*; 4474 Towne Lake Parkway,  
 Hillside UMC, Woodstock, GA 30189

Murphy, Tonya; 4224 Cascade Rd., Atlanta, GA 30331

*Thomas, Byron Eric*; 549 Harbor Lake Court, Marietta, GA 30066

Fuller, Gary; 2116 Stephens Walk, Dunwoody, GA 30338

*Colmenares, Nora Elizabeth*; 458 Ponce de Leon Ave. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308

### Reserves

Russell, Jasper; 3577 Woods Dr., Decatur, GA 30032

*Young-Ross, Bridgette Denise*; 2612 Porchside Pl. S.E., Atlanta, GA 30316

Jourolmon, Leon; 222 Stonecrest Court, Athens, GA 30605

*Rushing, Dalton Troy*; 692 N. Superior Ave., Decatur, GA 30033

Cook, B. Thomas (Tom); 1820 Peachtree N.W., Unit 1202, Atlanta, GA 30309

*Walters, David Cochran*; 1897 Hwy. 211, Hoschton, GA 30548

Highsmith, Lee; 938 Memorial Dr., Gainesville, GA 30501

*Kirkland, Bernice Williams*; 1049 Regal Hills Lane, Mableton, GA 30126

Martin, Jr., William Gary; 2853 Ashton Hill Drive, 2853 Ashton Hill Drive, GA 30019

*Brown, Olujimi Wesley*; Impact Church, 2323 Sylvan Rd., East Point, GA 30344

Corrie, Elizabeth Warden; 417 Burlington Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

*Cruz, Rodrigo*; 4205 Cedar Creek Trl. S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047

Raymond, Sue; 3291 Garmon Dr, Loganville, GA 30052

*LaRocca-Pitts, Elizabeth Camak*; 2138 Palifox Dr. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307

Sligar, Janet; 3531 Morning Creek Ct., Suwanee, GA 30024

*Cash, Michael Lee*; 1330 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, GA 30904-4699

Spencer, Dianne A.; PO Box 371234, Decatur, GA 30037-1234

*Quintanilla, Juan A.*; 207 Carrington Way, Canton, GA 30115

Culpepper, Linda; 457 East Tripple St., PO Box 147, Harlem, GA 30814

*Allen Grady, Howard Davidson*; 3247 Embury Hills Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341

Berrios, Lily del Carmen; 681 Upton Road N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318

*Matthews, Leon Edward*; address unavailable at time of printing

### North Katanga (48)

**Row 6**      **Table 61**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 6**      **Table 62**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 6**      **Table 63**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 6**      **Table 64**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 6**      **Table 65**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 6**      **Table 66**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 7**      **Table 73**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 7**      **Table 74**      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

### North Texas (10)

**Row 13**      **Table 151**      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 13**      **Table 152**      **Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

\*Crouch, Timothy Charles; 3800 Lariat Rd., Denton, TX 76207

*Oliphint, J. Clayton*; 503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080-5080

Parks, Linda Moore; 4724 Tortuga Tr., Wichita Falls, TX 76309

*Jackson-Sears, Jill Ann*; PO Box 551389, Dallas, TX 75355

Carpenter, Kelly Jo; 500 Maplelawn Drive, Plano, TX 75075

*Henderson, Ronald D.*; 1333 W. McDermott Dr., Suite 180, Allen, TX 75013

Hearne, Richard Bailey; 5130 Vickery Blvd., Dallas, TX 75206

*Underwood, Donald Wallace*; 3101 Coit Rd., Plano, TX 75075

Toler-Debus, Gretchen Faye; 10455 N. Central Expressway, Suite 109-335, Dallas, TX 75231

*Ross, Owen K.*; 125 Woodland Drive, Irving, TX 75060

### Reserves

Soliz, Daniel; address unavailable at time of printing

*Stobaugh, Joseph Phillip*; 3521 Main St., Frisco, TX 75034

Vonner, Sally L.; 612 W. 144th St., #F6, New York, NY 10031

*Greenwood, Lisa G.*; 6215 Sandydale Dr., Dallas, TX 75248

Lessner, Henry Joseph; 5146 Pond View Lane, Fairview, TX 75069

*Lee, Ouida Fae*; 220 S. Cockrell Hill Rd., DeSoto, TX 75115

Clark, Timothy Wesley; 9934 Webb Chapel Rd., Dallas, TX 75220

*Morrison, Timothy*; 6601 Custer Road, Plano, TX 75023

Totten, Herman L.; 2100 Pembroke Place, Denton, TX 76205

*Stoker, Andrew C.*; 1928 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75201

### ***Northeast Luzon Philippines (2)***

**Row 4                      Table 46                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

\**Mendita, Julius Fontanilla*; Sto. Domingo, Alicia, Philippines

*Valdez, Ferdinand Joaquin*; Purok Albano, Quezon, San Isidro3310, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

*Viernes, Gloria Lagoc*; NPC Compound, General Aguinardo, Ramon3319, Philippines

*Bacate, Ruben*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Remingo, Zenaida Egipto*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Fabros, Olivia Pico*; UMC, Ramon, Philippines

Asuncion, Jackeline M.; Purok Albano, Quezon, San Isidro3310, Philippines

*Butac, Edwin B.*; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***Northeast Philippines (2)***

**Row 4                      Table 46                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

Salatan, Gideon Camangeg; #09 Sta. Maria St., Magsaysay, Cordon3312, Philippines

\**Razon, Jonathan Pimentel*; Purok 7, San Andres, Santiago City3700, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

Caluya, Hector Santos; Dipintin, Maddela, Quirino, Philippines

*Balagan, Lilibeth Asis*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Andres, Talgued Rosette*; address unavailable at time of printing

Maddela, Kevin John Adalem; address unavailable at time of printing

*Copliting, Eduardo Balagulan*; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***Northern Illinois (6)***

**Row 3                      Table 35                      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

Chafin, Lonnie Arthur; 77 W. Washington, Ste. 1820, Chicago, IL 60602-3181

*Lyall, Alka*; 3344 N. Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60657

Clark, Irma; 10633 S. Peoria St., Chicago, IL 60643

*Gross, Gregory Dean*; 6033 N. Sheridan Rd., Unit 42G, Chicago, IL 60660

\**Gatz, Elisa Jean McGee*; 1202 E. 20th Street, Sterling, IL 61081

*Pierson, Christopher L.*; 109 N. Oltendorf Road, Streamwood, IL 60107

#### **Reserves**

Ryder, John E.; 629 Barnsdale Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60526

*Hill, Carol Louise*; 111 N. 4th St., West Dundee, IL 60118

Smith, Rita Lafay; 1444 N. Leamington Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651

*Reyes, Luis F.*; PO Box 66077, Chicago, IL 60666

Pendergrass, Nancy Jean; 1719 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60626

*Lagos-Fonseca, David Onan*; 28 South Plum Grove Road, Schaumburg, IL 60193

### ***Northern Nigeria (4)***

**Row 4                      Table 40                      Seats 1-4**

#### **Delegates**

Adamu, Doris Jenis; address unavailable at time of printing

\**Gonyi, Wilson Gana*; PO Box 12, Billiri via, Shongom, Nigeria

Lawan, Jacob Apari; UMCN Samson Gwaladdi, Filiya District, Nigeria

*Dunah, Isa Audu*; The United Methodist Church in Nigeria, PO Box 155, Jalingo, Nigeria

#### **Reserves**

Iliyasu, Matis; UMCN, PO Box 12, Billiri, Nigeria

*Danburam, Danladi*; UMCN Sec., PO Box 12, Billiri, Nigeria

Williams, Edna; UMCN Kano, PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

*Daniel, Mathew Dangombe*; UMCN, PO Box 12, Billiri, Nigeria

### ***Northern Philippines (2)***

**Row 4                      Table 47                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

Malana, Salvador III Cacatian; Unit K, No. 16 Jose Abad Santos Street, Heroes Hill Subdivision, Sta. Cruz 1104, Philippines

\**Pico, Rodel Pastores*; The United Methodist Church, Centro 1, Sanchez Mira 3518, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

Ilac, Victor Ilustrado; Balingit, Pamplona 3522, Cagayan, Philippines

*Santiago, Rebecca Jurado*; address unavailable at time of printing

Factora, Corazon Tolentino; address unavailable at time of printing

*Aguinaldo, Max Zuñiga*; address unavailable at time of printing

Crismo, Phebe Gamata; address unavailable at time of printing

*Biteng, Excelsis Ato*; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***North-West Katanga (10)***

**Row 5                      Table 57                      Seats 3-6**

**Row 5                      Table 58                      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

\*Chikomb, Rukang; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Mukaz, Dieudonne Rufum Waranakong*; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

Kanzal, Lutgarde Chiteng Mutombu; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Chikut, Andre Mwayimb A. Karumb*; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

Nawej, Simon Rubemb; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Kasong, Isidore Mwindamb*; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

Kapend, Daniel Mbaz Kapwapu; UMC, PO Box 22037, Kitwe, Zambia

*Muteb, Henri Nawej*; address unavailable at time of printing

Nguz, Maguy Aimee Karumbu; address unavailable at time of printing

*Musombu, Elie Ntambu*; address unavailable at time of printing

#### **Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***Northwest Mindanao Philippines (2)***

**Row 1                      Table 2                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

\*Carlos, Eduard Vicente; Busco, Butong, Quezon, Philippines

*Bongolan, Ruby Taoagen*; The United Methodist Church, #1 Jose Mortola Street, Cagayan De Oro City, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***Northwest Philippines (2)***

**Row 4                      Table 47                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

\*Galindo, Ofelia Lualhati Gironella; Poblacion Norte, Salcedo, Philippines

*Ortiz, Joselito Javien*; The United Methodist Church, Roxas St. Guiset Norte, San Manuel, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

Manuel, Rolando; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Santong, Edgar Segundo*; address unavailable at time of printing

Blanco, Lovelyn Cabansag; address unavailable at time of printing

*Bengbeng, Joel Quidangen*; address unavailable at time of printing

Andam, Benigno; address unavailable at time of printing

*Damilig, Vicky Baybay*; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***Northwest Russia Provisional (2)***

**Row 6                      Table 70                      Seats 1-2**



**Delegates**

Yugay, Marina; Litovskiy val Street, home 87 A. flat 93,  
Kaliningrad City, Russian Federation  
\**Kim, Khen Su*; Khamovnichesky val 24, Stroenie 2,  
Moscow119048, Russian Federation

**Reserves**

Li, Tatiana; 34/14 Fedoseyenko Street, St-Peters-  
burg19519-5197, Russian Federation  
*Margulis, Irina*; Khamovnicheskiy val 24 stroyeniye 2,  
Moscow119048, Russian Federation

**Northwest Texas (4)**

**Row 1**                      **Table 16**                      **Seats 1-4**

**Delegates**

Enns, Ron; 208 Mockingbird Lane, Dalhart, TX 79022  
\**Cosby, James Stanley*; Saint Stephen UMC, 4600 S.  
Western St., Amarillo, TX 79109-6025  
Williams, Leia Danielle; Texas Methodist Foundation,  
11709 Boulder Lane, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78726  
*Jones, Richard Anthony*; Wolfforth UMC, 102 Donald  
Preston Dr., Wolfforth, TX 79382

**Reserves**

Fisher, Jeffery Miles; 4706 101st St., Lubbock, TX 79424  
*Feltz, Amy Wilson*; 2017 South 18th, Abilene, TX 79602  
Stutes, Randy Don; 909 El Paso St., Plainview, TX 79072  
*Edwards, Richard Wayne*; 10800 Elmhurst Ln., Fort  
Worth, TX 76244

**Norway (2)**

**Row 6**                      **Table 72**                      **Seats 3-4**

**Delegates**

Westad, Audun; Gamlelinja 41 C, Oslo1254, Norway  
\**Grinna, Frøydis*; Kløverveien 13, N-1636 Gamle,  
Fredrikstad Norway

**Reserves**

Lovland, Jon; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Sanden-Bjornnes, Hilde*; address unavailable at time of  
printing  
Holm, Maia Blomhoff; address unavailable at time of  
printing  
*Bradley, Per*; address unavailable at time of printing

Hoggen, Ingerid Marie; address unavailable at time of  
printing

*Movafagh, Hilde Marie*; address unavailable at time of  
printing

**Oklahoma (14)**

**Row 9**                      **Table 97**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 9**                      **Table 98**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 9**                      **Table 99**                      **Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Kim, Donald Hyungtoon; 2815 S.W. 119th Street, Okla-  
homa City, OK 73170

\**Harker, Linda M.*; McFarlin Memorial UMC, PO Box  
6390, Norman, OK 73070

Junk, William Anthony; 4201 N. Classen Blvd., Oklaho-  
ma City, OK 73118

*Harris, Joseph*; 1501 N.W. 24th St., Oklahoma City, OK  
73106-3635

Beard, John Herschel; PO Box 50, Madill, OK 73466

*Long, Robert E.*; St. Luke's UMC, 222 N.W. 15th St.,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Stewart, Charles Roy; address unavailable at time of print-  
ing

*Moffatt Seay, Jessica Farish*; 501 W. Main, Ardmore, OK  
73401

Wilson, Janey Louise; 1013 N. Highland St., Unit A, Ada,  
OK 74820

*Powers, Samuel Tyler*; PO Box 390, Edmond, OK 73034

Nicklas, Cara Sue; 10037 Forest Glade Drive, Oklahoma  
City, OK 73151

*Harrison, Tom*; 6767 South Mingo, Tulsa, OK 74133

Shahan, Alyson Elizabeth; 809 Tony Ave., Perkins, OK  
74059

*Bakeman, T. Brian*; 1501 N.W. 24th Street, Oklahoma  
City, OK 73106-3635

**Reserves**

Nichols, Sarah Malloy; 1722 N.W. 20th St., Oklahoma  
City, OK 73106

*Tiger, Aaron C.*; 3717 E. Woodbury St., Broken Arrow,  
OK 74014

Junk, Thomas Michael; 2021 South Lewis, Suite 625, Tul-  
sa, OK 74104

*Paschal, R. Wade*; 11115 So. Boulder, Tulsa, OK 74119

Perry, Barbara Jean; 4319 St. Patrick Drive, Oklahoma  
City, OK 73120

*Judkins, Matthew Blake*; 1501 S. 13th Street, McAlester,  
OK 74501

Fulton, Kenton Wade; 604 Timberdale Drive, Edmond, OK 73034

Jaynes, Jeff; 2939 S. Cincinnati Ave., Tulsa, OK 74114

Hull, Cindy; 8517 County Road 380, Waynoka, OK 73860

Bennett, Donald A.; 2727 S.W. 119th, Oklahoma City, OK 76170

Tobey, Briana Nicole; 1700 N. Robinson Ave., Apt. 103, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Steele, Valerie; St. Paul's UMC, PO Box 368, Okemah, OK 74859

Mitchell, Earl; 3 Summit Circle, Stillwater, OK 74075

Wang, Fuxia; 428 W. Lindsey St., Norman, OK 73069

### ***Oklahoma Indian Missionary (2)***

**Row 9                      Table 99                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

Deere, Josephine; 1029 West Imhoff Rd., Norman, OK 73072

\*Wilson, David Mark; 3020 S. Harvey, Oklahoma City, OK 73109

#### **Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***Oregon-Idaho (2)***

**Row 3                      Table 36                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

\*Nelson, Janice E.; 1845 High St. S.E., Salem, OR 97302

Pritchard, Donna Marie Lowman; 1838 S.W. Jefferson St., Portland, OR 97201-2463

#### **Reserves**

Hauser, Joshua William; address unavailable at time of printing

Andrew, Clay Wesley; 168 N.E. 8th Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97124

Bateman, Mark Eric; 3025 Rose Blossom Ct. N.W., Salem, OR 97304

Smith, Jeremy David; 180 Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98109

Armstrong, David Wayne; 1470 Scorpius Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

### ***Oriental and Equator (2)***

**Row 5                      Table 54                      Seats 1-2**

### **Delegates**

\*Onotamba, Albert Tonondjo; AV 8 Armees #24, Commune de Makiso, Kisangani BP 2006, Congo  
Alimasi, Mwanja Willy; BP 2006, Kisangani, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

### **Reserves**

Dondja, Henriette Ohumi; 2006 Kisangani, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

Moke, Mustafa; address unavailable at time of printing

### ***Pacific Northwest (2)***

**Row 3                      Table 36                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

\*Kuch-Stanovsky, Marie Louise; PO Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198

Huycke, Mary Kohlstaedt; 5005 Homesite Dr., Yakima, WA 98908

#### **Reserves**

Reinholz, David Alan; 251 W. Sumach St., Walla Walla, WA 99362

del Rosario, Daniel Joshua; 2506 N.E. 184th Pl., Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Holms, Joan Eileen; 3616 26th Pl. W., #1, Seattle, WA 98199

Nieda, David Kazuya; PO Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198

Robinson, Thomas Paul; 15105 N. Columbus St., Spokane, WA 99208

Kymn, Gloria H; 22225 9th Avenue South, Des Moines, WA 98198

Kilpatrick, Megan Christine; 2217 N. Bristol St., Tacoma, WA 98406

Moe, Sharon Louise; 4555 39th Avenue S.W., #705, Seattle, WA 98116

Henshaw, Brant William; PO Box 13650, Des Moines, WA 98198

Barckley, Kay Colleen; 1102 NW 57th St., Seattle, WA 98107

Shaffer, Barbara Dadd; 32332 109th Pl. S.E., Auburn, WA 98092

Corsaro, Monica Katusha; PO Box 1711, Seattle, WA 98111-1711

### ***Palawan Philippines (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 19                      Seats 5-6**

**Delegates**

Ferrariz, Manolo Cortez; West Marangas, Bataraza5306, Philippines  
*Dablo, Munda Varona*; Brgy. Bono-Bono, Bataraza5306, Philippines

**Reserves**

Dillozon, Susan Estrada; Rizal Ave., Narra, Philippines

***Pampanga Philippines (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 20                      Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Luat, Elizabeth Jill Casupanan; 437 Alang Curan Club, Purok 5, Bancal, Guagua, Philippines  
 \**Dela Rosa, Ricky Lacsamana*; 0042 Purok 1, Sapangbato, Angeles City2009, Philippines

**Reserves**

Buan, Modesto Malit; 464 Purok 6 Palat, Porac2008, Philippines  
*Julian, Rommel Tanedo*; Christ the King UMC, Paralaya Candaba, Philippines  
 Lumba, Leah Grace Lusung; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Malozo, Joel Marucut*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Baluyut, Jocelyn Bungay; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Perez, Ricardo Manalang*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Pangasinan Philippines (2)***

**Row 4                      Table 47                      Seats 5-6**

**Delegates**

Celzo, Jowey Carany; Roxas, Anda2405, Philippines  
 \**De Los Santos, Jesus Nabor*; Luna Street, Poblacion, Anda, Philippines

**Reserves**

Nabua, Jaime Legaspi; Sunrise Subd., Arellano Street, Dagupan City2400, Philippines  
*Del Rosario, Eduardo Manuel*; Stewart Memorial UMC, Torres Bugallon St., Lingayen2400, Philippines  
 Vidal, Rebecca Kathleen Sudiagal; address unavailable at time of printing

*Olermo, Elmo*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Manuel, Dadice C.; #1 Heroes St., Lingayen2401, Philippines

*Barte, Romel Parayno*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Peninsula-Delaware (4)***

**Row 12                      Table 142                      Seats 3-6**  
**Delegates**

\*Goodwin, Kevin G.; 440 Haystack Dr., Newark, DE 19711-8316

*Porter, Derrick Emmanuel*; 36 Talley Court, Wilmington, DE 19802

Westbrook, William; 139 N. State St., Dover, DE 19901

*Shitama Weston, Megan Kyoko*; 136 Bookers Wharf Road, Centerville, MD 21617

**Reserves**

Mitchell, Samuel James; 6915 Robin Drive, Seaford, DE 19973

*Townsend, Robbie Britton*; 7 Becket Court, Hockessin, DE 19707

Higgins, Ruth Ann; 5501 Drummer Drive, Preston, MD 21655

*Gordy-Stiith, Vicki Lynn*; 230 Marble Ct., Camden, DE 19934

***Philippines (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 20                      Seats 3-4**

**Delegates**

\*Sermonia, Jovito J.; 1712 A. Mabini corner, L. Alonzo St., Malate1004, Philippines

*Gabriel, Maximo Galang*; 900 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Philippines

**Reserves**

Caramanzana, Darlene M.; 2714-E Lamayan St., Sta. Ana1009, Philippines

*Esguerra, Enrico Retotar*; UMC Building, Room 205, 900 United Nations Avenue, Ermita1000, Philippines

Calpito, Nellie T.; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Estrella, Ruby-Nell Manucom*; address unavailable at time of printing

Puno, Reiner; address unavailable at time of printing

*Bautista, Agapito D.*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Philippines Cavite (Pacc) (2)*****Row 2      Table 20      Seats 5-6****Delegates**

Carlos, Adelia Pascual; UTS Refectory, PCU-UTS Compound, Sampaloc 1, City of Dasmariñas, Philippines  
 \*Cua, Noel Syjucco; 174 Macopa St., Justinville Subdivision, Bacoor City, Philippines

**Reserves**

Magno, Antonio S.; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Borromeo, Elmer Zapata*; PCU-UTC Compound, Sampaloc 1, City of Dasmariñas Philippines  
 Conception, Rene Sambilay; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Manalo, Magusig B.*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Velasquez, Albert U.; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Juan, Emmanuel Bautista*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Poland (2)*****Row 2      Table 18      Seats 1-2****Delegates**

Benedyktowicz, Olgierd Krzysztof; Hoza 54 m 3, Warsaw00-682, Poland  
 \*Malicki, Andrzej Jacek; ul. Mokotowska 12/7, Warsaw00-561, Poland

**Reserves**

Flemming, Thomas; ul. Wroclawska 71c, Domaszczyn 55-095, Poland  
*Rodaszynski, Slawomir*; ul. Zwyciestwa 1, Chodziej 64-800, Poland  
 Szczepanczyk, Anna; ul. Kosynierów Gdyski 9-11, Grudziadz86-300, Poland  
*Puslecki, Edward*; ul. Mokotowska 12/9, Warsaw00-561, Poland

***Quezon City (2)*****Row 2      Table 21      Seats 1-2****Delegates**

Puno, Carlito Serrano; 39 Don Ernesto Street, Don Enrique Sudv, Diliman, Philippines

\*Gregorio, Percival Jimena; 71 Paho Street, Project 2, Quezon City, Philippines

**Reserves**

De Pano, Arnel; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Cedillo, Gilbert Abadilla*; 980 A Riverside St., Bgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City, Philippines

***Red Bird Missionary (2)*****Row 9      Table 104      Seats 5-6****Delegates**

Davis, Charlotte All; 2300 Primrose Ln., Beattyville, KY 41311  
*Amundsen, Robert Earl*; 95 Red Bird Road, Thousandsticks, KY 41766

**Reserves**

Osborne, Marilyn Ruth; PO Box 585, Hyden, KY 41749  
*Savage, Jim C.*; PO Box 83, Roark, KY 40979

***Rio Texas (10)*****Row 12      Table 133      Seats 1-6****Row 12      Table 134      Seats 1-4****Delegates**

\*Keese, Teresa L.; PO Box 574, Brady, TX 76825  
*Merrill, Laura Anne*; 16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248  
 Vega, Abel; 16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio, TX 78248  
*Welborn, Teresa Gayle*; 1221 W. Ben White Blvd., Suite 201A, Austin, TX 78704  
 Thompson, Ralph Gene; PO Box 3400, San Angelo, TX 76902  
*Valverde, Eradio*; 1521 Redbridge, Seguin, TX 78155  
 Loeb, Carol K.; 4610 Lomond Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78413  
*Rohlf's, Carl Walter*; 3405 KC 273, Junction, TX 76849  
 Brim, Jefferson (Jay) Kearn; 2525 Wallingwood, Building 14, Austin, TX 78746  
*Avitia-Legarda, Edgar*; 2734 Heritage Manor Walk, Decatur, GA 30034

**Reserves**

Deviney, Aislinn Elizabeth; 12820 W. Parmer Lane, Apt. 4302, Cedar Park, TX 78613  
*Miller, Russell Thomas*; 205 E. James, Boerne, TX 78006

Johnson, Cynthia Andrade; 5593 Birders Cove, Brownsville, TX 78526

Frederick, Austin; 4499 Medical Dr. #399, San Antonio, TX 78229

Wright, Rachel Ruth; 6805 Woodhue Drive, Austin, TX 78745

Deviney, Thomas Forrest; 10010 Anderson Mill Rd., Austin, TX 78750

Bonner, Byrd L.; 223 Springwood Lane, San Antonio, TX 78216

Escamilla, Paul Lynd; 227 W. Woodlawn Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212

Harrison, Lawrence F; PO Box 385, Junction, TX 76849

Feagins, Raquel Cajiri; 8906 Brae Bend, San Antonio, TX 78249

### *Rizal Philippines East (2)*

**Row 2                      Table 21                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

\*Velasco, Stanley Cruz; #5 3rd St., Goodrich Village, Concepcion I, Marikina City, Philippines

Hernandez, Reynaldo Bucacao; #35 Lilac Street Hacienda Heights, Concepcion 2, Marikina City, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

Carlos, Ramon Umali; address unavailable at time of printing.

Tolentino, Pedro; address unavailable at time of printing.

Broncano, Angelita B.; address unavailable at time of printing.

Yambot, Leyda; address unavailable at time of printing.

Perez, Elvin; address unavailable at time of printing.

Lucena, Harvey M.; address unavailable at time of printing.

### *Rocky Mountain (6)*

**Row 4                      Table 41                      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

Palmer, Douglas William; 7628 Estate Circle, Niwot, CO 80503

\*Ingram, Kent P.; 420 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Taiwo, Kunle; 2313 S. Jamaica Street, Aurora, CO 80014

Laurvick, Bradley David; 3131 Osceola St., Denver, CO 80212

Tukutau, Havea Hikule'o; 1335 5th Street, Eaton, CO 80615

Armstrong, Megan Marie; 2290 Akron Court, #101, Denver, CO 80238

#### **Reserves**

Hotze, Margaret Ellen; 313 Bluebird Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Strickland, Walter Louis; 2280 Watersong Circle, Longmont, CO 80504

Hill, Judith Ann; 3642 County Road D, Joes, CO 80822

Kelsey, Catherine L.; 2200 S. University Blvd., Apt. 404, Denver, CO 80210

Robledo, Liwliwa T.; 1744 Wooten Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Rooks, Jessica Beth; 8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Brayton, Glenna Kyker; 511 Swan Lane, Grand Junction, CO 81507

Smith, Eric V. T.; 6750 Carr St., Arvada, CO 80004

Huerta, Diana Jeanne; 1877 S. Sherman St., Denver, CO 80210

Dent, Michael D.; address unavailable at time of printing

Day, Laurie Ann; 6110 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Tukutau, Sione Teiapa'a; 917 10th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631

### *Serbia-Macedonia Provisional (2)*

**Row 2                      Table 18                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

Zaev, Emil; Ul. Venijamin Machukovski, br. 28/2-12, Skopje1000, Macedonia

\*Sjanta, Daniel; 55 Ive Lole Ribara, KovacicaRS-26210, Serbia

#### **Reserves**

Stoilkova, Daniela; S. Monospitovo 172, MK-2400, Strumica, Macedonia

Durovka-Petras, Maria; address unavailable at time of printing.

Sjanta, Liljana; 2 Dolna Dolina, RS - , Padina26215, Serbia

Dimov, Marjan; address unavailable at time of printing

### *Sierra Leone (12)*

**Row 10                      Table 111                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 10                      Table 112                      Seats 1-6**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

**South Africa Provisional (2)**

**Row 9**                      **Table 99**                      **Seats 5-6**

**Delegates**

Jam Jam, Nomfundo Faith; No. 19 Enkululekment Location, Mount Fletcher 4770, South Africa  
 \*Maliwa, Mills Na; PO Box 4368, Durban 4091, South Africa

**Reserves**

Masiso, Khuliswa Thyra; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Letuka, Thabiso Theodore; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Majova, Alma Nosinodi; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Mucherera, David; PO Box 1032, Rosettenville 2130 South Africa

**South Carolina (16)**

**Row 3**                      **Table 25**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 3**                      **Table 26**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 3**                      **Table 27**                      **Seats 1-4**

**Delegates**

Ware, Barbara Joyce; 2607 Woodruff Road, Suite E #443, Simpsonville, SC 29681  
 \*McClendon, William Timothy; 163 Governors Lane, N.W., Aiken, SC 29801  
 Salley, James Henry; PO Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007  
 Nelson, Kenneth Lee; 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 122, Columbia, SC 29203  
 Heyward, Joseph E.; PO Box 394, Florence, SC 29503  
 Rogers, Timothy Julian; PO Box 543, Marion, SC 29571  
 Lightsey, Herman B.; 9 River Bottom Road, Irmo, SC 29063  
 Dease, Robin; PO Box 1772, Hartsville, SC 29551  
 Jenkins, Jacquelyn G.; PO Box 697, St. George, SC 29477  
 Knowlin, Tiffany Denise; 128 Wynfield Court, Columbia, SC 29210  
 Cheatham, Laurence Michael; 15 Sunset Drive, Taylors, SC 29687  
 Jeter, Narcie Jo McClendon; 118 W. 3rd South Street, Summerville, SC 29483  
 Thompson, Martha Fridy; 201 Murray Vista Circle, Lexington, SC 29072  
 Arant, Athon Melton; PO Box 646, Pendleton, SC 29670

Braddon, David Verne; 4174 Chisolm Road, Johns Island, SC 29455  
 Leonard, Susan P.; 57 Pitt Street, Charleston, SC 29401

**Reserves**

Haselden, Leslie Powell; 829 Milton Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29730  
 Gadson, Telley Lynnette; 107 Forest Cove Lane, Greer, SC 29651  
 Evans, Emily Michele Rogers; 517 Woodchase Green Dr., Fuquay Varina, NC 27526  
 Turner, Michael Andrew; 2258 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681  
 Love, Donald E.; 1924 Bangor Rd., Charlotte, NC 28217  
 James, Katherine Lewis; 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203  
 Price, Jennifer; 1715 Price Street, Florence, SC 29501  
 Ashford, George Adrian; 1151 Longreen Parkway, Columbia, SC 29229  
 Lynch, Christopher Michael; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Friday, James Leroy; 5616 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203  
 Briscoe, Ida Carolyn; PO Box 1825, Clemson, SC 29633  
 White, Sara Ann; 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203  
 DuRant, Linda J.; 121 Pebble Creek Rd., Chapin, SC 29036  
 Sutton, Emily Scales; 1232 Curtis Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730  
 Jordan, Murial Newell; 2409 Mosswood Drive, Florence, SC 29501  
 Kersey, Jeffrey Grant; 9 Downing Circle, Gilbert, SC 29054

**South Congo (14)**

**Row 6**                      **Table 67**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 6**                      **Table 68**                      **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 6**                      **Table 69**                      **Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Kaumba, John Makalu; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi 522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Masengo, Tshiwewa Albert; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi 522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the  
 Kakese, Mujinga Frederick; address unavailable at time of printing

*Muteba, Mwongenu Pasa*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

\**Kayemb, Chipeng Francois*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Kasongo, Lyemo Honore*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Mambwe, Kyasowela Guy*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Ilunga, Tshikala Sylvain*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Pwisa, Kalevu Fabrice*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Kipembwe, Kabuya Daniel Moffat*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Tshene, Kanyempa Simon*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Sengando, Yangana Sebege*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Lukenge, Kapwibwe Therese*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

*Kaji, Mujinga Jollette*; 960 Chaussee Mzee, Kabila, Lubumbashi522, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

### Reserves

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

### South Georgia (8)

<b>Row 11</b>	<b>Table 125</b>	<b>Seats 5-6</b>
<b>Row 11</b>	<b>Table 126</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>

### Delegates

\**Hatcher, William Stanley*; 104 Dumbarton Drive, Statesboro, GA 30458

*Adams, Donald Lee*; 1104 Wingate St., Dublin, GA 31021

*Lindsey, Allison Ross*; 1807 Robin Lane, Douglas, GA 31533

*Hanson, Jay David*; 114 Harris Farm Rd., Brunswick, GA 31525

*Price, James Larry*; 2406 Ashford Drive, Albany, GA 31721

*Moon, Bob Mark*; 220 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31601

*Childs, Carl Espy*; 76 Lakeview Drive, Fort Gaines, GA 39851

*Cowart, James Arch*; 3322 Hwy. 41 N., Byron, GA 31008

### Reserves

*Wright, Marianne Mackey*; PO Box 4332, Maryville, TN 37802

*Walton, Karma Denise*; 1701 Dunes Street, Apt. 207, Fredericksburg, GA 22401

*Shinhoster, Willie Richard*; 14310 Coffee Bluff Rd., Savannah, GA 31419

*Hagan, Daniel Scott*; 205 Azalea Ln., Bonaire, GA 31005  
*Roberson, Kelly Haggerty*; PO Box 20408, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

*Beckum, James Robert*; 5031 Spyglass Court, Columbus, GA 31909

*Hagan, Miriam Carruth*; 114 Ridge Way, Statesboro, GA 30458

*Smalls, Doreen*; 2506 Nottingham Drive, Savannah, GA 31406

### South Nueva Ecija Philippines (2)

<b>Row 2</b>	<b>Table 21</b>	<b>Seats 5-6</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

### Delegates

*Mendoza, Lauro Garcia*; 158 Rizal Street, San Leonardo3102, Philippines

\**Equila, Egmedio Balbona*; #755 Sto. Cristo, San Antonio3018, Philippines

### Reserves

*Gabriel, Rey Galang*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Pabillo, Danilo Casamina*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Mallare, Lanie Dela Cruz*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Samin, Daniel Hernal*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Dela Cruz, Rhoda Eucasion*; address unavailable at time of printing

*De Jesus, Emmanuel Manansala*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Southern Nigeria (12)***

**Row 4**            **Table 38**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 4**            **Table 39**            **Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Daniel, Haruna Ibrahim; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Haruna, Nibron Galadima*; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Ayuba, Tanko Lawrence; The United Methodist Church,  
 Secretariat Mile Six Road, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Dogo, Calvin John*; Turaki B Ward, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Bala, Habila Balasa; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 \**Yoila, Baziel Yayuba*; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Apson, Gladys Maisule; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Iliya, Eunice Musa*; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Luka, Bitrus Chindo; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Emmanuel, Ande Ikimun*; The UMC in Nigeria, Secretari-  
 at Mile Six Road, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Andrawus, Emmanuel; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Simon, Sheriff Isaac*; The United Methodist Church,  
 PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

**Reserves**

Zakaria, Maimuna Tikka; PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Bakawe, Thomas Azanchi*; PO Box 771, Taraba State,  
 Nigeria  
 Bitrus, Luka; PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
*Lamido, Abel Nemuel*; PO Box 774, Nigeria  
 Nuhu, Ishaku Bagudu; PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria  
 Madanga, Joyce; PO Box 774, Jalingo, Nigeria

***Southern Russia Provisional (2)***

**Row 6**            **Table 70**            **Seats 3-4**

**Delegates**

Melnikov, Alexandr; Rabotche-Krestyanskaya, Str. 14-6,  
 Volgograd400001, Russian Federation  
 \**Pererva, Alexander*; Moskovskiy pr., 32-a, Vor-  
 onezh, Russian Federation

**Reserves**

Shelkovich, Vitalii; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing  
*Mitina, Irina*; address unavailable at time of printing

***Southern Tagalog Philippines Provisional (2)***

**Row 2**            **Table 22**            **Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

Capulong, Julie Fernandez; 040 Balagtas St., Brgy. Sta  
 Clara Sur, Pila Philippines  
 \**Cruz, Edgardo Dellova*; Blk. 51 Lot 56, Bel Aldea Sudv.,  
 San Francisco, General Trias, Philippines

**Reserves**

Honrubia, Nymfa Ebres; 040 Balagtas St., Brgy. Sta Clara  
 Sur, Pila, Philippines  
*Flores, Joseph Capul*; 1 Sweet Pea St. Dona Manuela 1,  
 Brgy. Pamplona 3, Las Pinas City, Philippines  
 Ireneza, Filipina Pera; Purok Taytay, Brgy. Tagbakin, Ati-  
 monan, Philippines  
*Ceballos, Dexter Fernandez*; 5 San Gregorio St. Ph 6a3,  
 Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Philippines

***South-West Katanga (6)***

**Row 5**            **Table 59**            **Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Kabwita, Yava Alain; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing  
*Kanama, Ilenga Jeannette*; address unavailable at time of  
 printing  
 Kashal, Avul Josue; address unavailable at time of print-  
 ing  
*Zinga, Kamwimba Marie Jeanne*; address unavailable at  
 time of printing  
 Katsheka, Ikuku Cliff; address unavailable at time of  
 printing  
*Musolo, Tshijika Remy*; address unavailable at time of  
 printing

**Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

***Southwest Philippines (2)***

**Row 2**            **Table 22**            **Seats 3-4**



**Delegates**

\*Ruedas, Prudencio Bacquian; 412 Malvar St., Corner Quezon St., Poblacion, Magsaysay, Philippines  
*Pimentel, Fe Corpuz*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Reserves**

Domingo, Melvin Sayco; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Yasay, Wilfredo A.*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Corpuz, Blessy Jane Lopez; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Allera, Nehemia P.*; Roxas United Methodist Church, Sta. Fe, Roxas Oriental 5212, Philippines  
 Cayat, Annie Palepec; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Villalon, Marie Sol S.*; address unavailable at time of printing  
 Ferriol, Marjail Gabute; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Velasco, Jonathan Nacino*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Susquehanna (10)**

<b>Row 9</b>	<b>Table 101</b>	<b>Seats 3-6</b>
<b>Row 9</b>	<b>Table 102</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>

**Delegates**

\*Bender, Lisa Dromgold; 504 Marcel Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17109  
*Leland, Larry Lee*; 31 Baylor Blvd., Lewisburg, PA 17837  
 Heil, Warren Alexander; 103 Simerson Road, Elmhurst Township, PA 18444  
*Lake, Matthew Earl*; 117 Lincoln Ave., Williamsport, PA 17701  
 Loyer, Milton W.; 917 Emily Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
*Jones, Beth E.*; 8968 State Rt. 87, Williamsport, PA 17701  
*Miller, Layne Maree*; 503 Nottingham Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17201  
*Salsgiver, Thomas L.*; 303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
 Horton, Margaret Anne; 690 Camp Glisson Road, Dahlonga, GA 30533  
*Layman Knox, Anna Elizabeth*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Reserves**

Hickey, Kirby Keith; 1820 Stone Hill Dr., York, PA 17402

*Keller, Dennis Raphael*; 524 Colony Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Ilyes, Paul Eugene; 65 Kendale Road, Red Lion, PA 17356  
*Kind, Kathleen Elaine*; 1381 Plank Rd., Suite 104, Duncansville, PA 16635-8458

Oplinger, Toni Ann; 5009 Chesnut Grove Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362-7909

*Reist, Leroy (Gere) Fitzgerald*; address unavailable at time of printing

Loomis, Eleanor Layton; 1621 Farmers Valley Road, Troy, PA 16947

*Boileau, Catherine E.*; First UMC, 225 S. Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Obrzut, Lucy Ann; 50 Rice Street, Edwardsville, PA 18704

*Reisinger, Mark Franklin*; 40 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

**Switzerland-France-North Africa (2)**

<b>Row 2</b>	<b>Table 18</b>	<b>Seats 5-6</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

**Delegates**

\*Schneider-Oesch, Christine; Daettlikerstrasse 39, Freienstein 8427, Switzerland

*Rudolph, Etienne*; 21 quai Zorn, Strasbourg 67000, France

**Reserves**

Fankhauser, Lukas; address unavailable at time of printing

*Niederer, Jorg*; address unavailable at time of printing

Holmes, Carla; address unavailable at time of printing

*Büchmeier, Sven*; address unavailable at time of printing

Oppliger, Barbara; address unavailable at time of printing

**Tanganyika (8)**

<b>Row 7</b>	<b>Table 76</b>	<b>Seats 1-6</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

<b>Row 7</b>	<b>Table 77</b>	<b>Seats 1-2</b>
--------------	-----------------	------------------

**Delegates**

Kasongo, Pierre Mutamba; Eglise Methodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

\**Mutwale, Ntambo Wa Mushidi*; PO Box 72521, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

Kabila, Alphonsine Moma; Eglise Methodist - Unie Au Nord Katanga, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Panda, Emmanuel Kasonga*; address unavailable at time of printing

Kabaka, Alphonsine Ndala; PO Box 72521, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania, United Republic of

*Kalumba, Eric Nkulu*; Eglise Methodist-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Londwa, Kaumbu Nsenga; C/O Eglise Methodiste - Unie Au Nord - Katanga, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Mwayuma, Ngoy Jacqueline*; Eglise Methodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

### Reserves

Mukalay, Mulume Wa Ilunga; Eglise Methodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Ilunga Yonge Ndala, Seyssens Maurice*; address unavailable at time of printing

Ntambwe, Alphonsine Tabaso; address unavailable at time of printing

*Muteba, Nestor Lenge*; c/o Eglise Methodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

Katwesoma, Komichelo Kasongo; address unavailable at time of printing

*Kaboba, Popard Mulunda*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Sabwe, Marcel Tshibangu*; address unavailable at time of printing

### Tanzania (6)

**Row 7                      Table 75                      Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

Mwamakamba, Gloria Edson; PO Box 72521, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

\**Njau, Alfred Kundasai*; PO Box 75653, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

Bosko, Joyce Cletus; PO Box 5428, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

*Kulanga, Yunisi Lupiana*; PO Box 5428, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

Kasiga, Shedrack Ramadhani; PO Box 72521, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

*Samson, Velian Seth*; PO Box 72521, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania, United Republic of

### Reserves

Bulinjiye, Merida Ndaheberanye; PO Box 1361, Kigoma, Tanzania, United Republic of

*Juwakali, Abisay Lameck*; PO Box 1361, Kigoma, Tanzania, United Republic of

Kalangwa, Ngoy Mulanga Odette; PO Box 5428, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

*Boyi, Stephano Mabwayi*; PO Box 4113, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

*Ngowi, Idda John*; PO Box 5428, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

Luyagaza, Doffa Mwana; PO Box 5428, Morogoro, Tanzania, United Republic of

### Tarlac Philippines (2)

**Row 4                      Table 48                      Seats 1-2**

### Delegates

\*Andasan, Helen Francisco; Ecumenical Christian College, Rizal Street, Tarlac City 2300, Philippines

*Taliwaga, John Macadangdang*; Talon St., Guevera, La Paz 2314, Philippines

### Reserves

Ramos, Ramil; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Cancio, Celestino Ignacio*; #01 Mabini Street, San Roque PO Box 2314, La Paz, Tarlac, Philippines

Gamurot, Ann; address unavailable at time of printing  
*Meneses, Roel*; address unavailable at time of printing

Arciga, Niña Patio; Concepcion Ecumenical School Foundation, Inc, Isabel Subdivision, San Nicolas, Concepcion, Philippines

*Bayangos, Elmer N.*; address unavailable at time of printing

### Tennessee (8)

**Row 3                      Table 31                      Seats 5-6**  
**Row 3                      Table 32                      Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

\*Allen, James (Jim) R.; 304 S. Perimeter Park Drive, Ste. 4, Nashville, TN 37211

*Bryan, Harriet Jean*; 319 Madison Street, Clarksville, TN 37040

Neal, Holly Shaw; 28 Hampton Square, Crossville, TN 38555

*Armstrong, Jacob Clark*; 596 Burnett Rd., Mount Juliet, TN 37122

Clark, Cornelia Anne; 351 Fourth Ave. South, Franklin, TN 37064

*Handy, Stephen E.*; 608 Logwood Briar Circle, Brentwood, TN 37027

Brown, George Mead; 10912 Hillsboro Hwy., Hillsboro, TN 37342

*Henry, Jackson Wayne*; 5252 Reagan Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

**Reserves**

Lewter, Joy Stammer; PO Box 56, Chapel Hill, TN 37034  
*Mayo, Jonathan Maxwell*; 944 Remenham Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Overstreet, Angela Tackett; 1711 Shetland Lane, Spring Hill, TN 37174

*Brooks, Bryan Langford*; 129 Aldersgate Way, Franklin, TN 37069

McNish, Charles Kent; 1532 Kinnard Drive, Franklin, TN 37064-3264

*Ward, Thomas Houston*; 304 South Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 5, Nashville, TN 37211

Bennett, Heather Neal; 408 Hill Street, Lebanon, TN 37087

*Parker, Cherie Lynn*; 5112 Raywood Lane, Nashville, TN 37211

**Texas (17)**

**Row 1                      Table 10                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 1                      Table 11                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 1                      Table 12                      Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

\*Clemons, Reginald Gerard; 2134 North Grand Blvd., Pearland, TX 77581

\**Temple, Charles Chappell*; 3300 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX 77479

House, Donald (Don) Reed; 3000 Briarcrest Drive, Ste. 600, Bryan, TX 77802

*Levingston, Kenneth R.*; 19715 Bainbridge Ln., Spring, TX 77379

*Matthis, Morris Franklin*; 5215 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

Erwin IV, Edgar Lee; 5215 Main St., Houston, TX 77002

*Warner, Lacey Cammarano*; PO Box 74, Abbott, TX 76621

Hernandez, Andrew (Andy) Ramirez; 115 April Point Dr. North, Montgomery, TX 77356

*Wende, Stephen Paul*; 2404 Briar Ridge, Houston, TX 77057

Wussow, Thomas (Tom) Roderick; 2807 Trail Lodge Dr., Kingwood, TX 77339

Sullivan, Catherine Sue; 3818 MC Road 3222, Jefferson, TX 75657

*Idom, Merle Matthews*; 400 Private Rd. 6036, Palestine, TX 75801

*Gilbert, Janice Arlene*; 422 Abbey Lane, League City, TX 77573

Wilson, Melba Augustine; 520 West 13th St., Port Arthur, TX 77640

*Jones, Edward Cecil*; 1215 Kingfisher Court N., Pearland, TX 77584

Garza, Oscar Luis; 1 Greenway Plaza, #330, Houston, TX 77046

*Whitaker, Keith Conan*; 2314 N. Grand Blvd., Pearland, TX 77581

**Reserves**

Hawkins, Stacie Yvonne; 11927 Prior Park Dr., Houston, TX 77047

*LaGrone, Jessica*; 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390

Allen, Sterling Martin; 8702 Caldera Lane, Cypress, TX 77433

*Gilts, Kip Ricardo*; 2262 Carter Lake Drive, College Station, TX 77845

Huntsman, Carolyn Davey; PO Box 386, Lovelady, TX 75851

*Bass, James Alan*; 110 N. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546

King, Donel; 12327 Chessington Dr., Houston, TX 77031

*Sanchez, Silverio Gea*; 14303 S. Vistaglen Loop, Houston, TX 77084

Estes, Clarence; 10526 Walnut Glen, Houston, TX 77064

*White, Marilyn Marie*; 1214 Beech Bend, Missouri City, TX 77489

Tullos, Bryan H.; 3026 Pasture Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77479

*Bynum, Jonathan David*; PO Box 905, Nederland, TX 77627

Brown, William (Bill) Edward; 1208 Pintree Place, Tyler, TX 75703

*Williams, Guy Matthew*; P O Box 505, Dayton, TX 77535

Hyde, Richard; 511 Sunny River Lane, Richmond, TX 77406

*Pace, Thomas Jennings*; 3471 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77027

Taylor, Leah Cathy; 24 Hedwig Circle, Houston, TX 77024

*Renfroe, Robert Lane*; 2200 Lake Woodlands Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380

**Ukraine-Moldava Provisional (2)**

**Row 6                      Table 70                      Seats 5-6**

**Delegates**

\*Vuksta, Vitaliy; Pervomayskaya str 149, Kamyanytsya Village, Uzhgorod, Ukraine

*Vukszta, Laszlo*; Pershotravneva str, 169, Kamyanytsya Village, Uzhgorod, Ukraine

**Reserves**

Kohutka, Vasylyna Babych; Pershotravneva str., 67, Kamyanytsya village, Uzhgorod district, Ukraine  
*Vuksta, Alla*; address unavailable at time of printing

**Upper New York (12)**

**Row 3**            **Table 33**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 3**            **Table 34**            **Seats 1-6**

**Delegates**

Forrester, Gregory Alan; 32 N. Church St., Cortland, NY 13045  
 \*Allen, William Arthur; 4954 Bemus-Ellery Rd., Bemus Point, NY 14712  
 O'Flynn, Riley Reba; 2025 Rainbow Lane, Lime, NY 14485  
 Mudge, William A.; 26 Evergreen Drive, Boonville, NY 13309  
 Vianese, Carmen F.S.; PO Box 156, Nunda, NY 14517  
 Preuninger, Colleen Hallagan; 1321 S. Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA 22601  
 Sweet, Marthelyn Kellogg; 91 Grimsby Road West, Buffalo, NY 14223  
 Sweet, Rebekah Beth; 32 Landers Road, Kenmore, NY 14217  
 Smith, Blenda Elisabet; 133 Helen St., Binghamton, NY 13905  
 Fassett, Thom White Wolf; 4019 Ball Diamond Road, Hector, NY 14841  
 Urriola, Ian Carlos; 5500 Friendship Blvd., Unit 1809N, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
 Martin, John A.; 1801 Gary Drive, Vestal, NY 13850

**Reserves**

Warren, Jeffrey Joseph; 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY 10708  
 Bogue-Trost, Dona Michelle; 17 Nanticoke Ave., Endicott, NY 13760  
 Readdean, Shirley E.; 2232 Turner Ave., Schenectady, NY 12306  
 Nye, Holly Elizabeth; 9 Briarwood Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Virginia (22)**

**Row 13**            **Table 152**            **Seats 5-6**  
**Row 13**            **Table 153**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 13**            **Table 154**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 13**            **Table 155**            **Seats 1-6**  
**Row 13**            **Table 156**            **Seats 1-2**

**Delegates**

\*Stokes, Martha Ensley; 16158 Grove View Rd., Montpelier, VA 23192  
 Berlin, Thomas Martin; 13600 Frying Pan Rd., Herndon, VA 20171-3110  
 Harper, Warren Randolph; 200 Ladybank, Williamsburg, VA 23188  
 McNabb, Meredith Leigh; PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058  
 Cauffman, Shirley Marie; 4613 North 41st Street, Arlington, VA 22207  
 Honeycutt, Jane Denise; 555 Rocky Hills Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 Bishop, Nathaniel Leon; 840 Hillcrest Dr., Christiansburg, VA 23073  
 Brown, Clarence Rutherford; 217 Hawser Bend, Newport News, VA 23606  
 Greer, Virginia Leigh; 21331 S. Bayside Rd., Cape Charles, VA 23310  
 Estep, Tammy Lynn; 4601 Cape Cod Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
 Amon, Darlene Van Camp; 674 Bennett's Meadow Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435-1785  
 Smith, Theodore; PO Box 100, Ladysmith, VA 22501  
 Winston, Joyce Cecile; 2411 E. Pembroke Avenue, Hampton, VA 23664-1243  
 Rosario, Ileana Rosario; 72 Lower Church Road, Hartfield, VA 23071  
 Mims, Gene Dwight; 14901 S. Crater Road, South Prince George, VA 23805-8250  
 Moon, Peter Mason; 10330 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060  
 Christian, Elizabeth Nicola; 414 College Circle, Staunton, VA 24401  
 Soulen, Richard Kendall; 211 2nd Ave., Decatur, GA 30030  
 Malloy, Alison Marie; 2233 Cartwright Place, Reston, VA 20191  
 Ogren, Mark Victor; PO Box 5606, Glen Allen, VA 23058  
 Bailey, Marshall Siddons; 716 S. Pine St., Richmond, VA 23220  
 Vaughn, Robert Emory; 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon, VA 20171-4034

**Reserves**

Burian, Lawrence Lee; 4215 Greenview, Williamsburg, VA 23188  
 Kim, Seonyoung; 215 Fleming Way, Yorktown, VA 23692  
 Paysour, Jacob Stephen; 2806 Woodlawn Ave. S.W., Roanoke, VA 24015

*Cooper, Robert Ewell*; 900 Krim Point Lane, Midlothian, VA 23114

*Hinton, Olivia Thompson*; 245 Cypress Circle, Portsmouth, VA 23701-1456

*Joyner, Alexander Barham*; PO Box 436, Parksley, VA 23421

*Monge, Michael*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Boger, Vicki Johnson*; 614 Fraser Lane, Staunton, VA 24401

*Givens, Frances Elizabeth*; 10996 Seward Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

*Herndon, Ernest Thomas*; 40 South Gate Court, Suite 101, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

*Turner, Virginia Albert*; 1594 Quicksburg Road, Quicksburg, VA 22847

*Brown, Marc Darryl*; PO Box 393, Amherst, VA 24521

*Brooks, Brenda S.*; 4616 Phyllis Road, Roanoke, VA 24012

*Stanley, Jason Carter*; 4604 Winston Rd., Portsmouth, VA 23703

*Hong, Hang Sun (Aimee)*; 6306 Anneliese Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044

*Mickle, Jeffrey Paul*; 8318 Chapel Lake Court, Annandale, VA 22003

*Wright, Rachel J.*; PO Box 901, Dahgren, VA 22448

*West, Gregory Bradshaw*; 3505 Royal Palm Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

*Ferguson, Zach*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Ford, David Vincent*; 5 Silverbirch Drive, Blue Ridge, VA 24064

*Newbanks, Lloyd Leon*; 4007 Buckingham Court, Montclair, VA 22025

*Johnson, Robert Bruce*; PO Box 343, Urbanna, VA 23175

### ***Visayas Philippines (2)***

**Row 1                      Table 2                      Seats 3-4**

#### **Delegates**

*Cosmiano, Phebe Namoca*; Galilean UMC, Guadalupe, Visca, Baybay City, Leyte 6521, Philippines

\**Tibalbag, Roy Rafael*; Jimalalud United Methodist Church, South Poblacion, Jimalalud, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

*Santos, Isidro Mendoza*; Liptong, Valencia, Philippines

*Ferrer, Christie Sebastian*; Purok 1, Cangmating, Sibulan, 6201 Negros Oriental, Philippines

*Santos, Rufo Mendoza*; Purok V Liptong, Valencia, Philippines

*Soriano, Nezer Aben*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Salmon, Lea Mangay-Ayam*; First United Methodist Church, 14 A Lopez Street, Labangon, Cebu City, Philippines

*Salmon, Apriniel Rufino*; First United Methodist Church, 14 A Lopez Street, Labangon, Cebu City, Philippines

### ***West Congo (2)***

**Row 7                      Table 77                      Seats 5-6**

Delegate information unavailable at time of printing.

