

Constitutional Amendment: Allow General Conference to Empower Other Church Units to Distribute Funds

Amend ¶ 16.9:

To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the Church. The General Conference may authorize and empower other Church units or bodies to carry out these duties between sessions of the Conference provided that such bodies are directly amenable and subordinate to the General Conference.

Resolution to Support for Students and Congregations in Central Conferences

WHEREAS: The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

WHEREAS: There is desire that a major effort for the next ten years shall be fostering and sustaining more vital congregations in every region of the Church;

WHEREAS: It is imperative to achieve in the most effective and economical manner the directives of the General Conference and increase the number of vital congregations in ways that are thoroughly consistent with our Wesleyan heritage, theology, and United Methodist polity.

THEREFORE: The General Conference shall authorize the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry to determine and revise during the 2013-2016 quadrennium the most effective ways to fulfill the mission of the UMC including general church programs and spending plans:

- The Board shall evaluate spending across the seven general church funds to assess work in order to identify significant opportunities for improved effectiveness and for achieving efficiencies and economies, reducing spending wherever feasible.
- The Board shall recommend methods and allocations in light of cost-benefit assessments and to support the transition of general agency functions through the formation of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and to support the ministries of all annual conferences (in both jurisdictions and central conferences).
- Following their assessment and evaluation, the Board of Directors shall recommend for joint approval by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and the Council of Bishops a plan for reallocation of spending within each of the seven general church funds with the goal of redirecting spending plans for a sum up to \$60 million in the 2013- 2016 quadrennium for purposes related to the overall work of the UMC and to increase the number of vital congregations.

- The first \$5 million shall be allocated to young people’s lay leadership development, administered through the Division on Ministry with Young People or its successor body.
- The second \$5 million shall be allocated to Central Conference theological education, administered through the GBHEM Global Theological Education Fund or its successor body.
- Additional funds shall be invested for recruiting and training United Methodist ministerial students under the age of 35. A goal is to fund their seminary education at UM seminaries, thus reducing the student debt obligation.
- Additional funds may also be used for other work to increase the number of vital congregations as determined by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry Board of Directors, the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, and the Council of Bishops.

Petition to Implement the Call to Action Recommendations

Delete all disciplinary references to the Connectional Table and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when otherwise specified. See Paragraphs: 263 264, 432, 511, 606, 654, 702, 703, 705, 712, 713, 804, 806, 807, 811, 812, 818, 819, 820, 901-906, 1207, 1310, 1403, 1421, 1637, 1703, 1804, 1806, 1807, 1903, 1907, 1910, 2004, 2201, and 2301.

Delete all references in the Discipline to the General Council on Finance and Administration and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 233,263, 331, 343, 408, 416, 422, 511, 545, 559, 606, 610, 612, 613, 614, 615, 619, 627, 635, 665, 703, 704, 718, 800-823, 905, 906, 1115, 1207, 1208, 1327, 1406, 1407, 1421, 1504, 1506, 1804, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1903, 1904, 2007, 2008, 2201, 2303, 2402, 2502, 2509, and 2533.

Delete all references to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs: 710, 805, 814, 815, 816, 905, 1104, 1100, 1111, 1113, 1114, 1121, 1127, 1203, 1207, 1209, 1313, 1401-1423, and 1911.

Delete references to the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and replace with the Center on Connectional Mission and Ministry or a unit appointed by the Center and assigned to an office. See paragraphs 319, 335,635, 1408, and 1422

Delete references to the Division of Ordained Ministry and replace with the Center on Connectional Mission and Ministry or a unit appointed by the Center and assigned to an office. See paragraphs 338, 1409 and 1421.

Delete all references to the General Board of Global Ministry and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs: 237, 256, 263, 265, 344, 416, 536, 542, 546, 563, 571, 581, 582, 584, 585, 586, 587, 590, 591, 612, 633, 645, 647, 669, 702, 703, 705, 719, 805, 819, 821, 822, 1010, 1107, 1111, 1113, 1121, 1127, 1203, 1207, 1301-1327, 1405, 1406, 1414, 1422, 1423, and 2201.