### ***West Michigan (2)***

**Row 7                      Table 80                      Seats 1-2**

#### **Delegates**

\**Guy, Beverly Ann*; 125 Baynton Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

*Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha J.*; address unavailable at time of printing

#### **Reserves**

*Dahlman, Laurie A.*; 1228 Southern, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

*Heisler, Benton Roy*; 1011 Northcrest Rd., Lansing, MI 48906

### ***West Middle Philippines (2)***

**Row 2                      Table 22                      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

\**Dado, Arleen Damaso*; Lesaca Street, Iba Zambales, Philippines

*Ebalo, Roger Morete*; The United Methodist Church, Brgy. Dolores, Cabangan, Philippines

#### **Reserves**

*Canlas, Louise Ann Barlit*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Atrero, Cristine Carnate*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Diwa, Helen Sioson*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Delos Reyes, Marlon Mangalindan*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Buan, Prescy Dela Cruz*; address unavailable at time of printing

*Alvaro, Allen Macasaet*; address unavailable at time of printing

### West Ohio (16)

**Row 8**                      **Table 91**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 8**                      **Table 92**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 8**                      **Table 93**                      **Seats 1-4**

### Delegates

\*Harper, Caleb Jeffrey; 4973 Timberlawn Ct., Greenville, OH 45331

*Aspey, Amy Barlak*; 48 E. North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214

Howard, George Glenn; 458 Ponce De Leon Ave. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308

*Heckaman, Christopher Todd*; 5521 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414

Moots, Philip R.; 141 Webster Park Ave., Columbus, OH 43214

*Grace, Roger L.*; 2755 Independence Ct., Grove City, OH 43123

Rohrs, Katherine Susan; 502 Dove St., Marysville, OH 43040

*Slaughter, Michael Barrett*; 10244 Elmfield Dr., Loveland, OH 45140

Perry, Joy L.; 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085

*Cook, Karen M.*; 2545 Farmers Dr., Ste. 350, Columbus, OH 43235

Brownson, William H.; 328 W. 6th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

*Graham, Curnell*; 2009 Dina Ct., Powell, OH 43065

Steiner, Chris E.; 2289 Garden Creek Dr., Maumee, OH 43537

*Stickley-Miner, Deanna E.*; 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085

Tay, Harris Kodjie Glover; 5303 Lorraine Dr., Temple Hills, MD 20748

*Damron, Douglas Alan*; 4855 W. Central Ave., Ottawa Hills, OH 43615

### Reserves

Stearns, Lyndsey Ann; 1490 Cereal Ave, Hamilton, OH 45013

*Giffin, Wade E.*; 1565 Cambridge Blvd., Columbus, OH 43212

Bridges, Marilyn Elizabeth; 2463 Richmond-Palestine Road, New Madison, OH 45346-9605

*Stover, Gregory D.*; 28 Seminole CV, Lake Waynoka, OH 45171

Willis, Valarie Davenport; 9698 Stonemasters Dr., Loveland, OH 45140

*Miller, Dennis William*; 11335 Rosewood Lane, Athens, OH 45701

Hug, Rebecca Lynn; 7415 Golden Springs Dr., Columbus, OH 43235

*Miller, Rachel Bootes*; 11335 Rosewood Lane, Athens, OH 45701

Connolly, Phillip Fredrick; 179 Emmaus Rd., PO Box 271, Marysville, OH 43040

*Casperson, April Marie*; 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085

Bales Todd, Linda Ann; 1441 Roamont Dr., Dayton, OH 45459

*Greenway, Jeffrey Edward*; 7821 Country Brook Lane, Reynoldsburgh, OH 43068

Peat, Marie Ann; 86 E. Broadway Ave., Westerville, OH 43081

*Guillozet, Anna Catherine*; 90 West College Ave., Westerville, OH 43081

Yu, Kyung Oh; 1917 Hickory Ridge Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45432

*Meredith, David Wayne*; 3416 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220

### West Virginia (6)

**Row 9**                      **Table 105**                      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

\*Kenaston, Judith Modlin; 200 Brookwood Lane, Beckley, WV 25801

*Finegan, Mary Ellen*; 51 S. Florida Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201

Sears, Erin Elizabeth; 1024 Meador St., Princeton, WV 24740

*Green, Sharletta Michelle*; 1510 Washington Ave., Parkersburg, WV 26101

Shaffer, Richard Allen; 1025 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

*Conley, Ellis Evins*; 2848 Putnam Ave., Hurricane, WV 25526

### Reserves

Kenaston, Connor Sheldon; 200 Brookwood Lane, Beckley, WV 25801

*Lacaria, John Franklin*; PO Box 2313, Charleston, WV 25313

Lyden, Royce Ann; 414 Buffalo Ave., Fairmont, WV 26554

*Godwin, Lauren Ann*; PO Box 40, Keyser, WV 26726

Kellerman, Fred Marlin; PO Box 12, Frankford, WV 24938

Flynn, Mark Warren; 733 Lower Donnally Rd., Charleston, WV 25304-2825

### West Zimbabwe (2)

**Row 3                      Table 28                      Seats 5-6**

#### Delegates

Katiyo, Betty Spiwe; 25 Wheeler Avenue, Eastlea, Harare, Zimbabwe

\*Matonga, Forbes; No. Harvey Brown St., Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe

#### Reserves

Mpemba, Shepard; PO Box 215, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Zamchiya, Clarah; House No. 23 Alamen Road, Breaside, Harare, Zimbabwe

Chaora, Chipu; House No. 4979, 66 Crescent, Glen View 3, Harare, Zimbabwe

Masamba, Remember; 10 Harvey Brown St., Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe

Chipungu, Albert Chenjerai; 5753 M Harapara Drive, Hillside, Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Zisengwe, Heather Jane; 1012 Mt. Pleasant Heights, Harare, Zimbabwe

### Western Angola (10)

**Row 1                      Table 2                      Seats 5-6**

**Row 1                      Table 3                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 1                      Table 4                      Seats 1-2**

#### Delegates

\*Graca, João Manuel da; Rua N.S. da Muxima 12, Caixa Postal 68, Luanda, Angola

Neto, Francisco Bernardo; Igreja Metodista Unida Em Angola, Angola

Curiminha, Rita Maria; Rua Nossa da Muzima 12, Luanda68, Angola

Manuel, Jorge; Igreja Metodista Unida Em Angola, Rua da Nossa Senhora da Leuxima 12, Luanda68, Angola

Kopo, Maria De Fátima; Igreja Metodista Unida Em Angola, Rua da Nossa Senhora da Muxima 12, Luanda68, Angola

Almeida, Adilson Leitão; Rua Nossa Senhora da Leuxima 12, Luanda68, Angola

Baião, Juscelina Domingos; Rua Nossa Senhora da Muxima #12, Luanda68, Angola

André, Manuel João; Rua Nossa Senhora de Muxima 12, Luanda68, Angola

Figueiredo, Manuel; Rua Da Nossa Senhora da Moutima, 12, Ex Postal 68, Luanda Angola

Cosme, Eva Sebastiao; Cx postal 68C

#### Reserves

da Cruz, Orlando Manuel; Igreja Metodista Unida Em Angola, R/Nossa Senhorada Muxima EXP 68C, Luanda, Angola

Zumba, Moisés Mazuela; Rua N/S De Muxima 12, Angola

Oliveira, Mauro Miguel De; Rua Nossa, Senhona, Angola

Cazombo, Elvira Moisés de Silva; Igreja Metodista Unida em Angola, Rua Nossa Senhora da Muxima 12 CXP 68, Angola

### Western North Carolina (20)

**Row 11                      Table 121                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 11                      Table 122                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 11                      Table 123                      Seats 1-6**

**Row 11                      Table 124                      Seats 1-2**

#### Delegates

\*Davis, Jennifer Pharr; PO Box 6175, Gastonia, NC 28056-6000

Ingram, Kimberly Tyree; PO Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218-0005

Lineberry, Jennifer Burton; 1100 Huntsford Terrace, Thomasville, NC 27360

Coles, Amy Louise; 3400 Shamrock Drive, PO Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218

Gilbert, Mary Lynne; Greensboro District, The United Methodist Church, PO Box 4523, Greensboro, NC 27404-4523

Christy, David Harold; 2424 Flintshire Lane, Gastonia, NC 28056

Hooker, Jr., Coley; 6400 Charter Oak Drive, Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

Stanley, Ashley Crowder; 24 Ashbrook Meadows, Fletcher, NC 28732

Johnson, Amy Long; 4920 Belgrove Drive, Tobaccoville, NC 27050-9547

Lee, In-Yong; 1201 Shady Bluff Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211

Sherfey, Shannon Marie Haszard; 191 Northwood Circle, Taylorsville, NC 28681

Howell, James Comer; 1501 Queens Rd., Charlotte, NC 28207

Hieronimus, Sandra (Sandy) Lovelace; 10000 Little Creek Rd., Mint Hill, NC 28227-5242

*Troxler, Jeremy Issac*; Spruce Pine UMC, 11090 Hwy. 226 S., Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Dozier, Henry Washington; 6540 Wickville Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

*Moore, Samuel Howard*; 4116 Bellingham Lane, Charlotte, NC 28215

Upchurch, Robert Douglas; 322 Gregg Street, Archdale, NC 27263

*Boggs, John Sherrod*; 5104 Misty Oaks Drive, Apt. 1722, Charlotte, NC 28269

Lanier, Tonya Ann; 710 Burgess Street, Lexington, NC 27292

*Patterson, Jeffrey Scott*; 1225 Chestnut Dr., High Point, NC 27262

### Reserves

McKinney, Sarah Eileen Hanko; 1100 Heatherloch Dr., Gastonia, NC 28054

*Queen, Sally Wooten*; 1100 Heatherloch Dr., Gastonia, NC 28054

Woods, Andrew Stephen; 150 17th Ave. N.W., Hickory, NC 28601

*Webb, Shelly Fay*; 563 Falls Creek Road, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768

Locklear, Neffie; 5717-G Bramblegate Road, Greensboro, NC 27409

*Hockett, David Carl*; 13924 Professional Center Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078

Thompson, Cindy Lloyd; 971 Wyckshire Court, Whitsett, NC 27377

*Pleasants, Angela A.*; 166 E. Main Ave., Gastonia, NC 28052

Wood, Jane Boatwright; PO Box 985, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

*Hand, Stephanie Moore*; 2535 Roundabout Lane, Charlotte, NC 28210

Loftin, Wade Douglas; 5570 Windemere Cir., Trinity, NC 27370

*Huffman, Lory Beth Thompson*; 471 New Market Blvd., Boone, NC 28607

Rodriguez, Reynaldo Anthony; 108 Breckindale Circle, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

*Westmoreland, Christopher M.*; address unavailable at time of printing

Fitzjefferies, Kathy E.; 115 Tannin Way, Lexington, NC 27295

*Beach, Laura Michelle*; 198 Bluebird Lane, Boone, NC 28607

Williams, Joseph W.; address unavailable at time of printing

*Hand, Dawn Maria*; 1500 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Aldridge, Ann Hayes; 2542 Silverbrook Court, Morganton, NC 28655

*Brittain, Julianne Jan*; 575 Brawley School Road, Mooresville, NC 28117

### Western Pennsylvania (12)

**Row 10**                      **Table 117**                      **Seats 1-6**

**Row 10**                      **Table 118**                      **Seats 1-6**

### Delegates

\*Gregory, Sharon J.; 2133 Chalfant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

*Park, Eric Stephen*; 1034 Route 288, Fombell, PA 16123

Denardo, Nancy L.; 1007 Norwood St., McKeesport, PA 15133

*Zillhaver, Robert Frank*; 232 N. Pittsburgh St. Suite B, Connellsville, PA 15425

Hoffman, Richard Christian; 101 Pembroke Ct., Greensburg, PA 15601

*Dunn, Alyce Weaver*; PO Box 5002, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066-5002

Morelli, Paul Michael; 420 First Street, DuBois, PA 15801

*Wagner, Amy R.*; 909 Denny Court, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

Miller, Diane M.; 140 Boones Way, Kennerdell, PA 16374

*Meekins, William Bright*; 1615 Grandview Ave., McKeesport, PA 15132

Stahlman, Vicki Jean; 293 Cowan Road, Brookville, PA 15825

*Seth, John William*; 337 Gurney Rd., Franklin, PA 16323

### Reserves

Blystone, Donald Carlyle; 7849 Route 97, Union City, PA 16438

*McPherson, Seth Ryan*; 5708 Glen Hill Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Whitehead, Tina Anne; 519 Maryland Avenue #1, Oakmont, PA 15139

*Chung, Sung Shik*; 510 Locust Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

Geer, Faith Weston; 1406 Towne Square Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

*Cox, Gregory David*; 512 Sarah Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

Ward, Peggy Denise; 177 Neville Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202



*Bain, Randall William*; 1916 Brenlin Street, Johnstown, PA 15904

*Schwanke, Kayla June*; 44 Greenbriar Circle, Russell, PA 16345

*Gottschalk, Stephanie Ruth*; 100 Airport Ave. E., Venice, FL 34285

*Merrick, Tracy Reynolds*; 2443 Dogwood Drive, Wexford, PA 15090

*Ciampa, John Everett*; 135 Beagle Road, South Fork, PA 15956

### **Wisconsin (6)**

**Row 13      Table 150      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

*King, Lisa M.*; W615 Riverview Ct., Fall River, WI 53932  
*Dick, Daniel Robert*; 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

*Dick, Barbara Anne Buehler*; 261 North Musket Ridge Dr., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

*Royappa, Samuel John*; 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

*Burgess, Gail L.*; 6510 - 203rd Avenue, Bristol, WI 53104

*\*Zekoff, Steven E.*; W8212 Stockbridge Ct., Lake Mills, WI 53551

#### **Reserves**

*Crise, Katie Elizabeth*; PO Box 312, Webster, WI 54893  
*Stein, Amanda M. D.*; 329 North Street, Madison, WI 53704

*Popp, Thomas George*; 9 South Owen Drive, Madison, WI 53705

*Mayorga, Jorge Luis*; 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

*Vasby, Judith Grace*; 218 Neli Ct., Deerfield, WI 53531

*Schwerin, Daniel W.*; 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186

### **Yellowstone (2)**

**Row 4      Table 40      Seats 5-6**

#### **Delegates**

*McCammon, Donald L.*; 2616 Bonnie Court, Missoula, MT 59803

*\*Amundson, Tyler Flint*; 1810 Shiloh Rd., Billings, MT 59106

#### **Reserves**

*Plimpton, Lovinia Marguerite*; 1929 E. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802

*Scott, Jeremy William*; 108 King Ave., Johnstown, CO 80534

### **Zambia (6)**

**Row 5      Table 60      Seats 1-6**

#### **Delegates**

*Mulonda, Obed Bupe*; UMC, PO Box 70839, Ndola, Zambia

*Kilembo, Robert Shakikupe*; UMC, PO Box 70839, Ndola, Zambia

*Chikuta, John*; PO Box 70839, Ndola, Zambia

*\*Bwalya, Laishi*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Kadima, Cathrine*; Eglise Metodiste-Unie Au Nord, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

*Mainsa, Daiman*; UMC, PO Box 20219, Kitwe, Zambia

#### **Reserves**

Reserve information unavailable at time of printing.

## **Membership of Legislative Committee**

In a quadrennial General Conference, the membership of legislative committees is printed after the list of delegates and reserves by conference.

For the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, the Commission on the General Conference has determined that there will be only one legislative committee, to which all delegates will be assigned. All legislation deemed in harmony with the call to the Special Session will be assigned to that committee.

## Purpose of the Special Session of the General Conference

### Council of Bishops' Call for the Special Session of the General Conference



Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church  
100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

April 24, 2017

To: Annual Conference Secretaries  
Heads of Delegations to the 2016 General Conference (or successors)  
Secretary of the General Conference  
Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference

From: Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President  
Council of Bishops

Re: Special Session of the General Conference

Grace and peace to you from God, our Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Council of Bishops hereby calls a special session of the General Conference per Division Two—Section II—Article II of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church (§ 14 of *The Book of Discipline (2016)*).

The special session of the General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The purpose of this Special Session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

According to Article II of The Constitution (§ 14 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*), this Special Session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their lawful successors, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

The Secretary of the General Conference will be in communication with annual conference secretaries regarding updated delegate information, seating of reserve delegates, and the issuance of new certificates of election for annual conferences choosing to hold a new election.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference will develop and forward additional information regarding the logistics of the Special Session of General Conference at the appropriate time.

The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Commission on a Way Forward and the Special Session of General Conference.

100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-6270

## Amended Call for the Special Session of the General Conference



Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church  
100 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002

July 9, 2018

To: Annual Conference Secretaries  
Heads of Delegations to the 2016 General Conference (or successors)  
Secretary of the General Conference  
Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference

From: Bishop Kenneth Carter, President  
Council of Bishops

Re: Amended Call for Special Session of the General Conference

Grace and peace to you from God, our Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Out of a great sense of caution and the desire to help delegates to the Special Session of General Conference 2019 do their best work, the Council of Bishops hereby issues an amended call of a special session of the General Conference per Division Two - Section II - Article II of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church (§ 14 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*).

This amended call is issued in response to footnote 6 of Judicial Council Decision 1360 handed down on May 25, 2018. A copy of Decision 1360 is attached hereto.

The Council of Bishops and the Commission on a Way Forward have worked collaboratively regarding the report to the General Conference. Because the Council of Bishops seeks to honor the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and because the focus must be what is best for The United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops has determined that issuing an amended call is the best way forward.

**The purpose of this Special Session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based upon recommendations of the Council of Bishops.**

*The information below was included in the original call letter dated April 24, 2017. It remains a part of the call and is included for information since these steps are already in process per the original call letter.*

The Special Session of the General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

According to Article II of The Constitution (§ 14 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*), this special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the 2016 General Conference or their lawful successors, except when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election.

The Secretary of the General Conference will be in communication with annual conference secretaries regarding updated delegate information, seating of reserve delegates, and the issuance of new certificates of election for annual conferences choosing to hold a new election.

The Commission on the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference will develop and forward additional information regarding the logistics of the Special Session of General Conference at the appropriate time.

The Council of Bishops encourages the entire church to continue in deep, unceasing prayer for Holy Spirit breakthroughs for the Special Session of General Conference.

**Below is the referenced footnote #6 from the Judicial Council Decision 1360.**

<sup>6</sup> The undertaking of a “complete examination” of the subject of human sexuality presupposes that there will be some kind of report, document or study which supports the “possible revision of every paragraph in our *Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality,” which, in turn, presupposes that the Commission (not the Council of Bishops) will put forth legislation to fix the problem. The special called General Conference is to consider “their work,” i.e., whatever the Commission desires to put before General Conference in terms of its “complete examination.”

However, in passing, we note that the question here is whether a special commission created by the General Conference can report to a body other than the General Conference. Specifically, is the Commission on a Way Forward amenable to the General Conference or the Council of Bishops, and can it present its findings and report to the General Conference through the Council? See JCD 424.

There is nothing in the proceedings of the 2016 General Conference suggesting that the Commission on a Way Forward was supposed to submit its recommendations to the Council of Bishops. Similarly, there is no evidence in the legislative debate prior to the vote on the motion indicating that the Council of Bishops would develop specific legislative proposals based on the recommendations of the Commission and present them to the called special session of the General Conference.

The language of *An Offering* strongly suggests that “the work” of the Commission on a Way Forward, and only this body, is the rationale for calling a special session of the General Conference.

## Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church

### Decision No. 1360

**IN RE:** Petition for Declaratory Decision from the Council of Bishops regarding the meaning, application and effect of ¶ 14 in relation to ¶ 507 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*.

#### Digest

The purpose of the special session of the General Conference 2019 stated in the Bishops' call is limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. Petitions to the special session of the General Conference 2019 may be filed by any organization, clergy member and lay member of the United Methodist Church as long as the business proposed to be transacted in such petition is in harmony with the purpose stated in the call. It is the obligation of the General Conference to determine, in the first instance, through its committees, officers and presiders, acting in accordance with The Discipline and the rules and procedures of the General Conference, whether any such petition is "in harmony." However, business not in harmony with the purpose as stated in the call is not permitted unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted. See ¶ 14.

#### Statement of Facts

The 2016 General Conference was facing what was described as an onslaught of 56 distinct legislative petitions proposing scores of distinct "solutions" to the quadrennial debate over human sexuality issues that have dominated General Conference sessions for nearly a half century.<sup>1</sup>

On Tuesday, May 16, 2016, on behalf of the Council of Bishops, President Bruce Ough brought a special message to the General Conference:

Even as we call for unity of the church, I come before you today to confess that we ourselves as a Council of Bishops are not fully united. And this work, this work of maintaining the unity of the church begins at home and we know it. We are therefore not advancing

or advocating any plan of separation or reorganization of the denomination. We clearly understand and respect the constitutional prerogative of this body to propose and act on legislation. It is our job to preside. And as presiders, we are committed to enabling this body, by the grace of God, to perform your legislative function. At the same time, we remain open to new and innovative ways to be in unity. We will remain in dialogue with one another and others about how God may be leading us to explore new beginnings, new expressions, perhaps even new structures for our United Methodist mission and witness.<sup>2</sup>

Later during that Session, Delegate Mark Holland made the following motion:

Bishop, I would like to offer a nonbinding resolution for the 2016 General Conference to respectfully ask the bishops of our church to convene today in order to offer a nonbinding recommendation back to this body tomorrow morning as to how the church might move forward around the issue of human sexuality, and, if I have a second, I'll speak to it.<sup>3</sup>

Holland's motion and his remarks were followed by statements by Delegates Tom Berlin, Sergey Kim, Jerry Paye-Manflor Kulah, Adam Hamilton, and Richard-Christian Hoffman. The presiding Bishop, Janice Huie, interpreted the motion as a motion to refer the matter to the Council of Bishops and called for the vote accordingly. The vote was 428-364 in favor of referral.<sup>4</sup>

In response to the referral from General Conference, the Council of Bishops offered a recommendation which it called "An Offering for a Way Forward" ("An Offering").<sup>5</sup> The operative language in that document said the following:

We recommend that (i) the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and (ii) refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, (iii) to develop a complete examination and (iv) possible revision of every paragraph in our *Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality.

1. See *Daily Christian Advocate (DCA)* Vol. 4, No. 1 at 1709, listing all of the human sexuality petitions that the 2016 General Conference had been slated to consider before voting to refer the entire issue to the Council of Bishops and its Commission on a Way Forward.

2. *DCA* Vol. 4 No. 8, page 2459.

3. *DCA* Vol. 4 No. 8, pages 2476-2477.

4. *DCA* Vol. 4 No. 8, page 2478.

5. *DCA* Vol. 4 No. 9, page 2488.

\* \* \* \*

We commit to maintain an ongoing dialogue with this commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and outcomes. (v) Should they complete their work in time for a called General Conference, then (vi) we will call a two- to three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference [Edits added.]<sup>6</sup>

Motions by Adam Hamilton and Chap Temple concerning An Offering failed. Delegate George Howard then stepped forward and made this motion:

I would move that we accept the report from the Council of Bishops, and we act on the steps that they have proposed to move The United Methodist Church forward. I believe we've asked our leaders to lead. I believe that they have attempted to put forward in a very short time, a way that would allow us to move forward with dignity that would honor and respect the diversity of our leaders and the diversity of this body. That they hold the totality before them of who we are as The United Methodist Church. That they hold in their hearts as our shepherds, the leadership responsibility, and they can put this together. They can name the team that they would respect and that we would be able to stand behind. I think we're ready. I think we're ready to move forward. This is an action. This is not postponing anything. This is allowing us to move forward with a plan that will keep The United Methodist Church united.

After discussion, including procedural inquiries, Bishop McAlilly called for the vote with the following statement:

We're ready to vote on the recommendation. This is a recommendation from the Council of Bishops that is before us. . . . Alright. We have 428 to favor, against 405. The recommendation prevails. Thank you very much.<sup>7</sup>

On October 24, 2016, the Council of Bishops named 32 persons to serve on the Commission on the Way Forward ("CWF"), which included 8 bishops as members and 3 bishops as moderators.

On April 24, 2017, the Council of Bishops issued its call for a special General Conference and stated the purpose as follows:

The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

On February 28, 2018, the Executive Session Minutes (*select portion*) of the Council of Bishops stated that the Council voted to seek a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council "to clarify whether petitions will be accepted prior to the special Session of General Conference 2019." An ADDENDUM to those minutes stated as follows: BY CONSENT TO ACTION WITHOUT FORMAL MEETING, the full Council of Bishops approved by email ballot, the submission to the Judicial Council of a request for a declaratory decision regarding ¶ 14 in relation to ¶ 507 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*.

On April 9, 2018, Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey forwarded the Bishops' request for a declaratory decision to the Secretary of the Judicial Council along with a request that the Council schedule a called session to take up the request.

The request for a declaratory decision (minus the language) is as follows:

If petitions are in harmony with the restricted purpose stated in the Council of Bishops' call . . . as determined by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference, . . . may organizations of the United Methodist Church, clergy members and lay members submit petitions to the special General Conference session . . . that are not consistent with the "report of the Council of Bishops

6. The undertaking of a "complete examination" of the subject of human sexuality presupposes that there will be some kind of report, document or study which supports the "possible revision of every paragraph in our *Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality," which, in turn, presupposes that the Commission (not the Council of Bishops) will put forth legislation to fix the problem. The special called General Conference is to consider "their work," i.e., whatever the Commission desires to put before General Conference in terms of its "complete examination."

However, in passing, we note that the question here is whether a special commission created by the General Conference can report to a body other than the General Conference. Specifically, is the Commission on a Way Forward amenable to the General Conference or the Council of Bishops, and can it present its findings and report to the General Conference through the Council? See JCD 424.

There is nothing in the proceedings of the 2016 General Conference suggesting that the Commission on a Way Forward was supposed to submit its recommendations to the Council of Bishops. Similarly, there is no evidence in the legislative debate prior to the vote on the motion indicating that the Council of Bishops would develop specific legislative proposals based on the recommendations of the Commission and present them to the called special session of the General Conference.

The language of *An Offering* strongly suggests that "the work" of the Commission on a Way Forward, and only this body, is the rationale for calling a special session of the General Conference.

7. DCA Vol.4 No. 10, page 2680.

based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward” . . . ?<sup>8</sup>

An oral hearing was held on May 22, 2018 in Evanston, Illinois. Rev. Gary W. Graves, Gary George, and Sara Hotchkiss appeared on behalf of the Respondent. Bishop Bruce R. Ough and Bill Waddell appeared on behalf of the Petitioner. The following appeared representing *Amicus Curiae*: Keith D. Boyette, Stephanie Henry, Bishop Scott J. Jones, John Lomperis, and Thomas Starnes.

### Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction pursuant to ¶ 2610 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*.<sup>9</sup>

### Analysis and Rationale

The answer to the question posed in the Bishops’ request is Yes and No. Yes, petitions may be filed, but No, petitions must not be inconsistent with the purpose stated in the call.

The purpose of the special session of the General Conference 2019 stated in the Bishops’ call, is limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Paragraph 507 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* permits any organization, clergy member or lay member of the United Methodist Church to file a petition to General Conference if it meets the criteria set forth therein. It makes no distinction as to whether such petitions are to a regular or special session of General Conference.

Division Two, Section II, Article II of the Constitution (¶ 14) does not place any restriction on the filing of petitions to a special session of the General Conference as long as the business proposed to be undertaken in such petition is in harmony with the purpose stated in the call. Therefore, petitions which are in harmony with any business which may be proposed in the Bishops’ Report are allowed.

### Ruling

The purpose of the special General Conference 2019 stated in the Bishops’ call is limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward. Petitions to the special General Conference 2019 may be filed by any organization, clergy member and lay member of the United Methodist Church as long as the business proposed to be transacted in such petition is in harmony with the purpose stated in the call. It is the obligation of the General Conference to determine, in the first instance, through its committees, officers and presiders, acting in accordance with *The Discipline* and the rules and procedures of the General Conference, whether any such petition is “in harmony.” However, business not in harmony with the purpose as stated in the call is not permitted unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted. See ¶ 14.

Deanell Tacha recused herself and did not participate in any of the proceedings related to this decision.

First Lay Alternate, Warren Plowden, participated in this decision.

May 24, 2018

### Concur In Part, Dissent In Part

Although I concur with my colleagues on some points, I write separately because I believe that the scope and application of the law is a bit more narrow than that of the majority. For the purpose of clarity hereunder, I will restate only a few of the salient facts along with the controlling Disciplinary provisions:

The Constitution of The United Methodist Church authorizes special sessions of the General Conference in ¶ 14 as follows:

¶ 14. Article II.—The General Conference shall meet in the month of April or May once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined

8. The unedited question posed by the bishops reads as follows: “If petitions are in harmony with the restricted purpose stated in the Council of Bishops’ call on April 24, 2017 as determined by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference and if the petitions are postmarked by July 8, 2018, may organizations of the United Methodist Church, clergy members, and lay members submit petitions to the special General Conference that are not consistent with the “report of the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward as stated in the call?” The phrase “. . . as determined by two-thirds vote . . .” in the premise of the Request is misleading as that requirement refers to “other business that may be transacted.” See ¶ 14, last sentence. See also JCD 227.

9. ¶ 2610. Declaratory Decisions — 1. The Judicial Council, on petition as hereinafter provided, shall have jurisdiction to make a ruling in the nature of a declaratory decision as the constitutionality, meaning, application, or effect of the *Discipline* or any portion thereof or of any act or legislation of a General Conference; and the decision of the Judicial Council thereon shall be as binding and effectual as a decision made by it on appeal. 2. The following bodies of The United Methodist Church are hereby authorized to make such petitions to the Judicial Council for declaratory decisions: . . . (b) the Council of Bishops. . . .



by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees.

A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the General Conference, **may be called by the Council of Bishops, or** in such other manner **as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe**, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference [Amended 1976] shall prefer to have a new election it may do so [see JCD 221, 226, 228, 238, 302]. **The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted** as is in harmony with **the purpose** stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted [see JCD 227]. [Emphasis added]

The 2016 General Conference requested and authorized the Council of Bishops to call a special session of the General Conference pursuant to the anticipated creation and work of a “Commission On A Way Forward.”

The Bishops’ subsequent Call to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference states:

The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Thereafter, a request for a Declaratory Decision was made by the Council of Bishops as follows:

If petitions are in harmony with the restricted purpose stated in the Council of Bishops’ call on April 24, 2017 as determined by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference and if the petitions are postmarked or received by July 8, 2018, may organizations of the [sic] United Methodist Church, clergy members, and lay members submit petitions to the special General Conference session called for February 23-26, 2019, that are not consistent with the “report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward” as stated in the call?

In answering the question, I believe that it is more helpful to be direct and exacting when possible. Thus, given that:

1. the call to the special session has already issued; and
2. the purpose specified in the call is “limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward”; and
3. the Constitution limits a special session’s business to the purpose stated in the call

It, therefore, follows that the 2019 special session of General Conference will not be receiving petitions because its purpose is limited to the report emanating from the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Although there are aspects of this process that blur the boundaries of roles and authority of the Episcopacy (executive branch) and the General Conference (legislative branch), upon a thorough review of the transcripts of the daily proceedings for Tuesday, May 17, and Wednesday, May 18, and Friday, May 20, and especially after a careful viewing of the archived live feed (videos) of each of those plenary sessions, it is evident that this unique request for this unusual quasi-participatory role of the Episcopacy, was initiated by the General Conference delegates.

On Tuesday morning, in response to increasing expressions of mounting anxiety and pain stemming from informal discussions, briefings, and media coverage about potential imminent schism within the denomination, a pastoral message of unity and hope was offered to the body by the Council of Bishops. *DCA* pp 2458-2459.

On Tuesday afternoon the Bishop’s pastoral message from the morning session was specifically referenced by General Conference delegates while making motions and engaging in debate, and at times, literally pleading for the Council of Bishops help and guidance.

The maker of the first motion stated:

... I would like to offer a nonbinding resolution for the 2016 General Conference to respectfully ask the bishops of our church to convene today in order to offer a nonbinding recommendation back to this body tomorrow morning as to how the church might move forward around the issue of human sexuality, and, if I have a second, I’ll speak to it. . . .

Bishop, I appreciated the heart that Bishop Ough shared with us today and the dilemma that the bishops face of being divided around these issues. I think now, more than ever, we need the leadership of our temporal and spiritual leaders to move into Holy Conferencing and model for this body how a divided body moves forward for the good. There’s a lot of talk about church

splitting. There's a lot of talk about what that's gonna look like. There's a lot of energy around petitions that are coming in the next few days that could be potentially explosive, and I think if we would offer our invitation to the bishops—they are not bound by us, the bishops could say no, and we are not bound by the work of the bishops, we could ignore what they say—but it would be beneficial, I believe, if we could hear from those who have been consecrated for leadership in our church about what a way forward might look like and empower their leadership to come back in the morning. I would suggest they could convene today. Except for the presiding officers, the bishops do not have a role in the legislative process and could use this good time to prayerfully and thoughtfully model Holy Conferencing for the rest of us. I think it's time to do something new that's gonna allow us to move forward hopefully and respectfully with one another. I hear their call for unity, and a call for unity without a path towards unity is not gonna get us there. Thank you. [DCA pp 2476-2477].

The delegate that spoke next offered the following:

...I'm a pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference. Bishop, this morning Bishop Ough said that at General Conference, the role of the bishop was to preside. Quite frankly, Bishop, we think it's your role to lead. We would like— (applause) [t]he council to lead. We have— ... A very difficult, we have a very difficult and painful situation, and in various ways many people are experiencing great pain around, especially, the issues of human sexuality. We would like you all to lead us, which is why you've been elected. We are asking for your leadership, and if you could bring us some concrete proposal, which might include a called General Conference, which is within your authority, I think it would be a blessing to the body and to the church. Thank you. [DCA p 2477].

Then, three speakers later, another motion and plea:

...Thank you, Bishop. We are in a stuck place at this General Conference. We, in theory, could find ourselves leaving on Friday, still stuck and wounded. You are our leaders. You are our spiritual leaders. I concur with Mark Holland, with Tom Berlin. We need you. It

would be so helpful for us for you to come together prayerfully to consider what might be a way for us to move forward as a church, and, again, that's nonbinding. You are making recommendations as our spiritual leaders across the world to help us in moving forward as a denomination, and I concur with Tom's suggestion that could include, you have the right to call, a special General Conference to focus on this particular issue of how do we find, how do we reorder our lives so that we have a chance to move forward, whatever that looks like. We need you. We need your help. We need you to spend time contemplating this, praying about this as I know you already have, and then coming back to us with a suggestion for how we move forward so we don't leave Friday, like we did four years ago, having accomplished very little and finding ourselves still stuck as a denomination. I'm pleading with you. Please help us. [DCA pp 2477-2478].

Thus, the context, impetus, and initial speeches that lead to the General Conference action authorizing the work and that which is to culminate with the 2019 Special Session of General Conference.

In keeping with actions and debate which then followed these initial motions, I am reluctant to go beyond the narrow scope of the question presented for a Declaratory Decision in light of the dynamics of this unusual General Conference action which might fairly be perceived as having been an organic response by the General Conference delegates to the dynamics surrounding the delegates of the 2016 General Conference.

Assuming that the Commission's work and proposals will be incorporated into the report that will be made to the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, and likewise assuming that the Commission will be present and fully participating in the presentation of the report, particularly as it relates the Commission's process, work, and findings, then under those circumstances the concerns raised in the majority opinion concerning the General Conference and Episcopacy roles and authority ought to be allayed.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Capen

May 24, 2018

# The Commission on a Way Forward's Report to the General Conference

## Preface

This report to the Special Session of the General Conference from the Commission on a Way Forward is submitted out of a desire to serve our whole church and particularly the delegations who will gather in February 2019. It is offered in the context of a global church on four continents, in the four official languages of the church, and in an attempt to share material that honors this reality. This report is the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and is shared directly with the Special Session of the General Conference.

## History of the Commission on a Way Forward's Report

Since its inception, both the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops understood that the Commission was doing its work on behalf of the Council of Bishops and that the Council of Bishops would be submitting a report and proposed legislation to the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019. This was the interpretation of the plain language of the Offering of a Way Forward, approved in Portland at the 2016 General Conference under which the Commission did its work.

On May 25, 2018, after the final meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Judicial Council released its decision (Decision 1360) indicating that the Commission is to submit its report and proposed legislation directly to the General Conference. In order to best serve the church, the Commission has reformatted its report to reflect this change and to honor the work done by the Commission.

This has given the Commission the opportunity to reflect on its purpose. The Commission is a group of thirty-two persons brought together to help the church find a way forward. The Commission's purpose was never to arrive at uniformity of thought among its own members or to design the shape the church should take in the future. The purpose has been to help the Council of Bishops and the General Conference to do this work of decision-making. And so what the church will see in the report at no point suggests that Commission members had full agreement with everything in the report. While not agreeing with everything in this report, the Commission members always had agreement to keep the work moving ahead for the benefit of the whole church. The Commission members have been in covenant with each other, and remain hopeful about God's continuing work through The United Methodist Church.

As you read the report, please note places where work was done by the Commission and where additional information is included from work done by the Council of Bishops or a separate subgroup of bishops.

## The Historical Context

2018 is the 50th anniversary of The United Methodist Church. We look back upon the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968, which itself must include the histories of the Central Jurisdiction in the United States, and the Evangelical United Brethren. In 1972 the present language about human sexuality was added to our *Book of Discipline*. Increasing harm to one another, and a deepening impasse related to human sexuality and the unity of the church has led to a Special Session of the General Conference, which will receive this report and other matters in harmony with the Council of Bishops' call for this Special Session.

## Key Foundational Ideas

### *Our Common Core*

The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds; Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith; General Rules; The Wesley Hymns; Disciplined Engagement with Scripture; Works of Piety, Mercy, and Justice; Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist; Small Group Accountability and Support (Class and Band Meetings); A Connectional Way of Life that includes Superintendency, Itineracy, and Conferencing. From "Wonder, Love and Praise," three concepts: The saving love of God is meant for all people; the saving love of God is transformative; and the saving love of God creates community.

### *The Need for Space and Separation*

The position that United Methodists have done great harm to each other, and/or that there are irreconcilable theological differences, and that this requires the establishment for more distinct space between constituencies in our church and perhaps the separation of some segments of our church, primarily based on values, from each other.

### *Centralization and De-Centralization*

Grounded in the concepts of "Connectional Unity and Local Freedom" (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 125). Centraliza-

tion and De-Centralization each have positive and negative characteristics. The positive quality of centralization is order and clarity; the negative trait can be stagnancy and suppression. The positive quality of de-centralization is freedom and contextualization; the negative trait can be chaos and confusion. A key question in relation to centralization and de-centralization is toward which does our present missional situation call us to lean?

### ***Traditionalist, Contextual, and Progressive Values***

Traditionalists value marriage between one man and one woman, and sexual activity within this relationship. Traditionalists also seek greater accountability at every level of the church. Contextualists want to translate the gospel into the varied settings in which God places us. They see this as a missiological calling, and believe that the work of the church can be adapted in a global church. Progressives value full inclusion of all persons in the life of the church, at every level, and this includes the LGBTQ community. They also believe that the church can celebrate same-gender marriages.

### ***Learning to Be a Global Church***

The awareness, especially among United Methodists in the United States, that we aspire to understand and live from our worldwide nature. This is a journey of listening, humility, and crossing boundaries of geography, language, and culture to understand how faith and culture shapes conversations around LGBTQ identity and practice and the unity of the church. As the conversation matures, it will be less dominated by colonial habits of the past and present.

### ***Definitions of Unity***

Our unity is in Jesus Christ: One Lord, One Spirit, One Faith, and One Baptism. Jesus prays for this unity and this unity is made visible in his body, the church. Our unity may be visible in new forms and structures. The path toward greater unity is one that is undertaken in coordination with the work on the *General Book of Discipline*. When we cannot live in unity with others, our witness is compromised and we do harm to each other.

### ***Maximizing Mission and the Distinction between Public and Private Mission***

We exist as a church on four continents, under the cross and the flame. To maximize the mission is to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment in as many places in the world as possible. The public mission is our stated purpose, “to make disciples of Jesus Christ

for the transformation of the world” (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 120). At times this can be in conflict with our private mission, which at times places a higher value on satisfying the constituent groups already within our church.

### ***The Anatomy of Peace and Our Ways of Being with Each Other***

The condition of our heart to another person very much shapes the outcomes. If we have a heart at peace, we see the other as a person, with many needs, hopes, and gifts. If we have a heart at war, we see the other as an object or an obstacle to our own desires and visions. In addition, a heart at war exaggerates the differences between persons in order to prepare to go to war with them. This is a self-fulfilling prophecy. And when persons (or groups) are at war with each other, they escalate the conflict with each other in order to justify themselves, and can be in collusion with each other for the gain of their own group’s interests. The Commission worked diligently to continually condition ourselves to have hearts of peace. This essential work gave us the ability to get beyond our positions and to seek and discover the interests we have in common in terms of our faith, our biblical understandings, our love for The United Methodist Church, and our Christ’s mission to reach the world with the transforming power of God.

### ***Praying Our Way Forward, in Council Meetings and in Annual Conferences***

Prayer has been at the heart of the Way Forward process since May 2016. We have spent time in deep prayer and in many languages in the Commission and Council meetings. Annual conferences have led emphases and calls to prayer. And as we approach the Special Session of the General Conference we ask that our members across the world pray each day from 2:23 to 2:26, numbers which correspond to the dates of February 23-26, 2019.

### ***How the Commission Did Its Work***

The Commission on a Way Forward (COWF) met in United Methodist buildings and local churches, as a sign of our connection and as an expression of stewardship. The COWF then sought alignment with the mission, vision, and scope given by the Council of Bishops. The members drafted a covenant that would guide speech and actions, in the meetings and in between them. Over time the agendas included the sharing of faith testimonies, study of several biblical books, including Galatians, 1 Corinthians, and John’s Gospel, and time of intercessory prayer for each other.

The Commission listened to outside voices, among them Erin Hawkins, Dawn Hare, Russell Richey, David Scott, Bishops Woodie White and Scott Jones. The COWF worked in a spirit of collaboration with other committees and boards of the church; for example two colloquies were held in partnership with the General Board on Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), one on human sexuality and a second on mission in the United States. Members of the COWF and the Committee on Faith and Order met together to draft the theological framework. Members of the COWF met with personnel from the General Board on Global Ministries (GBGM) to draft the missional framework. And the COWF had ongoing conversation with the leadership of Wespath. One of our meetings was held in Berlin, Germany and the Commission was much benefited by having discussions outside of the United States as the focus of the Commission's work was to consider the global context of The United Methodist Church in the midst of its work.

The COWF also gathered data from constituents and stakeholders from across the connection. Commission members and moderators spoke and listened in most of the theological schools in the U.S. and at Africa University. Dialogues were held with renewal and advocacy groups and with clergy and laity of annual conferences. An electronic platform allowed members to see submissions from across the world that expressed the convictions of United Methodists.

The COWF presented an interim report to the Council of Bishops in November 2017, and based on that feedback presented again in February 2018. A final report was given to the COB in May 2018.

### **The Historical Narrative of the Commission on a Way Forward's Work**

Delegates at the General Conference in May 2016 in Portland voted to approve the Council of Bishops' request to "pause for prayer" and form a commission to explore options that help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. In July 2016 the executive committee of the Council of Bishops met in Chicago to identify the mission, vision, and scope of the work and selected three moderators.

Bishops nominated and selected 32 members to serve on the Commission, focusing on a diverse body that represents our global church. In the Commission there are persons from nine countries with a variety of theological perspectives. The Commission is one third laity, one third clergy, and one third bishops and includes younger persons, gay persons, professors, administrators, pastors, youth ministers, campus ministers, lay leaders, large church pastors, and persons identified with renewal and

advocacy groups. There is Korean, Hispanic, African American, Filipino, European, and African representation.

The key part of the early work was to build trust and intentional community among a group of people who had good reasons not to trust each other. At the heart of the work on relationship building was the book *The Anatomy of Peace* by the Arbinger Institute, which focuses on how we live with a heart at war, seeing others as obstacles to or vehicles for what we want, or a heart at peace, seeing others as people. A heart at war exaggerates our differences. A heart at peace sees what we have in common. The Commission wrote a significant covenant with each other and at the end of the first meeting gave everyone the invitation to leave, with honor. Commission members focused on finding a way forward rather than on representing groups or constituencies. The Commission's practice of voicing differing theological views and interpretations of Scripture stands as a model for what kind of ministry we are both called and empowered by God to do. This led us to discover the interests behind the various positions, and opened up multiple possibilities for how the church can continue to fulfill the ministry of Christ in both unity and with diversity.

The Commission spent significant time listening to the church through an open framework for receiving documents, ideas, and testimonies. The Commission received and processed feedback from boards and agencies, local churches, annual conferences, individual lay and clergy persons, candidates for ministry, and seminary students. Conversations took place with individuals and interest groups across the globe. Many commission members additionally spoke to numerous groups throughout the connection.

The Commission met nine times over seventeen months. The Commission reviewed a wide variety of petitions presented as legislation to previous General Conferences regarding human sexuality and examined how other faith communities and denominations are responding or have responded to the question of inclusion of LGBTQ persons. Along the way the commission members worked on models of a way forward. The Commission gave an extended interim report to the Council of Bishops in November 2017 that included three sketches: one that focused on accountability within the context of the current *Book of Discipline* language, one that focused on removing restrictive language and placing a high value on contextuality and protections of various perspectives, and one that reimaged the church as a unified core with multiple branches. Three key values in these models were mission, space, and unity. How can a model maximize the Wesleyan witness? How much space do we need? How much unity is possible?

The Commission examined very carefully the impact of any of the models on the global church with its conferences inside and outside of the United States. The Commission discussed how to carefully implement wording that allows the various regions of the church to do what's appropriate for them in order to fulfill the mission to make disciples.

With continued input from bishops and constituencies around the church, the Commission refined and adapted the models and presents this report to the Special Session of the General Conference. Future work will be with delegations to create a culture that will listen to God, receive the report, and do this work with a heart of peace and not a heart of war.

### Members of the Commission on a Way Forward

*Note:* Commission member names are listed without title. While Commission members respect and appreciate titles and academic degrees, we most often addressed each other on a first-name basis, practicing a convicted humility as we accomplished our work together.

Jorge Acevedo	Mande Guy Muyombo
Brian Adkins	Eben Nhiwatiwa
Jacques Akasa Umembudi	Dave Nuckols
Tom Berlin	Casey Langley Orr
Matt Berryman	Gregory Palmer
Helen Cunanan	Donna Pritchard
David Field	Tom Salsgiver
Grant Hagiya	Robert Schnase
Hortense Aka Dago-Akribi	Jasmine Rose Smothers
Scott Johnson	Leah Taylor
Jessica LaGrone	Peter Torio
Thomas Lambrecht	Debra Wallace-Padgett
Myungrae Kim Lee	Rosemarie Wenner
Julie Hager Love	Alice Williams
Mazvita Machinga	John Wesley Yohanna
Patricia Miller	Alfiado S. Zunguza

### *Moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward*

David K. Yemba, Ken Carter, and Sandra Steiner Ball

### Mission, Vision, and Scope

#### *Mission*

The Commission will bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relation-

ships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional, and central conference actions. We have a profound hope and confidence in the triune God, and yet we acknowledge that we do this work in a climate of skepticism and distrust, from a human point of view. We are a connection, and we admit that our communion is strained; yet much transformative mission across our world is the fruit of our collaboration. The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition. The work is meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.

#### *Vision*

The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.

#### *Scope*

We should be open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse and cycle of action and reaction around ministry and human sexuality. Therefore, we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment. In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering "new forms and structures" of relationship and through the "complete examination and possible revision" of relevant paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline*. We will give consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness. If we ignore this work, fracturing will occur in more haphazard and even self-interested ways across the church. If we do this work only to address our preferences and self-interest, we will fail to place our complete trust in God's steadfast love and faithfulness. If we do this work with complete surrender to God's unlimited imagination and Kingdom purposes, we will be blessed beyond

our limited human imagination. God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go. To God be the glory!

## Theological Framework

*Note:* The Theological Framework was developed by a team that included members of the Commission and the Committee on Faith and Order. It was affirmed by the Commission on a Way Forward at their January 2018 meeting and edited after the Council of Bishops meeting.

### *An Ecumenical Church [Acts 2; John 3; Genesis 1; 3]*

United Methodists are part of the great ecumenical consensus expressed in the historic creeds of the Christian faith: affirmations about the triune God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the life-giving ministry of the Holy Spirit, and inclusive of the marks of the church that remain before us as gift and task—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The church is the community of people transformed by the grace of God in Jesus Christ so that personal and communal life manifests holiness by demonstrating love for God and their fellow human beings. We share with Christians across many communions, Eastern and Western, Protestant and Catholic, a commitment to the central role of Scripture in forming and sustaining the church in doctrine and practice. We affirm the gracious work of God in creation, and the reality of the image of God in every human being, obscured by sin and alienation from God, but never utterly effaced.

### *Grace and Holiness [Romans 5; Mark 12]*

As Wesleyans we are heirs of a distinctive account of grace, which is God's pardon and God's empowerment in the whole journey of salvation. We believe in the universality of the call to repentance and return to God who is our life, and the universal reach of God's Spirit which grants freedom and power to respond to that call. We affirm the free offer of unconditional pardoning love, along with the divine determination to transform and reclaim as God's own individuals, along with the communities and institutions they inhabit. We understand the goal of salvation to be holiness, understood fundamentally as perfection in love toward God and neighbor, to be pursued in this life as well as consummated in the life to come.

### *Connection and Mission [Philippians 2; Matthew 28]*

As the fruit of our history as a movement, we affirm the communal and connected form of the church's life,

and bear witness to the social and relational character of growth in holiness through mutual support and mutual oversight. We lift up the centrality of practicing the means of grace as the essential nature of discipleship, that calls us to work out salvation trusting ever in the activity and power of the Holy Spirit. And finally, we understand the church is called into being for the sake of the world, to spread the good news of God's mercy in Jesus Christ and to be a sign of God's intention for peace, justice, and flourishing for the whole creation. The church embodies God's mission for the world through making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and is called into being for the sake of the world.

### *A Convicted Humility [1 Corinthians 12–14]*

We begin from the recognition that our members hold a wide range of positions regarding same sex relations and operate out of sincerely held beliefs. They are convinced of the moral views they espouse, and seek to be faithful to what they see as the truth God calls the church to uphold. It remains the case that their views on this matter are distinctly different, and in some cases cannot be reconciled. We pray the exaggeration of our differences will not divide us. We also recognize and affirm that as United Methodists we hold in common many more fundamental theological commitments, commitments which bind us together despite our real differences. These also have implications for how we understand and express our disagreements, and for what we do about them. Therefore, we seek to advocate a stance we have called convicted humility. This is an attitude which combines honesty about the differing convictions which divide us with humility about the way in which each of our views may stand in need of corrections. It also involves humble repentance for all the ways in which we have spoken and acted as those seeking to win a fight rather than those called to discern the shape of faithfulness together. In that spirit, we wish to lift up the shared core commitments which define the Wesleyan movement, and ground our search for wisdom and holiness.

We remain persuaded that the fruitfulness of the church and its witness to a fractured world are enhanced by our willingness to remain in relationship with those who share our fundamental commitments to Scripture and our doctrinal standards, and yet whose views of faithfulness in this regard differ from our own.

## Missional Framework

*Note:* The Missional Framework was drafted by members of the Commission in consultation with a Wesleyan missiologist. It was affirmed by the Commission on

a Way Forward at their January 2018 meeting and edited after the Council of Bishops meeting.

### ***Unity in Mission***

As the Church seeks a way forward, we believe our mission unifies us both as a movement and as a church:

- The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This mission begins with and belongs to God. The church and humans do not own or control mission. God's mission reconciles individuals to God and each other through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, heals the brokenness of individuals and the world, and restores individuals and the world to God's intended fullness for creation.
- The church exists to bring people to a saving knowledge of God through Christ, make and develop Christian disciples, worship the triune God, and partner in God's mission in the world. The church must be in mission to be fully the church. Mission is a shared responsibility of laity and clergy.
- Mission is incarnational. God's mission always happens in specific times and places. Thus, it looks different in different contexts. It works through individuals' and groups' cultures, social systems, and senses of identity, even when it seeks to reconcile, heal, and restore them.
- Mission goes beyond the activity of any one group of Christians. All Christians everywhere are participants in God's mission. All people everywhere, including all Christians, need God's mission of reconciliation, healing, and restoration.
- While all United Methodists participate in the church's mission, not all participate in the same way. The Holy Spirit gives distinctive gifts and passions for mission. United Methodists as a tradition have distinctive gifts and passions while our subgroups and members also have their own distinctive gifts

and passions. We have historically been organized to support mission in all places and contexts.

### ***To Be Unified in Mission Requires:***

- Faithfulness. We will continue to practice shared ministry, conferencing, itinerant ministry, and general superintendency, not for their own sake but to be faithful to God's mission.
- Humility. We will practice our faithfulness with humility, knowing that our understanding of God's mission is always partial.
- Contextuality. We will practice our distinctive United Methodist ways of being church differently in different contexts, even as we seek agreement on their meaning.
- Creativity. We will experiment with new forms of mission and polity to support missional engagement with ever-changing contexts.
- Flexibility. We will be flexible in how we understand and practice being church to support creative experiments in United Methodism.
- Mutuality. We will recognize all contextual adaptations and creative expressions as valid expressions of United Methodism. No one expression is normative for all others.
- Generosity. We will encourage each other in the generous use of our distinctive gifts and passions for the sake of God's mission.

We pray that these principles may guide us in a way forward that leads to deeper discipleship of Jesus Christ, more faithful service in the transformation of the world, and a more unified practice of being the church of Jesus Christ, sent by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit in mission for all the world.

Amen.



## A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward The One Church Plan

**The One Church Plan gives churches the room they need to maximize the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible.**

**Changes to the adaptable paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline* apply only to the jurisdictional conferences in the United States. Central conferences, through the work of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, will have the authority to retain the present language regarding chargeable offenses of clergy and questions of ordination related to homosexuality found in *The Book of Discipline, 2016* or adopt wording in these paragraphs that best serves their missional contexts.**

### Summary of Plan

The One Church Plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church. In the One Church Plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations, or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions. The plan maintains the leadership structure of The United Methodist Church, including the Council of Bishops, the General Conference, and the annual conferences as one body and one church. It offers greater freedom to many who desire change but do not want to violate the *Book of Discipline*. Voting is kept to a minimum except where it is helpful. There is no mandate that requires local churches, conferences, or pastors to participate in a vote that divides, segments, or separates. The United Methodist Church remains in connection, upholding unity of mission without uniformity of practice. The plan grants space for traditionalists to continue to offer ministry as they have in the past; space for progressives to exercise freely a more complete ministry with LGBTQ persons; and space for all United Methodists to continue to coexist without disrupting their ministries. Additionally, this plan creates space for annual conferences in various parts of the world to practice ministry according to their national or regional contexts with the connectional autonomy of the adaptable portions of the *Book of Discipline*.

The One Church Plan removes the language from the *Book of Discipline* used in the United States that restricts pastors and churches from conducting same-sex weddings and annual conferences from ordaining self-

avowed practicing homosexual persons. It adds language that intentionally protects the religious freedom of pastors and churches who choose not to perform or host same-sex weddings and Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops who choose not to credential or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexual persons. Central conferences can adapt portions of the *Book of Discipline* for their own contextual practices, and are not bound by decisions taken in jurisdictional conferences. This plan provides United Methodists the ability to address their missional contexts in different ways.

The plan ends the threat of church trials over same-sex weddings. Boards of Ordained Ministry already have the authority to discern whom to credential. Local churches already have the authority to establish wedding policies. Pastors already discern whom they will or will not marry. While some annual conferences and related Boards of Ordained Ministry can adopt new practices, no annual conferences must make further choices or amend current practices unless they desire to do so. United Methodist institutions, foundations, universities, agencies, and general boards will continue to offer their ministries without significant disruption or costly legal counsel related to their charters or articles of incorporation. Wespath will be able to continue to offer its services without disruption.

The One Church Plan also asks the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to find a means consistent with the *Book of Discipline* to assure that each jurisdictional conference or area supports the costs of its own episcopal leader and offices. All jurisdictional conference bishops will be paid the same salary, but the area where a bishop is assigned will, through a process developed by GCFA, provide the funding, similar to how episcopal housing allowances are now managed. This plan continues our historic Episcopacy Fund to help support central conference bishops, and provide for our ecumenical commitments. This does not affect central conferences. Central conference bishops and episcopal services will continue to be covered out of the current General Church Episcopal Fund.

### Theological & Biblical Foundations

The work of the Commission on a Way Forward is missional in nature. It is done with a desire to see the church make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transforma-

tion of the world. The church fulfills its mission not at the center of its institutional life, but at the edge, the margins where it engages the world in a variety of contexts. The role of leadership in the church is to draw the attention of the church toward the margins. It's at that margin that people who belong to the church engage other people beyond the church with the evangelistic mission of the church, inviting them to the spiritual life. It's at the margin that we offer our ministries of mercy, service, and justice to relieve suffering, seek peace, and reconcile people. The role of leadership in the church is to direct the attention of the church toward those contexts, and therefore toward the mission.

The apostle Paul speaks to the complexity of this task when he writes, "To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings" (1 Corinthians 9:20-23 NRSV).

The One Church Plan acknowledges that practices among vital churches need room to thrive depending on their mission field, and the necessary incarnational identification with those we seek to serve. The variety of answers to the question "Who is my neighbor?" determines how practices in one context will be different from another.

The Commission hears a yearning from both traditionalists and progressives for more space. More space means more structural distance from people who practice ministry differently or more autonomy to adapt practices to the context that may not be requested elsewhere. Traditionalists do not want to be required to participate in same-sex weddings, the ordination of gay persons, or the financial support of a bishop in a same-sex marriage. Progressives want space to freely exercise ministries that include same-sex weddings, the ordination of gay persons, and the same-sex marriage of clergy. United Methodists in central conferences want space to shape conversations about sexuality according to their national context and without replicating whatever practices shape churches in the United States. Other United Methodists want to give space as generously as possible without compromising core identity and mission.

This desire for space is both a yearning for the necessary contextualization for missional vitality and a challenge to the unity of the church. Too much space challenges

the unity of the church by risking further separation of our connection. Little or no space will lead us to enforce uniformity in ways that could continue our impasse. The One Church Plan is built on the belief that it is possible to live with more space while we focus on our common mission. The One Church Plan has no impact on conferences outside the U.S. that are located in countries where same-sex marriage is illegal or whose members desire for the current language of the *Book of Discipline* to remain applicable in their context.

The One Church Plan honors the perspective of United Methodists who believe that our current impasse over marriage and ordination of homosexual persons does not rise to the level of a church dividing issue. Such persons are deeply convicted by and committed to the words of Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20-26. Here Jesus prays "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (NRSV).

While some may see dividing The United Methodist Church as a function of greater holiness or righteousness, others see it as a sign of the brokenness of the body of Christ. This division, some may argue, is not in keeping with the will of God for a community of believers who share a common heritage, doctrine, beliefs, and ministry.

Division also comes at a great expense. Historically, the common desire to alleviate suffering and address injustice in the world has been a focus of unity for our diverse denomination. Because of unity, United Methodists across the globe work together to offer Christ to their neighbors, build schools so that children are educated, operate hospitals and clinics that heal the sick, offer food and relief to the poor and victims of natural disasters, along with other efforts beyond measure. We understand that suffering is part of the human condition. We also recognize that there are forms of suffering in the world that are contrary to the will of God. We believe that suffering causes harm and that the alleviation of suffering to be part of the common mission of The United Methodist Church, where we believe that, "if one member [of Christ's body] suffers, all suffer together with it . . ." (1 Corinthians 12:26 NRSV).

We are aware that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) persons exist in every nation and every culture in the world, with varying degrees of openness, acceptance, and freedom. LGBTQ persons are our brothers and sisters; they are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends. There are, and have been, LGBTQ persons serving at all levels of leadership in The UMC, as laity and clergy. Currently they suffer as they are unable to live into God's calling on their lives to ordination or to lay leadership.

The UMC Social Principles state that all people are persons of sacred worth. This calls us to honor the human dignity of all persons and we believe that it is the calling of the church to be about the eradication of all forms of suffering. It is our sacred obligation to work to end suffering everywhere, that all might be free. We do this in order to live into our calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

The common desire to both minister to those who suffer and eliminate injustice is a meeting point of community for The United Methodist Church. As we resolve these issues, our witness can be magnified in places of ministry where we experience shared determination to end suffering, which is informed and enriched through the viewpoints and knowledge of our various cultures.

The authors of “Wonder, Love and Praise” write about the unexpected ways God creates community that are essential to The United Methodist Church.

The church comes into being because the Spirit of God leads us into community—perhaps with persons with whom we would least expect to associate—as the very matrix of our salvation. That Spirit-formed community becomes the context within which we enter into the new life God offers us, and it is a community whose reach is constantly being extended as its members, in the power of the Spirit, offer the gift of community to others, and likewise receive it from them. In that very Spirit, Wesley and those in connection with him found themselves moving beyond the established norms of churchly behavior, and challenging the church, by their own example, to enact more fully God’s gift of community. Thus the term “connection” took on new resonances of meaning, as what Wesley called “social holiness”—the growth in love and in the other fruits of the Spirit that is possible only in community—was realized in new situations and settings. This willingness to transgress boundaries of convention, class, and culture in pursuit of God’s gift of community, notes United Methodist historian Russell Richey, illumines connectionalism’s essentially missional character. From the beginning, connectionalism stood in service of mission, tuning every aspect of Methodist communal life—from structure to polity to discipline—to an “evangelizing and reforming” purpose. . . . “[It is United Methodism’s] means of discovering mission and supporting mission; in this bonding we seek to understand and enact our life of service.”

Together, these convictions shape our United Methodist understanding of what it is to be the church. The ways they have come to expression in our history account in part for our particular ways of being the church, within the larger body of Christ. (“Wonder, Love and Praise,” lines 185-206)

The One Church Plan acknowledges the consciences of many by giving options to pastors who desire to perform marriages and conferences who wish to ordain gay persons. It offers assurances to pastors and conferences who do not wish to do so. The One Church Plan reminds the church that the question before us is how we will include homosexual persons that are among us now as well as those who will be part of The United Methodist Church in the future. It affirms clear teaching of the Bible that promiscuity, whether among persons who are straight or gay, is neither a healthy nor a holy lifestyle. It also honors the missiology of The United Methodist Church and enables central conferences to be self-determined in matters of ordination and marriage.

Practices introduced in the early church also impinged the consciences of devout Christ followers in different ways. In Romans 14, Paul speaks of questions related to eating meat sacrificed to idols or which day of the week should be considered sacred. While the diversity of opinion on such issues in Paul’s time may seem inconsequential today, it created deep division in the early church and was considered essential to different groups of believers. The practices of some of these groups were rooted in Scripture and the tradition of God’s people in Paul’s time, as well as the lifestyles they left when they became followers of Christ. In such matters, Paul called those in Rome to give up judgment and contempt of each other as they worked out these differences in community. Paul writes, “Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding” (Romans 14:19 NRSV).

Over 60 years ago United Methodists followed this admonition when its members decided to ordain women over the objection of many who did not believe Scripture supported the practice and found little backing for it in the tradition of the church. At that time the church accepted a new practice that led to mutual edification and over time, resisted the impulse to judge each other in the midst of disagreement. Such changes, including those we now contemplate in the One Church Plan, are formed in the desire to be responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit and our common humility before God. These qualities are displayed by a Pharisee named Gamaliel in Acts 5 whose words protected the apostles before the Sanhedrin. When Peter and the other apostles refused to give up their preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the high priest and body of elders of Israel called for their deaths. Gamaliel offered a non-reactive response that demonstrated a heart of peace. He advised his fellow council members, “So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that

case you may even be found fighting against God!” (Acts 5:38-39 NRSV).

Those who support the One Church Plan embrace this same convicted humility when they consider the matters before The United Methodist Church. They hold their convictions deeply but are open to the possibility that God is doing something new in our midst. While all may not exercise new practices allowed by this plan related to marriage or ordination, they acknowledge that they share in common a sexual ethic framed by celibacy in singleness and faithfulness in marriage. They do not wish to stand in the way of the prompting of the Holy Spirit found in so many of their brothers and sisters in Christ who will embrace these opportunities. Rather than dividing people into various camps based solely on these issues, they are willing to continue the journey together, understanding that while a purpose of human origin will fail, a purpose from God will not ultimately be hindered. It is clear that the desire of God is for The United Methodist Church to engage its mission field with renewed vitality, in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **The Effects of the One Church Plan on Each Segment of The United Methodist Church**

### ***Local Churches***

Local churches are not required to vote. Most would likely make no changes in practice at the local level. Some congregations might rewrite their wedding policies to either explicitly allow or explicitly prohibit same-sex weddings in their facilities. They could continue their current practice. Pastors who want to perform a wedding outside of church property could do so based on their own conscience and in consultation with church leaders. This could happen in the same way other decisions are made and without any voting. This plan minimizes disruption in the local church (in most cases) and gives freedom to churches to adapt in order to minister to the LGBTQ community in their context. It allows for independence as well as interdependence and creates a contextual church for the next generation. It maintains the highest amount of unity among local churches and keeps a diverse group of local churches in relationship and in conversation together. No local church is forced into a decision or position. Residential bishops and their cabinets will be of great assistance if they will offer a process to assist pastors in the discussion of their decisions related to same-sex weddings with their local church. They could serve local churches if they will offer a process for those congregations who would like to consider whether to allow same-sex weddings to take

place on church property. The process should be simple, collaborative, and contextual and take into account specific provisions for pastors and congregations who desire the current practice of prohibiting same-sex weddings to remain the same. In annual conferences where the ordination of practicing homosexuals is allowed, churches may indicate their preference to receive or not receive these clergy through the use of a covenant established with their bishop.

### ***Clergy***

Clergy would have the freedom to exercise individual conscience. Clergy could place in their clergy profile their theological convictions and the bishop and cabinet could take those convictions into account throughout the appointment and transfer process. Clergy who believe they cannot remain in The United Methodist Church because the change in language in the *Book of Discipline* gives too much freedom or because it does not give enough freedom could leave with a blessing. Provisions in the policies of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath) protect their vested pension at the time of their departure. This plan does not require clergy to transfer to another annual conference. However, clergy who are uncomfortable with new policies of their current annual conference will be supported in their desire to transfer. It ends trials against clergy who wish to perform weddings which in turn eliminates distractions to our mission and costs. LGBTQ clergy could be ordained by their annual conference upon approval of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference unless the clergy session develops and approves restrictive language. LGBTQ clergy could be appointed at the discretion of the bishop and cabinet keeping in mind the convictions and context of the local church. LGBTQ candidates who are in an annual conference that does not ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals could request a transfer of their candidacy to another annual conference if they choose to do so.

### ***Annual Conferences***

No annual conferences would have to vote on this matter. Boards of Ordained Ministry or annual conference clergy sessions who wish to ordain LGBTQ clergy or wish to add language to their Standing Rules to restrict ordination could enter into a discernment process with the Board of Ordained Ministry in consultation with the bishop and cabinet. The bishop and cabinet could continue to use clergy and church profiles to understand the context of each local church in making appropriate appointments. This plan would reduce costs and energy spent on trials.

If there are clergy who wish to transfer to another annual conference, they could do so through the current *Book of Discipline* processes with grace. If there are local churches and clergy who wish to leave The United Methodist Church, they could do so through the current *Book of Discipline* processes with grace. The possibility also exists that the General Conference would develop new disciplinary language and direction for congregations that wish to exit The United Methodist Church. This plan allows for the greatest level of continued connection among annual conferences.

### ***Council of Bishops***

The Council of Bishops remains as one body, interconnected in our United Methodist witness. Assignments of bishops in the U.S. would continue to be done by the Jurisdictional Committees on Episcopacy and would reflect the convictions of the bishops and annual conferences. Bishops would be protected from ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexual persons if that does not align with their conscience. Additionally, central conferences, through the adaptable portions of the *Book of Discipline*, can create guidelines for marriage and ordination that fit their context.

### ***General Agencies***

All existing general agencies would continue under the One Church Plan unless and until some future General Conference were to make structural changes. There is no change to agencies inherent in adoption of the One Church Plan. If the financial sustainability and vitality of The United Methodist Church continues to decline, general boards and agencies will need to consider a strategic restructuring of their work to reflect the economic model of the present and future church. Sustainability issues are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward.

### ***UMC-Related Institutions/Camps/Colleges/etc.***

Conversations with several UMC-related institutions affirm that this plan makes it more likely that such institutions would retain their current denominational affiliation. They could create their own contextual approach as needed and in consultation with the annual, jurisdictional, or central conference to which they relate. This keeps funding intact and reduces anxiety. If UMC-related institutions choose to change their affiliation, they could do so through the processes in the *Book of Discipline* and according to their applicable bylaws.

### ***Mission Field***

This plan allows for the most contextual flexibility and creativity. It means leaders do not have to invest immense time and energy in restructuring so they can focus their energy and gifts on reaching the mission field. The gifts of diverse people could be used. This plan enables local churches and pastors to engage their mission fields in the most contextual and strategic ways possible.

### ***Global Church***

This plan keeps relationships in the global church intact and doesn't compel any central conference to act contrary to its beliefs. Central conferences will continue to relate to the Council of Bishops, the general agencies, and the General Conference in the same manner as they do today. No central conferences have to change their current practices and they would have the opportunity to compose their own disciplinary language regarding sexuality and practice to fit their national or regional context. If a central conference desires variability within the annual conferences of that central conference, they may vote to allow for variability in a way consistent with adaptable portions of the *Book of Discipline*. Persons outside The UMC who desire to understand a central conference's practices related to human sexuality may be directed to the adaptable portions of the *Book of Discipline* used in that central conference for explanation. The plan retains the present system of resourcing central conferences, enhances the mutual exchange of gifts in a global church, and keeps central conferences fully at the table of shared ministry.

### ***Financial & Pension Considerations***

This plan has few financial and pension implications. If churches choose to leave The United Methodist Church, there would be implications to long-term pension liability. If apportionment support for annual conference and General Conference funds declines, the annual conference and General Conference would have to respond to that reduction. This response is in line with what annual and General Conferences are already doing in the area of sustainability. The expertise needed to project the full impact on pension funds for this or any plan for a way forward properly rests with Wespath and not the Commission on a Way Forward. Appendix 4 of this report provides Wespath's analysis and input. Commission members are grateful for their expertise and advice and agree with the disciplinary and non-disciplinary policies they propose. Two petitions, one amending *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1504 and one amending the Clergy Retirement Security Program, are recommended with the One Church Plan, below, and should be

considered with any plan, or in the event that no plan secures majority support.

### ***Episcopal Fund Notes***

The Commission recognizes that the Episcopal Fund supports the work of the Council of Bishops beyond episcopal salary and benefits. Examples of this general support include expenses such as those related to meetings of the Council of Bishops, the Council of Bishops office staff, legal fees, and denominational travel. In the One Church Plan, these expenses will continue to be proportionally shared based on the general church apportionment formula adopted by the General Conference. Compensation for episcopal salary and benefits (as determined by the General Council on Finance and Administration), however, should be funded by each episcopal area. The General Commission on Finance and Administration (GCFA) will set the salary and benefit levels for all jurisdictional bishops. GCFA will set the salary and benefit level for all central conference bishops, who will continue to be supported, as they are now, by the Episcopal Fund. GCFA will work to determine a method to ensure that all episcopal areas in the United States will contribute at least the cost of their own bishop's compensation package (salary, benefits, and housing allowance) along with its share of apportionments for the Episcopal Fund. With this plan, GCFA would still receive and distribute all Episcopal Funds.

### **Additional Resources for This Plan**

Additional resources for this plan would include a document that would assist bishops, pastors, and laity in conversations related to the changes created by this plan. A group of episcopal leaders led by bishops who currently serve on the Commission on a Way Forward would create this resource.

### **Constitutional Amendments Needed for This Plan**

No constitutional amendments are needed for the One Church Plan as far as we can determine.

### **Implementation Plan for This Plan**

An advantage of the One Church Plan is that it does not appear to require any changes to The UMC Constitution. If passed at General Conference 2019, it can take effect on January 1, 2020 (see ¶ 508—Legislation Effective Date). However, to allow central conferences, annual conferences, pastors, congregations, and other connected

bodies the opportunity to acclimate to the nuances of this plan, it is recommended that The UMC take until December 31, 2020 to fully implement this plan. This “settling in” period will allow all involved the opportunity to engage in conversation and discernment regarding issues related to marriage and ordination. It will also allow central conferences to vote on any changes to their respective central conference *Book of Discipline* (see ¶ 543.16).

### **Names of Commission Members Who Signed the One Church Plan**

*Note:* The Commission never took a vote regarding which members of the Commission supported which plan. At various points in the work, Commission members did express preferences for plans. Some Commission members could support the Commission's work on every plan while others expressed a preference for one or two of the plans. At the end of our process, in order to place the plans in petition format, Commission members were asked to which plans they were willing to give public support. Several Commission members gave support to more than one plan. For a variety of reasons, some members of the Commission, while giving their support to the Commission's report, chose not to express a preference for any of the plans.

The following Commission Members publicly support the One Church Plan: Brian Adkins, Jacques Akasa, Tom Berlin, Matt Berryman, David Field, Scott Johnson, Myungrae Kim Lee, Julie Hager Love, Mazvita Machinga, Dave Nuckols, Casey Orr, Donna Pritchard, Tom Salsgiver, Jasmine Smothers, Leah Taylor, Rosemarie Wenner, Alice Williams, Alfiado Zunguza.

### **Disciplinary Changes for the One Church Plan**

*Note:* The following disciplinary changes will be submitted as legislative petitions. They are included here for informational purposes.

Amend ¶ 105—Our Theological Task—The Present Challenge to Theology in the Church (Petition 90001, page 164)

Amend ¶ 161.C—Social Principles (Petition 90002, page 164)

Amend ¶ 161.G—Social Principles (Petition 90003, page 164)

*Important Note:* According to ¶ 31.5, ¶ 101, and the action of the 2016 General Conference, central conferences, through the work of the Standing Committee on

Central Conference Matters on a *General Book of Discipline*, will have the authority, in paragraphs after ¶ 166, to continue the present language of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* or adopt such other wording in these paragraphs that best serves their missional contexts.

Amend ¶ 304.3—Qualifications for Ordination (Petition 90004, page 165)

Amend ¶ 310.2.d footnote—Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry (Petition 90005, page 165)

Add new subparagraph after ¶ 329.3—Ministry, Authority, and Responsibilities of Deacons (Petition 90006, page 165)

Add new subparagraph after ¶ 334.5—Ministry, Authority, and Responsibilities of an Elder (Petition 90007, page 166)

Add new subparagraph after ¶ 340.2—Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed Pastors (Petition 90008, page 166)

Amend ¶ 341.6—Unauthorized Conduct (Petition 90009, page 166)

Amend ¶ 415.6—The Superintendency, Specific Responsibilities of Bishops (Petition 90010, page 166)

Add new subparagraph in ¶ 416—Specific Responsibilities of Bishops (Petition 90011, page 167)

Add new subparagraph in ¶ 419—Specific Responsibilities of District Superintendents (Petition 90012, page 167)

Add new subparagraph to ¶ 605—Annual Conference—Business of the Conference (Petition 90013, page 167)

Amend ¶ 2702.1—Chargeable Offenses (Petition 90014, page 167)

Amend ¶ 543.17—Central Conference Powers and Duties (Petition 90015, page 168)

### **Disciplinary Changes Related to General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

*Note:* As previously noted above, these changes should be considered with any plan, or in the event that no plan secures majority support. They are included here for informational purposes.

Amend ¶ 1504 (Petition 90016, page 168)

Revise the Clergy Retirement Security Program (“CRSP”) (Petition 90017, page 168)

## A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward The Connectional Conference Plan

### Summary of the Connectional Conference Plan

The Connectional Conference Plan reflects a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services. This plan creates three values-based connectional conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization, and justice. Current central conferences have the choice of becoming their own connectional conference (up to five additional connectional conferences) or joining one of the three values-based connectional conferences. A redefined Council of Bishops focuses on ecumenical relationships and shared learning. Episcopal oversight, accountability, elections, assignments, and funding occur within the College of Bishops of each connectional conference.

### Features of the Connectional Conference Plan

- Five U.S. jurisdictions are replaced by three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology including perspectives on LGBTQ ministry (i.e., progressive, unity, and traditional) (note: see page 186 of the report for a full description).
- Cross-connectional conference cooperation, relationships, and partnerships in mission and ministry continue as they do now, at the initiative of the entities involved. All connectional conferences would continue to support mission work and sustain ministry in the areas outside the U.S.
- General Conference is shortened and would still have authority over the shared doctrine and services of continuing general agencies. It would also serve as a venue for connecting the connectional conferences, worship, sharing of best practices/learning, and inspiration.
- Continuing general agencies include: Wespeth, Publishing House, GCFA, Archives & History, and parts of GBGM (as determined in consultation among the connectional conferences inside and outside the U.S.). Future structure of other general agencies would be decided based on which connectional conferences desire to participate in them, after a transition period. Any connectional conference could contract with any agency for fee-based services.
- The Council of Bishops houses ecumenical relations and functions as a collegial learning and nurturing body.
- Connectional conference Colleges of Bishops have authority for supervision and mutual accountability of bishops in their respective colleges.
- Each connectional conference elects and (in the U.S.) pays for its own bishops. Bishops outside the U.S. would continue to be supported by all U.S. annual conferences.
- Each connectional conference would create its own *Book of Discipline*, which would begin with the *General Book of Discipline*, including Articles of Religion, Confessions of Faith, the General Rules, and other items that are commonly agreed upon by United Methodists. Each connectional conference also has the authority to adapt those items not included in the *General Book of Discipline*.
- The Judicial Council would continue as the supreme judicial body, with authority over all judicial matters based on the respective connectional conference *Book of Discipline*. The Judicial Council would consist of two persons elected by each connectional conference.
- Connectional conferences at their discretion could have separate connectional conference judicial courts with authority in rulings related to the connectional conference *Book of Discipline*. Such rulings could be appealed to Judicial Council.
- Justice ministries related to racism and sexism would be organized at the connectional conference level and held accountable by the general Church. During the 2021-25 quadrennium, GCORR and GCSRW would assist in the development of principles and benchmarks for connectional conferences to measure efforts to combat racism and sexism. Quadrennial reports would be



made by each connectional conference to a Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences (see next column).

- Central conferences have the choice of becoming their own connectional conference with the same powers as U.S. connectional conferences, or have the option of joining a U.S. connectional conference. U.S. connectional conferences joined by a central conference become a global instead of a U.S. connectional conference. Annual conferences that disagree with the decision of their central conference could vote to join a different connectional conference than their central conference. The central conferences in Africa could decide to unite in forming one African connectional conference (an option that is being discussed currently by African leadership).
- In addition to the shared doctrine and shared services, each connectional conference has its own structure, agencies, and method of financing its ministry and the shared services, as well as support for bishops and annual conferences outside the U.S.
- Each connectional conference has its own policies regarding LGBTQ weddings and ordination.
- Each connectional conference sets its own standards for ministerial credentialing and list of approved schools/seminaries.
- Jurisdictional conferences would have the first level vote regarding connectional conference affiliation. Annual conferences that disagree with the decision of their jurisdiction may decide to affiliate with a different connectional conference. No local church is required to take a vote unless it decides to join a different connectional conference than its annual conference.
- Jurisdictional property would belong to the connectional conference chosen by the jurisdiction for affiliation. Church-owned or church-related entities could change their affiliation to a different connectional conference, to multiple connectional conferences, or to no connectional conference based on the bylaws governing each institution.
- When the connectional conferences are organized and put into effect, jurisdictions and central conferences would cease to exist, unless a connectional conference decides to include a mid-level judicatory in its structure. In that case, it would be encouraged to consult with other connectional conferences to use a different name than jurisdiction or central conference for such a mid-level judicatory.
- Central conferences would be authorized to elect bishops in 2020, as scheduled, unless they determine otherwise. Jurisdictions and any central conferences not electing bishops in 2020 would have the mandatory retirement age of bishops waived until 2022 in order to avoid a potential mismatch in the number of bishops for each branch.
- The blanket tax exemption (501(c)3) would move to each connectional conference, filed with the assistance of GCFA. GCFA is being asked to provide an estimate for legal costs of implementing this plan and a plan for funding such costs.
- A Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences would be established by the 2020 General Conference to help the Council of Bishops facilitate cross-connectional conference connections and cooperative ministry. Legislation for this would be written by the Transition Team and submitted for the 2020 General Conference.
- General Conference 2024 would be postponed to 2025 to allow time for the transition. This would disconnect succeeding General Conferences from the U.S. election cycle.

### **Theological & Biblical Foundations of the Connectional Conference Plan**

John Wesley confessed that God is “the great ocean of love” (Wesley, *Sermon 26*). Affirming that “Love is the end, the sole end, of every dispensation of God” (Wesley, *Sermon 36*), he proposed that Christ came: “To spread the fire of heavenly love over all the earth” (Wesley, *NT Notes—Luke 12:49*). He thus wrote that true religion “is neither more nor less than love; it is love which ‘is the fulfilling of the law, the end of the commandment’” (Wesley, *Sermon 75*). “Religion is the love of God and our neighbor; that is, every man under heaven. This love ruling the whole life, animating all our tempers and passions, directing all our thoughts, words, and actions, is ‘pure religion and undefiled’” (Wesley, *Sermon 84*). It is thus not surprising that he understood that one of the tests of whether or not an institutional church was an expression of the universal church was

whether it was characterized by a radical love for God and human beings. The church participates in Christ's mission of spreading the "fire of heavenly love over the earth" through the example of its communal life, through the proclamation of God's love revealed in the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and through concrete acts of love toward others. In affirming this we need to note four Wesleyan distinctives:

- Love and holiness are two complementary ways of describing the gracious transformation in peoples' lives that is expressed in ultimate loyalty to God revealed in and through the Scriptures and a self-sacrificial commitment to the spiritual and bodily well-being of others.
- Love and law are inseparably interrelated and cannot be played off against each other. The law is the expression of what radical love for God and others requires in particular contexts and relationships. To love God is to obey God's commandments.
- The purpose of God's grace is to transform our lives so that pervasive love defeats and drives out sin. However, this occurs as we respond to the work of the Spirit of God.
- The structures and polity of an institutional church are a mixture of divine institution and human wisdom directed toward the mission of the church to embody and spread "heavenly love." Ideally polity is flexible, adaptive, and contextual.

Wesley wrote: "It is the nature of love to unite us together, and the greater the love, the stricter the union" (*Sermon 75*). The visible unity of the church is thus an expression of the transforming love of God. However, because human beings are embodied and fallen creatures, this unity is threatened by two interrelated but distinct dynamics that are themselves expressions of love.

The first is contextuality; the church is called to embody and spread divine love in diverse social, cultural, economic, political, and national contexts. The way the church structures its life and engages in its mission is shaped by its dynamic relationship with these contexts. When one institutional church is present and witnessing in diverse contexts, this witness will take different shapes leading to strain on the unity of the church, particularly when one group or context dominates the decision-making processes. However, contextuality is vital to our mission and identity because love can only be embodied in relation to real people in concrete contexts.

Mission in context is a key aspect of the Connectional Conference Plan. The cry of every connection in the "Connectional Conference Model" is the desire to share the gospel in a way that aligns with the particular connectional conference's biblical understandings and is relevant to the culture each connection is addressing. This plan enables each connectional conference to be a faithful ambassador of the gospel within its own understanding of scriptural truths and sociocultural context.

The second dynamic is freedom of conscience before God. Because we are fallen and fallible creatures our understanding of God and God's purpose and will is always subject to mistakes and limitations. Christians sincerely seeking to love and serve God will come to different conclusions as to what God requires of them. Within a church people will have diverse and even contradictory understandings of the will of God. Our ultimate loyalty to God requires that we act in good conscience—that is, in accordance with what we are convinced is the will of God. Love for others requires that we do not coerce others to act against their consciences even when we are convinced that they are wrong.

The present conflict within The UMC over same-gender marriage and ordination standards arises out of the interaction of these dynamics. Faithful Christians have come to different and contradictory understandings of God's will in relationship to the affirmation of sexual relationships between people of the same gender. The UMC ministers in diverse sociocultural and politico-legal contexts—these include contexts where homosexual relationships are criminal offenses punishable by death to places where same-gender marriage is legal and religious or moral opposition to it is regarded as irrelevant.

The challenge before us is how to structure The United Methodist Church so that it embodies and spreads "the fire of heavenly love over all the earth" given this diversity and contradiction in conviction and context. In the Connectional Conference Plan the different connectional conferences which could reflect both differences of conviction and/or context are expressions of love in the context of diversity and contradiction, while the uniting structures embody the desire to maintain as much unity and community as possible and to share resources in fulfilling our mission. Beyond this, staying together instead of dividing embodies the common core that we share.

This plan represents a redefinition of our connection in a new way to empower disciples for greater mission and ministry.

- "So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away,

and look, new things have arrived!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- “Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

New structures and relationships are needed for a new time in our Church. Keeping the old structures in place could result in a fracturing of our Church.

- “No one sews a piece of new, unshrunk cloth on old clothes because the patch tears away the cloth and makes a worse tear. No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If they did, the wineskin would burst, the wine would spill, and the wineskins would be ruined. Instead, people pour new wine into new wineskins so that both are kept safe.” (Matthew 9:16-17)

This plan emphasizes connection to Christ, while acknowledging the reality of different connectional conferences growing in different directions with different emphases and understandings. We are still connected to one another through Christ (the Vine) and our shared doctrine, heritage, mission, and shared services. Connection points include: The Apostles’ and Nicene creeds; Articles of Religion/Confession of Faith; the General Rules; Wesley hymns; John Wesley’s *Standard Sermons* and *The Notes upon the New Testament*; disciplined engagement with Scripture; works of piety, mercy, and justice; sacraments of baptism and Eucharist; small group accountability and support; and a connectional way of life that includes superintendency, itineracy, and conferencing.

- “I am the vine, you are the branches.” (John 15:5—see additionally John 15:1-17)

This plan acknowledges that we are gifted differently and creates space for those different gifts to be expressed in ways that honor conscience, while still maintaining connection to the body.

- “Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. . . . You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27—see the whole chapter)

This plan provides a way to mobilize more workers for the mission and ministry of Christ through the expansion envisioned out of the multiple branches.

- “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are

few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.’” (Matthew 9:37-38)

In conclusion the Connectional Conference Plan attempts to find a way of structuring the life of The United Methodist Church so that it can embody the divine love in the midst of our diversity and disagreement. It can thus fulfill the vision that the seventy-eight-year-old John Wesley described as he reflected on the movement that he had founded and led:

We all aim to spread . . . that truly rational religion which is taught and prescribed in the Old and New Testament; namely, the love of God and neighbor, filling the heart with humility, meekness, contentedness. . . . We leave every man to enjoy his own opinion, and to use his own mode of worship, desiring only that the love of God and his neighbor be the ruling principle in his heart, and show itself in his life by a uniform practice of justice, mercy, and truth. And accordingly we give the right hand of fellowship to every lover of God and man, whatever his opinion or mode of worship be; of which he is to give an account to God. (*A Short History of the People Called Methodists*)

## The Connectional Conference Plan Vision for the Church

We affirm joyfully and with great hope that the church belongs to God. We believe that God is at work in our midst, doing something radically new in our beloved UMC that will result in greater focus on mission, more contextualization, a different form of unity, a new structure, and increased fruitfulness.

### *Mission and Fruitfulness*

The Connectional Conference Plan is an opportunity to unleash the church in new ways for mission and fruitfulness. By providing a place for a variety of perspectives, this plan diffuses the conflicts about human sexuality that beset our church. Persons will be able to serve in a place in the church where their perspective is honored and followed. This sorting will diminish the current conflicts about same-gender marriage and ordination and allow the church to increase our focus on the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Resources currently frozen by or mobilized for conflict can be redirected toward mission. Reservations about the church can be converted into enthusiastic support for that part of the church in which one finds one’s primary identity, resulting in passionate support that grows organ-

ically and bears increased fruit, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

### ***More Contextualization***

The Connectional Conference Plan enables the most contextualized and inclusive mission strategy. Each connectional conference will approach the mission with a different context in mind, enabling each to reach a different type of target audience. The result is a wider variety of people reached with the gospel and disciplined in different ways to serve God's mission of transformation. The three connectional conferences that include the U.S. can each engage their target audiences across the entire country, giving a bigger reach to the contextualized mission. In addition, each connectional conference will be free to experiment with different approaches to the mission that promise to engage different groups of people. The cumulative result will be the widest possible missional engagement for the variety of populations across the world.

### ***A Different Form of Unity***

The Connectional Conference Plan provides both space and connection between those parts of the church currently in deep conflict. The space is needed for us to live together with different core convictions on ordination and same-gender marriage. The connection allows us to continue to accomplish more in ministry across the globe than we could separately.

### ***A New Structure***

The Connectional Conference Plan simplifies General Church structure and processes and allows for that simplification at the connectional and annual conference level by allowing specified segments of the *Book of Discipline* to be adaptable. Each connectional conference can experiment to determine which structures and processes are the most effective in fostering fruitful mission. Through our ongoing connection of the General Conference and Council of Bishops, we can learn from one another's experience and replicate effective structures and processes.

In addition, the restructuring and reconfiguring occasioned by the Connectional Conference Plan will enable the reimagining of general church agencies and functions in a way that most effectively serves the constituencies that desire those services. This plan enables an adaptive approach to restructuring the church for mission effectiveness, rather than simply tweaking the current pattern. Agencies can focus on specific constituencies, developing excellence in specialization. Or agencies can broad-

en their focus to provide services that meet the needs of a broad range of the constituencies encompassed within The United Methodist Church, developing excellence in comprehensive service. Agencies can then be right-sized and linked with the appropriate constituencies, funding sources, and funding models to provide effective mission and ministry for the next generation.

In sum, the Connectional Conference Plan addresses the reality of The UMC as it is now. It enables an adaptive approach to missional effectiveness. It provides enhanced contextuality, flexibility, and differentiation within an organic whole. It redefines unity by providing a creative tension between space and connection. It simplifies structure and processes, allowing an organic restructuring of agencies. Finally, it is fruitful as it broadens and deepens The UMC witness around the world.

## **The Connectional Conference Plan and the Mission, Vision, and Scope**

The following aspects of the Mission, Vision, and Scope are emphasized in this plan:

### ***Mission***

*“The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition.”*—This plan leads to the formation of multiple connectional conferences that accommodate various theological perspectives.

### ***Vision***

*“A way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible”*—This plan keeps many people within The United Methodist Church and enables missional mobilization from a variety of theological perspectives.

*“Allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible”*—In this plan, each connectional conference can adapt structures and policies to its geographical location and theological perspective.

*“Balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible”*—This plan creates space for each perspective, while maintaining a connection via General Conference, shared doctrine, some shared agencies, and a shared Council of Bishops.

## Scope

*“Open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse . . . consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment . . . ‘new forms and structures’ of relationship . . . greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality.”*—This plan reflects an extensive restructure of the denomination, not only to resolve the current impasse, but to position the church for future mission expansion and vitality.

## The Effects of the Connectional Conference Plan on Each Segment of The United Methodist Church

### Local Churches

- This plan seeks to maximize our ability to reach and be in ministry from a variety of theological perspectives with those who are unchurched and de-churched. It multiplies our capacities to do ministries in a variety of contexts while honoring differing core convictions around LGBTQ ordination and marriage. This creates a new form of being independent while being interdependent.
- Local churches may choose to align with a connectional conference different from the one decided by their annual conference.
- Only local churches that choose a connectional conference other than the one chosen by their annual conference would vote.
- Local churches can choose to define the parameters of their building use and/or wedding policies as it relates to same-gender marriage by affiliating with the appropriate connectional conference; those in the unity connectional conference have flexibility to move in either direction.
- The cabinet would administer a process alongside local congregations wishing to affiliate with a connectional conference other than the one adopted by their annual conference via prayer, study, and a majority (50 percent + 1) vote of the church conference.

## Clergy

- Clergy will choose to affiliate with a connectional conference. Some clergy may make themselves available to serve in more than one connectional conference. In order to serve in a connectional conference, a clergyperson will need to agree to meet the qualifications of the connectional conference and maintain the standards of conduct as set forth by the connectional conference they are serving.
- A process of appointment making, which takes into account the stated desires of clergy related to the connectional conference they would prefer and the covenants they can uphold, would be administered by the bishops.
- The Board of Ordained Ministry would be responsible for communicating the expectations of the connectional conference to the person who transfers in and holding them accountable for their actions while in the connectional conference. Transfer between connectional conferences is subject to approval by each annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry.
- Clergy ordination performed within each of the connectional conferences is recognized by all three connectional conferences; but ability to serve in a particular connectional conference is determined by the qualifications and expectations set by that connectional conference.
- Clergy can serve in a transitional appointment for a period of time until options are available in the connectional conference they desire.
- Security of appointment will need to be addressed by each connectional conference. Steps shall be taken to ensure that persons who have historically been protected by the guaranteed appointment, including women and ethnic minorities, retain those protections.
- A clergyperson’s willingness or ability to serve in more than one connectional conference may impact whether they receive an appointment. Connectional conference qualifications for serving within that connectional conference would take priority, and each connectional conference would determine the acceptability of a person desiring to serve in that connectional conference (through the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Session).

- For deacons, the greatest impact could be the narrowing of opportunities to serve based on which connectional conference(s) the deacon selects.
- Appointments for full-time local pastors would depend on the number of elders in each connectional conference.

### ***Annual Conferences***

- Central conferences and U.S. jurisdictional conferences would have first responsibility to determine what connectional conference to join. They would choose a connectional conference by a simple majority vote.
  - Annual conferences that want to join a different connectional conference than the one chosen by their jurisdiction or central conference may do so by a simple majority vote.
  - Jurisdictions and annual conferences would be wise to prepare for potential geographical boundary adjustments depending on how many churches opt out of and into the connectional conference that the annual conference joins.
  - Annual conferences would be given consistent information presented by the Transition Team to understand the intended and unintended consequences of their decision. This preparation would begin with annual conference leaders.
  - Particular answers to questions about issues such as pension, etc. will need to be placed in a common space for all to access.
  - Annual conferences may participate in a multi-vote process where the vote should be done by a simple majority after the least supported option is dropped from consideration. If a simple majority is found in the first vote, the voting is concluded.
  - Annual conferences must administer a process for local churches who decide to depart from their annual conference and join a different connectional conference through the church conference process. The church conference will make its decision by simple majority. The cabinet would facilitate this process in a timely fashion. The cabinet will make a team available to provide care and conflict resolution to these churches as needed.
- Annual conferences would have a venue where questions can be asked if local churches want to vote to join a different connectional conference. Annual conference leaders would be equipped for this purpose.
  - If an annual conference wants to re-vote to align with a different connectional conference, there would be a way to do this. Reconsideration of whether to align with a different connectional conference should be limited to once every four years.
  - New annual conferences may be formed in the connectional conferences to place churches that opt in from an area where the predecessor annual conference chose a different connectional conference. Existing annual conference boundaries may also need to be redrawn. Net impact could be fewer annual conferences in each connectional conference, but more annual conferences overall.

### ***Council of Bishops***

- The Council of Bishops would provide a venue for ecumenical relationships and be a missional body to help gather and distribute best practices for vital and innovative ministry in the world. It would also serve as a learning, equipping, and nurturing community. The Council would uphold the Wesleyan focus on justice, inclusiveness, and The UMC's historic protections as outlined in the 1968 Plan of Union.
- The Council would foster partnerships at various levels between the connectional conferences, connect branches around the globe, act as connectors to jointly-shared ministries, promote ecumenical relations, and mediate accountability challenges.
- Each U.S.-based connectional conference would fund its own bishops at comparable levels through GCFA. All U.S.-based annual conferences would continue shared funding for bishops in annual conferences outside the U.S., as needed, with a goal of all annual conferences moving toward self-sufficiency.
- Episcopal leadership oversight and accountability occurs within the College of Bishops of each connectional conference.

#### *A note about episcopal assignments:*

- Each bishop (active and retired) will choose a connectional conference to affiliate. Some bishops may

make themselves available to serve in more than one connectional conference if they meet the qualifications of the connectional conference in which they serve and maintain their conduct within the boundaries set by that connectional conference.

- Retirement and tenure provisions would be waived for episcopal leaders in U.S. jurisdictions. This would also be done in central conferences that desire to wait to elect new bishops until as late as 2022. Tenure could be extended by two years in these annual conferences for transition purposes in order to avoid a mismatch of the number of bishops for each connectional conference.
- No episcopal elections in 2020 in the U.S. are recommended.
- Retired bishops could be invited to serve as interims, if needed (i.e., if currently active bishops do not want to extend tenure).
- The executive committee of each central conference would decide upon the date when the episcopal election takes place between 2020 and 2022.
- New U.S. bishops would be elected at the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences in 2022.
- Bishops may serve in a different connectional conference during a transition period (2022-2025).

### ***General Agencies***

- Jointly funded boards, agencies, and organizations of the new UMC—Wespath; GCFA; Publishing House; UMCOR; Archives and History, and parts of GBGM (as determined in consultation among the branches inside and outside the U.S.).
- Program agencies are reimagined by a leadership group formed with equal representation from all the connectional conferences inside and outside the U.S.
- Based on decisions made by the organizing conferences of the various connectional conferences, a task force of five representatives from each connectional conference will evaluate the general agency structure and propose a new model to the 2025 General Conference. In that model, agencies would serve only those connectional conferences that desire to participate in each agency.

- Keep current agencies through 2025, enabling a transition period where decisions are made about future structure.
- General agencies could relate to as many or as few connectional conferences inside or outside the U.S. desire that relationship.

### ***Justice-Related Ministries***

- A unique part of our Wesleyan DNA is emphasis on justice, fairness, and inclusiveness.
- Functions of justice-related ministries must be immediately attended to by structures to be organized, established, and sustained in each connectional conference, especially but not limited to sexism and racism.
- The General Conference will hold the connectional conferences accountable to justice. General Conference would name a set of principles to guide matters of race and gender and require connectional conferences to report on how they are doing. The General Conference would also define consequences if a connectional conference was not in compliance with the agreed-upon set of expectations.

### ***UMC-Related Institutions/camps/colleges/etc.***

- Property owned by annual conferences follows the annual conference into its connectional conference.
- Jurisdictional properties follow the jurisdiction into its connectional conference.
- Colleges and universities, camps, and health and welfare agencies could choose to relate to one or more annual conferences in multiple connectional conferences.

*Note:* This will be determined in several situations on a case-by-case basis. Several of these decisions will be governed by bylaws and other governing documents.

### ***Mission Field***

- The plan opens up the whole geography of the U.S. to all three connectional conferences to be in ministry. New church starts sponsored by any connectional conference could happen anywhere. The mission field is open.
- This plan allows The UMC to have more workers in a wider range of contexts.

- Historically, when there was division the Church was often able to provide a more focused ministry that allowed mission to grow in the various contexts served by the parts of the previously united denomination. While this plan does not propose division, but greater contextuality, we hope the effect on the mission field will be enhanced.

### ***Judicial Council***

- Judicial Council would have authority over matters decided by General Conference or the Constitution.
- Connectional conferences would have judicial councils with authority in rulings related to the connectional conference *Book of Discipline*.

### ***Global Church***

- Any central conference can exist as its own connectional conference or it can choose to align with a U.S. connectional conference. U.S. connectional conferences joined by central conferences become global connectional conferences.
- The executive committee of each central conference decides upon the date when the episcopal election takes place between 2020 and 2022.
- Central conferences would be renamed as connectional conferences and would have the same responsibilities and processes as connectional conferences in the U.S. Support for annual conferences and episcopal expenses outside the U.S. would continue from all the branches, as would partnerships and mission support.

### ***Financial & Pension Considerations***

- There will be legal fees to understand legacy connections of the historic UMC and how these relationships will continue in the changes brought by the Connectional Conference Plan. GCFA will need to provide some estimate of cost for these fees.
- Wespeth will stay intact and extend its coverage to all connectional conferences. All medical and pension liabilities remain the legal obligations of the annual conference regardless of which connectional conference is chosen by the annual conference. Wespeth will develop methods to reassign pension liabilities associated with local churches that opt into another connectional conference. Wespeth may reassign liabilities to the annual conferences, as ap-

propriate, based on active and retired clergy affiliation. The non-disciplinary legislation in Section IV.A of Appendix 4: Wespeth Resource should also be adopted, i.e., freezing the legacy pension plans, moving quickly to a defined contribution retirement plan, and developing new plan governance structures for the connectional conferences.

- Annual conferences will reconfigure budgets and care for boundary reconfiguration costs.
- General Conference will reconfigure budget in 2025 and consider potential fallout in 2020 budget.

## **Proposed Implementation Plan for the Connectional Conference Plan**

### **2019**

Approval of plan and constitutional amendments. Constitutional amendments are voted on in 2019 or early 2020. General Conference secretary will prioritize quick translation turnaround to distribute amendments to annual conferences. Each annual conference will make this a priority to complete the amendments by the 2020 General Conference. Annual conferences may vote at a regularly scheduled session or call a special session for that purpose. Annual conference vote tallies not received by April 15, 2020, will be considered “not voting” (see ¶ 59) and thus not included in the aggregate number of members. The General Conference secretary will send out the amendments to the annual conferences within six weeks of the conclusion of General Conference.

### **2020**

Constitutional amendments approved by 4/15/20  
 Regularly scheduled General Conference  
 Jurisdictional and central conferences vote to determine connectional conference  
 Central conferences free to elect new bishops as needed

### ***By August 1, 2021***

Once a jurisdictional or central conference has decided, annual conferences that disagree may vote to join a different connectional conference. All such votes shall be completed by 8/1/21. Annual conferences may vote at a regularly scheduled meeting or call a special annual conference. (This provision gives up to a year for annual conferences to take a vote.)

Bishops align with a connectional conference. Beginning in September, active bishops for each connectional



conference begin meeting and planning with the Transition Team for the organizing conferences.

### **By July 1, 2022**

Local churches who wish to align with a connectional conference different from their annual conference may vote to join a different connectional conference. Clergy align with a connectional conference. (This provision gives local churches a minimum of 11 months to take a vote.)

### **Fall 2022**

Organizational conferences of the connectional conferences.

### **2025**

First General Conference of the new United Methodist Church.

Connectional Conference Meetings following General Conference.

## **Transition Team Explanation**

- The Transition Team consists of approximately 30 members appointed for skill and expertise, with attention to representing all constituencies.
- The team includes a project manager hired by and responsible to the team. Other paid staff or contracted services (ramping up over time) are hired by and responsible to the project manager.
- This group is responsible for administering and overseeing the transition process moving from General Conference 2019 to the organizing conferences in 2022, working with existing groups and agencies where possible and appropriate, including matters like:
  1. Developing a standardized process for assigning delegates to the organizing conferences;
  2. Working with appropriate leaders in each connectional conference to set up the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences;
  3. Ensuring that candidates in the ministry process know how to transition into the new processes; and
  4. Working with the bishops to develop the process for communicating with the connectional conference regarding moving and assigning clergy and transitioning churches to a branch different from their annual conference.

- The Transition Team is named by and responsible to the Council of Bishops, with necessary funds provided by GCFA.

## **Names of Commission Members Who Signed the Connectional Conference Plan**

*Note:* The Commission never took a vote regarding which members of the Commission supported which plan. At various points in the work of the Commission, Commission members did express preferences for plans. Some Commission members could support the Commission's work on every plan while others expressed a preference for one or two of the plans. At the end of our process, in order to place the plans in petition format, Commission members were asked to which plans they were willing to give public support. Several Commission members gave support to more than one plan. For a variety of reasons, some members of the Commission, while giving their support to the Commission's report, chose not to express a preference for any of the plans.

The following Commission Members publicly support the Connectional Conference Plan: Jorge Acevedo, Jacques Akasa, Hortense Aka, Scott Johnson, Tom Lambrecht, Julie Hager Love, Mazvita Machinga, Pat Miller, Eben Nhiwatiwa, Casey Orr, Donna Pritchard, Tom Salsgiver.

## **Disciplinary Changes for the Connectional Conference Plan**

*Note:* The following disciplinary changes will be submitted as legislative petitions. They are included here for informational purposes.

Amend ¶ 101—The *General Book of Discipline* (Petition 90018, page 169)

Add a new ¶ 2801 (Petition 90019, page 170)

Adopt a new ¶ 2802 (Petition 90020, page 173)

Amend ¶ 422 (Petition 90021, page 174)

Amend ¶ 2602, incorporating ¶¶ 2602-2606 and a portion of ¶ 2608.2 (Petition 90022, page 174)

## **Constitutional Amendments for the Connectional Conference Plan**

*Note about constitutional amendments:* Nine constitutional amendments, one of which is simply changing the names to "connectional conference," would be needed. Some of the amendments consolidate a number of existing paragraphs in the Constitution into one new paragraph. The following constitutional amendments will be

submitted as legislative petitions. They are included here for informational purposes.

1. Amend ¶ 9 and delete ¶ 10 (Petition 90023, page 175)
2. Amend ¶ 14 (Petition 90024, page 176)
3. Amend ¶ 16 (Petition 90025, page 176)
4. Amend ¶ 19 (Petition 90026, page 177)
5. Amend ¶ 23, incorporating ¶¶ 24-28, and deleting Section V., ¶¶ 28-31 (Petition 90027, page 177)
6. Amend ¶ 37, incorporating ¶¶ 38-41 (Petition 90028, page 178)
7. Amend ¶ 45, incorporating ¶¶ 46-54 (Petition 90029, page 179)
8. Amend ¶ 56.3 (Petition 90030, page 181)
9. Name Change: In ¶¶ 32-36, 56, and 61 the names “jurisdiction,” “jurisdictional conference,” or “central conference” should be replaced by “connectional conference,” and the phrase “of the central conferences” replaced by “outside the United States.” (Petition 90031, page 181)

## A Conversation Within the Commission on a Way Forward The Traditionalist Plan

### *Important Note*

The request to include a full Traditionalist Model was received by the Commission on a Way Forward just prior to its last meeting, which began on May 14, 2018. Members of the Commission on a Way Forward registered concern that the time available did not allow for the full conciliar process utilized for the other two plans offered by the Commission on a Way Forward. The One Church Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan both received intensive and comprehensive participation from the Commission and the Council of Bishops over an extended period of time. While there was some support within both the Commission and the Council of Bishops for a Traditionalist Model, the support was modest enough in both groups to discontinue the Commission's earlier work on this model. In order to serve the May 2018 request from the Council of Bishops, the Commission on a Way Forward resubmits the sketch sent to the Council of Bishops in November 2017 as our work on the Traditionalist Model along with the history of this work and its implications for various bodies in The United Methodist Church.

### **History of Traditionalist Plan**

- The Commission on a Way Forward developed a sketch of a Traditional Model that was submitted with the sketches of the One Church Model and the Multi-Branch plan in November 2017.
- It was reported to the Commission on a Way Forward that the Council of Bishops did not vote on or express any preference on the models but when asked which model(s) the Commission should develop, both the One-Church sketch and the Multi-Branch sketch were the focus.
- The One-Church sketch and the Multi-Branch sketch were each developed into full plans by the Commission on a Way Forward for consideration by the Council of Bishops for their February 2018 meeting. The Multi-Branch sketch later was titled the Connectional Conference Plan.
- At the April 29-May 4, 2018 meeting of the Council of Bishops, the Commission on a Way Forward was asked to provide a Traditional Plan. The Commission on a Way Forward was asked to develop this plan by the end of its May 14-16 meeting.

### **Summary of the Traditionalist Plan (as presented to the November Council of Bishops Meeting)**

#### *Primary Action*

Accountability to the current *Book of Discipline* language

#### *Disciplinary Language and Implications*

- Broaden the definition of self-avowed practicing homosexual to include persons living in a same-sex marriage or civil union or persons who publicly state that they are practicing homosexuals.
- Mandate that any just resolution shall include a commitment not to repeat the offense.
- Require every annual conference to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Discipline's* standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination.
- Annual conferences that did not so certify would be encouraged to form something similar to an "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church." As of 2021, annual conferences who could not so certify could no longer use the United Methodist name and logo, and they could no longer receive any funds from The United Methodist Church.
- Require bishops (active and retired) to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Discipline's* standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination. Active bishops who did not so certify would not be eligible to receive compensation for expenses as of 2021, and would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church" formed by the above annual conferences.
- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to not enforce the *Discipline's* standards could vote to remain with The UMC.
- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to enforce the *Discipline's* standards could vote to withdraw from The UMC and unite with the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."

- Clergy who could not maintain the *Discipline*'s standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."

## The Effects of the Traditionalist Plan on Each Segment of The United Methodist Church

### Local Church

- Local churches would not be required to vote.
- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to not enforce the *Discipline*'s standards could vote to remain with The UMC.
- Local churches that disagreed with their annual conference's decision to enforce the *Discipline*'s standards could vote to withdraw from The UMC and unite with the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."

### Clergy

- Clergy who could not maintain the *Discipline*'s standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church."
- Mandate that any just resolution shall include a commitment not to repeat the offense.
- Clergy would surrender their credentials if found guilty of breaking provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to same-gender marriage.
- The expectation is that clergy who cannot conform to the provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to their identity as self-avowed, practicing homosexuals or the performance of same-sex weddings would be expected to leave. The process of leaving would have to be developed in accordance to the Constitution.

### Annual Conferences

- Require every annual conference to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Discipline*'s standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination.

- Annual conferences that did not so certify would be encouraged to form something similar to an "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church." As of 2021, annual conferences who could not so certify could no longer use the United Methodist name and logo, and they could no longer receive any funds from The United Methodist Church.

### Bishops

- Require bishops (active and retired) to certify that they will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Discipline*'s standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination. Active bishops who did not so certify would not be eligible to receive compensation for expenses as of 2021, and would be encouraged to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordat church" formed by the above annual conferences.

### General Agencies

- All general boards and agencies will continue.
- General boards and agencies have the ability to negotiate their services with churches that have left The UMC.

### UMC-Related Institutions

- UMC-related institutions would retain their current relationships and affiliations unless under their by-law they change these relationships.

### Mission Field

- The intention of this model is to use the energy of the Church to reach the mission field rather than in processes related to Church conflict.

### Judicial Council

- The plan makes no changes to the Judicial Council.

### Global Church

- It aligns the position of the church related to LGBTQ inclusion with the majority of the global church outside the United States.

## Appendix 1

# The Work of the Commission on the Possibility of Churches Desiring to Change Their Relationship with The United Methodist Church

The Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops had significant conversations about the possibility of churches desiring to change their relationship with The United Methodist Church in response to the legislation connected to the Commission's report and the called session of the General Conference.

Here is a brief summary of the Commission and Council's conversation:

- The idea that some churches might desire to change their relationship with The United Methodist Church in response to the decisions made by General Conference is not a new idea and precedes the formation of the Commission on a Way Forward.
- In the July Status Report of the Commission's work, the Commission noted that one of its goals for the final report was to include an "allowance for those who don't adopt a revised structure." (See slide 9 of the Commission on a Way Forward's "Status Report"—[s3.amazonaws.com/Website\\_Properties/news-media/press-center/documents/COWF\\_July\\_2017\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/news-media/press-center/documents/COWF_July_2017_Report_Final.pdf).)
- As the models were developed and shared with the Council of Bishops in November 2017, there was discussion about the concept of a "gracious way of exit for those who feel called to exit the denomination" being included in each sketch. (See Council of Bishop's Press Release on November 9, 2017 <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/bishops-uphold-values-of-mission-unity-space-contextuality-in-interim-report>.)
- In January 2018 the Commission on a Way Forward asked the bishops to specifically discuss the concept of a "gracious exit" at their February 2018 Council of Bishops meeting.
- In February 2018 the Council of Bishops discussed "gracious exit" and shared the following thoughts:
  - The language of "exit" should be used carefully so as not to encourage people to look for an "exit" but rather help The United Methodist Church focus on unity.
  - *Gracious* will be defined not by the process but by the implementation of the process.
  - The *Book of Discipline* already provides a means and reasons why a congregation might leave and the current *Book of Discipline* language could be the guide for a further process.
  - Many annual conferences have already developed practices and models in consultation with Wespath and GCFA. These should be shared.
  - Bishops need to do this work collaboratively, utilizing appropriate resources, and work on a case-by-case basis using best practices.
  - As plans make allowance for the possibility that some persons may depart from The United Methodist Church, we have been governed by the principle of not doing harm to one another.
- At the end of the February 2018 Council of Bishops meeting, the Council gave direction to the Commission that stated: "The Commission doesn't need to continue to use language of gracious exit or explore it further at this time but rather use current *Book of Discipline* process and invite Bishops and others (like Wespath and GCFA) to share best practices." Additionally the Council of Bishops invited the Commission to explore the possibility of adding an option to form or join an autonomous affiliated church.
- At its March 2018 meeting, the Commission discussed the autonomous affiliated possibility and worked on some other examples and models of "gracious exit." The Commission included some possibilities and options in its report to the May 2018 Council of Bishops meeting.
- The Council of Bishops discussed autonomous affiliated and other exit possibilities at their May 2018

meeting and concluded that autonomous affiliated should not be included as recommended legislation or legislative petitions to the 2019 special session of the General Conference. Instead it should be part of a historical narrative of the work of the Commission and Council.

- Concerns from the Council of Bishops about autonomous affiliated included the impact on ecumenical relationships, impact on relationships with current autonomous affiliated churches, the constitutionality of proposed autonomous affiliated legislation for churches in the U.S., the need to remain consistent with our connectional ecclesiology and the need for more study.
- At the same time the Council of Bishops recognized the need to maintain relationships with those who may choose to leave. The Council pondered the practical concerns around various proposed disciplinary mechanisms and explored the possibility of exploring future legislation that could be implemented at a future General Conference.
- There was a deep sense among some bishops that the Church should not move too quickly toward overly defining exit paths that do not take into account the context of each situation or using disciplinary language like autonomous affiliated or concordat relationships that most people within the Church don't fully understand.
- Additionally, Wespath identified the key issues in churches and clergy exiting as it relates to the pension plans. This collective wisdom of Wespath is included in Appendix 4 to this report and in the recommended petitions, amending ¶ 1504 and the Clergy Retirement Security Program, included in this report regarding the One Church Plan above.
- The conciliar work of the Commission and Council provides a model for annual conferences to do the faithful discernment that will allow them to find a way forward.

## Appendix 2

# The Council of Bishops' Collaboration with the Commission on a Way Forward

### Preface

The Commission on a Way Forward deeply appreciates the collaboration and feedback from the Council of Bishops. The report of the Commission is a product of the collaborative process between the Commission and the Council of Bishops. With appreciation for collaboration, the Commission on a Way Forward includes the bishops' original statement to the 2016 General Conference, the Council of Bishops' motion and rationale, and the clarifying statement.

### The Bishops' Statement at the 2016 General Conference, Portland, Oregon

Your bishops were honored to receive the request of General Conference to help lead our United Methodist Church forward during this time of both great crisis and great opportunity. As far as we can discover, this is the first time that a General Conference has ever made such a request of the Council of Bishops, and we accept this request with humility.

We share with you a deep commitment to the unity of the church in Christ our Lord. Yesterday, our president shared the deep pain we feel. We have all prayed for months and continue to do so. We seek, in this *kairos* moment, a way forward for profound unity on human sexuality and other matters. This deep unity allows for a variety of expressions to coexist in one church. Within the Church, we are called to work and pray for more Christ-like unity with each other rather than separation from one another. This is the prayer of Jesus in John 17:21-23.

### Unity

We believe that our unity is found in Jesus Christ; it is not something we achieve but something we receive as a gift from God. We understand that part of our role as bishops is to lead the church toward new behaviors, a new way of being and new forms and structures which allow a unity of our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" while allowing for differing expressions as a global church. Developing such new forms will require a concerted effort by all of us, and we your bishops commit ourselves to lead this effort. We ask you, as a General Conference, to affirm your own commitment to maintaining and strengthening the unity

of the church. We will coordinate this work with the various efforts already underway to develop global structures and a new *General Book of Discipline* for our church. Strengthening the unity of the church is a responsibility for all of us.

### Prayer

We accept our role as spiritual leaders to lead The UMC in a "pause for prayer"—to step back from attempts at legislative solutions and to intentionally seek God's will for the future. As a Council of Bishops, we will lead the church in every part of the world in times of worship, study, discernment, confession, and prayer for God's guidance. We ask you, as a General Conference, to join us in this effort, beginning this week. We were moved by the sight of delegates praying around the table, and we hope these efforts will continue. As your bishops we are ready to join you and to lead you in these times of prayer.

### Processes

We have discussed in depth the processes which might help our church heal and move forward—up to and including the possibility of a called General Conference in 2018 or 2019. We have not finalized our plans for such processes, but we will keep working on options we have heard from many of you, and we will keep reporting to this General Conference and to the whole church.

### Next Steps

We recommend that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops, to develop a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph in our *Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality. We continue to hear from many people on the debate over sexuality that our current *Discipline* contains language which is contradictory, unnecessarily hurtful, and inadequate for the variety of local, regional, and global contexts. We will name such a Commission to include persons from every region of our UMC, and will include representation from differing perspectives on the debate. We commit to maintain an ongoing dialogue with this Commission as they do their work, including clear objectives and outcomes. Should they complete

their work in time for a called General Conference, then we will call a two- to three-day gathering before the 2020 General Conference. (We will consult with GCFA regarding cost-effective ways to hold that gathering.)

### *Continuing Discussions*

We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another—including ways to avoid further complaints, trials, and harm while we uphold the *Discipline*. We will continue our conversation on this matter and report our progress to you and to the whole church.

Today, as a way of beginning to find our way forward, we suggest that in place of the allotted legislative time we spend 1-2 hours of plenary time in prayer, confession, and exploration of a creative way forward. The bishops are prepared to provide questions to guide your conversations. Your conversations will be the first step to a way forward.

### **Motion and Rationale for a Way Forward, Approved by the Council of Bishops in May 2018**

United Methodist bishops, meeting in Chicago, engaged in a prayerful process to discern a way forward. At the conclusion of the discernment process, the Council of Bishops strongly approved the following motion and rationale:

#### ***Motion***

Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes:

- All three plans (The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan, and The Connectional Conference Plan) for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council.
- The Council's recommendation of the One Church Plan.
- A historical narrative of the Council's discernment process regarding all three plans.

#### ***Rationale***

In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission has been on, the Council makes all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends the One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.

### **A Statement of Clarification by the Bishops—May 17, 2018**

The following statement was crafted by the bishops who served on the Commission on a Way Forward and approved by the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops this week:

We have been asked for a further statement of clarification about the Way Forward and hope that this serves this purpose. We hope it is helpful as many of you lead in episcopal areas.

**The Council of Bishops (COB) has voted by an overwhelming majority to share the work done by the Commission on a Way Forward on the three plans and to recommend the One Church Plan.**

**The One Church Plan will be placed before the General Conference for legislative action.**

**To honor the work of the Commission, and in service to the delegates to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, the COB will also provide supplemental materials that include a historical narrative with disciplinary implications related to the Connectional Conference Plan and the Traditionalist Plan. The recommendation adopted by the COB reflects the wide diversity of theological perspectives and the global nature of The United Methodist Church as the best way forward for our future as a denomination.**



## Appendix 3

# A Conversation Within the Council of Bishops: A Traditional Plan

### Introduction to Appendix 3

In service to the delegates to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, the Commission on a Way Forward acknowledges a traditional model was prepared by a few members of the Council of Bishops. It has not received the same due diligence as other plans.

*Important Note:* This plan is not the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. The work of the Commission on a Way Forward on a traditionalist plan is noted in the Commission's report.

### Traditional Model for a Way Forward as Prepared by a Few Members of the Council of Bishops

The Traditional Model maintains our global United Methodist teaching on human sexuality while providing space for a new form of unity with those who cannot in good conscience uphold our discipline.

### Summary of the Plan

This model maintains the current stance of the Church regarding the definition of marriage and the ministry of and with LGBTQ persons. It flows from the presupposition that The United Methodist Church ought to have one unified moral stance on the issues of marriage and sexuality. This model continues to affirm that LGBTQ persons are welcome to attend worship services, participate in church programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows of membership become members of local churches.

At the same time, the Traditional Model acknowledges the deep conscientious objections on the part of some to the current stance and practices of the Church. It accommodates those objections by fostering a gracious and respectful way for those persons who cannot live within the current boundaries of church practice to form or join self-governing bodies that allow them the freedom to follow their conscience and institute practices in keeping with their understanding of Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. Such a self-governing body could constitute a Wesleyan denomination that could maintain an ongoing connection with The United Methodist Church through a Concordat Agreement (§ 574).

Various changes are proposed to increase the accountability of bishops and conferences for upholding and enforcing the discipline of the Church.

Contextual differentiation is achieved through provisions allowing freedom and flexibility in a new connective status for those requiring greater autonomy from United Methodist requirements. This plan is an authentic expression of the instruction given to the Commission on a Way Forward by the Council of Bishops in the *Mission, Vision, and Scope* document to design “new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment.” The model fulfills the Commission's mission of “an openness to developing new relationships with each other.” It honors the Commission's vision for an approach “that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible.” This model respects different theological understandings by giving each a space in which to do authentic ministry without harming the ministry of those with whom they disagree. It proposes “‘new forms and structures’ of relationship” that give “greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality.”

### Theological and Biblical Foundations

The Traditional Model takes seriously the need for greater contextualization of our ministry. It provides clarity and freedom for different parts of our movement to embody our different theological emphases and values on the important questions of marriage and sexual behavior. Given that the human sexuality disagreement is one of the most significant in American culture today, it is appropriate for there to be two different Wesleyan bodies who teach differently on the question of Christian marriage between same-gender persons

The unity of Christ's church has, for the last 1,000 years, taken different forms. There are different types of unity and the Wesleyan movement itself is expressed in a variety of denominations many of which overlap geographically. We should see the formation of a new Wesleyan denomination as an opportunity for a different type of unity created for the sake of mission.

## Our Mission

The Traditional Model provides freedom for progressive pastors, churches, and conferences to evangelize persons who they believe would best be reached by a form of Methodism that is fully inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities. At the same time, it provides assurances that traditional United Methodists can continue to make disciples among people who value traditional teaching on marriage and sexual behavior.

## The Effects of the Traditional Model on Each Segment of The United Methodist Church

### Local Churches

Local churches would not be required to vote. Most would likely make no changes in practice at the local level. If their annual conference chooses to remain United Methodist and a local church wishes to join a new self-governing church, it could vote by simple majority to do so. Doing so would allow them to keep their property, assets, and liabilities in exchange for a payment to the annual conference of their fair share of the conference's unfunded pension liability. No other payment would be required.

Local churches located in an annual conference that votes to establish or join a self-governing church would not be required to vote if they agree with their annual conference decision. Local churches that would prefer to remain United Methodist and continue to abide by the current *Discipline* could choose to do so by a simple majority vote of their church conference. In such cases, they would also need to pay their annual conference their fair share of the conference's unfunded pension liability, since that liability remains with the annual conference.

### Clergy

Clergy would continue to be subject to the *Discipline* of the Church as they agreed in their ordination vows. Those who could not do so would be encouraged to join a self-governing Methodist church that accommodates their views. Clergy doing so would retain their pension accumulations up to the point of departure. Clergy who remain United Methodist and violate the standards of the church would be subject to the complaint process, as revised by the Traditional Model.

### Annual Conferences

Annual conferences will need to decide if they can fully abide by United Methodist discipline in matters of

human sexuality. Those that can do so will indicate that by their vote. Those that cannot in good conscience follow The United Methodist Church's *Discipline* will form or join a self-governing church that gives them the freedom to perform same-gender marriages and ordain self-avowed practicing LGBTQ persons.

### Jurisdictions and Central Conferences

Jurisdictions and central conferences would be unchanged unless annual conferences chose to leave The United Methodist Church to form a self-governing church. If some annual conferences leave, boundaries can be adjusted. Bishops would need to conform to The United Methodist Church's *Discipline*.

### General Boards and Agencies

All general boards and agencies remain the same in the Traditional Model. If a group of annual conferences form a new denomination, cooperation such as exists today can be extended to the new body as well. The cooperation evidenced in the work of the General Board of Global Ministries with affiliated autonomous churches and the Pan-Methodist denominations are models that can be expanded.

### Institutions

Institutions can maintain affiliation with multiple denominations as they do now.

### The Council of Bishops

The Council of Bishops would remain unchanged except that the newly enacted provisions for its Council Relations Committee and related disciplinary process would be used if needed.

### Global Church

All provisions of the Traditional Model treat all annual conferences in equal ways.

### Financial and Pension Implications

This plan has few financial and pension implications. If churches choose to leave The United Methodist Church, there would be implications to long-term pension liability. If annual conferences leave they would need to remain legally responsible for their pension liabilities, as a plan sponsor, in a manner sequestered from the remainder of the clergy pension plan. If apportionment support for annual conference and General Conference funds decline, the annual conference and General Conference would

have to respond to that reduction. This response is in line with what annual and General Conferences are already doing in the area of sustainability. The expertise needed to project the full impact on pension funds for this or any plan for a way forward properly rests with Wespeth and not the Council of Bishops. Appendix 4 to this report provides Wespeth's analysis and input.

### **Proposed Implementation Plan for the Traditional Model**

**February 23-26, 2019.** Special Session of the General Conference

**March-May 2019.** Delegations and residential bishops prepare to interpret the decisions of the General Conference at their annual conferences.

**June 2019.** Annual conferences receive reports of the decisions of the Special Session of General Conference, and frameworks for decision-making in the coming year.

**July-August, 2019.** Annual conferences and cabinets design materials and processes for annual conference and local church discernment.

**Fall 2019.** Annual conference lay leaders and clergy begin discernment related to affiliation. This can be a focus of charge conferences.

**January-February 2020.** Annual conference discernment and decision to approve one of two statements in ¶ 2801. Delegations and bishops prepare for 2020 General Conference.

**March-April 2020.** Local churches and clergy discernment and decision to remain in denomination or be in a self-governing body.

**May 2020.** General Conference. There will likely be unfinished or deferred work that flows from 2019 to 2020.

**May-June 2020.** Annual conferences discern their leadership for 2020-2024 based on decisions made in January-February. Residential bishops must approve one of the two statements in ¶ 2801.7.

**July 2020.** Jurisdictional conferences. Election of new bishops, based on previous decisions of annual conferences, local churches, and clergy, and need. Assignment of existing bishops to self-governing conferences, according to need.

**January 1, 2021.** GCFA shall neither receive funds from nor send funds to annual conferences listed under ¶ 2801.3.

### **Names of Commission Members Who Signed the Traditional Plan, as Presented by Some Members of the Council of Bishops**

*Note:* The Commission never took a vote regarding which members of the Commission supported which plan. At various points in the work of the Commission, Commission members did express preferences for plans. Some Commission members could support the Commission's work on every plan while others expressed a preference for one or two of the plans. At the end of our process, in order to place the plans in petition format, Commission members were asked to which plans they were willing to give public support. Several Commission members gave support to more than one plan. For a variety of reasons, some members of the Commission, while giving their support to the Commission's report, chose not to express a preference for any of the plans.

The following Commission Members publicly support the Traditional Plan, as presented by some members of the Council of Bishops: Jorge Acevedo, Hortense Aka, Helen Cunanan, Jessica LaGrone, Tom Lambrecht, Mazvita Machinga, Pat Miller, Eben Nihwatiwa, and John Wesley Yohanna.

### **Disciplinary Changes for this Model**

*Note:* The following disciplinary changes will be submitted as legislative petitions. They are included here for informational purposes.

1. Amend by addition footnote 1 attached to ¶ 304.3 (Petition 90032, page 182)
2. Amend by addition ¶ 408.3.c (Petition 90033, page 182)
3. Amend by addition ¶ 410.5 (Petition 90034, page 183)
4. Amend by addition ¶ 422 (Petition 90035, page 183)
5. Amend by addition ¶ 415.6 (Petition 90036, page 184)
6. Amend by addition ¶ 635.1.a (Petition 90037, page 185)
7. Amend by addition ¶ 635.2.h (Petition 90038, page 185)
8. Amend ¶ 806.9 at its conclusion (Petition 90039, page 185)
9. Amend ¶ 613.19 at its conclusion (Petition 90040, page 185)
10. Add a new ¶ 2801 (Petition 90041, page 186)

11. Amend ¶ 2711.3, Penalties (Petition 90042, page 190)
12. Amend ¶ 304.5 to prohibit district committees on ordained ministry and boards of ordained ministry from recommending an unqualified candidate to the clergy session. (Petition 90043, page 191)
13. Amend the complaint process to limit a bishop's ability to dismiss a complaint only to those complaints "having no basis in law or fact" (¶¶ 362.1e, 413.3d). (Petition 90044, page 191)
14. Amend Just Resolution to include a commitment not to repeat the offense (¶¶ 362.1, 413.3c, 2701.5, 2706.5.c.3). (Petition 90045, page 192)
15. Amend the just resolution process to mandate the inclusion of the complainant (¶¶ 362.1c, 413.3c, 2701.5, 2706.5.c.3). (Petition 90046, page 193)
16. Amend ¶ 2715.10 Appeal Procedures (Petition 90047, page 194)
17. Amend ¶¶ 570 and 574.1 to create the option of concordat churches in the United States. The changes in these paragraphs shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference. (Petition 90048, page 194)

## Appendix 4

### A Wespeth Resource

# Pension Impacts of Commission Proposals—Wespeth

## I. Introduction

Wespeth Benefits and Investments (Wespeth), the name under which the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits does business, is the administrator and record keeper of the benefit plans of The United Methodist Church (UMC), and the investment manager of plan assets. The plans are described in ¶ 1504.1 of the *Book of Discipline* and are subject to the governance of the General Conference.

The Commission has asked Wespeth for information and analysis about the *potential* pension impacts of its proposals. This appendix provides Wespeth's responses considering the Commission's vision to maximize the United Methodist witness and allow as much contextual differentiation as possible.

## II. Executive Summary

As the form of the Church after 2019 becomes known, Wespeth will make necessary adjustments to continue serving the Church and its mission. The more unified the Church remains as an outcome of the 2019 General Conference, the greater the likelihood of pension plan sustainability. Conversely, the more material the disruption and increased complexity—seemingly unavoidable under the Connectional Conference Model and Traditionalist Model, but also likely under the One Church Model, if it is accompanied by significant membership attrition or amended to include an exit avenue allowing numerous church transfers or departures—the greater the risk to pension funding security and sustainability of the plans. The plan designed for today's UMC will need to be adapted for the future Church.

Wespeth believes that a changing society and Church will necessitate a substantial change to the retirement plan, meaning a shift from a traditional pension to an account balance type plan, within the next five years. Changes to the Church as a result of the 2019 General Conference could accelerate the need for this transition.

**In any Model, a defined contribution plan is the most flexible and sustainable design to meet the needs of the Church beyond 2019. If there are significant disruptions to the Church as a result of the 2019 General Conference, in addition to implementing a defined contribution plan as soon as administratively feasible, the legacy pension plans should be frozen and fully**

**funded as of the date at which any unit of the Church can change the nature of its connection based on the outcome of the 2019 General Conference.**

## III. Background

Wespeth's primary mission is to care for those who serve The UMC in making disciples. Specifically regarding the benefit plans, *Discipline* ¶ 1504.14 directs Wespeth to act "solely in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries." To meet this obligation, Wespeth must act to protect the benefits promised to participants.

As reflected in the plan document, *Discipline* ¶ 1507, and the Internal Revenue Code (Code), The UMC's annual conferences are the "plan sponsors" of the Wespeth pension plans, and are legally responsible for paying the benefits promised. Local churches contribute to the pension plans through and as directed by the annual conferences.

### A. Wespeth Retirement Plans

Wespeth maintains two types of retirement plans: defined benefit (DB) plans and defined contribution (DC) plans. The plans are Code §403(b)(9) plans, and are church plans defined in Code §414(e) and exempt from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (the federal law that covers most retirement plans).

#### 1. Defined Benefit Plans

Generally, a DB plan pays a monthly benefit for the lifetime of participants starting at retirement. The annual conference plan sponsor contributes money to the plan, which Wespeth invests to pay those future benefits. The annual conference guarantees these very long-term promises. Major risks to the plan's financial well-being, such as investment losses and gains in lifespan, are borne by the plan sponsor in a DB plan. A DB plan requires administration and recordkeeping of years of accrued service, participant demographics, and formulas that change over time.

#### 2. Defined Contribution Plans

Typically, a DC plan consists of an account balance for each participant which is funded periodically by the plan sponsor, participant, or both. The account balance accrues investment earnings, but leaves no liability beyond

the account value to the plan sponsor. Major risks, such as investment losses and gains in lifespan, are borne by the participant in a DC plan. A DC plan requires administration of contributions, earnings, and withdrawals and investment management.

### 3. The UMC Plans

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), the Church’s mandatory retirement plan for most clergy, has three major components:

1. The **Pre-82 pension plan** is a DB plan, under which new earned benefits have ceased. Generally, Pre-82 has a formula-based pension benefit based on years served, but annual conferences can increase benefits periodically.
2. The **Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)** is another component of CRSP, for service from 1982 to

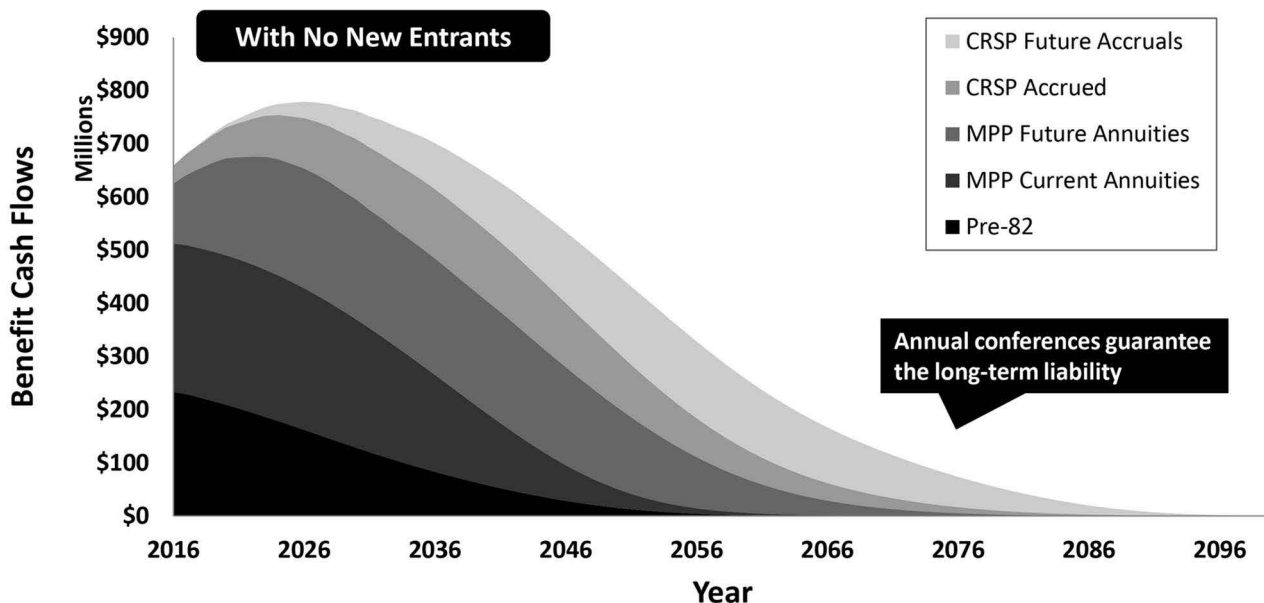
2006. MPP works much like a DC plan during a participant’s active service. Annual conferences contributed a certain dollar amount each year, and the account balance earns investment returns. However, the majority of that MPP balance must be converted into a lifetime annuity at retirement age, which establishes a DB promise.

Together, Pre-82 and MPP are the “Legacy Plans.”

3. CRSP, for service from 2007 to present, has two parts, but its largest part is a DB plan, under which participants earn formula-based benefits for years of service. CRSP is the active plan for new earned benefits.

*The following graphic illustrates the long tail of the pension liabilities for CRSP and the Legacy Plans:*

# Long Tail of Pension Payments



The **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)** is a voluntary defined contribution plan for UMC clergy to make personal contributions, and for nu-

merous other UMC employers to provide retirement contributions to employees. The plan for general agency staff is also a DC plan.

**B. Complexity of Recordkeeping and Administration**

Participants earn DB pension accruals based on service years under annual conference appointments. Wespeth’s recordkeeping tracks earned service year by year at each local church, and assigns the costs of each year of service to the appropriate annual conference. When a local church is transferred to another annual conference, under ¶ 41 and ¶ 260, pension credit for some clergy must be reassigned from one conference to another. This can cause a change in the obligations and funded status of the pension liabilities of one or more annual conferences.

Wespeth’s most recent experience with this sort of complexity involved the merger of four conferences into one Upper New York Annual Conference. That merger involved merging the pension obligations of parts of

four conferences into one, and reallocating 1,233 local churches. Reassignments shifted pension obligations related to clergy service in 168 local churches in Wyoming to Central Pennsylvania, which became Susquehanna, and related to 117 churches from Troy Conference to New England. Wespeth staff and conference personnel needed 2 years (over 7,000 employee hours) to complete the work.

If the landscape after 2019 involves even moderate reconfiguration of annual conferences and churches from one annual conference to another, and thereby pension obligations and related assets, Wespeth would need time to accomplish the administrative work to support the new structures.

*The following graphic illustrates some of the complexity required by restructuring reassignments:*

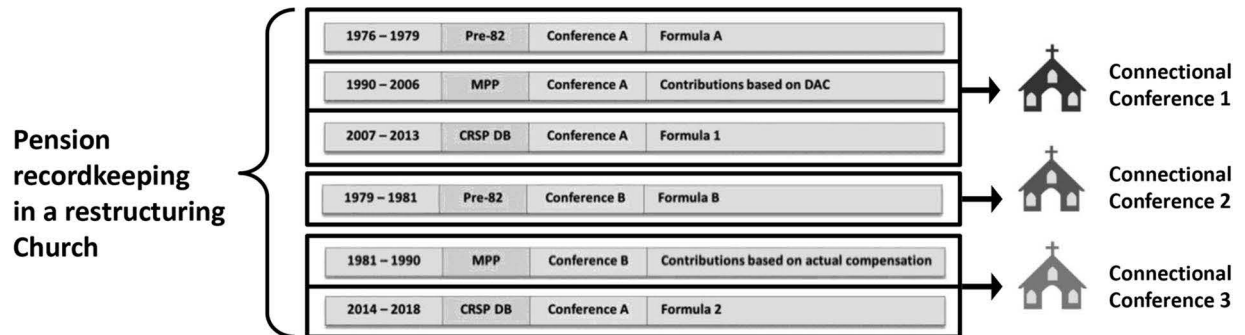
# Recordkeeping Complexity...

**Multiply this complexity by three, when modeling for three Church segments**

**Pastor 1**

1976 – 1979	Pre-82	Conference A	Formula A
1979 – 1981	Pre-82	Conference B	Formula B
1981 – 1990	MPP	Conference B	Contributions based on actual compensation
1990 – 2006	MPP	Conference A	Contributions based on DAC
2007 – 2013	CRSP DB	Conference A	Formula 1
2014 – 2018	CRSP DB	Conference A	Formula 2

} Pension recordkeeping today



**Alternatively, as explained below, the DB plans could be frozen and future administration simplified.**

#### **IV. Wespath Analysis of Pension Implications of the Current Commission Models**

Wespath wishes to continue serving participants, congregations, and annual conferences comprising The UMC, in accordance with the 2019 General Conference, in whatever future form the Church takes. Wespath will continue to be in relationship with, and care for, tens of thousands of retired and active clergy who have earned benefits under The UMC pension plans, for many years. While the ultimate form of the Church after 2019 is unknown, as it becomes clearer Wespath will make necessary adjustments to continue serving the Church.

In the pension context, Wespath must assess material risks of disruption to the financial health of annual conferences, i.e., the plan sponsors, under the One Church Model, the Connectional Conference Model, or the Traditionalist Model.

The **One Church Model** attempts to preserve the Church in its current form, though membership attrition and a changing society and Church nevertheless will necessitate a substantial change to the retirement plan, meaning a shift from a traditional pension to an account balance type plan, in the foreseeable future. However, if the One Church Model is amended to include an “exit avenue” for local churches or the creation of affiliated autonomous churches in the U.S., the nature of many churches’ connection to The UMC may change or end. Numerous local churches could move from one annual conference to another or exit the Connection, thereby substantially changing the ongoing financial strength of one or more annual conferences. This outcome, without changes to the current pension plan design and Legacy Plan funding, could lead to risks for retired and active clergy.

The **Connectional Conference Model** risks substantial reconfiguration of annual conferences and local churches. If annual conferences choose different connectional conferences, and the philosophies regarding pension benefits for the connectional conferences diverge, one plan designed for today’s UMC may not be well suited for three connectional conferences with varying numbers of annual conferences and diverse demographics. Moreover, if local churches elect to move from one annual conference to another across connectional conferences, the administration of earned service and the related past

and future funding would be challenging, and may remain open to change even after participants retire.

The **Traditionalist Model** risks one or more annual conferences, the legally responsible plan sponsors of CRSP and the Legacy Plans, changing their connection with the Church. Numerous local churches and clergy could withdraw from the Church to unite with one or more self-governing Methodist churches or affiliated autonomous Methodist churches. In addition, local churches and clergy, including retired plan participants, who are part of a departing annual conference could choose to remain affiliated with The UMC, but without an associated plan sponsor. The administration of earned service and the related past and future funding would be challenging, and subject to ongoing changes.

- **Under any Model, a DC plan is the most flexible and sustainable design for the future Church in the foreseeable future beyond 2019.**
- **In addition, if there are significant disruptions to the Church as a result of the 2019 General Conference, in addition to implementing a defined contribution plan as soon as administratively feasible, CRSP and the Legacy Plans should be frozen and fully funded as of the effective date at which any unit of the Church can change the nature of its connection based on the outcome of the 2019 General Conference. Future funding needs related to those benefits should be calculated and assessed to the units of the Church in a different manner.**

The Commission’s scope gives “consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church.” A DC plan would provide retirement security to the clergy who serve the Church, through a flexible design that would include retirement contributions for clergy from local churches and annual conferences, and through economies of scale in Wespath’s administrative and investment services. A DC plan is more sustainable by avoiding long-term guarantees that may hinder the form of the future Church, and that may be jeopardized by ongoing changes. A DC plan also involves much simpler recordkeeping and administration, and participant accounts are fully funded and portable. Freezing CRSP and the Legacy Plans, finding new simpler ways to allocate the accrued liabilities and administer those benefits, and seeking new methods for funding those plans, if needed in the future, could help alleviate the burden of the Legacy Plans on the future Church. Together, these changes could help



invigorate the Church to new growth and remove barriers to its witness in the world.

### ***A. DC Plan for the Future and Freeze Legacy Plans***

In order to secure promised benefits from disruptive risks, Wespeth believes that the nature of the plans going forward needs to change. As a result, the following non-disciplinary legislation should be considered by the General Conference under (i) the One Church Model, if it is amended to include an exit avenue for units of the Church, (ii) the Connectional Conference Model, or (iii) the Traditionalist Model:

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed to bring to the 2020 General Conference amendments to the mandatory clergy benefits plans under *Discipline* ¶ 1504.1, and as necessary to other parts of the ¶ 1500s, to support the decisions of this General Conference. In these amendments, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall consider ways that the benefit plans can support “greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church.”

These amendments shall include:

- Freezing the defined benefit components and ceasing account balance annuitization features of the Clergy Retirement Security Program and its supplements (which include the Pre-82 Plan and the Ministerial Pension Plan)
  - Securing from the annual conferences accurate and final service records related to the frozen plans
  - Implementing new funding and liability allocation methods and mechanisms that reduce connectional risk and administrative complexity in recordkeeping
- Creating a new mandatory retirement plan that is a defined contribution plan
- Creating greater flexibility in governance and design of the plan to better reflect a changed Connection, e.g., through plan options governed separately by the connectional conferences, annual conferences, or self-governing Methodist church or affiliated autonomous Methodist church, or through new separate plans that are governed by new legal entities established by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits pursuant to ¶ 1503 to serve the future Church more flexibly.

## **V. Exit Avenues**

In order to protect the benefits of retired clergy and those who continue to serve, the Commission and Council may consider the following approaches to the departure of units of the Church.

### ***A. Local Churches***

For local churches leaving The UMC, Wespeth suggests using an equitable method to determine the local church’s share of the annual conference’s aggregate unfunded pension liabilities measured on a “market basis” that takes into account the separating local church’s past and estimated future contributions toward the annual conference’s pension obligations compared to that of all other local churches in the annual conference. Suggested language follows:

Amend the *Book of Discipline* by adding a new subparagraph 23 to ¶ 1504:

If a local church or charge in the United States changes its relationship to The United Methodist Church through closure, abandonment, or release from the trust clause pursuant to ¶ 2548, ¶ 2549, or otherwise, notwithstanding whether property with title held by the local church is subject to the trust (under the terms of ¶ 2501), the local church shall contribute a withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church’s share.

Additionally, the proposal should consider converting the accrued DB benefits of clergy who terminate their conference relationship into equivalent DC account balances to reduce risks to annual conferences from which local churches and clergy exit. This would shift the investment return and longevity risks from UMC annual conferences to the clergy who choose to end their covenant with the Church. Suggested non-disciplinary language follows:

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed by the General Conference to amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program such that active clergy participants who terminate their annual conference relationship under ¶ 360 of the *Book of Discipline* will be treated as terminated vested participants under the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The terminated vested par-

participant's accrued pension benefits shall be secured and protected from future disruptions by converting such benefits to an actuarially equivalent account balance, using factors corresponding to those used when determining annual conference plan sponsor contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Such converted benefits, along with all other retirement account balances, shall be transferred to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan, a voluntary defined contribution plan maintained by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits under ¶ 1504.2. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed, authorized, and empowered to amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference and in the manner described above.

### ***B. Annual Conferences***

Though not contemplated in the One Church Plan, if under another Model, or in any other manner, an annual conference were to disaffiliate from the Church, in order to protect the benefits of retired clergy and the accrued benefits of actives, and to remove Connectional risks to the annual conferences that remain in the Church, the General Conference should consider the following approach. In the event that the *Discipline* is amended such that a U.S. annual conference can become a self-governing Methodist church, an affiliated autonomous Methodist church, or otherwise disaffiliate from The UMC (whether a *de jure* or *de facto* disaffiliation), the following approach would provide more certainty to the former annual conference and its retired and active clergy, and mitigate the risks to the annual conferences that remain part of the Church.

The proposal could include the following additional *Discipline* text:

If a U.S. annual conference ceases to be a part of The United Methodist Church through becoming a self-governing Methodist church, an affiliated autonomous Methodist church or otherwise, it should contribute to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits any amount necessary to fully fund its obligations under the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The former annual conference's sponsorship of and legal responsibilities under the Clergy Retirement Security Program will continue as a self-governing Methodist church or affiliated autonomous Methodist church. However, accruals and benefit improvements under the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall cease. The sponsorship and administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program for the former

annual conference will be sequestered and treated separately from all other annual conferences that remain part of The United Methodist Church. For purposes of administering the Clergy Retirement Security Program in this manner, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized and empowered to:

- Identify which of the former annual conference's plan participants have chosen to remain with The United Methodist Church, and those who are members of the former annual conference (whether the former annual conference becomes a self-governing Methodist church, affiliated autonomous Methodist church, or otherwise disaffiliates) based on records of service and membership of the annual conferences; non-clergy participants, e.g., surviving spouses, contingent annuitants, and alternate payees, will be deemed to remain associated with The United Methodist Church;
- Calculate and sequester the former annual conference's share of defined benefit plan assets and liabilities for all participants of the former annual conference using factors corresponding to those used when determining annual conference plan sponsor contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and to the extent and at any time that certain participants, whether active or inactive, become the responsibility of The United Methodist Church, retain for The United Methodist Church from such calculated share an amount necessary to fully fund the liabilities of such participants using factors similar to a commercial annuity provider;
- Calculate the amount of any plan contributions required to be made by the former annual conference in the future, as part of its ongoing sponsorship of its separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program;
- Collaborate with the former annual conference to determine how plan design changes may be requested by the former annual conference, and the scope and administrative reasonableness of amendments that may be made to the separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and
- Amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference to conform with this paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*.

If the former annual conference (self-governing Methodist church, affiliated autonomous Methodist church, or otherwise) does not satisfy any required ongoing contributions within a reasonable time under this paragraph or the terms of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, or the former annual conference elects not to or fails to satisfy its legal sponsorship of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall convert all accrued pension benefits of the former annual conference's assigned participants to an actuarially equivalent account balance, adjusted, as necessary, to take into account the former annual conference's funding level of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Such account balances, and all other retirement account balances, will be transferred to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits may also take such actions if the Clergy Retirement Security Program is amended to require an account balance conversion for similar classes of participants, or if continuing administration for the former annual conference is no longer administratively reasonable.

ment Security Program is amended to require an account balance conversion for similar classes of participants, or if continuing administration for the former annual conference is no longer administratively reasonable.

## VI. Closing

The foregoing represents Wespeth's analysis and opinion regarding the potential pension plan impacts of the Commission's proposals based on the facts and circumstances known at this time. Ultimately, the necessary changes to the plans will depend on the outcome of the 2019 General Conference and subsequent decisions by annual conferences and local churches. Wespeth is prepared to make the changes required to continue to serve the Church in whatever form it takes, while caring for those who rely on the plans for their retirement security.

## Proposed Legislation from the Commission on a Way Forward

*Printed in order of petition number.*

### ¶105.

Petition Number: 90001-¶105-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - One Church Plan #1 - Our Theological Task - Par. 105**

Amend ¶ 105 by adding new sub-paragraph as follows:

We agree that we are not of one mind regarding human sexuality. As we continue to faithfully explore issues of sexuality, we will honor the theological guidelines of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience, acknowledging that God's revelation of truth and God's extension of grace as expressed in Jesus Christ (John 1:14) may cause persons of good conscience to interpret and decide issues of sexuality differently. We also acknowledge that the Church is called through Christ to unity even amidst complexity. We affirm those who continue to maintain that the scriptural witness does not condone the practice of homosexuality. We believe that their conscience should be protected in the Church and throughout society under basic principles of religious liberty. We also affirm those who believe the witness of Scripture calls us to reconsider the teaching of the Church with respect to monogamous homosexual relationships.

#### **Rationale:**

This addition acknowledges the common theological guidelines that are the sources of the diverse views in our global church regarding human sexuality. It recognizes the desire of the church to fulfill Christ's call to unity while holding a convicted humility toward one another as we honor religious liberty for all.

### ¶161.C.

Petition Number: 90002-¶161.C-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - One Church Plan #2 - Social Principles - Par. 161C**

Amend ¶ 161.C as follows:

C) *Marriage*—We affirm the sanctity of the monogamous marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity, traditionally understood as a union of one man and one woman between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there

are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. Where laws in civil society define marriage as union between two adults, no United Methodist clergy shall be required to celebrate or bless a same-sex union. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

#### **Rationale:**

The traditional understanding of marriage is honored. Religious liberty is intentionally protected for those whose consciences would be impinged if they celebrated a same-sex union in societies where it is allowed.

### ¶161.G.

Petition Number: 90003-¶161.G-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.  
3 Similar Petitions

#### **CoWF - One Church Plan #3 - Social Principles - Par. 161G**

Amend ¶ 161.G as follows:

G) *Human Sexuality*—We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous ~~heterosexual~~ marriage between two adults. We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults. We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian

community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

**Rationale:**

Sexuality is affirmed as a good gift to all people. Sexual relations are bound by the covenant of monogamous marriage between two adults. The elimination of this language is in recognition that we are not of one mind.

**¶304.3.**

Petition Number: 90004-¶304.3-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #4 - Qualifications for Ordination - Par. 304.3**

Amend ¶ 304.3 as follows:

3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The responsibility for determining how standards, including standards related to human sexuality, may apply to certification or ordination in a given annual conference falls to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference. The bishop may choose to seek the non-binding advice of an annual conference session on standards relating to human sexuality for ordination to inform the Board of Ordained Ministry in its work. The practice of homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexual persons are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as minister or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church.

**Rationale:**

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference set standards of holy living for clergy. By expanding this responsibility to include standards of human sexuality, they can best serve their missional context. Bishops can seek the non-binding input of the annual conference session.

**¶310.2d.**

Petition Number: 90005-¶310.2d-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #5 - Candidacy - Par. 310.2.d footnote**

Amend ¶ 310.2.d footnote as follows.

The General Conference, ~~in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination~~, reaffirms the present language of the *Discipline* regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards. . . .

~~In The Social Principles the General Conference has said that we “do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two adults. ~~between a man and a woman.~~~~

**Rationale:**

This footnote is adjusted to reflect proposed changes in ¶ 161.C and ¶ 161.G.

**¶329.**

Petition Number: 90006-¶329-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #6 - Ministry of Deacons - Par. 329**

Amend ¶ 329 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 329.3

¶ 329.4 In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform a same-sex marriage service, no deacon in full connection shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples. Each deacon shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience to refuse or agree when requested to perform any marriages, unions, or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

**Rationale:**

Deacons currently have the ability to decide whether or not to perform a marriage, union, or blessing of heterosexual couples. This ability would be extended to these services for same-sex couples where legal. The right to refuse such a service due to conscience is expressly protected.

**¶334.**

Petition Number: 90007-¶334-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #7 - Ministry of an Elder - Par. 334**

Amend ¶ 334 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 334.5

¶ 334.6. In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform same-sex marriage services, no elder shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples. Each elder shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience to refuse or agree when requested to perform such marriages, unions, or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

**Rationale:**

Elders currently have the ability to decide whether or not to perform a marriage, union, or blessing of heterosexual couples. This ability would be extended to these services for same-sex couples where legal. The right to refuse such a service due to conscience is expressly protected.

**¶340.**

Petition Number: 90008-¶340-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #8 - Responsibilities of Elders and Licensed Pastors - Par. 340**

Amend ¶ 340 by adding new sub-paragraph after ¶ 340.2

¶ 340.3 a. Each clergy shall have the right to exercise his or her conscience when requested to perform such marriages, unions, or blessing as a matter of his or her individual religious liberty.

b. In conferences where civil law permits a pastor to perform same-sex marriage services, no clergy shall at any time be required or compelled to perform, or prohibited from performing, any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples, or of any couples.

c. Clergy who cannot in good conscience continue to serve in a conference based upon that conference's standards for ordination regarding practicing homosexuals, may seek to transfer under ¶ 347, and shall be supported and assisted in that process. Similarly, clergy who cannot in good conscience continue to serve a particular church based on unresolved disagreements over same-sex mar-

riage as communicated by the pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee to the district superintendent, shall be reassigned. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment by the bishop of the annual conference.

**Rationale:**

Clergy would be allowed to perform or not perform a marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples where legal. Clergy who desire transfer from conferences that ordain gay persons could transfer. Continued security of appointment for clergy is affirmed.

**¶341.6.**

Petition Number: 90009-¶341.6-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #9 - Unauthorized Conduct - Par. 341.6**

Amend ¶ 341.6 as follows:

6. Ceremonies that celebrate ~~homosexual unions~~ same-sex marriage shall not be performed conducted by clergy our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches on church-owned property unless the church decides by a majority vote of a Church Conference to adopt a policy to celebrate same-sex marriage on church property.

**Rationale:**

This provision allows local church members to decide what is best for their congregational and missional context related to ceremonies of same-sex marriage on church property. A called Church Conference requires due notification of the meeting and invites all members to participate.

**¶415.6.**

Petition Number: 90010-¶415.6-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #10 - Ordination by Bishops - Par. 415.6**

Amend ¶ 415.6 at its conclusion as follows:

No bishop shall be required to ordain an elder or deacon, commission a deaconess, home missionary, or missionary, or license a local pastor who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual. The jurisdictional College of Bishops shall provide for the ordination, commissioning, and licensing of all persons recommended by the

Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of the annual conference in the bounds of its jurisdiction. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment by the bishop of the annual conference.

**Rationale:**

The religious liberty of bishops who cannot in good conscience commission, license or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals is protected. Provision is made for such persons in annual conferences where they are deemed to be duly qualified and approved candidates. Security of appointment for appointed clergy is continued.

**¶416.**

Petition Number: 90011-¶416-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #11 - Responsibilities of Bishops - Par. 416**

Amend ¶ 416 by adding new sub-paragraphs after 416.7:

8. The bishop shall neither require any pastor to perform nor prohibit any pastor from performing any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples.

9. The bishop shall neither require any church to hold nor prohibit any church from holding a same-sex marriage service on church property.

**Rationale:**

Clarity related to the boundaries of authority for bishops related to marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples enables clergy and congregations to know that their religious liberty will be affirmed in the future without penalty or unforeseen consequence.

**¶419.**

Petition Number: 90012-¶419-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #12 - Responsibilities of District Superintendents - Par. 419**

Amend ¶ 419 by adding new sub-paragraphs after 419.12:

13. The superintendent shall neither require any pastor to perform nor prohibit any pastor from performing any marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples.

14. The superintendent shall neither require any church to hold nor prohibit any church from holding a

same-sex marriage service on church property or otherwise coerce, threaten, or retaliate against any pastor who exercises his or her conscience to perform or refuse to perform a same-sex marriage.

**Rationale:**

Clarity related to the boundaries of authority for district superintendents related to marriage, union, or blessing of same-sex couples enables clergy and congregations to know that their religious liberty will be affirmed in the future without penalty or consequence.

**¶605.**

Petition Number: 90013-¶605-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #13 - Business of the Conference - Par. 605**

Amend ¶ 605 by adding new sub-paragraph after 605.9 as follows:

10. At any clergy session of an annual conference, the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall, if directed by a vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, present a motion regarding certification, ordination, and appointment of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Provided, however, that any clergy session of an annual conference that votes on such matters shall not, without the consent of the presiding bishop, take up any subsequent motion on that issue during any called or special session of annual conference held within 30 full calendar months from the date of such vote regardless of the outcome.

**Rationale:**

After receiving a motion from the Board of Ordained Ministry related to the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals, the clergy session will not re-address this matter unless the bishop sees a critical need to re-address the question sooner.

**¶2702.1.**

Petition Number: 90014-¶2702.1-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #14 - Chargeable Offenses - Par. 2702.1**

Amend ¶ 2702.1 as follows:

¶ 2702. 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried

when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including, but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a ~~heterosexual~~ monogamous marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings ~~including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~ (c) crime; (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (f) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (g) child abuse; (h) sexual abuse; (i) sexual misconduct including the use or possession of pornography, (j) harassment, including, but not limited to, racial and/or sexual harassment; (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.

**Rationale:**

The language is adjusted to reflect proposed changes in ¶¶ 161.C, 161.G, 304.3, and 341.6.

**¶543.17.**

Petition Number: 90015-¶543.17-G; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #15 - Central Conference Implementation Time - Par. 543.17**

Amend ¶ 543.17 as follows:

17. In a central conference or provisional central conference using a language other than English, legislation passed by a General Conference shall not take effect until ~~twelve~~ 18 months after the close of that General Conference in order to afford the necessary time to make adaptations and to publish a translation of the legislation that has been enacted . . .

**Rationale:**

An additional six months give the central conferences the appropriate time to meet, translate the legislation, and consider whether they want to make adaptations.

**¶1504.**

Petition Number: 90016-¶1504; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #16 - Pension Liabilities - Par. 1504**

**Amend ¶ 1504, effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference, by adding a new subparagraph 23 to read as follows:**

If a local church or charge in the United States changes its relationship to The United Methodist Church through closure, abandonment, or release from the trust clause pursuant to ¶ 2548, ¶ 2549, or otherwise, notwithstanding whether property with title held by the local church is subject to the trust (under the terms of ¶ 2501), the local church shall contribute a withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share.

**Rationale:**

Local churches that change the nature of their connection to the Church must pay a proportional fair share of the annual conference's aggregate unfunded pension liability using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider to account for the investment, longevity, and other risks they leave to the Church.

**¶1504.**

Petition Number: 90017-¶1504; Berlin, Thomas M. - Herndon, VA, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - One Church Plan #17 - CRSP Amendment - Par. 1504**

**Revise the Clergy Retirement Security Program ("CRSP"), which is incorporated by reference in ¶ 1504.1 of the *Book of Discipline*, including any needed revisions to CRSP section numbering, formatting, pagination, or Table of Contents, effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference as follows:**

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed by the General Conference to amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program such that active clergy participants who terminate their annual conference relationship under ¶ 360 of the *Book of Discipline* will be treated as terminated vested participants under the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The terminated vested participant's accrued pension benefits shall be secured and protected from future disruptions by converting such benefits to an actuarially equivalent account balance, using



factors corresponding to those used when determining annual conference plan sponsor contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Such converted benefits, along with all other retirement account balances, shall be transferred to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan, a voluntary defined contribution plan maintained by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits under ¶ 1504.2. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is directed, authorized, and empowered to amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program, effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference and in the manner described above.

#### Rationale:

The Clergy Retirement Security Program should be amended so active clergy who change their covenant are removed from the defined benefit and annuity risk pools for their former annual conference and the Church, and are provided an actuarially equivalent account balance benefit.

#### ¶101.

Petition Number: 90018-¶101-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #1 - General BOD - Par. 101

##### Amend Par. 101 as follows:

¶ 101. The *General Book of Discipline* reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through doctrine and disciplined Christian life. We are a worldwide denomination united by doctrine, discipline, and mission through our connectional covenant. The *General Book of Discipline* expresses that unity. Each central connectional conference may make changes and adaptations to the *General Book of Discipline* to more fruitfully accomplish our mission in various contexts. However, some portions of the *General Book of Discipline* are not subject to adaptation. The following parts and paragraphs are not subject to change or adaptation except by action of the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has primary responsibility for proposing to General Conference revisions to this paragraph:

Parts I - V

I. Constitution ¶¶ 1-61

II. *General Book of Discipline* ¶ 101

III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶¶ 102-105

IV. The Ministry of All Christians ¶¶ 120-143

V. Social Principles Preface, Preamble, and ¶¶ 160-

166 (as replaced by the Global Social Principles to be adopted by the 2020 General Conference)

Part VI. General Organization and Administration ¶¶ 201-204, 260-261, 301-303, 305-308, 401-403, 421-423, 431-450, 501-523, 525-528, 570-575, 601, 701-702, 703.1-4, 703.7-12, 704, 801-809, 1501-1712, 2201, 2501-2502, 2504-2511, 2552, 2601-2612, 2701, 2703-2719, 2801-2802 (All references in these paragraphs referring to jurisdictional or central conferences shall be modified to refer to connectional conferences. Where provisions between jurisdictional and central conferences conflict, they shall continue to apply differently within the United States and outside the U.S., but the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall lead a process in consultation with the Connectional Table to reconcile the differences and rewrite paragraphs containing conflicts to be proposed to the 2025 General Conference.)

Part VII. Additional Organization and Administration (All other paragraphs in the *Discipline*, as amended by General Conference 2020, shall remain in effect through December 31, 2025, unless adapted by a connectional conference. Based on decisions by connectional conferences during 2022-25, the 2025 General Conference may add or subtract paragraphs to Part VI. All references in these paragraphs referring to jurisdictional or central conferences shall be modified to refer to connectional conferences. These paragraphs shall be subject to adaptation by the central conferences beginning in 2020 and the connectional conferences beginning in 2022.)

The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order, will bring legislation to the 2020 General Conference to change the structure of the *General Book of Discipline* to include a Part VI, General Organization and Administration not subject to change or adaptation by central conferences, and a Part VII, Additional Organization and Administration, adaptable by central conferences according to ¶ 31.5. The content of Part VI of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* will be included in either Part VI or Part VII of the *General Book of Discipline*.

For the work on Part VI, Chapter 2 (The Ministry of the Ordained) and Chapter 3 (The Superintendency) of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Commission for the Study of Ministry, and for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Connectional Table.

The Commission on the General Conference is directed to set aside adequate time in the first three days of the 2020 2025 General Conference for plenary consideration

and action on Part VI, General Administration and Organization, submitted by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and revisions to what constitutes Part VI, based on decisions made by the connectional conferences. Subsequent changes to Part VI shall be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters for submission to General Conference.

**Rationale:**

These changes define what portions of the *Discipline* apply to the whole Church and what portions are adaptable. Provisions pertaining to homosexuality (except regarding funding) are moved to the adaptable section. The 2025 General Conference is able to make changes based on the decisions of the connectional conferences.

**¶2800.**

Petition Number: 90019-¶2800-!-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #2 - Implementation of Plan - NEW Par. 2801**

**Add a new ¶ 2801 as follows:**

¶ 2801 – Implementation of the Connectional Conference Plan

This paragraph contains the process for implementing the Connectional Conference Plan and takes precedence over all other paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline* not in the Constitution. The processes contained in this paragraph substitute for any processes in other parts of the *Discipline*, and those other processes and approvals are preempted by this paragraph.

1. As soon as possible after the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference, and no later than March 31, 2019, the General Conference secretary shall forward to the annual conferences the constitutional amendments approved by General Conference for the Connectional Conference Plan. Annual conferences shall be responsible to vote on ratification of these amendments by April 15, 2020, forwarding the results of this vote to the Council of Bishops immediately at the conclusion of each annual conference. Any annual conference that has not forwarded the results of its ratification ballot to the Council of Bishops by April 30, 2020, shall be deemed not present and voting under ¶ 59. The ratification percentage for the amendments shall be counted based on the ballots received, and ballots not received shall not count as part of the total (of which a two-thirds affirmative vote is required for ratification).

2. Upon the announcement by the Council of Bishops that all constitutional amendments have been ratified, the 2020 sessions of the jurisdictional conferences shall choose by simple majority vote of the delegates present and voting as to which of the three connectional conferences that jurisdiction desires to affiliate. All jurisdictionally owned assets and liabilities shall belong to the connectional conference with which that jurisdiction affiliates when the connectional conference becomes effective. All annual conferences of that jurisdiction shall have the status chosen by their jurisdictional conference, unless an annual conference desires to choose a different option (¶ 2801.4). The decision of each jurisdictional conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

3. Upon the announcement by the Council of Bishops that the constitutional amendments have been ratified, each 2020-21 session of a central conference shall choose whether it wants to be constituted as a connectional conference (either by itself or joined with other central conferences) or to join one of the three theologically-based connectional conferences (making it a global connectional conference). The option chosen (own connectional conference or affiliation with another connectional conference) shall require a majority vote by the delegates present and voting.

All central conference owned assets and liabilities shall belong to the connectional conference with which that central conference affiliates when the connectional conference becomes effective.

All annual conferences of that central conference shall have the status chosen by their central conference, unless an annual conference desires to choose a different option (¶ 2801.4). The decision of each central conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

4. Following the decision of each jurisdictional or central conference but no later than July 31, 2021, any annual conference inside or outside the United States that disagrees with the decision of its jurisdictional or central conference may vote to join a different connectional conference by a majority vote by the conference members present and voting. The proposal for an annual conference to affiliate with a different connectional conference shall originate either from the cabinet, the annual conference Connectional Table (or equivalent structure), or a petition signed by a minimum of 10 percent of the annual conference members (clergy or lay). The proposal would then be handled in accordance with the annual conference rules. All annual conference owned assets and liabilities shall remain with the annual conference, no matter which connectional conference it affiliates with. The decision of

each annual conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

5. After January 1, 2026, an annual conference may by a 60 percent majority vote of its members present and voting decide to switch its affiliation from one connectional conference to another. Such a switch in affiliation shall require the majority approval of the receiving connectional conference. An annual conference shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous vote on the question.

6. Between August 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, any local church (charge) inside or outside the United States that disagrees with the decision of its annual conference (whether the annual conference chose by vote or by acquiescing to the decision of the jurisdictional or central conference) may vote to join a different connectional conference by a simple majority vote of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called regular or special church conference. The proposal to affiliate with a different connectional conference shall originate either from the church council (or equivalent structure) or from a petition signed by a minimum of 10 percent of the congregation's professing members.

The bishop and cabinet, along with other appropriate individuals of the annual conference, shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process. The decision of each local congregation shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team. After July 1, 2022, any local congregation desiring to switch its affiliation from one connectional conference to another shall follow the requirements of ¶ 41. A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

7. Past and current pension and annuity liabilities under the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall remain the legal obligations of the annual conferences. Clergy affiliating with a different connectional conference from their original annual conference shall have their associated past and current pension and annuity liabilities and related assets calculated, assigned, and transferred as appropriate, by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the annual/connectional conference to which the clergy participant transfers.

8. By August 31, 2021, each active or retired bishop shall register with the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team with which connectional conference he or she desires to affiliate.

9. During this transition, to provide continuity and avoid a mismatch of the number of bishops for each connectional conference, the mandatory retirement provi-

sions of ¶ 408.1 shall be waived for all bishops. Bishops in the United States may continue serving their current appointments past the mandatory retirement age until the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences in 2022, at which time new bishops shall be elected as needed in each connectional conference. The retirement date would be December 31, 2022, and the effective date for new bishops January 1, 2023. Bishops unwilling to continue serving may take retirement, and the Council of Bishops shall appoint another retired bishop as interim bishop to serve through 2022. No new bishops would then be elected at the 2020 jurisdictional conferences, but election of members to the general boards and agencies would still need to occur. The 2020 jurisdictional conferences may be shortened to account for the reduced business to be conducted, or each College of Bishops may decide to conduct the necessary business via e-mail and/or video conference. The central conferences shall meet and elect bishops as usual in 2020, unless the central conference College of Bishops determines that a realignment of the central conference may reduce the number of bishops needed. A central conference experiencing realignment, either by changing annual conference boundaries or joining another connectional conference, shall meet for organizational purposes prior to July 1, 2023, and elect any required new or replacement bishops at that time. In such a case, a central conference bishop shall not be subject to mandatory retirement until 60 days following the organizational conference (see ¶ 2801.14).

10. Each active or retired clergy person (ordained or licensed or in process) shall have until July 1, 2022, to register with his or her bishop and the Transition Team a desire to affiliate with a different connectional conference than that chosen by his or her annual conference. Any clergy person not registering a choice shall by default remain a member of that person's annual conference and affiliate with the connectional conference chosen by that annual conference.

11. Clergy appointments taking effect July 1, 2022, shall be made as much as possible by matching the desired affiliation of clergy and congregation. Clergy credentials of ordination, commissioning, and licensing shall be recognized by all connectional conferences and shall not be repeated, no matter which conference granted the credential, but the ability to serve in a particular annual conference shall be determined by the qualifications and expectations set by that annual conference. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment.

a. Transitional Appointments. Clergy may make themselves temporarily available to serve in an annual conference/connectional conference different from their preferred one, either by continuing a current appointment

or in an interim appointment. In order to serve in an annual/connectional conference different from their preferred one, a clergyperson shall agree to meet the qualifications of the different annual/connectional conference and maintain the standards of conduct as set forth by the annual/connectional conference they are serving. Failure to abide by this agreement shall constitute grounds for the bishop to revoke the appointment. Such transitional appointments are designed to be temporary until a place of service is found in the clergyperson's preferred annual conference.

b. Service in Other Connectional Conferences. Clergypersons may make themselves available to serve in more than one annual/connectional conference. Such clergyperson shall designate one annual conference for their primary conference membership. They shall indicate to their bishop a willingness to serve in other annual/connectional conferences. In order to serve in an annual/connectional conference different from the one where his or her membership is lodged, a clergyperson shall agree to meet the qualifications of the different annual/connectional conference and maintain the standards of conduct as set forth by the annual/connectional conference they are serving. Failure to abide by this agreement shall constitute grounds for the bishop to revoke the appointment. Such a clergyperson shall maintain membership in his or her designated annual/connectional conference, but shall be eligible for appointment to a different annual/connectional conference with the approval of the receiving annual conference bishop and clergy session.

12. Beginning September 1, 2021, the bishops of each new connectional conference may begin meeting to plan the transition into the new structure, in conjunction with the Transition Team.

13. The organizing conferences of each of the three theological connectional conferences shall take place between September 1 and November 30, 2022, on a date and in a place set by each conference's College of Bishops in consultation with the Transition Team. The organizing conferences of any new connectional conferences formed outside the United States shall take place on a date set by the connectional conference College of Bishops, but prior to July 1, 2023. Notwithstanding other provisions in the *Discipline* or in jurisdictional or central conference rules, materials proposed to be adopted by the organizing conference shall be in the hands of the delegates no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting.

14. Delegates to the organizing conferences from annual conferences that choose to affiliate with that connectional conference shall be the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates of that annual conference or their duly elected successors according to the provisions for election of delegates (¶¶ 15, 34-36, 316.6, 321.2, 327.2-3,

334.1, 344.4, 346.2, 353.7, 355.8, 514-15, 586.3, 602.1). Congregations and clergy who desire to affiliate with a connectional conference different from their annual conference shall be represented at the organizing conference of their chosen connectional conference by one clergy and one lay delegate who qualify as proper delegates under the provisions for election of delegates to jurisdictional conference cited in this paragraph. Clergy delegates from areas not covered by an annual conference related to that connectional conference shall be elected by and from the clergy who desire to affiliate with that connectional conference. Lay delegates from areas not covered by an annual conference related to that connectional conference shall be elected by and from the lay members of the annual conference of those congregations that desire to affiliate with the connectional conference. The bishop of that area shall call a special meeting of the clergy and lay members of annual conferences desiring to affiliate with a different connectional conference for the purpose of electing the one clergy and one lay delegate to the organizing conference. This meeting shall take place between July 1 and August 15, 2022.

15. The new connectional conference structure, annual conference boundaries, and episcopal supervisory relationships inside the United States shall take effect on January 1, 2023. The new connectional conference structure, annual conference boundaries, and episcopal supervisory relationships for newly formed connectional conferences outside the United States shall take effect on the date set by the organizing conferences. A central conference choosing to become its own connectional conference where no annual conferences are added or subtracted or boundaries changed shall not be considered "newly formed" or "new" and shall not be subject to requirements of newly formed or new connectional conferences in this paragraph (¶ 2801).

16. Connectional conferences at the organizing conference shall redraw the boundaries of their annual conferences in order to encompass all their territory and congregations. Any new annual conferences formed shall have their organizing meeting between January 1 and June 30, 2023, or on another date set by the connectional conference College of Bishops.

17. During the 2020-2025 period, the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall engage all branches of the church to identify general principles and benchmarks that would foster accountability in the whole Church for combatting racism and sexism. They shall synthesize that work and propose to the 2025 General Conference general principles and benchmarks for adoption by the conference. Subsequently each connectional con-

ference shall be responsible to provide the resources and accountability necessary to abide by the principles and achieve the benchmarks and shall report on its compliance to the Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences at least 240 days prior to each General Conference.

18. During the period 2020-2025, the General Council on Finance and Administration and General Board of Global Ministries shall continue to facilitate and support the financial underwriting of bishops, annual conferences, and mission work outside the United States through the general apportionment and Advance giving.

19. The general agencies shall continue in the structure and funding level established by the 2020 General Conference through 2025, with the possibility of using reserve funds to supplement apportionments for those agencies not included in the *General Book of Discipline* for the years 2023-2025. Other general Church funds shall be budgeted through the normal process for this period, with plans to accommodate the potential loss of apportionment income through the transition. Each connectional conference shall elect five representatives to a task force to evaluate the general agency structure and propose a new model to the 2025 General Conference. In that new model, agencies shall serve only those connectional conferences that desire to participate in each agency, and funding shall come only from participating connectional conferences. The following agencies shall continue to serve the whole Church and be part of the *General Book of Discipline*: Wespath, the Publishing House, Archives and History, General Council on Finance and Administration, Faith and Order, and United Methodist Committee on Relief. The above-named task force shall determine which aspects of the General Board of Global Ministries are to be included in the *General Book of Discipline* supported by the whole Church.

#### **Rationale:**

This new paragraph outlines the process for implementation and of transitioning into the new structure. The principles outlined in the summary of the plan are codified in this legislation.

#### **¶2800.**

Petition Number: 90020-¶2800-!-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #3 - Transition Team - NEW Par. 2802**

Adopt a new ¶ 2802 as follows:

¶ 2802. Transition Team—1. The Council of Bishops

shall appoint a Transition Team of approximately 30 persons chosen for skill and expertise, with attention to representing all constituencies. The Team shall work with the Council and be amenable to the Council, with necessary funds to be provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

2. The Team shall be responsible for administering and overseeing the transition process moving from GC2019 to the organizing conferences in 2022, working with existing groups and agencies where possible and appropriate. Its term of service shall expire as of December 31, 2025. The responsibilities of the Team shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. assist in implementing the process for electing delegates to the organizing conferences (¶ 2801.14)

b. working with appropriate leaders in each connectional conference to set up the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences

c. ensuring that candidates in the ministry process know how to transition into the new processes

d. tracking decisions by jurisdictional and central conferences, annual conferences, and local churches about connectional conference affiliation, and communicating with the developing leadership teams of each connectional conference with up-to-date information

e. working with the bishops to develop the process for communicating with the connectional conferences regarding moving and assigning clergy and transitioning churches to a connectional conference different from their annual conference

f. writing legislation to be submitted to the 2020 General Conference for a Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences to foster cooperation between the conferences, monitor compliance with efforts to combat racism and sexism, and deal with issues of conflict between the conferences

g. working with the General Council on Finance and Administration to handle legal, financial, and administrative changes and with Wespath to handle pension changes necessary in the transition

h. other responsibilities assigned by the Council of Bishops not in conflict with the Constitution.

3. As approved by the Council of Bishops, the Team shall have a project manager hired by and responsible to the Team and other paid staff or contracted services hired by and responsible to the project manager.

#### **Rationale:**

This paragraph describes the creation and work of a Transition Team to assist the Council of Bishops with overseeing the transition and caring for the many details that will arise.

**¶422.**

Petition Number: 90021-¶422-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #4 -  
Council and College of Bishops - Par. 422**

**Amend ¶ 422 as follows:**

¶ 422. Council and College of Bishops—1. Bishops ~~although are elected by jurisdictional or central connectional conferences are elected general superintendents of the whole Church and exercise their authority primarily within the connectional conference~~ College of Bishops. As all ordained ministers are first elected into membership of an annual conference and subsequently appointed to pastoral charges, so bishops become through their election members first of the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops before they are subsequently assigned to areas of service. By virtue of their election and consecration, bishops are members of the Council of Bishops and of their college and are bound in special covenant with all other bishops. In keeping with this covenant, bishops fulfill their servant leadership and express their mutual accountability. The Council of Bishops and the colleges are ~~is~~ a faith communities of mutual trust and concern responsible for the faith development and continuing well-being of ~~its~~ their members.

2. The Council of Bishops and the colleges are ~~is~~ thus the collegial expressions of episcopal leadership in the Church and through the Church into the world. The Church expects the Council of Bishops and the Colleges of Bishops to speak to the Church and from the Church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships.

3. In order to exercise meaningful leadership, the Council of Bishops is to meet at stated intervals. The Council of Bishops is charged with the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs ~~of~~ shared by the whole Church, to be executed in regularized consultation and cooperation with other councils and service agencies of the Church. The role of the Council of Bishops is to serve as a missional body that helps gather and distribute best practices for church vitality; is a learning, equipping, and nurturing community; acts as connectors to the jointly-shared ministries; guides the Wesleyan DNA emphases around justice, fairness, and inclusiveness, with special concern around the elimination of racism and sexism; handles ecumenical relations; mediates accountability challenges; and ensures the carrying into effect of the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference.

4. The bishops of each connectional conference shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories. Each college shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church within their connectional conference and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the connectional conference. Each college shall also nurture and support its members and hold them accountable to the highest standards of United Methodist leadership and discipleship.

4 ~~5.~~ The Council of Bishops may assign one of its members to visit another episcopal area or Methodist-related church, subject to the consent of that area's College of Bishops or that church's leadership. When so assigned, the bishop shall be recognized as the accredited representative of the Council of Bishops, and when requested by the resident bishop or president in that area or church, may exercise therein the functions of episcopacy.

**Rationale:**

This paragraph reconfigures the Council of Bishops as more of a learning community that cares for our ecumenical relationships, while transitioning the oversight and accountability functions to the respective connectional conference Colleges of Bishops. It implements the constitutional amendments related to bishops included in this plan.

**¶2602.**

Petition Number: 90022-¶2602-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #5 -  
Judicial Council - Par. 2602**

**Amend ¶ 2602, incorporating ¶¶ 2602-2606 and a portion of ¶ 2608.2, and renumber succeeding paragraphs as follows:**

¶ 2602. Effective January 1, 2023, delete the existing ¶¶ 2602-2606 and replace with the following:

Composition—1. Members—The Judicial Council shall be composed of two members, one clergy and one lay, from each connectional conference, elected in such a manner as each conference shall determine. In the same manner, each connectional conference shall elect two alternates, one clergy and one lay. All the laypersons shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church. A member's term of office shall be eight years. The term

of the alternates shall be for four years. A member may serve a maximum of two consecutive eight-year terms, with a minimum of four years off before reelection to the council. The terms of the two members of a connectional conference shall be staggered, so that both terms shall not expire in the same quadrennium. The secretary of the General Conference in 2022 shall randomly determine which member (clergy or lay) in each connectional conference shall be elected to a three-year term (serving 2023-2025), so that the number of clergy and lay members whose terms expire in a given quadrennium are equal or nearly so. Members elected to a three-year term in 2022 shall be eligible to be elected to two additional consecutive eight-year terms. Members elected in 2022 to a seven-year term (serving 2023-2029) shall be eligible to be elected to one additional consecutive eight-year term.

2. Vacancies—a. If a vacancy in the membership of the council occurs during the interim between sessions of the connectional conference, the vacancy shall be filled by the respective clergy or lay alternate. The alternate filling such vacancy shall hold office as a member of the Judicial Council for the unexpired term of the member whom the alternate succeeds. In the event of any vacancy, it shall be the duty of the president and secretary of the council to notify the alternate entitled to fill it. When an alternate becomes a member of the council, the connectional conference College of Bishops shall appoint a replacement alternate to fill out the unexpired term of the promoted alternate.

b. In the event of an absence of one or more members of the council during a session of the Judicial Council, such temporary vacancy shall be filled by the respective clergy or lay alternate.

If the appropriate alternate is unable to be present, the other alternate from that connectional conference shall fill the temporary vacancy. Inability or failure to fill a vacancy does not affect the validity of any action of the council so long as a quorum is present.

3. Expiration of Term—The term of office of the members of the council and of the alternates shall expire upon the adjournment of the connectional conference at which their successors are elected.

4. Ineligibility of Members—Members of the council shall be ineligible to serve as delegates to the General or connectional conference or to serve in any General or connectional conference board or agency.

5. Quorum—Eighty percent of the council members shall constitute a quorum except on questions of the constitutionality of acts of General Conference, in which case a quorum shall be all members or their alternates duly seated according to the rules established by the Judicial Council. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the

members of the council shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On other matters, a majority vote of the entire council shall be sufficient. The council may decline to entertain an appeal or a petition for a declaratory decision in any instance in which it determines that it does not have jurisdiction to decide the matter.

~~¶ 2608.2. *Time and Place*—The council shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of the General Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body, and at least one other time in each calendar year and at such other times as it may deem appropriate, at such places as it may select from time to time. Seven members shall constitute a quorum except on questions of the constitutionality of acts of General Conference in which case a quorum shall be nine members or alternates duly seated according to the rules established by the Judicial Council. An affirmative vote of at least six members of the council shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On other matters, a majority vote of the entire council shall be sufficient. The council may decline to entertain an appeal or a petition for a declaratory decision in any instance in which it determines that it does not have jurisdiction to decide the matter.~~

#### **Rationale:**

These changes reconfigure the Judicial Council as a representative body of the connectional conferences, ensuring equal representation. It designs the council to cope with the reality of potentially as many as ten connectional conferences, each with a different *Book of Discipline* that would need to consider cases regarding those *Disciplines*.

#### **¶9.**

Petition Number: 90023-¶9-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #6 - Jurisdictional and Central Conferences - Par. 9**

Amend ¶ 9 and delete ¶ 10 and renumber succeeding paragraphs as follows:

~~¶ 9. Article II.—There shall be jurisdictional-connectional conferences for the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or central connectional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division race or ethnicity.~~

Such duties, powers, and privileges shall be the same, whether the connectional conference is within or outside the United States, except as otherwise stated in the Constitution.

~~¶ 10. Article III.—There shall be central conferences for the Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional central conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.~~

**Rationale:**

This amendment makes jurisdictions and central conferences equal, changing the name to connectional conferences. It also allows the creation of connectional conferences based on theology, rather than geography.

**¶14.**

Petition Number: 90024-¶14-C-\$-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #7 - General Conference Year - Par. 14**

Amend ¶ 14 as follows:

¶ 14. Article II.—The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016. The 2024 General Conference shall be moved to 2025, shifting the four-year cycle to odd-numbered years.

A special session of the General Conference . . .

**Rationale:**

This amendment provides an extra year for transition to the new structure and ensures that General Conference will not be held in a United States election year.

**¶16.**

Petition Number: 90025-¶16-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #8 - Connectional Conference adaptation - Par. 16**

Amend ¶ 16 as follows:

¶ 16. Article IV.—The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:

1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and

duties of Church membership, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.

2. To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries, with adaptation by the connectional conferences except as otherwise precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 20.

3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of ~~central~~ connectional conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church outside the United States of America.

5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops, to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability, with adaptation by the connectional conferences except as otherwise precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 45.

6. To provide and revise the hymnal and ritual of the Church and to regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, with adaptation by the connectional conferences.

7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the Church, except as herein otherwise prescribed.

8. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.

9. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the Church.

~~10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by central conferences.~~

11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee, provided that the bishops shall select from their own number the presiding officer of the opening session.

~~12. To change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.~~

13. To establish such commissions for the general work of the Church as may be deemed advisable.

14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender, or status.



15. To allow the connectional and annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission, other mandated structures notwithstanding.

16. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Constitution of the Church.

**Rationale:**

This amendment allows connectional conferences to adapt various structures to the context in which they do ministry, including: powers and duties of various ministry leadership offices, number of bishops needed, the responsibilities of bishops, their support and retirement, worship and liturgy of the Church, and the requirement for jurisdictional conferences.

**¶19.**

Petition Number: 90026-¶19-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #9 - General Superintendency - Par. 19**

Amend ¶ 19 as follows

¶ 19. Article III.—The General Conference shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away with episcopacy or destroy the plan of our itinerant ~~general~~ superintendency.

**Rationale:**

This amendment allows episcopacy to be adapted and tailored to the theological and geographical context within each connectional conference. It eliminates the expectation that a bishop in one part of the church should be expected to serve as a bishop in other parts of the church.

**¶23.**

Petition Number: 90027-¶23-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #10 - Standardize Connectional Conferences - Par. 23**

Amend ¶ 23 as follows, incorporating ¶¶ 24-28, and deleting Section V., ¶¶ 28-31 renumbering the following sections and paragraphs as appropriate.

**Section IV. ~~Jurisdictional-Connectional~~ Conferences**

¶ 23.1 Article I.—The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives

from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the General Conference, provided that no ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 2423.2 Article II.—All ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference shall be the same for all ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences.

~~¶ 25. Article III.—The General Conferences shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences<sup>47</sup> and the provisional annual conferences.~~

~~¶ 2623.3 Article IVIII.—Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the Council of Bishops or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference. The connectional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective connectional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the connectional College of Bishops.~~

~~¶ 27-23.4 Article V-IV.—The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:~~

~~1. a. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.~~

~~2. b. To determine the number of bishops that may be elected, to elect bishops, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support. as may be determined by the General Conference. Each connectional conference shall provide the entire financial support for its bishops, including salary, housing, benefits, travel, and office expenses, unless supplemental funds are approved by the General Conference with the consent of the other connectional conferences.~~

~~3. c. To establish and constitute ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the Church as the need may appear and to choose their~~

representatives on the general boards in such manner as the General Conference connectional conference may determine.

4. d. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.

5. e. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction connectional conference, including such changes and adaptations of the *General Book of Discipline* as the conditions in the respective conferences may require, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and subject to the Constitution.

6. f. To appoint if desired a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the connectional conference *Discipline* enacted by the connectional conference. There shall be a right of appeal of the decisions of such a court to the Judicial Council. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction connectional conference from the decision of a trial committee.

#### **Rationale:**

This amendment combines powers of jurisdictional and central conferences and standardizes them for connectional conferences, including a connectional judicial court. It requires each connectional conference in the U.S. to support its own bishops. It gives all connectional conferences the power to adapt the *Discipline* now enjoyed by central conferences.

#### **¶37.**

Petition Number: 90028-¶37-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #11 - Establishes New Connectional Conferences - Par. 37**

Amend ¶ 37, incorporating ¶¶ 38-41, and renumbering the following paragraphs as appropriate:

#### **Section VH VI. Boundaries**

¶ 37.1 Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional connectional conferences, each covering the entire United States and its territories, made up as follows:

~~Northeastern—Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,~~

~~New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.~~

~~Southeastern—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.~~

~~North Central—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.~~

~~South Central—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.~~

~~Western—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon,~~

~~Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.~~

a. Traditional Connectional Conference, in which marriage shall continue to be defined as between one man and one woman, same-sex weddings cannot be performed, and those practicing homosexuality cannot be ordained, along with a covenantal commitment to a more traditional understanding of the doctrinal and moral standards of the Church with enhanced accountability.

b. Unity Connectional Conference, which acknowledges that members are not of one mind regarding biblical interpretations related to human sexuality, in which pastors are allowed but not required to perform same-sex weddings, annual conferences are allowed but not required to ordain those practicing homosexuality, local churches are allowed but not required to receive an LGBT person as pastor, and in which no bishop, pastor, or congregation is compelled to act against conscience in these matters.

c. Progressive Connectional Conference, in which same-sex weddings are performed by all clergy, all annual conferences ordain qualified LGBT persons, and all local churches welcome LGBT pastors who match the needs of the congregation and its ministry.

d. Each of these three connectional conferences is empowered to choose its own name and insignia, which may or may not include the use of the cross and flame and the name “United Methodist.” When such names are chosen by a connectional conference, the names in this paragraph shall automatically be replaced with the new name without the need for additional constitutional amendment.

e. The process of realignment from the geographical jurisdictions to the new connectional conferences shall not require the approval of the various annual conferences as specified in ¶¶ 16.12 and 37.3.

f. No connectional conference shall adopt policies that are inconsistent with or violate ¶ 4 of the Constitution, either expressly or by practice.

¶ 38-37.2 Article II.—The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into central

~~connectional~~ conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the ~~Uniting Conference~~ those in effect as of January 1, 2020, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries. ~~Connectional conferences outside the United States may, by majority vote, elect to join one of the connectional conferences described in ¶ 37.1, in which case the connectional conference it joins shall become global.~~

¶ ~~39-37.3~~ Article III.—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the ~~jurisdictional-connectional~~ conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority ~~vote by two-thirds~~ of the annual conferences of each of the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences involved. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional conferences in the United States.

¶ ~~40 37.4~~ Article IV.—The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences. ~~in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional conferences in the United States.

¶ ~~41-37.5~~ Article V. Transfer of Local Churches—

1. a. A local church may be transferred from one annual conference to another in which it is geographically located upon approval by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in each of the following:

- a) i) the charge conference;
- b) ii) the congregational meeting of the local church;
- e) iii) each of the two annual conferences involved.

The vote shall be certified by the secretaries of the specified conferences or meetings to the bishops having supervision of the annual conferences involved, and upon their announcement of the required majorities the transfer shall immediately be effective.

2. b. The vote on approval of transfer shall be taken by each annual conference at its first session after the matter is submitted to it.

3. c. Transfers under the provisions of this article shall not be governed or restricted by other provisions of this Constitution relating to changes of boundaries of conferences.

d. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional and annual conferences in the United States.

#### Rationale:

This amendment is the heart of the Connectional Conference Plan, establishing the new non-geographic connectional conferences and defining the primary values of each. It adopts language that makes this paragraph consistent with other amendments. It ensures that the Constitution allows the transition to the new structure with a fair process.

#### ¶45.

Petition Number: 90029-¶45-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #12 - Episcopacy - Par. 45

Amend ¶ 45, as follows, incorporating ¶¶ 46-54 and renumbering the following paragraphs as appropriate:

#### DIVISION THREE—EPISCOPAL SUPERVISION

¶ 45.1 Article I.—There shall be a continuance of an episcopacy in The United Methodist Church of ~~like plan,~~ powers, privileges, and duties as now exist in The Methodist Church and in The Evangelical United Brethren Church in all those matters in which they agree and may be considered identical; and the differences between these historic episcopacies are deemed to be reconciled and harmonized by and in this Plan of Union and Constitution of The United Methodist Church and actions taken pursuant thereto so that a unified superintendency and episcopacy is hereby created and established of, in, and by those who now are and shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church; and the said episcopacy shall further have such powers, privileges, and duties as are herein set forth.

¶ 46 45.2 Article II.—The bishops shall be elected by the respective ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the ~~General Conference~~ for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central connectional conference, for those elected by such central conference; provided that episcopal elections in ~~central conferences~~ shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the ~~central~~ conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 47 ~~45.3~~ Article III.—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and ~~shall serve as a missional body that helps gather and distribute best practices for church vitality; is a learning, equipping, and nurturing community; acts as connectors to the jointly-shared ministries; guides the Wesleyan DNA emphases around justice, fairness, and inclusiveness, with special concern around our historic efforts to combat racism and sexism; handles ecumenical relations; mediates accountability challenges; plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for and ensures the~~ carrying into effect of the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference, and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

¶ 48 ~~45.4~~ Article IV.—The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conference shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories. ~~Each college shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church within their connectional conference and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the connectional conference. Each college shall also nurture and support its members and hold them accountable to the highest standards of United Methodist leadership and discipleship.~~

¶ 49 ~~45.5~~ Article V.—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference to another ~~jurisdiction~~ for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference that receives a bishop by transfer from another ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference may transfer to that ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference or to a third ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference may receive a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have

served one quadrennium in the ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference committees on episcopacy of the ~~jurisdictions~~ connectional conferences that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference.

¶ 50. ~~45.6~~ Article VI.—The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected prior to 2021 by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church prior to 2021 shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him/her shall have determined. Bishops elected after 2020 shall have such tenure as the connectional conference electing him/her shall have determined.

The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ 51.45.7 Article VII.—A bishop presiding over an annual, ~~central, or jurisdictional~~ or connectional conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session, provided that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference.

Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council for matters related to the *General Book of Discipline* and by the connectional conference judicial court (if any ¶ 23.4) for matters related to the connectional conference *Book of Discipline*. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be reported in writing annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council or connectional conference judicial court as appropriate, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them.

¶ 52 45.8. Article VIII.—The bishops of the several ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences.

¶ 53. 45.9 Article IX.—In each annual conference there shall be one or more district superintendents who shall assist the bishop in the administration of the annual conference and shall have such responsibilities and term of office as the ~~General Conference~~ connectional conference may determine.

¶ 54-45.10. Article X.—The bishops shall appoint, after consultation with the district superintendents, ministers to the charges; and they shall have such responsibilities and authorities as the General Conference shall prescribe, with adaptation by connectional conferences except as precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 20.

#### **Rationale:**

This amendment re-envision the Council of Bishops as a different type of body, while shifting authority to the connectional Colleges of Bishops. It makes language consistent with other amendments. It allows each connectional conference to determine its bishops' tenure and otherwise equalizes powers currently held by jurisdictional and central conferences.

#### **¶56.3.**

Petition Number: 90030-¶56.3-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### **CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #13 - Connectional Conference Judicial court - Par. 56.3**

Amend ¶ 56.3 as follows:

¶ 56. Article II.—The Judicial Council shall have authority:

3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences regarding the *General Book of Discipline* or on appeal of a decision of law from a connectional conference judicial court regarding a connectional conference *Book of Discipline*.

#### **Rationale:**

This amendment conforms this paragraph with the new ¶¶ 23.4f and 45.7, which allow for a connectional conference judicial court to rule on questions of law related to the connectional conference *Book of Discipline*, which may be appealed to the Judicial Council.

#### **¶32.**

Petition Number: 90031-¶32-C-G; Miller, Patricia - Indianapolis, IN, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### **CoWF - Connectional Conference Plan #14 - Name Change - Par. 32**

Name Change: In ¶¶ 32-36, 56, and 61 the names “jurisdiction,” “jurisdictional conference,” or “central conference” should be replaced by “connectional conference,” and the phrase “of the central conferences” replaced by “outside the United States.”

¶ 32. Article I.—The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of . . . The lay membership shall consist of . . . In the annual conferences of the central conferences outside the United States, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church . . .

¶ 33. Article II.—The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General and the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences, on all matters relating to the character . . .

¶ 34. Article III.—The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by

the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

¶ 35. Article IV.—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference shall be elected from the clergy members . . .

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences.

¶ 56. 1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference.

¶ 56. 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a ~~jurisdictional or a central~~ connectional conference.

¶ 61. Article III.—A ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church . . .

#### **Rationale:**

This amendment changes the names “jurisdiction,” “jurisdictional conference,” or “central conference” to “connectional conference,” and the phrase “of the central conferences” to “outside the United States” in order to create consistency of names throughout the Constitution.

#### **¶304.3.**

Petition Number: 90032-¶304.3-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #1 - Footnote 1 Qualifications for Ministry - Par. 304.3**

Amend by addition footnote 1 attached to ¶ 304.3:

“*Self-avowed practicing homosexual*” is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual. See Judicial Council Decisions 702, 708, 722, 725, 764, 844, 984, 1020, 1341.

#### **Rationale:**

The current wording has sometimes allowed practicing homosexuals to serve, even while being public about their practice, defeating the purpose of the requirement in ¶ 304.3. The added language identifies other means by which an individual openly acknowledges that they are engaged in the practice of homosexuality and can be. . .

#### **¶408.3.**

Petition Number: 90033-¶408.3-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #2 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 408.3**

Amend by addition ¶ 408.3.c:

By a majority vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in the retired relation with or without their consent and irrespective of their age if such a relation is recommend-

ed by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (§ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (§ 422.6).

**Rationale:**

Additions to §§ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to § 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of Fair Process and enables greater consistency and uniformity. . .

**§410.**

Petition Number: 90034-§410-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #3 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 410**

Amend by addition § 410.5:

§ 410.5 Involuntary Leave of Absence—a) By a majority vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in an involuntary leave status if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary leave of absence procedure (§ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (§ 422.6).

b) Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved annually by the Council of Bishops after review and recommendation of the council relations committee.

c) During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits may be continued through the Episcopal Fund for a maximum of six months.

**Rationale:**

Additions to §§ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to § 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of Fair Process and enables greater consistency and uniformity. . .

**§422.**

Petition Number: 90035-§422-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #4 - Episcopal Accountability - Par. 422**

Amend by addition § 422:

§ 422.2. The Council of Bishops is thus the collegial and corporate expression of episcopal leadership in the Church and through the Church into the world. The Church expects the Council of Bishops to speak to the Church and from the Church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships. The Council of Bishops is also a body in which its individual members are held accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

§ 422.5. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership a council relations committee of at least three persons to hear requests for involuntary leave of absence, involuntary retirement, as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops or any seven active bishops.

a) When there is a recommendation for an involuntary status change to be referred to the council relations committee, the council relations committee shall conduct an administrative hearing following the provisions of fair process. The Council of Bishops shall designate the person to present the recommendation to the committee. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to address the recommendation in person, in writing, and with the assistance of a clergy person in full connection, who shall have voice. Once the committee has heard the person designated to represent the recommendation, the respondent, and others as determined by the chairperson of the committee, it shall report its decision to the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee. The Council of Bishops shall refer to the council relations committee any bishop who is unwilling to certify that he or she is willing to uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* relative to self-avowed practicing homosexuals. When the council relations committee reaches a positive finding of fact that the bishop has not so certified, the council relations committee shall recommend either involuntary leave or involuntary retirement to the Council of Bishops after conducting a fair process hearing.

b) Fair Process Hearings--As a part of the holy covenant that exists within the membership and organization of The United Methodist Church, the following procedures are presented for the protection of the rights of individuals and for the protection of the Church in administrative

headings. The process set forth in this paragraph shall be followed whenever the council relations committee meets to process an administrative request by the Council of Bishops.

1) In any administrative proceeding the representative of the Council of Bishops and the respondent (the person against whom involuntary action is directed) shall have a right to be heard before any final action is taken.

2) Notice of any hearing shall advise the respondent of the reason for the proposed procedures with sufficient detail to allow the respondent to prepare a response. Notice shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the hearing.

3) The respondent shall have a right to be accompanied to any hearing by a clergyperson in full connection, in accordance with the appropriate disciplinary provisions. The clergyperson accompanying the respondent shall have the right to voice.

4) In any administrative hearing, under no circumstances shall one party, in the absence of the other party, discuss substantive issues with members of the pending hearing body. Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body.

5) The respondent shall have access, at least seven days prior to the hearing, to all records relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the administrative process.

6) In the event that a respondent fails to appear for supervisory interviews, refuses mail, refuses to communicate personally with the bishop, or otherwise fails to respond to supervisory requests or requests from official administrative committees, such actions or inactions shall not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay any Church processes, and such processes may continue without the participation of such individual.

¶ 422.6 The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership an administrative review committee of at least three persons who are not members of the executive committee or the council relations committee. Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for any involuntary action recommended by the council relations committee are properly followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change of status of the bishop shall be reviewed by the administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the Council of Bishops prior to any action by the Council of Bishops. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (¶ 422.5) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appro-

priate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action.

#### **Rationale:**

Additions to ¶¶ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to ¶ 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of Fair Process and enables greater consistency and uniformity . . .

#### **¶415.6.**

Petition Number: 90036-¶415.6-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #5 - Episcopal Responsibilities - Par. 415.6**

Amend by addition ¶ 415.6:

To consecrate bishops; to ordain elders and deacons; to commission deaconesses, home missionaries, and missionaries; and to see that the names of the persons commissioned and consecrated are entered on the journals of the conference and that proper credentials are furnished to these persons. Bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed homosexuals, even if they have been duly elected by the jurisdictional or central conference. Bishops are prohibited from commissioning those on the deacon or elder track if the Board of Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. Bishops are prohibited from ordaining deacons or elders if the Board of Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference.

#### **Rationale:**

Clarifies that bishops are not allowed to consecrate, ordain, or commission persons who are not qualified under ¶ 304.3, even if they are elected or approved by the relevant jurisdictional conference or clergy session. This enhances the bishop's role in upholding the *Discipline* and makes him/her individually responsible to . . .



**¶635.1a.**

Petition Number: 90037-¶635.1a-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #6 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 635.1a**

Amend by addition ¶ 635.1.a:

Members shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board, the executive committee, or a committee elected by the board of the previous quadrennium, and with the cabinet. Prior to being nominated for membership on the Board of Ministry by the bishop, any individual must certify that he or she will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* related to commissioning, ordination, and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. Additionally, the bishop must certify that he or she only has nominated individuals who will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* related to ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. To ensure adequate board membership . . .

**Rationale:**

Guarding against non-conforming boards of ordained ministry, this provision ensures that members of the board commit to upholding the requirements of the *Discipline* and makes the bishop responsible for nominating only such persons. Permitting boards to not conform to the *Discipline* tears the unity of the church.

**¶635.2h.**

Petition Number: 90038-¶635.2h-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #7— Full Examination—Par. 635.2h**

Amend by addition ¶ 635.2.h:

To examine all applicants as to their fitness for the ordained ministry and make full inquiry as to the fitness of the candidate for: (1) annual election as local pastor; (2) election to associate membership; (3) election to provisional membership; and (4) election to full conference membership. The Board of Ministry shall conduct an examination to ascertain whether an individual is a practicing homosexual, including information on social media, as defined by the *Book of Discipline*. The board shall certify that such an examination has occurred and its results. If it is determined as a matter of fact that an individual is

a practicing homosexual, the board shall not recommend the individual to the clergy session of the annual conference for commissioning or ordination.

**Rationale:**

Incorporates Judicial Council Decisions 1343, 1344, and 1352 in the *Discipline*, requiring boards of ordained ministry to fully examine candidates' qualifications under ¶ 304.3. Guarding against non-conforming boards of ordained ministry, this forbids boards from recommending persons found to be unqualified under that paragraph to the clergy session.

**¶806.9.**

Petition Number: 90039-¶806.9-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #8 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 806.9**

Amend ¶ 806.9 at its conclusion to state:

Every annual conference shall certify that the bishop has nominated only members of the Board of Ministry who will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* related to ordination and marriage of practicing homosexuals. Failure to do so shall result in the General Council on Finance and Administration withholding all funds from The United Methodist Church and withdrawing the annual conference's ability to use the denominational cross and flame logo.

**Rationale:**

Guarding against non-conforming boards of ordained ministry, this provides that the annual conference ensures that the bishop has complied with the requirement to nominate only persons who are committed to upholding the *Discipline* to the board of ordained ministry, adding accountability for the annual conference as well.

**¶613.19.**

Petition Number: 90040-¶613.19-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #9 - Composition of Board of Ordained Ministry - Par. 613.19**

Amend ¶ 613.19 at its conclusion to state:

Every annual conference shall certify that the bishop has nominated only members of the Board of Minis-

try who will uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* related to ordination and marriage of practicing homosexuals. Failure to do so shall result in the General Council on Finance and Administration withholding all funds from The United Methodist Church and withdrawing the annual conference's ability to use the denominational cross and flame logo.

#### **Rationale:**

Guarding against non-conforming boards of ordained ministry, this provides that the annual conference ensures that the bishop has complied with the requirement to nominate only persons who are committed to upholding the *Discipline* to the board of ordained ministry, adding accountability for the annual conference as well.

#### **¶2800.**

Petition Number: 90041-¶2800-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #10 - Traditional Plan Implementation Process - NEW Par. 2801**

Add a new ¶ 2801

##### ¶ 2801. Implementing Gracious Accountability

Because of the current deep conflict over The United Methodist Church's position on marriage and sexuality, a local church or annual conference may indicate its desire to form or join a self-governing church under this paragraph based upon its declaration that it is in irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the doctrine or moral teachings and requirements of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* on the issues of human sexuality, or with the way such requirements are being enforced, or with the resolution of those matters adopted by the 2019 General Conference.

1. Before March 31, 2020, each **annual conference** shall vote to approve one of the following two statements:

a. "The annual conference and its subsidiary units will support, uphold, and maintain accountability to the United Methodist standards found in ¶ 304.3 'Qualifications for Ordination,' ¶ 341.6 'Unauthorized Conduct,' ¶ 613.19 'Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration,' and ¶ 2702.1a-b 'Chargeable Offenses' of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* in their entirety."

b. "The annual conference and its subsidiary units will not support, uphold, and maintain accountability to the standards of The United Methodist Church found in ¶ 304.3 'Qualifications for Ordination,' ¶ 341.6 'Unautho-

rized Conduct,' ¶ 613.19 'Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration,' and ¶ 2702.1a-b 'Chargeable Offenses' of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* in their entirety."

2. In extreme cases in which an annual conference outside of the United States is unable, due to extraordinary circumstances, to take a vote by this deadline, its resident bishop may request a one-time, one-year extension of this deadline, which would also be a one-year extension of the deadlines in ¶ 2801.3-4 below, to be granted by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Such requests for extensions must be submitted by April 1, 2020.

3. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall canvass the votes of each annual conference. Those returning a majority vote for the second option, failing to respond, unclear in their response, or qualifying their commitment to the first option in any way shall be placed on a list of conferences ideally suited for the self-governing status. This list shall be made available to the Council of Bishops and released to the public no later than May 1, 2020.

4. Beginning January 1, 2021, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall neither receive funds from nor send funds to the annual conferences listed under ¶ 2801.3 except as a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall also prohibit the use of the United Methodist name and insignia by these annual conferences except under the terms of a concordat agreement.

Allegations that an annual conference has not fulfilled its commitment under ¶ 2801.1a shall be addressed to the Council of Bishops council relations committee as evidence of possible misconduct by the conference's residential bishop.

5. Annual conferences who are not placed on the list in ¶ 2801.3 may nonetheless vote to enter the self-governing status.

6. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall offer and facilitate a time line allowing annual conferences moving into the self-governing status to continue uninterrupted financial participation in the connective ministries of The United Methodist Church under the terms of this paragraph and may grant a one-time delay to the restrictions in ¶ 2801.4 of up to twelve months upon request by an annual conference that has voted to enter the self-governing status to allow for the transition.

7. By June 30, 2020, each **bishop** of The United Methodist Church shall return one of the following two statements to the president of the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration:

a. I, (*Name*), certify that I will uphold United Methodist standards on marriage and sexuality in their entirety

(¶ 414.5). I will enforce the requirements of the *Book of Discipline* forbidding same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals (¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 2702.1a-b, 414.9). I will further hold all those under my supervision accountable to those standards (¶¶ 415.2, 613.19).

b. I, (*Name*), certify that for reasons of conscience, I cannot uphold United Methodist standards on marriage and sexuality in their entirety (¶ 414.5). I am unwilling or unable to enforce the requirements of the *Book of Discipline* forbidding same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals (¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 2702.1a-b, 414.9), or to hold all those under my supervision accountable to those standards (¶¶ 415.2, 613.19).

Bishops who submit the second option (in whole or in part), fail to respond, are unclear in their response, or qualify their commitment to the first option in any way shall be subject to review by the Council of Bishops' council relations committee for possible action.

Complaints against bishops who are alleged to have not fulfilled their commitment under ¶ 2801.7a above, or who are alleged to have committed one of the chargeable offenses under ¶ 2702.1a-b, shall be automatically and immediately forwarded to the Council of Bishops council relations committee, which shall administer the complaint.

8. **Clergy** who find themselves for reasons of conscience unable to live within the boundaries of ¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 613.19, and 2702.1a-b are encouraged to transfer to a self-governing church formed under this paragraph. Clergy who remain United Methodist but do not maintain their conduct within the boundaries established by the *Book of Discipline* shall be subject to chargeable offenses.

#### 9. ***Annual conferences becoming self-governing Methodist churches.***

a. Any annual conference may become a self-governing church or join an existing one when that annual conference votes by simple majority to seek this status under the terms of this paragraph. The annual conference shall notify the president of its College of Bishops of its decision at least 30 days before a regular or specially called session of its jurisdictional or central conference. The jurisdictional or central conference shall reallocate the territory of the former annual conference among the remaining annual conferences or create a new annual conference. It shall be the new self-governing church's own responsibility to develop its *Book of Discipline* and establish itself as a legal entity. The existence of the self-governing church shall be effective upon the adjournment of the jurisdictional or central conference or upon the effective date established by the annual conference in its request, whichever is later. An annual conference shall not consider a switch in its af-

filiation within less than four years from a previous annual conference vote on the question.

b. If a U.S. annual conference ceases to be a part of The United Methodist Church through becoming a self-governing Methodist church, or otherwise, it should contribute to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits any amount necessary to fully fund its obligations under the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The former annual conference's sponsorship of and legal responsibilities under the Clergy Retirement Security Program will continue as a self-governing Methodist church. However, accruals and benefit improvements under the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall cease. The sponsorship and administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program for the self-governing Methodist church will be sequestered and treated separately from all other annual conferences that remain part of The United Methodist Church. For purposes of administering the Clergy Retirement Security Program in this manner, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized and empowered to:

(1) Identify which of the self-governing Methodist church's (former annual conference's) plan participants have chosen to remain with The United Methodist Church, and those who are members of the former annual conference (whether the former annual conference becomes a self-governing Methodist church or otherwise disaffiliates) based on records of service and membership of the annual conferences; non-clergy participants, e.g., surviving spouses, contingent annuitants, and alternate payees, will be deemed to remain associated with The United Methodist Church;

(2) Calculate and sequester the former annual conference's share of defined benefit plan assets and liabilities for all participants of the former annual conference using factors corresponding to those used when determining annual conference plan sponsor contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and to the extent and at any time that certain participants, whether active or inactive, become the responsibility of The United Methodist Church, retain for The United Methodist Church from such calculated share an amount necessary to fully fund the liabilities of such participants using factors similar to a commercial annuity provider;

(3) Calculate the amount of any plan contributions required to be made by the former annual conference in the future, as part of the self-governing Methodist church's ongoing sponsorship of its separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program;

(4) Collaborate with the self-governing Methodist church (former annual conference) to determine how plan design changes may be requested by the self-governing

Methodist church, and the scope and administrative reasonableness of amendments that may be made to the separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and

(5) Amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference to conform with this paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*.

If the self-governing Methodist church (former annual conference) does not satisfy any required ongoing contributions within a reasonable time under this paragraph or the terms of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, or the self-governing Methodist church elects not to, refuses to, or fails to satisfy its legal sponsorship of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall convert all accrued pension benefits of the self-governing Methodist church's (former annual conference's) assigned participants to an actuarially equivalent account balance, adjusted, as necessary, to take into account the former annual conference's funding level of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Such account balances, and all other retirement account balances, will be transferred to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits may also take such actions if the Clergy Retirement Security Program is amended to require an account balance conversion for similar classes of participants, or if continuing administration for the self-governing Methodist church is no longer administratively reasonable.

c. Institutions owned by or affiliated with the annual conference shall continue that relationship unless, under their own bylaws and in conjunction with the annual conference, they establish a change of affiliation.

d. The newly created body shall continue under the supervision of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction until supervisory leadership is in place under its constitution.

e. Any local church or charge of the annual conference becoming or joining a self-governing church shall have the right to remain in the existing jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church by a simple majority vote of a church conference before or during the first two years of the self-governing church's existence and shall have the right to hold a church conference to vote on this matter within no more than 120 days of notifying the relevant leadership of the annual conference or of the self-governing church. After the first two years, release of a congregation from a self-governing church shall be according to that church's governing documents. Supervision of the congregation shall transfer to the cabinet of the annual conference assigned to cover their location by the juris-

ditional or central conference upon written acknowledgment to the self-governing body by the receiving cabinet.

Local churches electing to remain United Methodist by exiting an annual conference that is forming or joining a self-governing Methodist church shall not owe any payment to the annual conference they are departing, except for the local church's proportional share of the annual conference's aggregate unfunded pension liability, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share. The local church payment of pension liabilities shall be made prior to the effective date of exit.

f. Clergy members of the departing annual conference shall by default remain members of that annual conference unless they request to remain in The United Methodist Church. They shall communicate such a request before or within 90 days after the annual conference exit effective date to the bishop of the departing annual conference and to the jurisdictional or central College of Bishops, but may, at the discretion of the bishop of the departing annual conference, continue serving the current appointment for up to one year from the date of such request until a suitable appointment is found. The United Methodist jurisdictional or central College of Bishops shall work together to provide an appointment for any clergy member subject to security of appointment (and may do so for clergy members not subject to security of appointment) in the area of his/her former annual conference or in another annual conference in the jurisdiction, unless the clergy member agrees to transfer to an annual conference out of the jurisdiction.

**10. *Groups of local churches forming new self-governing Methodist churches in the United States.*** Any fifty or more United Methodist local churches may form a self-governing Methodist church by the following procedure:

a. Those organizing the self-governing church shall develop a vision and mission statement describing the nature and work of the body.

b. Local churches seeking to form the self-governing church shall vote to do so by a 55 percent majority vote of a church conference. Such vote shall indicate the desire of the congregation to join the forming group, but the congregation remains part of The United Methodist Church until the self-governing church becomes established and the other provisions for exit under this paragraph are satisfied. The bishop and district superintendent shall facilitate the change of affiliation and shall preside over a church

conference within 120 days when requested by the local church's pastor or church council (§§ 246, 248). A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

c. The organizers shall select a United Methodist College of Bishops to supervise the church until such time as supervisory leadership is in place under its own constitution. If no selection is made, the College of Bishops supervising the territory where most of the local churches are located shall provide supervision. Notice shall be given to the president of the College of Bishops and the College shall include the church in its plan of oversight. The bishop placed in charge of the group of congregations shall have the right to assemble a transitional cabinet should the bishop deem that necessary.

d. Once a group of fifty or more congregations has been formed under § 2801.10b, an organizing conference shall be held, at which time the Constitution, *Book of Discipline*, and provisional leadership for the newly organized church shall be approved. It shall be the new church's own responsibility to develop its *Book of Discipline* and establish itself as a legal entity. Existence of a self-governing church shall become effective at the adjournment of the organizing conference or upon an effective date established by that conference, provided that all the provisions for exit under this paragraph are satisfied.

e. The local church shall retain all property, assets, and liabilities, except as provided under § 2801.12. On the effective date the provisions of the trust clause (§ 2501) shall be released to the new church, and its provisions administered according to the governing documents of the new church. Congregations leaving United Methodist annual conferences shall not have claim or be entitled to a share of the assets or non-pension liabilities of the annual conference they are exiting.

**11. *Local churches seeking to join any existing self-governing church*** formed under this paragraph shall be granted a change of affiliation upon a 55 percent majority vote of a church conference. The bishop and district superintendent shall facilitate the change of affiliation and shall preside over a church conference within 120 days when requested by the congregation's pastor or church council (§§ 246, 248). Such a request to join an existing self-governing church shall also require the approval of the receiving self-governing church by whatever means are provided in its governing documents. A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

Transfer of the affiliation of a local church under § 2801.11 shall be effective upon written acknowledgment

to the cabinet of the annual conference from the supervisory leadership of the receiving church that the transfer to them is accepted. On the effective date of the congregation's joining a self-governing church, the provisions of the trust clause (§ 2501) shall be released to the self-governing church and its provisions administered according to the governing documents of the new church. The local church shall retain all property, assets, and liabilities, except as provided under § 2801.12. Congregations leaving United Methodist annual conferences shall not have claim or be entitled to a share of the assets or non-pension liabilities of the annual conference they are exiting.

**12. *Conditions.*** A local church electing to join a new or existing self-governing church through the provision of § 2801.10-11 shall enter into a written agreement with the bishop setting an effective date and resolving any financial obligations to The United Methodist Church.

a. On the effective date, the local church shall assume all liabilities, and the local church (and any of its affiliates) shall cease participation in and cease to be eligible to participate in all programs and operations of The United Methodist Church, except as provided in § 2801.19. The local church shall immediately remove all references to the words "United Methodist" as well as all United Methodist symbols and insignia, except as provided in § 2801.15, although it may continue to use the word "Methodist." The local church shall retain all its property, assets, and liabilities not specifically accounted for in the agreement. Such agreement shall be in writing and signed and approved by the duly qualified and authorized representatives of the annual conference and the local church.

b. Local churches electing to join a new or existing self-governing Methodist church through the provisions of § 2801.10-11 shall not owe any payment to the annual conference they are departing, except for the local church's proportional share of the annual conference's aggregate unfunded pension liability, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share. The local church payment of pension liabilities shall be made prior to the effective date of exit.

c. Upon receipt of any payment required and fulfillment of all other provisions of this paragraph, the district superintendent shall deliver a signed letter waiving all rights the conference trustees or annual conference may have in the local church's real estate or other property and assets, as of the exit effective date.

**13. *Annual conferences or local churches outside the United States*** may join a self-governing Method-

ist church formed under this paragraph under the same terms as are spelled out in this paragraph. In such case, the self-governing church becomes a global body.

14. When one or more annual conferences vote to become a self-governing body after the adjournment of the jurisdictional or central conference, the jurisdictional or central College of Bishops shall call a special jurisdictional or central conference within 180 days of being notified of the annual conference's action. The jurisdictional or central conference shall adjust its annual conference boundaries at the special conference as necessary to provide coverage for the geographic territory of the withdrawing annual conference(s). The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (§ 512) shall monitor the changing landscape of United States annual conferences and bring recommendation to General Conference related to reorganization of the jurisdictional conferences that may be warranted based on the effects of this paragraph.

15. Self-governing Methodist churches formed under this paragraph may use an *insignia or logo* that utilizes a form of the United Methodist cross and flame, so long as such logo is noticeably distinguishable from the United Methodist cross and flame. Any self-governing church logo that utilizes the cross and flame shall be subject to the approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration, which shall make its decision in such a way as to protect the United Methodist brand while acknowledging the historical connection of the self-governing church with United Methodism.

16. Other disciplinary provisions notwithstanding, a *clergy member* (active or retired) may transfer to any self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph upon the clergy member's request and upon acceptance by the self-governing church. Release by the United Methodist bishop shall not be required for these transfers.

17. Other disciplinary provisions notwithstanding, a United Methodist **bishop** (active or retired) may transfer to a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph upon request by the bishop and approval by the receiving church.

18. *Institutions* related to The United Methodist Church may choose to develop missional ties with self-governing churches, so long as governing control remains vested with The United Methodist Church. If such an institution vests its governing control with a self-governing church or churches, the relationship with The United Methodist Church shall be renegotiated in a spirit of common mission and shared religious bonds and convictions. Such institutions may also request to change their affiliation to a self-governing Methodist church under the provisions of their own bylaws. Institutions related to an annual conference that forms or joins a self-governing

Methodist church may likewise develop missional ties with The United Methodist Church and may petition the United Methodist jurisdiction or successor annual conference to remain in The United Methodist Church through processes established in their bylaws.

19. No self-governing church is required to participate in any programs or services of The United Methodist Church, nor is such official participation permitted without the agreement of the sponsoring United Methodist agency. Each self-governing church may negotiate participation in and receipt of fee-based services from any United Methodist general board or agency, including sponsorship and participation in health, welfare, or retirement plans with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The self-governing church, its annual conferences, and/or local congregations are permitted to engage in or continue partnerships in mission, including financial support, with United Methodist annual conferences, institutions, or local congregations, with the agreement of the United Methodist entity involved and may channel such support and partnership through United Methodist general agencies, such as the General Council on Finance and Administration or General Board of Global Ministries.

20. The self-governing church shall set its own geographic borders, which may overlap those of United Methodist annual conferences and other self-governing churches organized under this paragraph of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and may include territory outside the United States.

21. Self-governing churches may organize themselves together with other self-governing churches under a common *Discipline* or unite to form one self-governing church.

22. The self-governing church shall be fully financially self-supporting, including funding its own bishop(s).

23. The provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

The heart of the Traditional Plan, this paragraph provides a mechanism for ensuring that annual conferences and bishops will uphold the *Discipline*, while also providing for a gracious exit for those conscience-bound not to do so. Definitively resolving the impasse requires releasing from the church those unwilling to . . .

#### **¶2711.3.**

Petition Number: 90042-¶2711.3-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### CoWF - Traditional Plan #11 - Minimum Penalty - Par. 2711.3

Amend ¶ 2711.3, *Penalties* as follows.

¶ 2711. Power of the Trial Court

3. *Penalties - If the Trial Results in Conviction.* Further testimony may be heard and arguments by counsel presented regarding what the penalty should be. The trial court shall determine the penalty, which shall require a vote of at least seven members. The trial court shall have the power to remove the respondent from professing membership, terminate the conference membership and/or revoke the credentials of conference membership and/or ordination or consecration of the respondent, suspend the respondent from the exercise of the functions of office, or to fix a lesser penalty. Except, where the conviction is for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions, or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies under ¶ 2702.1(b) or (d), the trial court does not have the power to and may not fix a penalty less than the following:

a) First (1st) offense – One (1) year’s suspension without pay.

b) Second (2nd) offense – Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of licensing, ordination, or consecration.

The penalty fixed by the trial court shall take effect immediately unless otherwise indicated by the trial court.

#### Rationale:

Assigning a penalty of less than a suspension for a first offense or less than termination of conference membership and/or revocation of conference membership and ordination or consecration in such circumstances encourages open defiance of the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church.

### ¶304.5.

Petition Number: 90043-¶304.5-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### CoWF - Traditional Plan #12 - Qualifications for Ministry - Par. 304.5

Amend ¶ 304.5 as follows:

5. In all votes regarding license, ordination, or conference membership, the requirements set forth herein are minimum requirements. Each person voting is expected to vote prayerfully based on personal judgment of the applicant’s gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and promise of future usefulness for the mission of the Church. The District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Board of

Ordained Ministry shall not approve or recommend any person for candidacy, licensing, commissioning, or ordination who does not meet the qualifications of ¶ 304.1-3, based on the full examination and thorough inquiry into the person’s fitness by the committee and board (see Judicial Council Decisions 1343 and 1344). The bishop presiding in the clergy session shall rule any such unqualified candidate out of order and not eligible to be acted upon.

#### Rationale:

Incorporates Judicial Council Decisions 1343, 1344, and 1352 in the *Discipline*, requiring district committees and boards of ordained ministry to fully examine candidates’ qualifications under ¶ 304.3. Guarding against non-conforming committees and boards of ordained ministry, this forbids them from approving or recommending persons found to be unqualified . . .

### ¶362.1e.

Petition Number: 90044-¶362.1e-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

### CoWF - Traditional Plan #13 - Complaint Process - Par. 362.1e

Amend the complaint process ¶ 362.1e and ¶ 413.3d as follows:

¶ 362.1 e) *Referral or Dismissal of a Complaint*— Upon receiving a written and signed complaint, the bishop shall, within 90 days, carry out the supervisory response process outlined above. If within 90 days after the receipt of the complaint resolution is not achieved, the bishop shall either:

(1) Dismiss the complaint as having no basis in law or fact, with the consent of the cabinet, giving the reasons therefore in writing, copies of which shall be placed in the clergy person’s file and shared with the complainant; or

(2) Refer the matter to the counsel for the Church as a complaint.

¶ 413.3 d) (i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (¶ 413.3) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint as having no basis in law or fact, with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, copies of which shall be placed

in the bishop's file and shared with the complainant, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to ¶ 413.3e, or refer the matter to counsel for the Church pursuant to ¶ 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.

#### **Rationale:**

This petition restores language from 2008, guarding against the arbitrary dismissal of complaints. Prevents a bishop from deciding which parts of Church law should be upheld in a given conference. Unreasonable dismissal can deprive the Church and complainants of the ability to hold persons accountable and repair harm done to . . .

#### **¶2701.5.**

Petition Number: 90045-¶2701.5-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #14 - Just Resolution - Par. 2701.5**

Amend Just Resolution in ¶¶ 362.1, 413.3c, 2701.5, 2706.5.c.3 as follows:

¶ 362. *Complaint Procedures*—1. Ordination and membership in an annual conference in The United Methodist Church is . . .

This review shall have as its primary purpose a just resolution of any violations of this sacred trust, in the hope that God's work . . .

A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right insofar as possible and bringing healing to all the parties. Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint. In cases where the respondent acknowledges action(s) that are a clear violation of the provisions of the Discipline, a just resolution shall include, but not be limited to, a commitment not to repeat the action(s) that were a violation. In appropriate situations, processes seeking a just resolution as defined in ¶ 362.1c may be pursued. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration.

A complaint is a written and signed statement claiming misconduct as defined in ¶ 2702.1. When . . .

¶ 413. *Complaints Against Bishops*—

3. c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted

by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 362.1b, c.) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement. Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint. In cases where the respondent acknowledges action(s) that are a clear violation of the provisions of the Discipline, a just resolution shall include, but not be limited to, a commitment not to repeat the action(s) that were a violation.

¶ 2701.5. *A Just Resolution in Judicial Proceedings*—A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right insofar as possible and bringing healing to all the parties. Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint. In cases where the respondent acknowledges action(s) that are a clear violation of the provisions of the Discipline, a just resolution shall include, but not be limited to, a commitment not to repeat the action(s) that were a violation. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, age, and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration. During the just resolution process, the parties . . .

¶ 2706.5 c) Findings other than reasonable grounds by committee or other actions

(3) Upon recommendation of the counsel for the Church and the counsel for the respondent, the committee may refer the matter to the resident bishop as deemed appropriate for a process seeking a just resolution. The bishop shall institute such a process and may use the assistance of a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s). Such referral will not constitute a dismissal or double jeopardy under ¶ 2701.2d. The appropriate persons, including the counsel for the Church and counsel for the respondent, should enter into a written agreement outlining the process, including any agreements on confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement, affirming such resolution, including any terms and conditions, shall be signed by the same persons who signed the written agreement outlining the process, and they shall



agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint. In cases where the respondent acknowledges action(s) that are a clear violation of the provisions of the Discipline, a just resolution shall include, but not be limited to, a commitment not to repeat the action(s) that were a violation. If the resolution results in a change of ministerial status, the disclosure agreement shall not prevent the disciplinary disclosures . . .

#### Rationale:

The purpose of a just resolution is to repair harm and achieve accountability, both of which are enhanced by the respondent's willingness to change future behavior, as witnessed by a commitment not to repeat the offense. Refusal to make such a commitment increases the likelihood of future offenses and complaints.

#### ¶2701.5.

Petition Number: 90046-¶2701.5-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### CoWF - Traditional Plan #15 - Just Resolution - Par. 2701.5

Amend ¶¶ 362.1c), 413.3c), 2701.5, and 2706.5.c.3 by adding the same sentence to all four as follows: No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. Also add the complainant, in ¶¶ 2701.5 and 2706.5(c)3.

¶ 362. Complaint Procedures—1. Ordination and membership in an annual conference in The United Methodist Church is a sacred trust. . .

. . .

c) Just Resolution—The supervisory response may include a process that seeks a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s), in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties.<sup>69</sup> If the bishop chooses to initiate a mediated attempt to produce a just resolution, then the bishop, the person filing the complaint, the respondent, and other appropriate persons shall enter into a written agreement outlining the process, including any agreements on confidentiality. A process seeking a just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory, complaint, or trial process. No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to

the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including any terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. A just resolution agreed to by all parties shall be a final disposition of the related complaint.

#### ¶ 413. Complaints Against Bishops

. . .

3. After receiving a complaint as provided in ¶ 413.2,

. . .

. . .

c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 363.1b, c.) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement.

¶ 2701.5. A Just Resolution in Judicial Proceedings—A just resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right insofar as possible and bringing healing to all the parties. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, age, and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration. During the just resolution process, the parties may be assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. Processes that seek a just resolution are encouraged at any time, including through the judicial proceedings. After the referral of a matter as a judicial complaint from counsel for the Church to the committee on investigation, if a process seeking a just resolution is used, the appropriate persons, including the counsel for the Church, the complainant, and the counsel for the respondent, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including any agreement on confidentiality. No matter where in the process a just

resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the same persons who signed the written agreement outlining the process, and they shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. If the resolution results in a change of ministerial status, the disclosure agreement shall not prevent the disciplinary disclosures required for possible readmission.

¶ 2706.5. Bill of Charges and Specifications, Deliberations, Vote, and Referral

c) Findings other than reasonable grounds by committee or other actions

(1) If the committee on investigation determines . . .

(2) If the committee on investigation determines . . .

(3) Upon recommendation of the counsel for the Church and the counsel for the respondent, the committee may refer the matter to the resident bishop as deemed appropriate for a process seeking a just resolution. The bishop shall institute such a process and may use the assistance of a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s). Such referral will not constitute a dismissal or double jeopardy under ¶ 2701.5. The appropriate persons, including the counsel for the Church, the complainant, and counsel for the respondent, should enter into a written agreement outlining the process, including any agreements on confidentiality. No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved, a written statement, affirming such resolution, including any terms and conditions, shall be signed by the same persons who signed the written agreement outlining the process, and they shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. If the resolution results in a change of ministerial status, the disclosure agreement shall not prevent the disciplinary disclosures required for readmission. The written statement affirming such resolution shall be given to the bishop for further action(s) to implement the agreement, if any. If the process does not result in resolution, the matter shall be returned to the committee.

#### **Rationale:**

The current practice of allowing the counsel for the Church to enter into a just resolution without the participation or agreement of the complainant is unjust and circumvents the goal of restoration of relationship. In order for justice to be done and healing to take place, the complainants must be . . .

#### **¶2715.10.**

Petition Number: 90047-¶2715.10-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

#### **CoWF - Traditional Plan #16 - Church Appeal - Par. 2715.10**

*Amend ¶ 2715.10 Appeal Procedures as follows:*

¶ 2715. Appeal Procedures—General

. . .

10. The Church shall have no right of appeal from findings of fact of the trial court. The Church shall have a right of appeal to the committee on appeals and then to the Judicial Council from findings of the trial court based on egregious errors of Church law or administration that could reasonably have affected the findings of the trial court. When the committee on appeals or the Judicial Council shall find egregious errors of Church law or administration under this part, it may remand the case for a new trial, along with a statement of the grounds of its action. This is not to be double jeopardy. In regard to cases where there is an investigation under ¶ 2702, but no trial is held, egregious errors of Church law or administration may be appealed to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on appeals and then to the Judicial Council by counsel for the Church. The committee on investigation's decision not to certify a bill of charges does not alone constitute an egregious error of Church law or administration. When the committee on appeals or the Judicial Council shall find egregious errors of Church law or administration under this part, it may remand the case for a new hearing, in which event it shall return to the chair of the committee on investigation a statement of the grounds of its action. This is not to be double jeopardy.

#### **Rationale:**

Enables the Church to correct errors in the trial process that prejudice the results of the trial. Disallowing appeals by the Church fails to protect the rights of the complainant and closes off one avenue to work for justice. Levels the playing field for the Church/complainant and the respondent with . . .

#### **¶570.**

Petition Number: 90048-¶570-\$-G; Lambrecht, Thomas A. - Spring, TX, USA for Commission on a Way Forward.

**CoWF - Traditional Plan #17 - Concordat Churches - Par. 570**

*Amend ¶¶ 570 and 574.1 to create the option of concordat churches in the United States. The changes in these paragraphs shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference.*

¶ 570. Churches located outside the boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences and churches formed through the provisions of ¶ 2801 and which have entered into relationship with or have agreements with The United Methodist Church, including that of sending representatives to General Conference of The United Methodist Church are described as follows:

¶ 574. Concordat Agreements-

1. With the exception of The Methodist Church of Great Britain and churches formed through the provisions of ¶ 2801, such concordats may be established by the following procedure:

**Rationale:**

This opens the possibility for concordat churches in the United States, allowing negotiated covenants and relationships between self-governing Methodist churches formed under ¶ 2801 and The United Methodist Church. This allows a continuing connection with those congregations departing from the denomination because of conscience.

## Proposed Legislation from Other Organizations and Individuals

*The following petitions are subject to review by the Committee on Reference (Plan of Organization Section VII.A.7) as to whether or not they are in harmony with the call to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. If the Committee on Reference finds a petition to be in harmony, it is assigned to the legislative committee for action. If the Committee on Reference finds it is not in harmony, it is withdrawn. The Committee on Reference will report its actions in the first daily edition of the Daily Christian Advocate at General Conference.*

*Printed in order of petition number.*

### ¶49.

Petition Number: 90049-¶49-C-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### A United Way Forward - Brooks

Amend ¶ 49 by striking everything following the word “elected” in the first sentence as follows:

¶ 49. Article V.—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences<sup>93</sup> in which they are elected. ~~or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved.<sup>96</sup> After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.~~

~~70. Amended 1980.~~

~~71. Amended 1992.~~

~~A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, pro-~~

~~vided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.~~

~~In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or central conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central conference.~~

*[Enabling Legislation is found in Petition # 90080.]*

#### Rationale:

Ends homosexuality trials, retains authority of annual conferences to discern suitability for ordination, and regionalizes the episcopacy. Bishops retain authority for appointments. Clergy and local churches retain consultation in appointments. Clergy determine whom to marry to whom. Local churches have a year to withdraw from UMC, taking property with them.

### ¶27.

Petition Number: 90050-¶27-C-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### A United Way Forward - Episcopal Expenses - Brooks

Amend ¶ 27 by inserting a new ¶ 27.3 that shall read as follows:

¶ 27.3 To provide for the support, financially and otherwise, of the bishops serving in the jurisdiction or in retirement after having served therein.

*[Enabling legislation is found in Petition # 90081.]*

#### Rationale:

The regionalization of the episcopacy will not be complete until each jurisdiction is required to bear the cost of the support of its own bishops.

**¶2501.**

Petition Number: 90051-¶2501-!-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

**A Graceful Exit as a Way Forward**

Insert a new ¶ 2501.4 that reads as follows:

¶ 2501.4. Any other portion of Chapter Six, Section I to the contrary notwithstanding, during a period of time beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending after December 31, 2020, all the trust provisions that would otherwise apply to local churches of The United Methodist Church will be held in abeyance to enable those churches that choose to do so to discontinue their identification as United Methodist in law and in covenant and to retain possession of their property, real and personal, tangible and intangible. Churches that choose to withdraw from The United Methodist Church pursuant to this provision must immediately upon exercising this option remove from all buildings, structures, literature, publications, internet postings, and other public representations any and all United Methodist signs, emblems, logos, and other forms of identification as United Methodist. A decision to withdraw under this provision must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of the members present and voting at a church conference called as provided in ¶ 248 and at which the district superintendent presides, or at a church local conference as provided in ¶ 2527 at which the district superintendent presides. Any church choosing to withdraw under this provision will pay a withdrawal fee of 50 percent of its annual budget to the annual conference with which it is associated, where its annual budget is determined to be the average of total expenditures, less benevolent spending, as reported on the three most recent annual statistical reports submitted for that church. In addition such a church will pay all its apportionments for the entire year in which it withdraws. A schedule for meeting this obligation will be negotiated between the withdrawing church and the conference council on finance and administration.

**Rationale:**

Churches that cannot in conscience comply with the law of The United Methodist Church as contained in the *Book of Discipline* ought to be provided with a graceful way to withdraw, but should be required to compensate The UMC for any denominational investment that has accrued to it.

**¶362.**

Petition Number: 90052-¶362-!-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

**A Traditional Way Forward with Enhanced Enforcement**

Amend ¶ 362.1 as indicated following:

¶ 362. Complaint Procedures—1. . . . Whenever a person in any of the above categories, including those on leaves of all types, honorable or administrative location, or retirement, is accused of violating this trust, the membership of his or her ministerial office shall be subject to review. However, if the complaint alleges the respondent is in violation of any provision of ¶ 2702.1.(b), this review, the supervisory response, and the just resolution process herein provided will not be applicable, and the complaint will be treated as a judicial complaint according to the procedures described in ¶ NEW.

Insert a new paragraph to follow existing ¶ 2702 as follows:

¶ NEW Special Procedures Applicable for Allegations Relating to Chargeable Offenses Described in ¶ 2702.1.(b).

1. There shall be a special committee on investigation elected by each General Conference at its regular session. Nominations shall be made by each College of Bishops, each of which shall nominate four clergy members in full connection who are not bishops and four professing members. From this pool of candidates the General Conference shall elect four clergy members in full connection and three professing members to serve as members of the special committee on investigation, and the committee shall elect its own chairperson. In addition the General Conference shall elect four alternate clergy members and three alternate professing members.

2. Judicial Complaint—A complaint based on allegations that a bishop or clergy member of an annual conference has committed one or more of the offenses listed in ¶ 2702.1.(b) shall initially be served on the president and secretary of the Council of Bishops. Upon receipt of the complaint the president of the Council of Bishops shall forthwith deliver a copy of the complaint to the respondent, notify active bishops of the existence and nature of the complaint, and refer the complaint to an elder in full connection who is not from the same jurisdictional or central conference as the respondent, who shall serve as counsel for the Church. By agreeing to serve, counsel for the Church signifies his or her willingness to uphold the requirements of church law and the *Discipline*. Counsel for the Church shall represent the interests of the Church in pressing the claims of the person making the complaint. Counsel for the Church shall have the right to choose one assistant counsel without voice who may be an attorney. The counsel for the Church shall draft and sign the complaint as a judicial complaint, forward it to the special

committee on investigation (§ NEW.1), and represent the Church in the judicial process. The fair process provisions in § 2701 shall apply to this judicial process. The statute of limitations in § 2702.4 should be considered prior to the referral of a judicial complaint.

3. The counsel for the Church, as appointed under § NEW.2, shall prepare, sign, and forward the judicial complaint and all documentary evidence under consideration to the chairperson of the special committee on investigation, the person making the original complaint, and the respondent. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to submit to the special committee on investigation a written response to the judicial complaint within thirty days of receipt of the judicial complaint. The chairperson shall convene the special committee on investigation within sixty days of receiving the judicial complaint.

4. If five or more members of the special committee on investigation so recommend, the respondent will be suspended pending the conclusion of the trial process.

5. The procedures of the special committee on investigation shall be the same as those prescribed for a committee on investigation in § 2706.

6. The trial procedures to be followed are as specified in §§ 2707-2711, with the following exceptions and special provisions:

a) The presiding officer will be a bishop selected by the president of the Council of Bishops.

b) The trial pool will be the persons nominated to serve on the special committee on investigation who did not serve on the committee during its consideration of the charges against the respondent.

7. Any appeal from this process will be directed to the Judicial Council.

### Rationale:

This change will bring to a close the practice prevalent in some parts of the Church wherein conformance to part of Church law is avoided through inappropriate use of the supervisory and just resolution provisions of the *Discipline*.

### ¶10.

Petition Number: 90053-¶10-C-!-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

### USA Central Conference as Part of a Way Forward

Amend §§ 10, 28, 30, and 31 as indicated following:

¶ 10. Article III.—There shall be central conferences for the church ~~outside the United States of America~~ as

determined by the General Conference and, if necessary, provisional central conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.

...

¶ 28. Article I.—There shall be central conferences for the work of the Church ~~outside the United States of America~~ with such duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. The ~~number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference.~~ Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.

...

¶ 30. Article III.—The central conferences shall meet ~~within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference~~ at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective central conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

...

¶ 31. Article IV.—The central conferences ~~outside the United States~~ shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

Insert as follows a new paragraph immediately following existing ¶ 31.

NEW PARAGRAPH. The central conference that includes the United States shall have the power and duty to make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within its boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the *General Discipline* as the conditions in the central conference may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.

Immediately prior to ¶ 540, change Section III title to read as follows:

Section III. Central Conferences Outside the United States

Following existing ¶ 567, insert a new Section as follows:

Section NEW. Central Conference of the United States  
Following the new Section title insert new paragraphs as follows:

NEW 1. There shall be a central conference whose boundaries shall include all the jurisdictional conferences, and it shall be called the Central Conference of the United States (CCUS), notwithstanding that it may include territory not included within the United States.

NEW 2. The active bishops in the jurisdictions, in consultation with the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, shall appoint an Interim Committee on Organization (ICO) which shall be charged with the following duties:

NEW 2.1 The ICO shall choose the time and place for the convening of the initial gathering of the CCUS, and it is recommended that it gather immediately prior to and at the site of the General Conference of 2020.

NEW 2.2 The ICO shall recommend to the CCUS for action at its first gathering what committees and officers are required to ensure the functionality of the CCUS. The ICO shall work with the business manager of the General Conference in planning for the first gathering of the CCUS.

NEW 2.3 Delegates and reserve delegates to the CCUS shall be the most recently elected delegates and reserve delegates to the General Conference from any annual conference within the jurisdictions and shall represent those same annual conferences.

#### **Rationale:**

Creating a central conference for The UMC within the United States provides a forum for discussion of issues peculiar to the US and resolution of conflicts that would best be settled in such a setting. It need not be accompanied by the creation of additional structure or bureaucracy.

#### **¶604.**

Petition Number: 90054-¶604-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Constitutional Amendment Voting**

Add a new ¶ 604.14 as follows:

¶ 604.14. *Proposed Constitutional Amendments in Annual Conferences*—As provided in ¶ 59 of the Constitution it is the duty of each annual conference to provide an opportunity for its members to vote on amendments to the United Methodist Constitution as proposed by the General Conference. In each annual conference at the conclusion of such a vote it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to announce the result of the vote in that conference, including votes in favor, in opposition, and in abstention.

#### **Rationale:**

Processes in The United Methodist Church ought to be as open as possible, and nothing in existing UM law precludes the announcement in each annual conference of the result of its members' vote on proposed amendments to the Constitution.

#### **¶161.G.**

Petition Number: 90055-¶161.G-G; Stallsworth, Paul T. - Whiteville, NC, USA.

#### **Replace Par. 161.G**

Delete current paragraph ¶ 161.G *Human Sexuality*, and substitute the following:

¶ 161.G *Human Sexuality*—Because the Sexual Revolution is now undermining Christian teaching on human sexuality and harming countless unsuspecting people, the Church is compelled to propose its teaching with biblical clarity.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus speaks about marriage: “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (Mark 10:6-9, also see Mathew 19:4-6 NRSV here and below).

In his statement on marriage, Jesus is guided by “the beginning of creation” (Mark 10:6). He draws twice from Genesis. First, from Genesis 1:27c: “male and female he created them.” And second, from Genesis 2:24: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” To teach on marriage, Jesus reaches back to God’s creation of humanity as male and female, and to what God intends for humanity (which is “fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness”). Furthermore, Genesis asserts: “God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply . . .’” (Genesis 1:28). And “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31a).

In his statement, Jesus indicates (among other things) the covenantal context—the marriage of a man and a woman—for sexual relations. In marriage, two people are united by God to become one. The gift of unity God gives is embodied in the marital act; that is, the union of souls is reflected in the union of bodies. This one-flesh union is so powerful and creative that it can beget a child (or children), whom the mother and father can welcome, protect, and raise.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul claims the union of husband and wife is a reflection of the union of Christ and his church. Paul writes: “‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church” (5:31-32).

Therefore, the Christian understanding of marriage and sexuality is established at creation. It is revealed in Genesis, reinforced by Jesus Christ, and depicted in gos-

pel terms by St. Paul. This biblical witness to marriage, which runs throughout the canon, grounds the church's understanding of human sexuality.

Because of this scriptural witness, the church through the ages preached, taught, and practiced that sexual expression is reserved for husband and wife within the covenant of marriage. For 2,000 years, this teaching, proposed and observed with God's grace, has been essential in helping sustain Christians in discipleship, holiness, and true freedom. This teaching has assisted Christians in rightly loving God and neighbor. The church through the ages has also preached, taught, and practiced that sexual activities outside the marital covenant—for example, adultery, premarital sex, pornography-related sex, homosexual practice, and others—are indeed sins (and “incompatible with Christian teaching”); they are sins (among all other sins) for which Christ died, and for which forgiveness and freedom are available through the gospel.

The church's sexual morality is considered too rigorous and even mean-spirited by many in some contemporary societies. This is not new. This has been the case since the apostolic era of the church. However, often in spite of great cultural opposition, the church has lovingly proposed its sexual morality to its members as a witness to the world. The church through the ages has persisted in this difficult task because she considers this teaching to be not only faithful to the word of God, but also good for the people challenged by it and transformed by it. When this teaching is observed, marriages are strengthened; children are welcomed and nurtured; the weak are protected; the strong restrained; and all tend to flourish. When not observed, marriages are threatened and destroyed; marriage as an institution suffers; children are neglected; and the powerful generally have their way with the less powerful.

God's faithfulness is known by God's people through the ages and throughout the world. Because of God's faithfulness, our faithfulness to the covenants we make—baptismal and, for many, marital—is possible.

## ¶2501.

Petition Number: 90056-¶2501-!-G; Tull, Monte - Bethany, OK, USA for St. Mark's UMC Council.

### Abeyance of Trust Clause Enforcement

Passage of this petition would create a new subsection 2501.4 to the 2016 BOD.

If General Conference 2019 fails to change or does change either paragraphs 161.G or 304.3 regarding human sexuality, ordination and/or marriage, then: Enforcement of the trust clause (¶¶ 2501, 2503) shall be held in abey-

ance from the time of passage of this provision, or the date at which it is deemed enforceable, for a period of two (2) years, to allow charges/congregations to choose a regrettable yet amicable separation from The United Methodist Church connection, provided all the following criteria are met:

1. An affirmative vote to separate from The United Methodist Church by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of active professing members in good standing during a duly called and noticed church conference, and

2. Payment of all unfunded pension liability for the periods affected clergy were appointed to the charge/congregation, and

3. Repayment of all conference funds received by the charge/congregation within the two (2) calendar years preceding the date the vote is taken, and

4. Payment to the annual conference of two (2) times the most recent conference apportionment assessed to the charge/congregation, and

5. Payment of ten dollars (\$10 US) plus filing, legal, and other reasonable associated fees (but not including litigation costs or fees) to the annual conference to release all claims it has or may have pursuant to the trust clause, and

6. Assumption by the charge/congregation of all debts, mortgages, and encumbrances on real and personal property held by the charge/congregation.

No bishop, district superintendent, or pastor appointed to the charge shall delay or reject a request to call a church conference made by the church council or administrative board pursuant to this provision.

### Rationale:

With compassion and understanding for those who resolve that they can no longer remain a part of The UMC covenant, we offer a merciful and graceful way forward. A way of blessing rather than animosity, of healing rather than enmity, and peace rather than acrimony. Thank you for your consideration.

## ¶161.G.

Petition Number: 90057-¶161.G-G; Tull, Monte - Bethany, OK, USA for St. Mark's UMC Council.

### Definition of Gender

The following sentence is to be added at the end of ¶ 161.G):

For the purposes of interpreting all provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and Social Principles, a person's genetic gender at the time of



birth is to be considered the person's gender throughout his or her lifetime.

**Rationale:**

Whereas creation has order and purpose,  
Whereas each person is born either male or female,

**¶2500.**

Petition Number: 90058-¶2500-G; Ottjes, James - Van Buren, IN, USA.

**Disaffiliation - Ottjes - NEW Par. 2548**

Add new paragraph:

¶ 2548. Surrender of Charter of Local Church and Disaffiliation for Reasons of Conscience—A local church may surrender its charter from The United Methodist Church and disaffiliate based on the local church's declaration that it is in irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* on the practice of homosexuality and the blessing of homosexual unions. Such disaffiliation shall require:

- a) A minimum of ninety (90) days of study and discernment by the congregation
- b) The affirmative vote of two-thirds (66.7 percent) of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called church conference
- c) Other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* shall not be a bar to such disaffiliation

Upon such surrender and disaffiliation, the local church shall be released from the provisions of ¶ 2501 and shall retain full rights to its property and funds, provided that any debts upon such property and any other debts payable by that local church are assumed by that local church. In the event of such proposed action, the bishop, the cabinet, annual conference board of trustees, and other appropriate individuals of The United Methodist Church shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process.

[Renumber following paragraphs from existing ¶¶ 2548-2551.]

**Rationale:**

This petition was already approved by its committee at the 2016 General Conference. Then it was deferred by the Way Forward motion and so never received a final vote. We should not use property as a weapon to force people to remain within a covenant they can no longer support.

**¶2500.**

Petition Number: 90059-¶2500-G; Boyette, Keith - Spotylvania, VA, USA.

**Disaffiliation - Boyette - NEW Par. 2549**

Add new paragraph

¶ 2549. *Surrender of Charter of Local Church and Disaffiliation—A local church may surrender its charter from The United Methodist Church and disaffiliate based upon the local church's declaration that it is in irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the doctrine or moral teachings and requirements of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or with the way in which such requirements are being enforced, or with the resolution of those matters adopted by the 2019 General Conference, upon completion of the following steps:*

- a) A minimum of 30 days of study and discernment by the congregation; and
- b) The affirmative vote for disaffiliation of fifty-five percent (55%) of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called church conference or two-thirds (66.7%) of the members present and voting at a duly called charge conference.

Upon such surrender and disaffiliation, the local church shall be released from the provisions of ¶ 2503 and shall retain full rights to its property and funds, provided that any debts upon such property and any other debts payable by that local church are assumed by that local church. In such event, the local church shall pay to the annual conference in which it is located the local church's proportionate share (determined in the same manner as its apportionment has been determined in the most recent annual conference year) of the net unfunded pension liability of the annual conference in which the local church is located as of June 30 of the preceding conference year. Such sum shall be deposited by the annual conference with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be invested and held to satisfy the annual conference's unfunded pension liability. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the annual conference's unfunded pension liability as of June 30 of the preceding conference year and then shall deduct from such sum the annual conference's proportionate share of the unrestricted reserves of the boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church (General Church Unrestricted Reserves) and any unrestricted reserves held by such annual conference (Annual Conference Unrestricted Reserves) to arrive at the net unfunded pension liability of the annual conference. A sum equal to the amount by which the local church's proportionate share of the annual conference's unfunded pension liability is reduced shall

be deposited by the General Council on Finance and Administration from General Church Unrestricted Reserves and the treasurer of the annual conference from Annual Conference Unrestricted Reserves with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be held and invested on behalf of the annual conference to be used to satisfy any unfunded pension liability of that annual conference.

In the event of such proposed action, the bishop, district superintendent, annual conference board of trustees, and other appropriate individuals of The United Methodist Church shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process, including holding such church or charge conference within 120 days of the date on which the local church's pastor or church council requests such action, and executing such legal documents as are necessary to provide such local church or its successor with a deed not subject to any trust in favor of The United Methodist Church or the annual conference in which the local church is located.

Renumber following paragraphs from existing ¶¶ 2549-2552.

#### **Rationale:**

Churches should not be constrained to remain part of The United Methodist Church. For those who believe the best way forward is to disaffiliate, a path must be created to disaffiliate without the loss of property and in a ministry-affirming way.

#### **¶27.2.**

Petition Number: 90060-¶27.2-C-G; Hall, James - Lucedale, MS, USA for Administrative Boards of Shipman & Winborn Chapel UMCs.

### **Require Global Ratification of Election of Bishops**

Amend ¶ 27.2 of The Constitution of The United Methodist Church as follows:

2. To elect bishops —subject, however, to the ratification of the next ensuing regular, special, or called General Conference, failing which the election of any bishop whose election is not ratified by a majority of such General Conference present and voting shall forthwith be vacated and held for naught — and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

Requiring ratification by the General Conference of the jurisdictional election of bishops will provide a bet-

ter way forward by enhancing increased accountability of bishops to the global Church and increased amenability and accessibility between UM bishops and the global Church.

#### **¶37.**

Petition Number: 90061-¶37-C-G; Hall, James - Lucedale, MS, USA for Administrative Boards of Shipman & Winborn Chapel UMCs.

### **Merge Western Jurisdiction into South Central Jurisdiction**

Amend ¶ 37 as follows:

Section VII. Boundaries

¶ 37. Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:

Northeastern—Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Southeastern—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

North Central—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South Central—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas. ~~Western—~~ Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.

#### **Rationale:**

Much confusion, antagonism, and upset has accompanied the perceived neglect, failure, and refusal of the Western Jurisdiction – in many minds and hearts – to honor Scripture, the *UM Book of Discipline*, and the rulings of the UM Judicial Council. Thus, it will provide a better way forward . . .

#### **¶161.G.**

Petition Number: 90062-¶161.G-G; Carroll, John J. - Union City, TN, USA. 1 Similar Petition

### **Retain Par. 161.G**

Retain ¶ 161.G with no amendment.

**Rationale:**

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* expresses our understanding of biblically based yet informed with tradition, reason, and experience Christian life and teaching, and has consistently held that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian life and teaching.

**¶16.**

Petition Number: 90063-¶16-C-G; Carroll, John J. - Union City, TN, USA. 1 Similar Petition

**Election of Bishops by General Conference**

Amend ¶ 16 Article IV.10 and other related ¶¶ as follows:

10) To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected nominated by the jurisdictional conferences for the election by the General Conference and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by central conferences.

Amend ¶ 46. Article II as follows: The bishops shall be elected nominated by the respective jurisdictional conferences for election by General Conference and ~~central conferences~~ and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference.

Amend ¶ 49. Article V as follows: The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences<sup>93</sup> in which they are elected by the General Conference or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions:

Amend ¶ 49. Article V.3 as follows: No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction ~~that elected the bishop~~ that nominated the bishop for the episcopacy.

Amend ¶ 50 Article VI to read as follows: The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the ~~jurisdictions~~ General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall have ~~five~~ four-year tenure subject to re-election as per the rules of our heritage in The Evangelical United Brethren Church. Each bishop

elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing ~~him~~ the bishops shall have determined.<sup>95</sup>

Amend ¶ 405.2.a as follows: Jurisdictional conference ~~and central conference~~ delegates, in ~~electing~~ nominating candidates for bishops for election by General Conference and central conference delegates in electing bishops, shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of The United Methodist Church with respect to sex, race, and national origin. In addition, consideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in ¶ 401.

Amend ¶ 405.2.b as follows: The jurisdictional conferences are authorized to fix the percentage of votes necessary to ~~elect~~ nominate a bishop as a candidate for election by the General Conference. Central conferences are authorized to fix the percentage of votes necessary to elect a bishop. It is recommended that at least 60 percent of those present and voting be necessary to elect.

Amend ¶ 405.2.c as follows: Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the conference ~~at~~ for which election occurs at a place and time designated by the conference...

Amend ¶ 422.1 as follows: Bishops, ~~although being~~ although being elected by ~~jurisdictional or central conferences~~ and General Conference, are elected general superintendents of the whole church.

Amend ¶ 501 as follows: The General Conference has full legislative power over all matters distinctly connectional (see ¶ 16, Division two, section II, Article IV, The Constitution). It has no executive or administrative power except for the election of bishops for a four-year term and additional terms if desired, and just resolution of complaints in regard to ¶¶ 2702.1 and 2702.2 "Chargeable Offenses."

Amend ¶ 543.3 as follows: When a central conference shall have been authorized to ~~elect~~ nominate bishops, such ~~elections~~ nominations shall be conducted under the same general procedure as prevails in the jurisdictional conferences for the ~~election~~ nomination of bishops. A central conference shall have the power to fix the tenure of bishops elected by the said central conference:

Amend ¶ 818.8 as follows: *Episcopal Pensions*—The pensions for the support of retired bishops elected by General ~~jurisdictional~~, or central conferences and the surviving spouses and minor dependent children of such deceased bishops shall be administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration in consultation with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and in accordance with such program and procedures as may from time to time be determined by the General Council on Finance and Administration with the approval of the General Conference. For service years beginning

January 1, 1982, and thereafter, the pensions for the support of bishops elected by ~~jurisdictional conferences~~ General Conference and those of their surviving spouses and dependent children shall include the benefits provided by the Clergy Retirement Security Program (or any successor bishop pension or retirement plan or program) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The pensions for the support of bishops elected by central conferences and those of their surviving spouses and, for service years beginning before January 1, 1982, the pensions for the support of bishops elected by ~~jurisdictional conferences~~ General Conference and those of their surviving spouses shall both include the benefits provided by the Global Episcopal Pension Program.

Amend ¶ 818.9 as follows: The General Council on Finance and Administration shall sponsor or participate in a group health care plan that covers bishops elected by ~~jurisdictional conferences~~ General Conference, in the United States.

#### **Rationale:**

The United Methodist Church is a continuation of the New Testament church, which has a Wesleyan heritage that embraces a distinct emphasis of mutual accountability (¶ 1117.2), this petition seeks to address and remedy the distress within the denomination that has brought forth the need of the 2019 Special Session . . .

#### **¶50.**

Petition Number: 90064-¶50-C-\$-G; Carroll, John J. - Union City, TN, USA.

#### **Episcopal Tenure**

Amend ¶ 50 Article VI as follows: “The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops ~~elected~~ nominated by the jurisdictions for election by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall have life a four-year term and continue as bishop only if re-elected by the delegates at each General Conference. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing ~~him~~ said bishop shall have determined.<sup>95</sup>

Amend ¶ 543.3 as follows: When a central conference

shall have been authorized to elect bishops, such elections shall be conducted under the same general procedure as prevails in the jurisdictional conferences for the nominations of bishops. A central conference shall have power to fix the tenure of bishops by the said central conference. The four-year tenure of bishops elected by General Conference brings a more equitable relationship between all our bishops in the Church.

Or delete ¶ 543.3.

#### **¶57.**

Petition Number: 90065-¶57-C-G; Carroll, John J. - Union City, TN, USA. 1 Similar Petition

#### **Appeal Decisions to General Conference**

Amend ¶ 57 Article III as follows: All decisions of the Judicial Council shall be final, except matters of appealed chargeable offenses. When the Judicial Council shall declare unconstitutional any act of the General Conference then in session, that decision shall be reported back to that General Conference immediately.

Amend ¶ 58 Article IV as follows: The General Conference shall establish for the Church a judicial system that shall guarantee to our clergy a right to trial by a committee and an appeal, and to our members a right to trial before the Church, or by a committee, and an appeal.<sup>101</sup> The complainant also has the same right of appeal as the respondent.

Amend ¶ 413.3.d.(i) as follows: . . . the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the bishop’s file, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to ¶ 413.3e, or refer the matter to counsel for the Church pursuant to ¶ 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation. If the complaint is dismissed, the complainant may appeal the dismissal to the Judicial Council for a just resolution which supersedes the College of Bishops’ decision. Complainant and respondent may appeal the Judicial Council’s decision to the delegates of the General Conference for a majority vote that is the final resolution.

Amend by deletion ¶ 413.3.d.iv

Amend ¶ 413.3.e as follows: . . .The provisions of ¶ 361.2 for fair process in administrative hearings shall apply to this administrative process. The complainant may appeal this dismissal to the Judicial Council for a just resolution which supersedes the College of Bishops’ decision. Complainant and respondent may appeal the Judicial Council’s decision to the delegates of the General Conference for a majority vote that is the final resolution.

Amend ¶ 501 as follows: The General Conference has full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional (see ¶ 16, Division Two, Section II, Article IV, The Constitution). It has no does have executive or administrative power with reference to the election of bishops for four-year terms, and just resolution of complaint in regard to ¶¶ 2702.1 and 2702.2.

Amend ¶ 2609.9 as follows: The Judicial Council shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine all appeals from decisions of the jurisdictional appeals committee and the decision of the Judicial Council concerning chargeable offenses ¶ 2702.1 is binding upon the jurisdiction, it can only be appealed to the General Conference. The Judicial Council decision is in effect unless overturned by the majority vote of the General Conference delegates.

Amend ¶ 2701.1 by adding the following paragraph: ¶ 2701.1.e). Concerning ¶ 2702.1, the complainant has the same right of appeal as the respondent when the grounds for a complaint (¶ 2702.1) continue past the conclusion of the trial. Such appeals may eventually be decided by the majority vote of the delegates to the General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

There is a need for right of complaint to appeal decisions of annual conference, and jurisdictional, and Judicial Council to the delegates of the General Conference for a just and fair resolution of chargeable offenses ¶ 2702.1 and ¶ 2702.2

This change would affect other paragraphs and the petition calls . . .

#### **¶2500.**

Petition Number: 90066-¶2500-G; Taylor, Leah - Houston, TX, USA.

#### **Disaffiliation - Taylor - NEW Par. 2553**

Amend, effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference, Chapter Six, Church Property, by adding a new Section VIII. Disaffiliation of Local Churches Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality, then by adding a new ¶ 2553 as follows:

¶ 2553. Disaffiliation of a Local Church over Issues Related to Human Sexuality.

1. Basis—Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or

the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.

2. Time Limits—The choice by a local church to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church under this paragraph shall be made in sufficient time for the process for exiting the denomination to be complete prior to December 31, 2023. The provisions of ¶ 2553 expire on December 31, 2023 and shall not be used after that date.

3. Initial Inquiry to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church—If the church council of a local church determines that the church wishes to consider disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church under this paragraph, that church council shall submit a request to the district superintendent to begin this process. The district superintendent shall appoint a task force under ¶ 213 for the purpose of making findings and a recommendation to the district superintendent on whether the church will have a viable future within or outside The United Methodist Church. The provisions of ¶ 213.2 and ¶ 213.3 shall not apply. If the local church, as it exists at the time of the assessment, is found to have a viable future, the district superintendent shall call a church conference under ¶ 248 for the sole purpose of deciding whether to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church under this paragraph, based upon the reasons in ¶ 2553.1. If the local church is found to not have a viable future, the district superintendent shall recommend closure under ¶ 2549, or take other appropriate action, and all property of the local church shall remain with The United Methodist Church according to the provisions of ¶ 2549.

4. Decision Making Process—The church conference shall be conducted in accordance with ¶ 248 and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days after the district superintendent calls for the church conference. In addition to the provisions of ¶ 246.8, special attention shall be made to give broad notice to the full professing membership of the local church regarding the time and place of a church conference called for this purpose and to use all means necessary, including electronic communication where possible, to communicate. The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference.

5. Process following decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church—If the church conference votes to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, the terms and conditions for that disaffiliation shall be established by the resident bishop of the applicable annual conference, with the advice of the cabinet, the annual conference treasurer, the annual conference benefits

officer, the director of connectional ministries, and the annual conference chancellor. The terms and conditions, including the effective date of disaffiliation, shall be memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement between the annual conference and the trustees of the local church, acting on behalf of the members. That agreement must be consistent with the following provisions:

a) Standard Terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall develop a standard form for Disaffiliation Agreements under this paragraph to protect The United Methodist Church as set forth in ¶ 807.9. The agreement shall include a recognition of the validity and applicability of ¶ 2501, notwithstanding the release of property therefrom. Annual conferences may develop additional standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard form of this paragraph.

b) Apportionments. The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments.

c) Grants. All grants received by the local church from the annual conference or its ancillary organizations within five (5) years from the date of disaffiliation shall be repaid.

d) Property. A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church.

e) Pension Liabilities. The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rata share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share.

f) Other Liabilities. The local church shall satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation.

g) Payment Terms. The agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the payment to the annual conference for any sums related to ¶ 2553.5. b, c, and e. The term of payment shall not exceed ten (10) years.

h) Disaffiliating Churches Continuing as Plan Sponsors of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits Plans. The United Methodist Church believes that a local church disaffiliating under ¶ 2553 shall continue to share common religious bonds and convictions with The United Methodist Church based on shared Wesleyan theology and tradition and Methodist roots, unless the local

church expressly resolves to the contrary. As such, a local church disaffiliating under ¶ 2553 shall continue to be eligible to sponsor voluntary employee benefit plans through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits under ¶ 1504.2, subject to the applicable terms and conditions of the plans.

i) Once the disaffiliating local church has reimbursed the applicable annual conference for all funds due under the agreement, and provided that there are no other outstanding liabilities or claims against The United Methodist Church as a result of the disaffiliation, in consideration of the provisions of this paragraph, the applicable annual conference shall release any claims that it may have under ¶ 2501 and other paragraphs of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* commonly referred to as the trust clause, or under the agreement.

#### **Rationale:**

Creates a consistent process for local churches who desire to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church over disagreements related to human sexuality to receive their property while reducing the impact on the annual conference by paying their portion of conference pension liabilities, and other financial considerations.

#### **¶161.C.**

Petition Number: 90067-¶161.C-G; Cunningham, Albert McMurtry - Wilmington, NC, USA.

#### **Marriage**

Add the three paragraphs below to ¶ 161 C) Marriage after the last sentence that reads, "We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

In The United Methodist Church our four theological sources are clearly stated as "Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason." See *Book of Discipline*, Part III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task, ¶ 105. Section 4 – Our Theological Task. Using all four of these sources, United Methodists as a denomination and individuals develop and exercise sound theological judgment.

We view Scripture as the word of God for the people of God. Scripture authenticates God's gift of sex to be only enjoyed within a marriage between a man and a woman. Additionally, in our nurturing community of faith, Scripture passages offer "Truth in Love" and hope of "Life Eternal" to sexually immoral people that they "will not inherit the kingdom of God" unless they are sanctified through Christ. (See ¶ 104. Section 3 – Our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules, "Of Sanctification," page 72

and “Article XI – Sanctification and the Christian Perfection,” page 75.)

The below nineteen passages of Scripture are offered as a basic body of work to increase our understanding of biblical law, God’s love, his promise and judgment. As a composite they are necessary to honor the sanctity of the marriage covenant in the eyes of God and for the salvation of souls. They are offered for United Methodist clergy and laity to prayerfully consider in developing sound theological judgment and personal actions. Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Matthew 15:19; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; Romans 13:13-14; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Corinthians 10:8; Galatians 5:19-22; Ephesians 5:3-14; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 7; Revelation 21:8

#### **Rationale:**

Petition supports: “Traditionalist Plan” by “*Commission on Way Forward*”

Utilize sources for sound theological judgment: “Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason”

Remind General Conference: UMC Doctoral Standards and General Rules on Sanctification

List Scripture passages: Honor marriage covenant of one man and one woman in God’s eyes

#### **¶161.C.**

Petition Number: 90068-¶161.C-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 2 Similar Petitions

#### **A Simple Plan #1 - Souto - Marriage - Par. 161.C**

Amend ¶ 161.C as follows:

*C) Marriage*—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman~~. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. ~~We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~

#### **Rationale:**

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### **¶161.G.**

Petition Number: 90069-¶161.G-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 3 Similar Petitions

#### **A Simple Plan #2 - Souto - Human Sexuality - Par. 161.G**

Amend ¶ 161.G as follows:

*G) Human Sexuality*—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

~~Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.~~

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality, to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

#### **Rationale:**

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### **¶304.3.**

Petition Number: 90070-¶304.3-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 8 Similar Petitions

### A Simple Plan #3 - Souto - Qualifications for Ordination - Par. 304.3

Amend ¶ 304.3 as follows:

¶ 304.3. [Reserved] ~~While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

#### Rationale:

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### ¶310.2d.

Petition Number: 90071-¶310.2d-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus.

### A Simple Plan #4 - Souto - Candidacy - Footnote 3 to Par. 310.2d

Amend footnote 3 of ¶ 310.2(d) as follows:

In adopting the statements in ¶¶ 304.2 and 310.2d on the moral and social responsibility of ordained ministers, the General Conference seeks to elevate the standards by calling for a more thoroughgoing moral commitment by the candidate and for a more careful and thorough examination of candidates by district committees and boards of the ministry. The legislation in no way implies that the use of tobacco is a morally indifferent question. In the light of the developing evidence against the use of tobacco, the burden of proof would be upon all users to show that their use of it is consistent with the highest ideals of the Christian life. Similarly, regarding beverage alcohol, the burden of proof would be upon users to show that their action is consistent with the ideals of excellence of mind, purity of body, and responsible social behavior.

Therefore, the changes here do not relax the traditional view concerning the use of tobacco and beverage alcohol by ordained ministers in The United Methodist Church. Rather they call for higher standards of self-discipline and habit formation in all personal and social relationships. They call for dimensions of moral commitment

that go far beyond any specific practices which might be listed. (See Judicial Council Decision 318.)

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the *Discipline* regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.

For more than 200 years candidates for ordination have been asked Wesley's Questions, including ". . . Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? . . ." (¶ 310). All candidates agree to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life and to this end agree "to exercise responsible self-control, by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God" (¶ 304.2).

The character and commitment of candidates for the ordained ministry is described or examined in six places in the *Book of Discipline* (¶¶ 304, 310.2, 324, 330, 333, and 335). These say in part: "Only those shall be elected to full membership who are of unquestionable moral character and genuine piety, sound in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and faithful in the discharge of their duties" (¶ 333).

The statement on ordination (¶ 304.2) states: "*The Church expects those who seek ordination to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life . . . [and to] agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits. . . .*"

There are eight crucial steps in the examination of candidates. They are:

(1) The self-examination of the individual seeking ordination as he or she responds to God's call in personal commitment to Christ and his church.

(2) The decision of the committee on pastor-parish relations, which makes the first recommendation to the charge conference when a member seeks to become a candidate for ordained ministry.

(3) The decision of the charge conference, which must recommend the candidate.

(4) The decision of the district committee on ordained ministry, which must recommend the candidate to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and, where applicable, the decision of the district conference.

(5) The decision of the Board of Ordained Ministry, which must recommend deacon's ordination and provisional membership. See Judicial Council Decisions 513, 536, 542.



(6) The decision of the clergy members of the annual conference, who must elect candidates to provisional membership.

(7) The recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry for deacon's or elder's ordination and full membership.

(8) The election to deacon's or elder's ordination and full membership by the clergy members of the annual conference.

All clergy members of the annual conference are accountable as to character and effectiveness to the annual conference throughout their entire ministry.

The General Conference has made it clear in the "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task" (Part III of the *Discipline*) that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are our guidelines. "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine."

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that we "~~do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~" Furthermore, the Principles state that "we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity ~~between a man and a woman.~~ We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage." Also, "we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single."

The General Conference affirms the wisdom of our heritage expressed in the disciplinary provisions relating to the character and commitment of ordained ministers. The United Methodist Church has moved away from prohibitions of specific acts, for such prohibitions can be endless. We affirm our trust in the covenant community and the process by which we ordain ministers.

In our covenant we are called to trust one another as we recommend, examine, and elect candidates for the ordained ministry and conference membership. *See* Judicial Council Decision 480.

#### **Rationale:**

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### **¶341.6.**

Petition Number: 90072-¶341.6-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 6 Similar Petitions

#### **A Simple Plan #5 - Souto - Unauthorized Conduct - Par. 341.6**

Amend ¶ 341.6 as follows:

¶ 341.6. ~~[Reserved] Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

#### **Rationale:**

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### **¶613.19.**

Petition Number: 90073-¶613.19-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 4 Similar Petitions

#### **A Simple Plan #6 - Souto - Funding - Par. 613.19**

Amend ¶ 613.19 as follows:

¶ 613.19. ~~To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church's official position is fairly and equally represented.~~

#### **Rationale:**

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### **¶806.9.**

Petition Number: 90074-¶806.9-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 5 Similar Petitions

### A Simple Plan #7 - Souto - GCFA Fiscal Responsibilities - Par. 806.9

Amend ¶806.9 as follows:

~~¶ 806.9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (¶ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. It shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.~~

#### Rationale:

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### ¶2702.1.

Petition Number: 90075-¶2702.1-G; Souto, Alexandre Da Silva - New Milford, CT, USA for UM Queer Clergy Caucus. 2 Similar Petitions

### A Simple Plan #8 - Souto - Chargeable Offenses - Par. 2702.1

Amend ¶ 2702.1 as follows:

¶ 2702.1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: ~~(a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~ ~~(ca) crime; (bd) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (ec) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (fd) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (ge) child abuse; (fh) sexual abuse; (gi) sexual misconduct including the use or possession of pornography, (hj) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or~~

sexual harassment; ~~(ik) racial, or gender discrimination; or (jt) fiscal malfeasance.~~

#### Rationale:

In the Wesleyan tradition we aim to live by the admonition to do no harm. Revising sections of the *Book of Discipline* that prevent people from being full participants in the life of The United Methodist Church alleviates some of the harm The United Methodist Church causes to . . .

#### ¶00.

Petition Number: 90076-¶00-C-G; Childs, Christopher E. - Marcus, IA, USA.

### Behavior of Clergy and Use of Church Property

Add a new paragraph to Section III of the Constitution, after paragraph 22.

General Conference shall not establish any prohibitions or requirements for the behavior of clergy or the use of church property without a seventy-five percent majority vote. Any standard of behavior for clergy or the use of church property can be removed with a twenty-five percent vote.

#### Rationale:

The UMC will always be a community of faithful Christians who disagree on the divisive issues of the day. The quadrennial fighting for control has distracted us from our mission. This resolution will refocus the Church away from opinions that divide us, toward the essentials that unite us.

This . . .

#### ¶328.

Petition Number: 90077-¶328-G; Nupp, John William - Ellicott City, MD, USA.

### Interpretation of Fidelity in Marriage for Deacons

Amend ¶ 328 as follows:

Deacons lead the congregation in its servant ministry and equip and support all baptized Christians in their ministry. The distinct ministry of the deacon has evolved in United Methodism over many years – the continuing work of the deaconess, the home missionary, and the diaconal minister. The Church, recognizing the gifts and impact of all predecessor embodiments of the diaconate and providing for the continuation of the office of the deaconess,

affirms that this distinctiveness is made visible and central to the Church's life and ministry through ordination and that the ministry of the deacon is a faithful response of the mission of the Church meeting the emerging needs of the future.

The Board of Ordained Ministry may therefore approve a candidate for the office of deacon who does exemplify the highest ideals of the Christian life that, according to the laws of the annual conference in which they serve, exhibit faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness, for the sake of the ongoing mission of the church in the world.

Deacons are accountable to the annual conference and the bishop for the fulfillment of their call to servant leadership.

### **Rationale:**

Deacons enjoy a unique relationship within our connectional structure: linking the church to the world wherever they are appointed, yet never guaranteed an appointment. While various means have been suggested for making a way forward through congregational models, this solution occurs through a simple shift in the orders. Granting approval . . .

### **¶512.**

Petition Number: 90078-¶512-!-G; Dunnam, Maxie - Memphis, TN, USA.

### **Modified Traditional Plan - Dunnam - Global Episcopacy Committee - Par. 512**

Amend ¶ 512 to make the Global Episcopacy Committee responsible for accountability to the provisions of this plan by bishops and annual conferences.

¶ 512. ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~—1. There shall be an ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy~~ a Global Episcopacy Committee elected by the General Conference consisting of one of the persons (designated by each delegation) nominated by their annual conference delegations to serve on the several jurisdictional or central conference committees on episcopacy. The committee shall meet not later than the fifth day of the conference session and at the time and place set for their convening by the president of the Council of Bishops and shall elect from their number a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The functions of this joint committee shall be:

a. ~~To~~ to discuss the possibility of transfers of bishops across jurisdictional or central conference lines at the forthcoming jurisdictional or central conferences for res-

idential and presidential responsibilities in the ensuing quadrennium;

b. To administer by its executive committee the complaint process for any complaints filed against bishops who are alleged to have not fulfilled their commitment under ¶ 2801.7a or who are alleged to have committed one of the chargeable offenses under ¶ 2702.1a-b. The executive committee shall use the process of ¶¶ 413 and 2704.1, but substitute for the president and secretary of the relevant College of Bishops. Any supervisory response shall be administered by two elders who are members of the executive committee as chosen by the committee and who are not appointed to serve in the jurisdiction or central conference where the respondent bishop is serving. A majority vote of the executive committee shall be required to dismiss a complaint as having no basis in law or fact, to refer a matter as an administrative complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, to refer a matter to a counsel for the Church as a judicial complaint, or to request the council relations committee of the Council of Bishops to place a bishop on involuntary leave or involuntary retirement. The provisions of this sub-paragraph take precedence over any conflicting provisions in the *Discipline* not contained in the Constitution and are to be administered consistently with ¶ 2801.7.

c. To investigate allegations that an annual conference has not fulfilled its commitment under ¶ 2801.1a and by majority vote mandate remedial action or place the annual conference on the list of ¶ 2801.3. Any such action by the Global Episcopacy Committee may be appealed to the Judicial Council at its next scheduled session by the affected annual conference. Any sanctions imposed under ¶ 2801.4 shall take effect six months after the Global Episcopacy Committee acts or after an appeal is heard, whichever is later.

d. To monitor the changing landscape of annual conferences and bring recommendation to General Conference related to reorganization of the jurisdictional or central conferences that may be warranted based on the effects of annual conferences leaving the connection. Any recommendation for reconfiguring a central conference must also be considered by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

e. ~~and T~~ to review on the basis of missional needs an application from a jurisdiction which, by number of its church members as provided in ¶ 404, would experience a reduction in the number of its bishops, and recommend the number of bishops to which that jurisdiction should be entitled to the General Conference for determination by the General Conference. This provision regarding missional needs is enabling, and it is not constraining on the

power of General Conference to act in the absence of a recommendation from the committee.

It shall elect an executive committee consisting of the officers named above and ~~two clergy and two laypersons from the nominees to each jurisdictional committee, elected by that committee to conduct consultations with bishops and others interested in possible episcopal transfers. One of the persons elected from each jurisdiction shall be the chairperson, or the chairperson's designee, of the each jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy.~~ The executive committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson, and it shall have plenary power for the full committee between full committee sessions. It shall be responsible to the ~~interjurisdictional~~ Global committee, and in fulfillment of that responsibility and in the interest of continuity of the work of the committee, the outgoing chairperson, or the chairperson's designee, shall present a report to the newly seated committee on the previous quadrennium's work as well as recommendations on what the coming quadrennium's work might include.

The Global Committee or its executive committee may meet for any of its functions via video or phone conference or other electronic means.

A record of the proceedings of the committee shall be kept by the Office of Episcopal Services of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

2. A bishop may be transferred across jurisdictional or central conference lines only when that bishop has consented to such transfer and has served at least one quadrennium in or under assignment by the jurisdiction or central conference in which the bishop was elected. Such a transfer shall be concluded when the committee on episcopacy of each jurisdiction or central conference involved has approved the transfer(s) by a majority vote of those present and voting, insofar as the transfer(s) affects those jurisdictions or central conferences. (See ¶ 49, Article V.)

3. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ shall be recognized as the official body through which cross-jurisdictional or cross-central conference transfers shall be arranged. Should a bishop request transfer, the bishop has the option to identify the receiving jurisdiction or central conference. A jurisdiction or central conference may request that a specific bishop be transferred or may indicate a willingness to accept a bishop transferring from another jurisdiction or central conference. Request for transfer from either a bishop or jurisdictional or central conference committees on episcopacy shall be received by the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ by April 1 of the year preceding the year of jurisdictional or central conferences. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ will arrange consultation between bishop(s)

requesting transfer and the appropriate jurisdictional or central conference committee(s) on episcopacy by January 1 of the year of jurisdictional or central conference(s). Once the jurisdictional or central conference committee(s) on episcopacy has taken action, jurisdictional or central conference secretaries shall inform the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ not later than August 1 two weeks following jurisdictional or central conferences.

4. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ will report to each General Conference the action taken during the previous quadrennium.

Amend ¶ 404.2b to change the name "Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy" to "Global Episcopacy Committee."

¶ 404.2b) If the number of church members in a jurisdiction shall have decreased by at least 10 percent below the number of church members which had previously entitled the jurisdiction to its number of bishops, then the number of bishops to which it shall be entitled shall be determined on the basis of missional needs, as approved by the General Conference on the recommendation of the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~, provided however that said jurisdiction shall be entitled to no less than the number of bishops to which it would be entitled under subparagraph a) above. It shall be the responsibility of the affected jurisdiction, through its Committee on Episcopacy, to request consideration of its missional need for an exception, and in the absence of such a request, there shall be no obligation on the part of the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global Episcopacy Committee~~ to consider such an exception nor to make any report on such an exception to General Conference. In no case shall there be any constraint on General Conference's power to act in the absence of such a recommendation or to reject any recommendation that might be received.

#### **Rationale:**

This petition strengthens the Traditional Plan by placing an elected, representative group in charge of holding bishops and annual conferences accountable to its provisions. An expanded and renamed Global Episcopacy Committee elected by General Conference includes equal representation from the central conferences, making accountability more uniform across the globe.

#### **¶2800.**

Petition Number: 90079-¶2800-!-G; Dunnam, Maxie - Memphis, TN, USA.

## **Modified Traditional Plan - Dunnam - Implementation Process - NEW Par. 2801**

Add a new ¶ 2801

### ¶ 2801. *Implementing Gracious Accountability*

Because of the current deep conflict over The United Methodist Church's position on marriage and sexuality, a local church or annual conference may indicate its desire to form or join a self-governing church under this paragraph based upon its declaration that it is in irreconcilable conflict for reasons of conscience with the doctrine or moral teachings and requirements of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* on the issues of human sexuality, or with the way such requirements are being enforced, or with the resolution of those matters adopted by the 2019 General Conference.

1. Before March 31, 2020, each **annual conference** shall vote by secret ballot or electronic means (with the vote totals to be released publicly at the time of the vote) to approve one of the following two statements:

a. "The annual conference and its subsidiary units will support, uphold, and maintain accountability to the United Methodist standards found in ¶ 304.3 'Qualifications for Ordination,' ¶ 341.6 'Unauthorized Conduct,' ¶ 613.19 'Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration,' and ¶ 2702.1a-b 'Chargeable Offenses' of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* in their entirety."

b. "The annual conference and its subsidiary units will not support, uphold, and maintain accountability to the standards of The United Methodist Church found in ¶ 304.3 'Qualifications for Ordination,' ¶ 341.6 'Unauthorized Conduct,' ¶ 613.19 'Responsibilities of the Council on Finance and Administration,' and ¶ 2702.1a-b 'Chargeable Offenses' of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016* in their entirety."

2. In extreme cases in which an annual conference outside of the United States is unable, due to extraordinary circumstances, to take a vote by this deadline, its resident bishop may request a one-time, one-year extension of this deadline, which would also be a one-year extension of the deadlines in ¶ 2801.3-4 below, to be granted by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Such requests for extensions must be submitted by April 1, 2020.

3. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall canvass the votes of each annual conference and report the vote totals publicly. Those returning a majority vote for the second option, failing to respond, unclear in their response, or qualifying their commitment to the first option in any way shall be placed on a list of conferences ideally suited for the self-governing status. This list shall

be made available to the Council of Bishops and released to the public no later than May 1, 2020.

4. Beginning January 1, 2021, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall neither receive funds from nor send funds to the annual conferences listed under ¶ 2801.3 except as a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall also prohibit the use of the United Methodist name and insignia by these annual conferences except under the terms of a concordat agreement.

Allegations that an annual conference has not fulfilled its commitment under ¶ 2801.1a shall be addressed to the Council of Bishops council relations committee as evidence of possible misconduct by the conference's residential bishop. Such allegations shall also be addressed to the Global Episcopacy Committee for investigation and action (¶ 512).

5. Annual conferences who are not placed on the list in ¶ 2801.3 may nonetheless vote to enter the self-governing status.

6. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall offer and facilitate a time line allowing annual conferences moving into the self-governing status to continue uninterrupted financial participation in the connective ministries of The United Methodist Church under the terms of this paragraph and may grant a one-time delay to the restrictions in ¶ 2801.4 of up to twelve months upon request by an annual conference that has voted to enter the self-governing status to allow for the transition.

7. By March 31, 2020, each **bishop** of The United Methodist Church shall return one of the following two statements to the president of the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration:

a. I, (*Name*), certify that I will uphold United Methodist standards on marriage and sexuality in their entirety (¶ 414.5). I will enforce the requirements of the *Book of Discipline* forbidding same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals (¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 2702.1a-b, 414.9). I will further hold all those under my supervision accountable to those standards (¶¶ 415.2, 613.19).

b. I, (*Name*), certify that for reasons of conscience, I cannot uphold United Methodist standards on marriage and sexuality in their entirety (¶ 414.5). I am unwilling or unable to enforce the requirements of the *Book of Discipline* forbidding same-sex weddings and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals (¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 2702.1a-b, 414.9), or to hold all those under my supervision accountable to those standards (¶¶ 415.2, 613.19).

Bishops who submit the second option (in whole or in part), fail to respond, are unclear in their response, or qualify their commitment to the first option in any way shall be

subject to review by the Council of Bishops' council relations committee for possible action. Effective September 1, 2020, such bishops shall no longer receive funding for expenses (housing, office, travel) from the General Council on Finance and Administration. Bishops who indicate to the Council president and to GCFA their intention to join a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph shall be eligible to continue receiving expenses during a transition period until such transfer is complete, or until December 31, 2021, whichever is earlier.

Complaints against bishops who are alleged to have not fulfilled their commitment under ¶ 2801.7a above, or who are alleged to have committed one of the chargeable offenses under ¶ 2702.1a-b, shall be automatically and immediately forwarded to the Global Episcopacy Committee (¶ 512), which shall administer the complaint under the provisions of ¶ 413. By a two-thirds majority vote, the Council of Bishops may assume responsibility for administering such a complaint and taking action under ¶ 422.5 at any point until the complaint is referred to a counsel for the Church (¶¶ 413.3d, 2704.1).

8. **Clergy** who find themselves for reasons of conscience unable to live within the boundaries of ¶¶ 304.3, 341.6, 613.19, and 2702.1a-b are encouraged to transfer to a self-governing church formed under this paragraph. Clergy who remain United Methodist but do not maintain their conduct within the boundaries established by the *Book of Discipline* shall be subject to chargeable offenses.

**9. Annual conferences becoming self-governing Methodist churches.**

a. Any annual conference may become a self-governing church or join an existing one when that annual conference votes by simple majority to seek this status under the terms of this paragraph. The annual conference shall notify the president of its College of Bishops of its decision at least 30 days before a regular or specially called session of its jurisdictional or central conference. The jurisdictional or central conference shall reallocate the territory of the former annual conference among the remaining annual conferences or create a new annual conference. It shall be the new self-governing church's own responsibility to develop its *Book of Discipline* and establish itself as a legal entity. The existence of the self-governing church shall be effective upon the adjournment of the jurisdictional or central conference or upon the effective date established by the annual conference in its request, whichever is later. All property, assets, and liabilities except for those related to pensions (see sub-paragraph b below) shall continue to belong to, and be the responsibility of, the departing annual conference. An annual conference shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous annual conference vote on the question.

b. If a U.S. annual conference ceases to be a part of The United Methodist Church through becoming a self-governing Methodist church, or otherwise, it shall contribute to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits any amount necessary to fully fund its obligations under the Clergy Retirement Security Program. The former annual conference's sponsorship of and legal responsibilities under the Clergy Retirement Security Program will continue as a self-governing Methodist church. However, accruals and benefit improvements under the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall cease. The sponsorship and administration of the Clergy Retirement Security Program for the self-governing Methodist church will be sequestered and treated separately from all other annual conferences that remain part of The United Methodist Church. For purposes of administering the Clergy Retirement Security Program in this manner, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized and empowered to:

(1) Identify which of the self-governing Methodist church's (former annual conference's) plan participants have chosen to remain with The United Methodist Church, and those who are members of the former annual conference (whether the former annual conference becomes a self-governing Methodist church or otherwise disaffiliates) based on records of service and membership of the annual conferences; non-clergy participants, e.g., surviving spouses, contingent annuitants, and alternate payees, will be deemed to remain associated with The United Methodist Church;

(2) Calculate and sequester the former annual conference's share of defined benefit plan assets and liabilities for all participants of the former annual conference using factors corresponding to those used when determining annual conference plan sponsor contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and to the extent and at any time that certain participants, whether active or inactive, become the responsibility of The United Methodist Church, retain for The United Methodist Church from such calculated share an amount necessary to fully fund the liabilities of such participants using factors similar to a commercial annuity provider;

(3) Calculate the amount of any plan contributions required to be made by the former annual conference in the future, as part of the self-governing Methodist church's ongoing sponsorship of its separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program;

(4) Collaborate with the self-governing Methodist church (former annual conference) to determine how plan design changes may be requested by the self-governing Methodist church, and the scope and administrative reasonableness of amendments that may be made to the

separate frozen part of the Clergy Retirement Security Program; and

(5) Amend the Clergy Retirement Security Program effective as of the close of the 2019 General Conference to conform with this paragraph of the *Book of Discipline*.

If the self-governing Methodist church (former annual conference) does not satisfy any required ongoing contributions within a reasonable time under this paragraph or the terms of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, or the self-governing Methodist church elects not to, refuses to, or fails to satisfy its legal sponsorship of the Clergy Retirement Security Program, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall convert all accrued pension benefits of the self-governing Methodist church's (former annual conference's) assigned participants to an actuarially equivalent account balance, adjusted, as necessary, to take into account the former annual conference's funding level of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Such account balances, and all other retirement account balances, will be transferred to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits may also take such actions if the Clergy Retirement Security Program is amended to require an account balance conversion for similar classes of participants, or if continuing administration for the self-governing Methodist church is no longer administratively reasonable.

c. Institutions owned by or affiliated with the annual conference shall continue that relationship unless, under their own bylaws and in conjunction with the annual conference, they establish a change of affiliation.

d. The newly created body shall continue under the supervision of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction until supervisory leadership is in place under its constitution.

e. Any annual conference withdrawing to form a self-governing Methodist church under this paragraph shall receive from general Church funds a one-time grant of \$200,000 on or after January 1, 2021, to assist with transitional expenses. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall include an allocation for such funding in the 2021-2024 quadrennial budget. At its discretion, GCFA may advance such funding to the relevant annual conferences out of unrestricted reserve funds held by one or more of the general boards and agencies, to be replenished over the quadrennium by apportionments.

f. Any local church or charge of the annual conference becoming or joining a self-governing church shall have the right to remain in the existing jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church by a simple majority vote of a church conference before or during the first two years of

the self-governing church's existence and shall have the right to hold a church conference to vote on this matter within no more than 120 days of notifying the relevant leadership of the annual conference or of the self-governing church. After the first two years, release of a congregation from a self-governing church shall be according to that church's governing documents. Supervision of the congregation shall transfer to the cabinet of the annual conference assigned to cover their location by the jurisdictional or central conference upon written acknowledgment to the self-governing body by the receiving cabinet.

Local churches electing to remain United Methodist by exiting an annual conference that is forming or joining a self-governing Methodist church shall not owe any payment to the annual conference they are departing, except for the local church's proportional share of the annual conference's aggregate unfunded pension liability, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share. The local church payment of pension liabilities shall be made prior to the effective date of exit.

g. Clergy members of the departing annual conference shall by default remain members of that annual conference unless they request to remain in The United Methodist Church. They shall communicate such a request before or within 90 days after the annual conference exit effective date to the bishop of the departing annual conference and to the jurisdictional or central College of Bishops, but may, at the discretion of the bishop of the departing annual conference, continue serving the current appointment for up to one year from the date of such request until a suitable appointment is found in The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist jurisdictional or central College of Bishops shall work together to provide an appointment for any clergy member subject to security of appointment (and may do so for clergy members not subject to security of appointment) in the area of his/her former annual conference or in another annual conference in the jurisdiction, unless the clergy member agrees to transfer to an annual conference out of the jurisdiction.

**10. Groups of local churches forming new self-governing Methodist churches in the United States.** Any fifty or more United Methodist local churches may form a self-governing Methodist church under this paragraph by the following procedure:

a. Those organizing the self-governing church shall develop a vision and mission statement describing the nature and work of the body.

b. Local churches seeking to form the self-governing church shall vote to do so by a 55 percent majority vote of a church conference. Such vote shall indicate the desire of the congregation to join the forming group, but the congregation remains part of The United Methodist Church until the self-governing church becomes established and the other provisions for exit under this paragraph are satisfied. The bishop and district superintendent shall facilitate the change of affiliation and shall preside over a church conference within 120 days when requested by the local church's pastor or church council (§§ 246, 248). A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

c. The organizers shall select a United Methodist College of Bishops to supervise the church until such time as supervisory leadership is in place under its own constitution. If no selection is made, the College of Bishops supervising the territory where most of the local churches are located shall provide supervision. Notice shall be given to the president of the College of Bishops and the College shall include the church in its plan of oversight. The bishop placed in charge of the group of congregations shall have the right to assemble a transitional cabinet should the bishop deem that necessary.

d. Once a group of fifty or more congregations has been formed under § 2801.10b, an organizing conference shall be held, at which time the Constitution, *Book of Discipline*, and provisional leadership for the newly organized church shall be approved. It shall be the new church's own responsibility to develop its *Book of Discipline* and establish itself as a legal entity. Existence of a self-governing church shall become effective at the adjournment of the organizing conference or upon an effective date established by that conference, provided that all the provisions for exit under this paragraph are satisfied.

e. The local church shall retain all property, assets, and liabilities, except as provided under § 2801.12. On the effective date the provisions of the trust clause (§ 2501) shall be released to the new church, and its provisions administered according to the governing documents of the new church. Congregations leaving United Methodist annual conferences shall not have claim or be entitled to a share of the assets or non-pension liabilities of the annual conference they are exiting.

**11. *Local churches seeking to join any existing self-governing church*** formed under this paragraph shall be granted a change of affiliation upon a 55 percent majority vote of a church conference. The bishop and district superintendent shall facilitate the change of affiliation and shall preside over a church conference within 120 days when requested by the congregation's pastor or church

council (§§ 246, 248). Such a request to join an existing self-governing church shall also require the approval of the receiving self-governing church by whatever means are provided in its governing documents. A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

Transfer of the affiliation of a local church under § 2801.11 shall be effective upon written acknowledgment to the cabinet of the annual conference from the supervisory leadership of the receiving church that the transfer to them is accepted. On the effective date of the congregation's joining a self-governing church, the provisions of the trust clause (§ 2501) shall be released to the self-governing church and its provisions administered according to the governing documents of the new church. The local church shall retain all property, assets, and liabilities, except as provided under § 2801.12. Congregations leaving United Methodist annual conferences shall not have claim or be entitled to a share of the assets or non-pension liabilities of the annual conference they are exiting.

**12. *Conditions.*** A local church electing to join a new or existing self-governing church through the provision of § 2801.10-11 shall enter into a written agreement with the bishop setting an effective date and resolving any financial obligations to The United Methodist Church.

a. On the effective date, the local church shall assume all liabilities, and the local church (and any of its affiliates) shall cease participation in and cease to be eligible to participate in all programs and operations of The United Methodist Church, except as provided in § 2801.19. The local church shall immediately remove all references to the words "United Methodist" as well as all United Methodist symbols and insignia, except as provided in § 2801.15, although it may continue to use the word "Methodist." The local church shall retain all its property, assets, and liabilities not specifically accounted for in the agreement. Such agreement shall be in writing and signed and approved by the duly qualified and authorized representatives of the annual conference and the local church.

b. Local churches electing to join a new or existing self-governing Methodist church through the provisions of § 2801.10-11 shall not owe any payment to the annual conference they are departing, except for the local church's proportional share of the annual conference's aggregate unfunded pension liability, as determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Board shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share. The local



church payment of pension liabilities shall be made prior to the effective date of exit.

c. Upon receipt of any payment required and fulfillment of all other provisions of this paragraph, the district superintendent shall deliver a signed letter waiving all rights the conference trustees or annual conference may have in the local church's real estate or other property and assets, as of the exit effective date.

13. Annual conferences or local churches outside the United States may join a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph under the same terms as are spelled out in this paragraph. In such case, the self-governing church becomes a global body.

14. When one or more annual conferences vote to become a self-governing body after the adjournment of the jurisdictional or central conference, the jurisdictional or central College of Bishops shall call a special jurisdictional or central conference within 180 days of being notified of the annual conference's action. The jurisdictional or central conference shall adjust its annual conference boundaries at the special conference as necessary to provide coverage for the geographic territory of the withdrawing annual conference(s). The Global Episcopacy Committee (§ 512) shall monitor the changing landscape of annual conferences and bring recommendation to General Conference related to reorganization of the jurisdictional or central conferences that may be warranted based on the effects of this paragraph.

15. Self-governing Methodist churches formed under this paragraph may use an *insignia or logo* that utilizes a form of the United Methodist cross and flame, so long as such logo is noticeably distinguishable from the United Methodist cross and flame. Any self-governing church logo that utilizes the cross and flame shall be subject to the approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration, which shall make its decision in such a way as to protect the United Methodist brand while acknowledging the historical connection of the self-governing church with United Methodism.

16. Other disciplinary provisions notwithstanding, a *clergy member* (active or retired) may transfer to any self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph upon the clergy member's request and upon acceptance by the self-governing church. Release by the United Methodist bishop shall not be required for these transfers.

17. Other disciplinary provisions notwithstanding, a United Methodist *bishop* (active or retired) may transfer to a self-governing Methodist church formed under this paragraph upon request by the bishop and approval by the receiving church.

18. *Institutions* related to The United Methodist Church may choose to develop missional ties with

self-governing churches, so long as governing control remains vested with The United Methodist Church. If such an institution vests its governing control with a self-governing church or churches, the relationship with The United Methodist Church shall be renegotiated in a spirit of common mission and shared religious bonds and convictions. Such institutions may also request to change their affiliation to a self-governing Methodist church under the provisions of their own bylaws. Institutions related to an annual conference that forms or joins a self-governing Methodist church may likewise develop missional ties with The United Methodist Church and may petition the United Methodist jurisdiction or successor annual conference to remain in The United Methodist Church through processes established in their bylaws.

19. No self-governing church is required to participate in any programs or services of The United Methodist Church, nor is such official participation permitted without the agreement of the sponsoring United Methodist agency. Each self-governing church may negotiate participation in and receipt of fee-based services from any United Methodist general board or agency, including sponsorship and participation in health, welfare, or retirement plans with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits through written agreements. The self-governing church, its annual conferences, and/or local congregations are permitted to engage in or continue partnerships in mission, including financial support, with United Methodist annual conferences, institutions, or local congregations, with the written agreement of the United Methodist entity involved and may channel such support and partnership through United Methodist general agencies, such as the General Council on Finance and Administration or General Board of Global Ministries. Other aspects of any continuing relationship between the self-governing Methodist church and The United Methodist Church may be established and implemented through a concordat agreement (§ 574).

20. The self-governing church shall set its own geographic borders, which may overlap those of United Methodist annual conferences and other self-governing churches organized under this paragraph of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and may include territory outside the United States.

21. Self-governing churches may organize themselves together with other self-governing churches under a common *Discipline* or unite to form one self-governing church.

22. The self-governing church shall be fully financially self-supporting, including funding its own bishop(s).

23. The provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the 2019 General

Conference and shall take precedence over any conflicting provisions in the *Discipline* that are not in the Constitution.

#### **Rationale:**

This petition strengthens the Traditional Plan by enhancing and clarifying accountability and by providing transitional funding for departing annual conferences. This paragraph provides a mechanism for ensuring that annual conferences and bishops uphold the *Discipline*, while also providing for a gracious exit for those conscience-bound not to do

#### **¶161.C.**

Petition Number: 90080-¶161.C-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Enabling Legislation for A United Way Forward (Petition 90049)**

All the following legislative acts shall be effective if, when, and only if the proposed amendment to ¶ 49 of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church shall be certified by the Council of Bishops. [*The proposed amendment may be found in Petition # 90049.*]

Amend paragraphs 161.C), 161.G), 304.3, 310, 341, 403, 406, 407, 409, 410, 414, 415, 422, 512, 524, 2501, and 2702 as indicated following:

¶ 161.C)Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two people who are married to each other a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, which is traditionally between one man and one woman, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

...

¶ 161.G)Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, ~~heterosexual~~ marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age,

gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church historically has not condoned ~~does not condone~~ the practice of homosexuality and has considered ~~consider~~ this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

...

¶ 304.3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is considered by many to be incompatible with Christian teaching. ~~Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church. Therefore, authority for discerning suitability for ordination continues to rest with the annual conference as provided in ¶ 33 of the Constitution, following candidacy procedures as provided in the *Book of Discipline*, and authority for making appointments continues to rest with the bishop after a consultative process to determine the suitability of such an appointment.~~

....

Amend ¶ 310.2.d), the footnote referenced therein, Footnote 3, beginning on page 232 as follows:

¶ 310.2.d), Footnote 3. ...

~~The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the *Discipline* regarding the character and commitment of person seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.~~

For more than 200 years candidates for ordination have been asked Wesley’s Questions...

...

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that ~~“we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Chris-~~

tian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two people who are married to each other a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, which is traditionally between one man and one woman, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.” Also, “we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single.”

...

¶ 341.6. Ceremonies that celebrate ~~homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches~~ marriages between two persons committed to one another as provided in ¶ 161.C may be conducted by United Methodist pastors and other persons authorized in the *Book of Discipline* only upon following the process provided in ¶ 340.2.a)(3)(a).

¶ 403.1.c) A vision for the Church. The role of bishop is to lead the ~~whole~~ Church in claiming its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The bishop leads by discerning, inspiring, strategizing, equipping, implementing, and evaluating the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. Working in partnership with the Council of Bishops, the cabinet and lay and clergy leadership of the annual conference, and the professing members of the Church, the bishop urges the ~~whole~~ Church to move toward the vision of sharing Christ with the world in fulfillment of our mission, faithful discipleship and “an even better way” of being Christ’s people in the world.

...

f)...The bishop shares with other bishops the oversight of the ~~whole~~ Church through the Council of Bishops...

¶ 406.3. Special Assignments—The Council of Bishops may, with consent of the bishop and the concurrence of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, assign one of its members for one year to some specific churchwide responsibility deemed of sufficient importance to the welfare of the total Church. In this event, a bishop shall be released from the presidential responsibilities within the episcopal area for that term. Another bishop or bishops, active or retired, ~~and not necessarily from the same jurisdictional or central conference~~, shall be named by the ~~Council of Bishops on recommendation of the~~ College of Bishops of the jurisdiction involved to assume presidential responsibilities during the interim.

¶ 407. Vacancy in the Office of Bishop—A vacancy in the office of bishop may occur due to death, retirement (¶ 408.1, .2, .3), resignation (¶ 408.4), judicial procedure (¶ 2712), leave of absence (¶ 410.1), or medical leave (¶ 410.4). In case assignment of a bishop to presidential supervision of an episcopal area is terminated by any of the above causes, the vacancy shall be filled by the ~~Council of Bishops on nomination of the active bishops of the~~ College of Bishops of the jurisdiction or central conference concerned...

¶ 409.1...However, when a retired bishop is appointed by ~~the Council~~ a College of Bishops to a vacant episcopal area or parts of an area under the provisions of ¶¶ 409.3, 410.1, or 410.3, that bishop may function as a bishop in the effective relationship.

¶ 410. Leaves—1. Leave of Absence—A bishop may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, ~~and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops~~. During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the ~~executive committee of the Council~~ College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund.

...

3. Sabbatical Leave—A bishop who has served for at least two quadrennia may be granted a sabbatical leave of not more than one year for a program of study or renewal in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, ~~and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops~~. During the period for which the sabbatical leave is granted, the bishops shall be released from the presidential responsibilities within the episcopal area, and another bishop or bishops shall be designated by the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops to assume the presidential duties. The bishop shall receive one-half salary and, where applicable, housing allowance for the period of the leave.

4. Medical Leave—Bishops who by reason of impaired health are temporarily unable to perform full work may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, ~~and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops~~. During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released

from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the Council College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund. If after the six-month time period is over the bishop is still unable to perform full work due to impaired health, disability benefits through the benefit program provided to the bishop should be applied for.

¶ 414.8. To promote and support the evangelistic witness of the whole Church.

¶ 415.6. To consecrate bishops, to ordain elders and deacons, to consecrate diaconal ministers, to commission deaconesses, home missionaries and missionaries, and to see that the names of the persons commissioned and consecrated are entered on the journals of the conference and that proper credentials are furnished to these persons. ~~As these services are acts of the whole Church,~~ Text and rubrics shall be used in the form approved by the General Conference.

¶ 422. Council of Bishops—1. Bishops, ~~although elected by jurisdictional or central conferences,~~ are elected general superintendents of the whole Church.

...

4. ~~The Council of Bishops may assign one of its members to visit another episcopal area or Methodist-related church. When so assigned, the bishop shall be recognized as the accredited representative of the Council of Bishops, and when requested by the resident bishop or president in that area or Church, may exercise therein the functions of episcopacy.~~

Delete ¶ 512 in its entirety.

Delete ¶ 524.3.f) in its entirety.

Insert a new ¶ 2501.4 that reads as follows:

¶ 2501.4 Any other portion of Chapter Six, Section I to the contrary notwithstanding, during a period of time beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending after December 31, 2020, all the trust provisions that would otherwise apply to local churches of The United Methodist Church will be held in abeyance to enable those churches that choose to do so to discontinue their identification as United Methodist in law and in covenant and to retain possession of their property, real and personal, tangible and intangible. Churches that choose to withdraw from The United Methodist Church pursuant to this provision must immediately upon exercising this option remove from all buildings, structures, literature, publications, internet postings, and other public representations any and all United Methodist signs, emblems, logos, and other forms of identification as United Methodist. A decision to withdraw under this provision must be supported by at least two thirds (2/3rds) of the members present and voting at a church conference called as provided in ¶ 248 and at which the district su-

perintendent presides, or at a church local conference as provided in ¶ 2527 at which the district superintendent presides.

¶ 2702. 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; ~~(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~ (c) crime; (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (f) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor; (g) child abuse; (h) sexual abuse; (i) sexual misconduct or (j) harassment, including, but not limited to, racial and/or sexual harassment; or (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.

#### **Rationale:**

Ends homosexuality trials, retains authority of annual conferences to discern suitability for ordination, and regionalizes the episcopacy. Bishops retain authority for appointments. Clergy and local churches retain consultation in appointments. Clergy determine whom to marry to whom. Local churches have a year to withdraw from UMC, taking property with them.

#### **¶406.3.**

Petition Number: 90081-¶406.3-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Enabling Legislation for A United Way Forward (Petition 90050)**

All the following legislative acts shall be effective if, when, and only if the proposed amendment to ¶ 27 of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church shall be certified by the Council of Bishops. *[The proposed amendment may be found in Petition #90050.]*

¶ 406.3. Special Assignments—...In the event that more than one retired bishop is assigned to fulfill presidential responsibilities in one episcopal area, the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction shall be responsible only for the difference between the pensions paid the retired bishops and the remuneration of one active bishop. This assignment

may be renewed for a second year by a two-thirds vote of the Council of Bishops and majority vote of the jurisdictional or central committee on episcopacy, and the consent of the bishop and the College of Bishops involved. The bishop so assigned shall continue to receive regular salary and support.

¶ 408.1.d) If, however, the retired bishop accepts any one of the following assignments of churchwide responsibility, the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops, shall set a level of compensation not to exceed a maximum determined by the General Conference on recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration with the compensation costs borne by the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction where the bishop has membership in the College of Bishops: (1) assignment of a special nature with direct relationship and accountability to the Council of Bishops, or (2) assignment to a general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education. Assignment of retired bishops to United Methodist Church-related institutions of higher education must be at the initiative of the institutions, with service not to exceed the mandatory retirement ages of the institutions.

If a bishop is assigned to a general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education, that agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education will pay 50 percent of the compensation established by GCFA for the position. The general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education shall further assume all responsibility for the bishop's operational and travel expenses related to the assignment.

Compensation for any special assignment shall cease after the bishop has reached the mandatory age of retirement for all ordained ministers (¶ 358.1) or completes the assignment, whichever comes first, except that retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops as Executive Secretary and Ecumenical Officer may continue to be compensated for such special assignment(s) throughout the terms of office. ~~No assignment to a jurisdiction, central conference, annual conference, or non-United Methodist agency shall qualify for additional compensation from the Episcopal Fund under the provisions of this paragraph.~~ The status of a retired bishop on special assignment shall, for purposes of housing and other benefits, be that of a retired bishop.

...

¶ 408.2.b) Vocational Retirement—A bishop who has served at least eight years in the episcopacy may seek retirement for vocational reasons and may be so retired by the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy on recommendation by the involved College

of Bishops. Such bishops shall receive their pensions as provided in ¶ 408.2a. If the employing entity provides or makes health insurance available to employees, then the bishop who retires under this provision will be insured under that program, whether or not the bishop is required to pay the premium for that coverage, and the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction will assume no future obligation to provide health insurance for the bishop or the bishop's family. . . .

...

¶ 408.3.b) A bishop, for health reasons, may be retired between sessions of the jurisdictional or central conference by a two-thirds vote of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy upon the recommendation of one third of the membership of the involved College of Bishops. The affected bishop, upon request, shall be entitled to a review of his or her health condition by a professional diagnostic team prior to action by the involved College of Bishops. Notification of action to retire shall be given by the chairperson and secretary of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy to the secretary of the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops and the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction. Appeal from this action may be made to the Judicial Council with the notice provisions being applicable as set forth in ¶ 2716. Upon such retirement, the bishop shall receive a pension to the extent permitted under the Clergy Retirement Security Program or the Global Episcopal Pension Program (or, in either case, any successor bishop pension or retirement plan or program), as either may apply. ~~(Effective at the conclusion of General Conference 2012)~~

¶ 410. Leaves—1. Leave of Absence—A bishop may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the Council of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued ~~through the Episcopal Fund~~ as provided by the jurisdiction.

¶ 410.4. Medical Leave—Bishops who by reason of impaired health are temporarily unable to perform full work may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. During the pe-

riod for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the Council of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued ~~through the Episcopal Fund~~ as provided by the jurisdiction. If after the six-month time period is over the bishop is still unable to perform full work due to impaired health, disability benefits through the benefit program provided to the bishop should be applied for.

¶ 413.3.d)(iii). All costs associated with actions taken pursuant to paragraph (ii), above, will be paid by the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ jurisdiction or central conference wherein the bishop has membership in the College of Bishops.

¶ 440. Funding—Funding for the ecumenical and interreligious ministries of the Church shall be provided by the Council of Bishops in one or more clearly identified line items in the ~~Episcopal~~ General Administration Fund budget request to General Conference.

¶ 450. Funding – In collaboration with the Council of Bishops, the Committee on Faith and Order shall propose its budget as part of the ~~Episcopal~~ General Administration Fund, to be approved by General Conference.

¶ 548. Bishops in Retired Relation—1. An ordained minister who has served a term or part of a term as a bishop in a central conference where term episcopacy has prevailed shall, upon retirement from the effective relation in the ministry, be paid an allowance from the ~~General Episcopal Administration~~ General Administration Fund in such sum as the General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine for the years during which the ordained minister served as a bishop.

~~¶ 614.1.b) The council shall report to the annual conference at each session the Episcopal Fund apportionment to the annual conference under the methodology approved by the General Conference and shall include in its recommended clergy support budget the amount determined by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration as necessary to meet this apportionment.~~

¶ 619.1.a)(5) The conference treasurer shall remit each month to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration the amounts received during the month for the General Administration Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Black College Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, World Service Special Gifts, Advance Special Gifts, general Church special Sunday offerings (¶ 262), special churchwide appeals (¶ 819), and all other general causes not otherwise directed.

¶ 621. Apportionment Distribution—Each annual conference shall determine what plan and method shall be used in distributing the apportionments to its several

districts and charges for the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ support of the bishops of the jurisdiction (¶ 817.1), for the support of district superintendents and conference claimants, and for the Equitable Compensation Fund (¶ 625).

¶ 805.6. Financial Support—a) Financial support from general Church funds for the work of the council shall be from the following sources: (1) an on-ratio allocation from the General Administration Fund, in an amount determined by the General Conference; (2) fixed charges against the World Service Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and such other general funds as the General Conference may authorize, on recommendation of the council. Fixed charges shall be in proportion to the funds' receipts.

¶ 806.1.a) The council shall make recommendations to the General Conference as to the amount and distribution of the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ and General Administration Fund, and, in consultation with the Connectional Table, other apportioned general funds.

¶ 808. Conference Payments of Apportioned Funds—1. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall, not less than ninety days prior to the session of each annual conference or as soon thereafter as practical, transmit to the presiding bishop thereof, to the president of the conference council on finance and administration, and to the conference treasurer a statement of the apportionments to the conference for the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the Africa University Fund, and such other funds as may have been apportioned by the General Conference.

¶ 810. Definition of General Funds—1. The terms general fund(s) and general Church fund(s), wherever they appear in the *Book of Discipline*, refer to: the World Service Fund; the General Administration Fund; ~~the Episcopal Fund~~; the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund; the Ministerial Education Fund; the Black College Fund; the Africa University Fund; World Service Special Gifts; general Advance Special Gifts; the World Communion Fund; the Human Relations Day Fund; the United Methodist Student Day Fund; the UMCOR Sunday Fund<sup>16</sup>; Peace with Justice Sunday Fund; Native American Ministries Sunday Fund; the Youth Service Fund; and such other funds as may have been established by the General Conference and have been specifically authorized by the General Conference to be raised on a churchwide basis.

Delete ¶ 818, including its title, in its entirety.

¶ 1806.12. It shall be the central agency marketing throughout the Church the following general Church funds: World Service Fund (¶ 812.1), Africa University Fund (¶ 806.2), Black College Fund (¶ 815), ~~Episcopal~~

Fund (§ 818.1), General Administration Fund (§ 813), Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (§ 819), Ministerial Education Fund (§ 816), Human Relations Day (§§ 824.1 and 263.1), UMCOR Sunday (§§ 821, 824.2, and 263.2), Native American Ministries Sunday (§§ 824.6 and 263.6), Peace with Justice Sunday (§§ 824.5 and 263.5), World Communion Sunday (§§ 824.4 and 263.3), United Methodist Student Day (§§ 824.3 and 263.4), the Advance for Christ and His Church (§§ 822 and 823), World Service Special Gifts (§ 820), Christian Education Sunday (§ 265.1), Golden Cross Sunday (§ 265.2), Rural Life Sunday (§ 265.3), Disability Awareness Sunday (§ 265.4), Youth Service Fund (§ 1208), and all other general Church funds approved by the General Conference, as well as any emergency appeals authorized by the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration (§ 819).

¶ 2712.6. A bishop suspended from office shall have claim on the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ episcopal support program established by the jurisdictional or central conference for salary, dwelling, pension, and other related benefits. A bishop removed from office shall have no claim upon the ~~Episcopal Fund jurisdictional or central conference episcopal support program, except as specifically provided by that conference,~~ for salary, dwelling, pension, and other related benefits from the date of such removal.

#### Rationale:

The regionalization of the episcopacy will not be complete until each jurisdiction is required to bear the cost of the support of its own bishops.

#### ¶4.

Petition Number: 90082-¶4-C-G; Carr, Jeffrey A. - St. Louis, MO, USA.

#### Inclusiveness

¶ 4. Article IV, after: “All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition . . .” Add: “or sexual orientation”

#### Rationale:

In that Jesus never mentioned homosexuality in the New Testament, and that the few obscure references to it in Scripture are set within cultural/textual contexts far removed from the present day, I therefore propose that the 2016 *Book of Discipline* be amended as petitioned.

#### ¶161.G.

Petition Number: 90083-¶161.G-G; Ryder, Jack E. - LaGrange, IL, USA. 1 Similar Petition

#### Human Sexuality

##### ¶ 161. II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

*G) Human Sexuality*—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

~~Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.~~

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.~~<sup>3</sup>

3. See Judicial Council Decision 702

#### Rationale:

This is the easiest way forward as this action removes restrictions related to sexual orientation. In this way, there is no condemnation nor commendation of homosexuality. No additional language is needed as conferences continue to decide who to ordain and clergy continue to decide who to marry.

#### ¶161.

Petition Number: 90084-¶161-G; Crockett, Douglas E. - Highland Springs, VA, USA.

## One New Discipline Plan

Amend the introduction, and paragraphs A, C, and G of ¶ 161 as follows:

### ¶ 161. II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

In Christ, The United Methodist Church is a nurturing community for all people that helps save souls and equip disciples. We strive to be a community filled with and animated by the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We reaffirm the truth of Scripture and centrality of the gospel. We recommit ourselves to the work of our traditional and prescient role of being a light among the nations and a protagonist of the message of the necessity of faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life.

The broader cultural community provides the potential for nurturing human beings into the fullness of their humanity. We believe we have a responsibility to innovate, sponsor, and evaluate new forms of community that will encourage development of the fullest potential in individuals. Primary for us is the gospel understanding that all persons are important—because they are human beings created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance. We therefore support social climates in which human communities are maintained and strengthened for the sake of all persons and their growth, and in which the basic human rights of every person to be, to become, to be cared for, to care for oneself, to direct one's own life, to protect one's life, to pursue happiness, and to receive forgiveness are respected. We also encourage all individuals to be sensitive to others by using appropriate language when referring to all persons. Language of a derogatory nature (with regard to race, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexuality, and physical differences) does not reflect value for one another and contradicts the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A) Culture and Identity—We believe that our primary identity is as children of God. With that identity comes societal and cultural constructions that have both positive and negative impacts on humanity and the Church. Cultural identity evolves through our history, traditions, and experiences. The Church seeks to fully embrace and nurture cultural formation and competency as a means to be fully one body, expressed in multiple ways. Each of us has multiple identities of equal value that intersect to form our complete self. We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities. Through relationships within and among cultures we are called to and have the responsibility for learning from each other, showing mutual respect for our differences and similarities as we experience the diversity of perspectives and viewpoints.

We do not condone all things in culture even the excesses and misuses of things that have good purposes among human beings. We recognize that the ability to determine when we should oppose cultural norms or not is an ongoing struggle for us. In times past the Church, in part and sometimes in whole, has failed to adhere in practice and policy to the cultural and biblical ideals of equal protection and basic human rights in matters of social justice. Our errors in such judgments of the past do not justify errors in the present. Nor do our errors of the past give us great confidence that we are not committing in the present, or will not unknowingly or unintentionally commit such errors in the future, and wrongly side with or against culture. Our church, by God's grace, in many cases, has ultimately sided with the biblical principles and cultural ideals of equal protection and basic human rights. We call upon the Church to continue to work toward that goal.

A) Homosexual Behavior—Homosexual behavior, if one considers it categorically a sin or that it can be a sin if misused or used to excess, is no worse and brings no worse punishment upon ourselves, our people or our nation than the inhumanities and atrocities we have allowed, condoned, or supported in the past and for which we later repented and now repent.

On homosexual marriage and ordination, we believe, in line with our biblical and cultural ideals of equal protection and basic human rights, that we should side with those policies and laws in culture that affirm the basic human rights of every person. We do not believe that the cultural morality of a particular historical period, including what seems to be the morality of the Bible, is entitled to our allegiance over those biblical values upon which all morality must be built.

We commit our church to the rights of homosexual persons to marry. This is not an approval of homosexual marriage as an alternative to heterosexual marriage among heterosexual persons but is an affirmation of the rights of homosexual persons to be who they are and exercise their basic human rights as homosexual persons.

### ¶ 161. II.

C) Marriage—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman two consenting adults. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union or the two are heterosexual. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.<sup>2</sup>

2. See Judicial Council Decision 694.



¶ 161. II.

G) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone or condemn the practice of homosexuality and some United Methodists considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.<sup>3</sup>

3. See Judicial Council Decision 702.

**Amend the third paragraph of ¶ 304 as follows:**

**¶ 304. Qualifications for Ordination—**

3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is ~~incompatible~~ may not be compatible with some Christian teaching but the acceptance of a practice in the Church where it is prohibited in Scripture is certainly compatible with Christian practice. Therefore, self-avowed practicing homosexuals<sup>1</sup> in a committed monogamous relationship in marriage, or analogous to marriage where homosexual marriage is prohibited, are not to may be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, ~~or~~ and appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.<sup>2</sup>

1. “Self-avowed practicing homosexual” is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of or-

ained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual. See Judicial Council Decisions 702, 708, 722, 725, 764, 844, 984, 1020.

~~2. See Judicial Council Decisions 984, 985, 1027, 1028~~

**Amend the second paragraph and footnote 3 of ¶ 310 as follows:**

**¶ 310. Candidacy and Certification for Licensed and Ordained Ministry— . . .**

2. Candidates seeking to become certified for licensed or ordained ministry shall: . . .

d) agree for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as clergy, to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life as set forth in ¶¶ 103-105; 160-166. To this end they shall agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God.<sup>3</sup> The local church is encouraged to assist candidates with the expenses of candidacy;

(FN) 3. In adopting the statements in ¶¶ 304.2 and 310.2d on the moral and social responsibility of ordained ministers, the General Conference seeks to elevate the standards by calling for a more thoroughgoing moral commitment by the candidate and for a more careful and thorough examination of candidates by district committees and boards of the ministry. The legislation in no way implies that the use of tobacco is a morally indifferent question. In the light of the developing evidence against the use of tobacco, the burden of proof would be upon all users to show that their use of it is consistent with the highest ideals of the Christian life. Similarly, regarding beverage alcohol, the burden of proof would be upon users to show that their action is consistent with the ideals of excellence of mind, purity of body, and responsible social behavior.

Therefore, the changes here do not relax the traditional view concerning the use of tobacco and beverage alcohol by ordained ministers in The United Methodist Church. Rather they call for higher standards of self-discipline and habit formation in all personal and social relationships. They call for dimensions of moral commitment that go far beyond any specific practices which might be listed. (See Judicial Council Decision 318.)

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, ~~reaffirms the present language of the *Discipline* acknowledges that some are opposed to the ordination of homosexuals but reaffirms its commitment to Scripture~~

regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards for all.

For more than 200 years candidates for ordination have been asked Wesley's Questions, including ". . . Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? . . ." (§ 310). All candidates agree to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life and to this end agree "to exercise responsible self-control, by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God" (§ 304.2).

The character and commitment of candidates for the ordained ministry is described or examined in six places in the *Book of Discipline* (§§ 304, 310.2, 324, 330, 333, and 335). These say in part: "Only those shall be elected to full membership who are of unquestionable moral character and genuine piety, sound in the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and faithful in the discharge of their duties" (§ 333).

The statement on ordination (§ 304.2) states: "*The Church expects those who seek ordination to make a complete dedication of themselves to the highest ideals of the Christian life . . . [and to] agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits. . . .*"

There are eight crucial steps in the examination of candidates. They are:

(1) The self-examination of the individual seeking ordination as he or she responds to God's call in personal commitment to Christ and his church.

(2) The decision of the committee on pastor-parish relations, which makes the first recommendation to the charge conference when a member seeks to become a candidate for ordained ministry.

(3) The decision of the charge conference, which must recommend the candidate.

(4) The decision of the district committee on ordained ministry, which must recommend the candidate to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry and, where applicable, the decision of the district conference.

(5) The decision of the Board of Ordained Ministry, which must recommend deacon's ordination and provisional membership. See Judicial Council Decisions 513, 536, 542.

(6) The decision of the clergy members of the annual conference, who must elect candidates to provisional membership.

(7) The recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry for deacon's or elder's ordination and full membership.

(8) The election to deacon's or elder's ordination and full membership by the clergy members of the annual conference.

All clergy members of the annual conference are accountable as to character and effectiveness to the annual conference throughout their entire ministry.

The General Conference has made it clear in the "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task" (Part III of the *Discipline*) that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are our guidelines. "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine."

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that we "do not condone or condemn the practice of homosexuality and some consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." Furthermore, the Principles state that "we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between ~~a man and a woman~~ an two consenting adults. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union or the two are homosexual."

We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage." Also, "we affirm the integrity of homosexual and single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are homosexual or single."

The General Conference affirms notes the wisdom of our heritage expressed in the disciplinary provisions relating to the character and commitment of ordained ministers. However, we believe, in line with our biblical and cultural ideals of equal protection and basic human rights that we should side with those policies and laws that affirm the basic human rights of every person. We do not believe that the cultural morality of a particular historical period, including what seems to be the morality of the Bible, is entitled to our allegiance over those biblical values upon which all morality must be built. Among those values are "equal protection and basic human rights." The United Methodist Church has moved away from prohibitions of specific acts, for such prohibitions can be endless. We affirm our trust in the covenant community and the process by which we ordain ministers.

In our covenant we are called to trust one another as we recommend, examine, and elect candidates for the ordained ministry and conference membership. See Judicial Council Decision 480.

**Amend paragraphs six and seven and footnote 35 of § 341 as follows:**

**¶ 341. Unauthorized Conduct—**

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.<sup>35</sup>~~

7. ~~6.~~ No pastor shall re-baptize. The practice of re-baptism does not conform with God's action in baptism and is not consistent with Wesleyan tradition and the historic teaching of the church. Therefore, the pastor should counsel any person seeking re-baptism to participate in a rite of reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

~~35. See Judicial Council Decision 1115.~~

**Amend paragraph 19 of ¶ 613 as follows:**

**¶ 613. Responsibilities—The council shall have authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:**

19. To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any ~~gay~~ caucus or group promoting sexuality without the benefit of marriage, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of ~~homosexuality~~ sexuality without the benefit of marriage or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (¶ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogs or educational events where the Church's official position is fairly and equally represented.<sup>59</sup>

59. See Judicial Council Decision 1054.

**Amend the introductory and ninth paragraphs and footnote 13 of ¶ 806 as follows:**

**¶ 806. Fiscal Responsibilities—**All monies contributed by a local church to any of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1, and such other funds as may have been authorized by the General Conference shall be held in trust by the council and distributed only in support of the ministries of the respective funds. The council shall be accountable to The United Methodist Church through the General Conference in all matters relating to the receiving, disbursing, and reporting of such funds, and agencies receiving such funds shall be fiscally accountable to the council. In the exercise of its fiscal accountability role, the council shall have the authority and responsibility to perform the following functions: . . .

9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any ~~gay~~ caucus or group promoting sexuality without the benefit of marriage, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of ~~homosexuality~~ sexuality without the benefit of marriage or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay

members and friends” (¶ 161G). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.<sup>13</sup> It shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

13. See Judicial Council Decisions 597, 1264.

**Amend the first paragraph of ¶ 2702 and footnote 13 as follows:**

**¶ 2702.** 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor,<sup>9</sup> clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4)<sup>10</sup> with one or more of the following offenses: . . .

(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings,<sup>12</sup> ~~including, but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~<sup>13</sup> (g) child abuse;<sup>15</sup> (h) sexual abuse;<sup>16</sup> i) sexual misconduct<sup>15</sup> including the use or possession of pornography, (j) harassment, including, but not limited to, racial and/or sexual harassment; (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.

9. See Judicial Council Decision 982.

10. The statute of limitations went into effect as law on a prospective basis starting on January 1, 1993. All alleged offenses that occurred prior to this date are time barred. See Judicial Council Decisions 691, 704, and 723. . . .

12. See Judicial Council Decisions 702, 984, 985, 1185.

~~13. The language beginning “including but not limited to . . .” first appeared in the 2004 Book of Discipline; effective January 1, 2005.~~

**Rationale:**

We do not believe that the cultural morality of a particular historical period, including what seems to be the morality of the Bible, is entitled to our allegiance over those biblical values upon which all morality must be built. Among those values are “equal protection and basic human rights.”

**¶00.**

Petition Number: 90085-¶00-C-!-G; Boyette, Keith - Spotsylvania, VA, USA.

**Dissolution of UMC Plan #1 - Boyette - Constitutional**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (requires 2/3 vote)**

1. Add New ¶ 62, entitled “Plan of Dissolution,” as a new “Division VI – Dissolution” as follows:

¶ 62. Plan of Dissolution—All conflicting provisions of the Constitution and *Book of Discipline* are hereby suspended for the purpose of implementing a plan of dissolution. The dissolution shall make available at least two new entities, one providing full inclusion for LGBTQI+ persons in marriage and ordination, and another maintaining the church’s current teaching and provisions regarding marriage and ordination for LGBTQI+ persons. Additional entities may be proposed by groups during the initial implementation. Provisions that do not conflict with implementation of the plan shall continue in force until the termination of The United Methodist Church is declared. At the conclusion of the implementation process, all assets and liabilities of The United Methodist Church shall have been equitably divided among the two or more entities which shall become the successor denominations, and The United Methodist Church shall cease to exist.

2. Amend ¶ 14 as follows:

¶ 14. Article II.—The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016. The 2020 General Conference shall meet solely for the purpose of implementing the plan of dissolution.

*[Enabling legislation may be found in Petition #90086.]*

#### **Rationale:**

Irreconcilable differences exist within The United Methodist creating an existential crisis. Dissolution would free the church from these differences, allowing the resulting entities to move forward in ministry as they are led by God.

#### **¶2800.**

Petition Number: 90086-¶2800-!-G; Boyette, Keith - Spotsylvania, VA, USA.

#### **Dissolution of UMC Plan #2 - Boyette - Enabling Legislation**

[The following provisions would be enacted only if Petition #90085 (New Para. 62 and Amend Para. 14) is enacted through the canvass of annual conference votes by the Council of Bishops.]

The following process is enacted to implement the constitutional amendment permitting a plan of dissolution. The secretary of the General Conference shall work with the bishops to ensure that voting on the ratification

of this constitutional amendment begins with the regularly scheduled annual conference sessions after April 1, 2019, and is completed by March 31, 2020. The Council of Bishops shall certify whether or not this amendment has been adopted as soon as practicable after April 1, 2020 and not later than April 30, 2020.

1. The Council of Bishops shall oversee the implementation of the plan and serve as a clearinghouse of information for clergy and congregations desiring to affiliate with an entity different from the one chosen by their annual conference.

2. *Founding Teams*—In anticipation of the approval of the constitutional amendment, the 2019 special session of General Conference shall (subsequent to its approving the foregoing constitutional amendment by the required two-thirds vote) elect a ten-person team for each new entity that desires to form, consisting of four laypersons, four clergypersons, and two bishops. Nominations shall be taken in writing to the General Conference secretary as a slate of ten for each entity, beginning after the adoption of the amendment and concluding in time for the slates to be published at least 24 hours prior to the election being held. Accompanying each slate shall be a brief statement of the distinctive formative principles of the entity proposed to be formed by that slate. Each new entity group is responsible to ensure that its slate consists of persons who agree to the formative principles of that proposed entity. The plenary session of 2019 special General Conference shall determine by majority vote whether or not to certify each slate and proposed entity as put forward without change.

3. *Descriptive Documents*—In the 14 months following the adjournment of the 2019 special session of General Conference, each team shall write and approve a vision and mission description for its particular entity, including a one-page summary. These documents shall be the initial guide for decision-making by bishops, annual conferences, clergy, congregations, and church institutions about the entity with which they will affiliate. The descriptive documents shall be publicly released at the time when the Council of Bishops certifies that the constitutional amendment has been ratified.

4. *Episcopal Affiliation*—a) Provided that the constitutional amendment enabling the plan to go forward is certified as having been adopted, not later than June 30, 2020 each active and retired United Methodist bishop shall elect to relate to one of the entities described in the descriptive documents (Part 3). These selections shall be compiled by the Council of Bishops and made public by June 30, 2020. Bishops shall relate to both the new entity and their former geographical jurisdiction until the transition is completed.

b) Following June 30, 2020, the College of Bishops for each new entity may convene and begin working with the corresponding Founding Team to plan for the new entity.

*5. Annual Conference Affiliation*—a) By June 30, 2021, votes shall be held by secret ballot in each annual conference as to which new entity that annual conference will hereafter belong. A simple majority vote shall suffice. The vote of each annual conference shall be confirmed by the Council of Bishops and be final. If the annual conference does not cast a majority vote for joining any of the new entities, the annual conference shall affiliate with the entity that receives the plurality of votes, and the assets and liabilities of the conference shall be divided among the relevant entities under Part 11.

b) Each annual conference shall also elect a delegation to the organizing conference of their selected entity, consisting of the same number of delegates who were elected to the previous General Conference. If clergy are elected who later indicate their desire to affiliate with another entity, these clergy become ineligible to serve. Lay members elected become ineligible to serve if the local church to which they belong votes to affiliate with another entity. Annual conferences shall elect sufficient numbers of reserve delegates to ensure a full delegation. Legislation may be proposed by each annual conference for the organizational conference of their new entity.

*6. Congregational Affiliation*—a) Congregations will automatically continue to belong to the annual conference to which they previously belonged unless the congregation takes action to change affiliation. Congregations who dissent from the affiliation of their annual conference will have until February 28, 2022 to indicate, by majority secret ballot vote of a duly called church conference (§ 248), their decision to be placed in an annual conference of another entity. If the congregation does not cast a majority vote for joining any of the new entities, the congregation shall affiliate with the entity that receives the plurality of votes. Any minority group within a congregation may organize a new congregation affiliating with a different entity. All dissenting congregations shall remain part of their former annual conference until the conclusion of the organizing conference of the new entity.

b) Churches wishing to change affiliation to another entity after February 28, 2022, may do so only under the provisions of the entity to which they belong at the time and the entity with which they desire to affiliate.

c) The dissenting churches in each annual conference shall convene a conference for their entity, consisting of the lay members of the original annual conference from those congregations or their elected substitutes, along with those clergy who have indicated their desire to af-

filiate with that entity. This special conference shall take place between April 1 and June 30, 2022. This special conference shall elect one clergy and one lay delegate and alternates to serve at the entity's organizing conference.

*7. Clergy Affiliation*—a) Clergy shall have until March 31, 2022 to notify their bishop of their desire to serve in another entity. Their bishop shall forward the names of these clergy to the College of Bishops of the receiving entity. Conference membership will continue in the former conference until a transfer to another annual conference is complete.

b) Subsequent to their original affiliation, but at least 30 days prior to the organizing conference of the new entity, clergy may elect to switch affiliation, but it shall require the approval of a majority of the Founding Team and College of Bishops of the new entity (voting as one body). After that 30-day deadline or after the new entity has formed, clergy may elect to withdraw from their original entity to unite with another one under the provisions of their original entity and conditioned upon the provisions of the new entity they wish to join.

c) All pension benefits earned by clergypersons in The United Methodist Church shall remain intact in whatever successor entity they affiliate with, backed by the assets of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or its successor organization(s) and the successor(s) of the clergyperson's former annual conference.

*8. Organizing Conferences*—a) The colleges of bishops of the respective new entities shall call a special organizing conference for each of the new entities. The conferences shall take place during May 2023.

b) At the organizing conference for each entity, the constitution and bylaws of the entity shall be adopted. The entity shall determine whether to continue with bishops and annual conferences, and if so, how they shall be configured. Each entity shall provide for supervision, connection, and pastoral assignment over the area of countries in which the entity has congregations.

c) Each entity shall create a system for assisting clergy desiring to change affiliation in obtaining membership status in the new entity, in obtaining an appointment in the new entity, and/or in obtaining a transitional appointment. Clergy may continue to serve in an entity other than the new one with which they desire to affiliate until a suitable appointment is found in their new entity. During the time of this transitional appointment, they shall abide by the provisions of the entity in which they are appointed.

*9. Institutional Affiliation*—Any church-related institution that is affiliated with, but not owned by, an annual or jurisdictional conference must choose their affiliation and relationship to the church following the organizing of the new entities and the possible redrawing of annual

conference boundaries. The institution, by its own internal processes, may choose to continue affiliation with the successor annual, jurisdictional, or central conference with which it was previously affiliated, change its affiliation to a new entity, seek affiliation in multiple entities at the same time, or remove its church affiliation entirely. An institution's request to affiliate with a different entity or annual, jurisdictional, or central conference other than the successor to its original conference is contingent upon approval by that entity or conference.

10. *Congregational Property*—The trust clause of each local congregation's property shall be held and administered by the entity with which the local church chooses to affiliate (§§ 2501, 2503). Any of the new entities may choose to modify or dispense with the trust clause entirely. All assets and liabilities previously incurred by a local congregation shall remain with that congregation in its new affiliation, based on the majority or plurality vote of the church conference. This provision shall not, however, preclude a voluntary negotiation dividing some or all of the congregation's assets and liabilities among separating portions of the congregation.

11. *Annual Conference Property*—Assets and liabilities held by an annual conference shall remain with that conference. Local churches and clergy withdrawing from an annual conference to join a new entity are relinquishing any individual share of the assets or liabilities of that conference, except for pension liabilities owed to clergy. Where the conference's affiliation vote under Part 5(a) is less than 75 percent, the conference's assets and liabilities shall be divided proportionally between the entities involved, based on the number of original professing members who are members of each new entity as of May 30, 2023. The assets so divided shall be no less than, and the liabilities so divided no greater than, the amounts on the books at the time the new entities are organized (May 30, 2023).

12. *Jurisdictional or Central Conference Property*—Assets and liabilities held by former jurisdictions and central conferences of The United Methodist Church shall be assumed by the entity chosen by plurality vote of the aggregate number of members in the several annual conferences of that former jurisdiction or central conference. Where the aggregate affiliation vote is less than 75 percent, the conference's assets and liabilities shall be divided proportionally between the entities involved, based on the number of original professing members who are members of each new entity as of May 30, 2023. The assets so divided shall be no less than, and the liabilities so divided no greater than, the amounts on the books at the time the new entities are organized (May 30, 2023).

13. *General Church Property*—a) Assets and liabilities held by boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall be recorded as of May 30, 2023. These assets and liabilities shall be divided among the various new entities based on the number of original professing members joining each new entity as of May 30, 2023.

b) The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, The United Methodist Publishing House, and/or United Methodist Committee on Relief may choose to become independent nonprofit corporations that serve more than one of the new entities that are formed. Such a decision shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its board of directors and a majority vote of the organizing conference of each new entity to be served. Assets and liabilities held by these agencies (serving at least two of the new entities) shall not be divided between the entities that are being served by them, but held by the agency in order to continue serving. If all the new entities are not being served by a given agency, its assets and liabilities shall be divided between the agency itself and the new entities it is not serving, based on the number of original professing members who are members of each new entity as of May 30, 2023.

14. *Arbitration*—a) At all levels (annual conference up through general Church), division of assets and liabilities shall be accomplished through negotiation among the parties involved, taking care to honor the restrictions imposed upon designated funds and trusts. Accounting firms and/or mediators may be employed in this process, with the costs thereof shared by the entities involved at whatever level.

b) Disputes over the division of assets and liabilities shall be settled in binding arbitration by the Judicial Council. Each annual, jurisdictional, or central conference or new entity shall present its case in written form, and the Council shall make the final determination of an equitable division of assets and liabilities. The expenses of any special meetings or travel incurred by the Council for such purposes shall be borne by the conferences engaging in arbitration. The decision of the Council is final and shall not be appealed to the secular courts. The Judicial Council shall complete its arbitration decisions by December 31, 2025.

c) Disputes over proper implementation of this plan may be appealed to the Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals and then to the Judicial Council by the parties involved. Costs of such appeals are to be shared by the parties. The decision of the Judicial Council is final and shall not be appealed to the secular courts.

d) Distribution of assets and liabilities shall take place as soon as practicable, based upon the terms negotiated by the parties involved. Negotiated agreements shall be in place in all instances by December 31, 2024. If an

agreement cannot be reached by December 31, 2024, it shall automatically enter the binding arbitration process with the Judicial Council. Parties may submit to binding arbitration before that date upon mutual consent.

e) The various corporations or property-holding organizations of The United Methodist Church shall dissolve their corporation or organization when all assets and liabilities have been distributed to the new entities. The General Conference and all other unincorporated, non-property-holding organizations of The United Methodist Church shall cease as of May 30, 2023.

f) The Jurisdictional Committees on Appeals and the Judicial Council members and alternates in place as of December 31, 2022, shall continue to serve until December 31, 2025, regardless of which entity they affiliate with, for the purpose of hearing appeals and resolving property disputes relating to the implementation of this plan (Parts 14b-d).

15. Implementation Dates—The following deadlines shall be observed:

April 1, 2019—Ratification votes begin in annual conferences

March 31, 2020—Ratification votes in annual conferences are completed

April 30, 2020—Deadline for Founding Teams to submit their descriptive documents to the Council of Bishops

April 30, 2020—Deadline for Council of Bishops to certify the results of the ratification vote; public release of the descriptive documents for each entity

June 30, 2020—Bishops must indicate publicly which entity they will affiliate with; College of Bishops of each new entity begins working with corresponding Founding Team to plan for the new entity

June 30, 2021—deadline for annual conferences to vote on which entity to affiliate with; election of delegates to organizing conferences

February 28, 2022—deadline for local congregations to vote to join a different entity from the one approved by their annual conference

March 31, 2022—deadline for clergy to indicate to their bishop which entity they wish to affiliate with

June 30, 2022—deadline for dissenting congregations as an annual conference group to elect delegates to the entity with which they are affiliating

May 2023—organizing conferences are held for the new entities

May 30, 2023—recording of all assets and liabilities subject to division; General Conference and all other non-property-holding organizations of The United Methodist Church cease; number of professing members of The United Methodist Church who have joined each congregation in the new entity is to be reported to that entity's

governing body; negotiations begin on dividing annual conference, jurisdictional, central conference, and general church assets and liabilities where needed

December 31, 2024—deadline for negotiated agreements to be in place on division of assets and liabilities

December 31, 2025—deadline for arbitration decisions to be completed by Judicial Council

### **Rationale:**

Irreconcilable differences exist within The United Methodist creating an existential crisis. Dissolution would free the Church from these differences, allowing the resulting entities to move forward in ministry as they are led by God.

### **¶4.**

Petition Number: 90087-¶4-C-G; McRoberts, Sean - Iowa City, IA, USA.

### **Inclusiveness**

Amend ¶ 4:

... no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ~~status~~ ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic condition nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic condition.

### **¶2702.1.**

Petition Number: 90088-¶2702.1-G; McRoberts, Sean - Iowa City, IA, USA.

### **Chargeable Offenses**

Amend ¶ 2702.1:

A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including, but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: ~~being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;~~ (c) crime;

(d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; . . .

### ¶161.C.

Petition Number: 90089-¶161.C-G; Malone, Donald M. - Washington, DC, USA.

#### Sexual Practices

A. Amend ¶ 161.C) to read as follows:

C) *Marriage*—We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between ~~a man and a woman~~ two spouses of the same sexuality who are mutually attracted to one another. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. ~~We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~

B. Amend the second and fourth textual paragraphs of ¶ 161.G) to read as follows:

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only in the covenant of a monogamous, ~~heterosexual~~ marriage between persons of the same sexuality who are mutually attracted to one another.

.....

..... reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone ~~the practice of homosexuality~~ homosexual acts and practices by heterosexuals and considers ~~this practice them~~ incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that . . . . .

C. Amend ¶ 304.3. as follows:

.....highest standards of holy living in the world. ~~The practice of homosexuality is~~ Homosexual acts or practices by heterosexuals are incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore, ~~self-avowed practicing homosexuals~~ heterosexual persons engaging in such acts or practices are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

D. Delete footnote 1. to ¶ 304.3.

E. Amend ¶ 310.2.d) footnote 3 [the third textual paragraph that appears on p. 232 of the printed 2016 *Discipline*] as follows:

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding ~~homosexuality~~ homosexual acts or practices and ordination, reaffirms . . . . .

F. Amend ¶ 310.2.d) footnote 3 [the last textual paragraph that appears on p. 233 of the printed 2016 *Discipline*] as follows:

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that we “do not condone ~~the practice of homosexuality~~ homosexual acts and practices by heterosexuals and consider ~~this practice them~~ incompatible with Christian teaching.” Furthermore, the Principles state that “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between ~~a man and a woman~~ two spouses of the same sexuality who are mutually attracted to one another. We believe . . . . .

G. In ¶ 341., delete subparagraph 6.

H. Amend ¶ 613.19. to read as follows:

To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall ~~give use~~ United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of ~~homosexuality~~ homosexual acts or practices by heterosexuals or violate . . . . .

I. Amend ¶ 806.9. to read as follows:

It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall ~~give use~~ United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of ~~homosexuality~~ homosexual acts or practices by heterosexuals or violate . . . . .

J. Amend subsubparagraph (a) of ¶ 2702.1. to read as follows:

(a) immorality including, but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a ~~heterosexual~~ marriage;

K. Amend subsubparagraph (b) of ¶ 2702.1. to read as follows:

(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including, but not limited to: ~~being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies engaging in sexual acts or practices which are inconsistent with one’s sexuality;~~

#### Rationale:

Our Church doesn’t love people whose attractions to members of their own sexes are innate results of their minority biological sexuality as it loves heterosexual biological majority members. Homosexual biological status is fixed at birth, even if not apparent then.

Thus, we violate the Second Great Commandment. God may punish . . .



**¶304.3.**

Petition Number: 90090-¶304.3-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

**Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Qualifications for Ordination - Brooks**

Amend ¶ 304.3 as follows: While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. ~~The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

**Rationale:**

In answer to the call of the gospel for the Church, as the body of Christ, to be fully inclusive of all people, the portions of the *Discipline* that have negative impact on the lives of LGBTQ persons ought to be stricken.

**¶310.2d.**

Petition Number: 90091-¶310.2d-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

**Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Candidacy Footnote - Brooks**

Amend ¶ 310.2.d) Footnote 3 as follows:

...

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding ~~homosexuality and~~ ordination, reaffirms the present language of the *Discipline* regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.

...

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that ~~“we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”~~ Furthermore, ~~the Principles state that~~ “we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two people a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union.

...

**Rationale:**

In answer to the call of the gospel for the Church, as the body of Christ, to be fully inclusive of all people, the

portions of the *Discipline* that have negative impact on the lives of LGBTQ persons ought to be stricken.

**¶2702.1.**

Petition Number: 90092-¶2702.1-G; Brooks, Lonnie D. - Anchorage, AK, USA.

**Fully Inclusive Way Forward - Chargeable Offenses - Brooks**

Amend ¶ 2702. 1 as follows:

A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including, but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a ~~heterosexual~~ marriage; (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, ~~including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies; ...~~

**Rationale:**

In answer to the call of the gospel for the Church, as the body of Christ, to be fully inclusive of all people, the portions of the *Discipline* that have negative impact on the lives of LGBTQ persons ought to be stricken.

**¶47.**

Petition Number: 90093-¶47-C-!-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

**COB Annual Vote of Confidence Plan #1**

Amend ¶ 47 as follows:

¶ 47. Article III.—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

The council shall conduct an annual trial of every bishop. The trial will consist of a statement from the bishop giving reasons that they should hold the office and then a vote of confidence from the council. In years when bishops are elected, these trials shall be conducted after

the last jurisdictional conference and before new bishops are installed. The trials may be conducted electronically through e-mail or other modes of instant communication without the physical presence of all bishops. The support of a three-fourths majority of active bishops on the council will be required to retain the office of bishop. The vote may be immediately appealed verbally, in writing by e-mail or other mode of instant communication by the bishop in question or any other bishop on the council. After the statement of appeal is considered by the active bishops, a second vote of confidence with the same requirements is final.

#### **Rationale:**

This change allows bishops to police themselves. It outlines a simple procedure to express their support for one another. It is called a trial and appeal to avoid conflict with ¶ 20. If a bishop loses support of a significant minority of their colleagues, then removal is warranted.

#### **¶50.**

Petition Number: 90094-¶50-C-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **COB Annual Vote of Confidence Plan #2**

Amend ¶ 50 as follows:

¶ 50 Article VI.—The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church. The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure with the approval of the Council of Bishops. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined with the approval of the Council of Bishops. The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference. These provisions shall not preclude the adoption

by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

#### **Rationale:**

This change makes the approval of the Council of Bishops one of the requirements to remain in the office of bishop. It gives the council the authority to remove a bishop who has broken covenant with their colleagues. If a bishop loses support of a significant minority of their colleagues . . .

#### **¶401.**

Petition Number: 90095-¶401-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **COB Annual Vote of Confidence Plan #3**

Amend ¶ 401 as follows:

¶ 401. Task—The task of superintending in The United Methodist Church resides in the office of bishop and extends to the district superintendent. . . . The formal leadership in The United Methodist Church, located in these superintending offices, is an integral part of the system of an itinerant ministry and requires the approval of the whole Church expressed in an annual vote of confidence by the Council of Bishops.

#### **Rationale:**

This change adds to the qualifications of a bishop the support of the whole Church which is best expressed by their colleagues on the council. If a bishop loses support of a significant portion of the church, then removal is warranted.

#### **¶413.1**

Petition Number: 90096-¶413.1-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **COB Annual Vote of Confidence Plan #4**

Amend ¶ 413.1 as follows:

¶ 413. Complaints Against Bishops—1. Episcopal leadership in The United Methodist Church shares with all other ordained persons in the sacred trust of their ordination. The ministry of bishops as set forth in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* also flows from the gospel as taught by Jesus the Christ and proclaimed by his apostles (¶ 402). A bishop must maintain the approval and support of colleagues in the Council of

Bishops. Whenever a bishop violates this trust or is unable to fulfill appropriate responsibilities, continuation in the episcopal office shall be subject to review. This review is over and above the annual vote of confidence from the Council of Bishops. This review shall have as its primary purpose a just resolution of any violations of this sacred trust, in the hope that God's work of justice, reconciliation, and healing may be realized.

#### **Rationale:**

The proposed vote of confidence by the Council of Bishops is not the same as a "complaint" but can result in the loss of office since, by this proposal, all bishops must maintain the council's approval. If a bishop loses support of a significant minority of their colleagues, then removal . . .

#### **¶2702.2.**

Petition Number: 90097-¶2702.2-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **COB Annual Vote of Confidence Plan #5**

Amend ¶ 2702.2 as follows:

2. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference, or diaconal minister may be brought to trial when the appropriate body recommends involuntary termination. The Council of Bishop's annual vote of confidence on every bishop (described in ¶ 47) shall be considered a trial and appeal when it results in an involuntary termination.

#### **Rationale:**

This paragraph clarifies that the proposed vote of confidence by the Council of Bishops can result in the loss of the office of bishop since the process is a trial and appeal. If a bishop loses support of a significant minority of their colleague, then removal is warranted.

#### **¶413.1.**

Petition Number: 90098-¶413.1-!-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **General Conference Administrative Power**

Amend ¶¶ 413.1 and 501 as follows:

¶ 413. Complaints Against Bishops—1. Episcopal leadership in The United Methodist Church shares with all other ordained persons in the sacred trust of their ordination. The ministry of bishops as set forth in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* also flows from the gospel as taught by Jesus the Christ and pro-

claimed by his apostles (¶ 402). Whenever a bishop violates this trust or is unable to fulfill appropriate responsibilities, continuation in the episcopal office shall be subject to review. This review shall have as its primary purpose a just resolution of any violations of this sacred trust, in the hope that God's work of justice, reconciliation, and healing may be realized. If the General Conference brings the complaint then the review and resolution will be conducted by the neutral annual conference chosen by the General Conference.

¶ 501. Definition of Powers—The General Conference has full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional (see ¶ 16, Division Two, Section II, Article IV, The Constitution). It has no executive ~~or~~ but some administrative power. When the General Conference brings a complaint against a bishop, jurisdiction, annual conference or other United Methodist entity, it will also specify a venue for seeking a just resolution by trial or other process in a neutral annual conference within the central conferences. The expense of that process shall be borne by the General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

This allows the General Conference to hold accountable those UM entities that express defiance to the *Discipline*. Since we cannot get along in the United States, then it is time to seek the help of wiser brothers and sisters in the central conferences which are vibrant.

#### **¶49.**

Petition Number: 90099-¶49-C-!-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **Jurisdiction to Central Conference Partnerships**

Amend ¶ 49 as follows:

¶ 49. Article V.—The jurisdictions and central conferences shall form partnerships each quadrennium. These partnerships rotate according to a schedule:

2020) West-Congo, North Central-Germany, North-east-West Africa, Southeast-Philippines, South Central-Central and South Europe, Africa-North Europe and Eurasia

2024) West-North Europe and Eurasia, North Central-Congo, Northeast-Germany, Southeast-West Africa, South Central-Philippines, Central and South Europe-Africa

2028) West-Africa, North Central-North Europe and Eurasia, Northeast-Congo, Southeast-Germany, South Central-West Africa, Philippines-Central and South Europe

2032) West-Central and South Europe, North Central-Africa, Northeast-North Europe and Eurasia, Southeast-Congo, South Central-Germany, West Africa-Philippines

2036) West-Philippines, North Central-Central and South Europe, Northeast-Africa, Southeast-North Europe and Eurasia, South Central-Congo, Germany-West Africa

2040) West-West Africa, North Central-Philippines, Northeast-Central and South Europe, Southeast-Africa, South Central-North Europe and Eurasia, Congo-Germany

2044) West-Germany, North Central-West Africa, Northeast-Philippines, Southeast-Central and South Europe, South Central-Africa, North Europe and Eurasia-Congo

Bishops elected in a jurisdictional conference shall be sent to their central conference partner and bishops elected in the central conference will be sent to their jurisdictional partner unless they are not partnered with a jurisdiction. Central conferences without a jurisdictional partner may partner with the other non-aligned conference, or they may elect their own bishops.

The jurisdictional conferences shall meet at the same time as their partnered central conference maintaining connections through e-mails and other forms of instant communication such as video conferencing through the Internet. The jurisdiction will carry the burden of the cost of these electronic connections.

The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences in which they are elected or to which they are sent or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for

transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected or received the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected or received the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or central conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central conference.

#### **Rationale:**

Partnerships strengthen connections within the global church. Bishops would be missionaries, apostles, cross-cultural ministers. A process similar to COWF would result as conservatives learn to deal with progressive leadership and progressives engage thoughtful, passionate traditionalists. We say unity is valuable. These partnerships prove we mean it.

## Notes



## Notes