Delete all references to the General Board of Discipleship and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 533, 610, 630, 631, 645, 649, 667, 702, 703, 705, 807, 906, 1101-1127, 1201-1211, 1313, 1402, 1639, 1640, 1806, 2202, and 2533.

Delete all references to the General Board of Church and Society and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs: 263, 264, 629, 823, 905, 1001-1011, 1127, 1203, 1207, 1209, 1319, 1903, and 2008.

Delete all references to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 705, 807, 811, 1004, 1121, 1208, and 2101-2109.

Delete all references to the General Commission on Religion and Race and replace with the Center on Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 643, 702, 703, 705, 805, 807, 811, 906, 1004, 1121, 1207, 1903, and 2001-2008.

Delete all references to the General Commission on Archives and History and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 264, 641, 702, 703, 705, 906, and 1701-1712.

Delete all references to the General Commission on Communication and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 820, 905, 906, 1121, 1327, 1404, 1637, and 1801-1807.

Delete all references to the General Commission on United Methodist Men and replace with the Board of United Methodist Men except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 256, 264, 537, 648, 670, 702, 703, 705, 805, 906, 1121, 1207, and 2301-2303.

Delete all references to the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries with the Board of United Methodist Women except when referring to its role or position in historical record or otherwise specified. See paragraphs 256, 536, 647, 669, 1010, 1121, and 1207.

When a disciplinary paragraph contains two or more references to the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communications, the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the same sentence, delete all agencies and replace with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry except when referring to their role or position in historical record or otherwise specified in this petition. See paragraphs 702, 703, 705, 805,807, 811, 906, 1004, 1121, 1127, 1203, 1207, 1208, 1209 and 1903.

¶ 263. Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.

Purpose—General Conference shall determine the purpose of the churchwide offerings upon recommendation of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~General Council on Finance and Administration~~, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight ~~Connectional Table~~. The purpose of these offerings shall remain constant for the quadrennium, and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~General Council on Finance and Administration, General Council on Finance and Administration~~ (see ¶ 823.7 and ¶ 805.6). ~~The General Commission on Communication shall promote these offerings in cooperation with the agencies responsible for the administration of these funds. (See ¶ 1806.12.)~~ Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full, except where noted differently below, to the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~General Council on Finance and Administration~~ within thirty days of receipt in the office of the annual conference treasurer.

¶ 510. Duties of the Secretary—The secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for the permanent record of the General Conference, which shall include:

1. Corrections to the Daily Christian Advocate. The editor will then file with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~Commission on Archives and History~~ two bound copies of the Daily Christian Advocate and corrections as the official record of General Conference. Bound copies shall also be made available at cost by The United Methodist Publishing House.

4. All original documents of a General Conference shall be filed with the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~General Commission on Archives and History~~.

¶ 545. Records and Archives—1. The journal of the proceedings of a central conference, duly signed by the president and secretary, shall be sent for examination to the General Conference through its secretary. Two paper copies in every translation shall be sent without charge to the ~~General Commission on Archives and History~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry ~~General Council on Finance and Administration~~, and one copy of a digital version shall be sent along with the paper copies, if available. It is recommended that the journal include memoirs of deceased clergy and deceased clergy spouse.

¶606.2 Each annual conference shall send without charge to the ~~General Council on Finance and Administration~~, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, ~~the General Commission on~~

~~Archives and History~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry, the Central or Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (or the equivalent structure), and the Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History (or the equivalent structure) two printed copies and one digital copy of its annual journal. ~~and one to the Connectional Table and to United Methodist Communications. If available, one copy of a digital version of the journal shall be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History.~~

¶ 613. Responsibilities—~~The council shall~~ An entity designated by the annual conference may have authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:

1. To recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination budgets of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for all funds that provide for annual conference clergy support, annual conference administrative expenses, and annual conference benevolence and program causes (¶ 614).⁵²
2. To receive, consider, report, and make recommendations to the annual conference regarding the following prior to final decision by the annual conference: (a) any proposal to raise capital funds for any purpose; (b) funding considerations related to any proposal that may come before the conference; (c) any requests to conduct a special conference-wide financial appeal, whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise in the local churches of the conference.
3. To recommend to the annual conference for its action and decision the methods or formulas by which apportionments to churches, charges, or districts for duly authorized general, jurisdictional, conference, and district funds shall be determined (¶ 615.4).⁵³
4. To consult and cooperate with the commission on communication in providing district superintendents, pastors, and appropriate officers of the local churches and charge conferences with interpretive aids or other materials to assist in gaining understanding and support of the conference budget and other approved conference causes. This shall include the theology and discipline of financial giving.
5. To develop policies governing the investment of conference funds (except for pension funds as provided in ¶ 1508), whether in debt or equity, short-term or long-term instruments, with the aim of maximizing funds available for mission in a manner consistent with the preservation of capital, the Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments (¶ 716), and the Social Principles of the Church. A statement of such policies shall be printed in the conference journal at least once in each quadrennium.
6. To recommend to the annual conference procedures for funding local churches, including the theology of financial giving.
7. To assist local churches in making their church buildings, facilities, and programs accessible.
8. To recommend to the annual conference for its action procedures for dealing responsibly with situations in which budgeted funds, as approved by the annual conference, are inadequate to meet emerging missional needs or unforeseen circumstances.⁵⁴
9. To review at least quarterly and to account to the annual conference for the disbursement of funds in accordance with budgets approved by the conference.

10. To recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination the conditions under which it may borrow funds for current expense purposes and the maximum amount of such borrowing.

11. To have authority and supervision over the conference treasurer/director of administrative services subject to ¶ 619; to establish policies governing the treasurer/director's work.

12. To work in cooperation with other annual conference agencies for the design and implementation of a plan by which the annual conference may designate the conference treasury as a central treasury for funds designated for any or all conference agencies participating in conference funds.

13. To establish uniform and equitable policies and practices in the employment and compensation of personnel, in consultation and cooperation with other conference agencies that employ staff, unless the annual conference has designated another agency to carry this responsibility. These policies and practices shall be in accordance with the Social Principles (¶ 162 A, E, F, and I). In addition, the council shall recommend that the annual conference provide, effective on and after January 1, 2006, 100 percent vested pension benefits of at least three percent of compensation for lay personnel of the annual conference who work at least 1040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of permanent service. The annual conference shall have authority to provide such pension benefits through either a denominational pension program administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or another pension program administered by another pension provider.

14. ~~To cooperate with the General Council on Finance and Administration and with the General Board of Discipleship in promoting and standardizing the~~ provide a financial recording and reporting system ~~in~~ for the local churches of the conference.

15. ~~In cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, related annual conference agencies and institutions, and local churches, to~~ To make recommendations to the annual conference regarding the development, promotion, and review of a broad general program of insurance protection, except for employee benefit programs.

16. ~~To cooperate with the General Council on Finance and Administration in order to provide leadership, training, and encouragement in the areas of church business administration for individuals and organizations of The United Methodist Church by: (1) distributing information regarding certification as a church business administrator; and (2) listing in the council's report to the annual conference the names of persons certified as church business administrators by the General Council on Finance and Administration who are employed within the bounds of the annual conference.~~

17. To make recommendations to the annual conference for its action and determination regarding plans to initiate or cause to be organized a foundation or similar organization for the purpose of securing, conserving, or expending funds for the direct or indirect benefit or support of the annual conference, or of any conference agency, or any of its programs or work. The ~~Council~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall have opportunity to make its recommendations regarding such plans if the foundation or similar organization is: (1) proposed to be organized by the annual conference itself, whether acting alone or in concert with other

annual conferences; (2) proposed to be organized by any conference council, board, commission, committee, or other agency; (3) to make use of the name United Methodist in its title or solicitation; or (4) proposed for the purpose of soliciting gifts primarily from the United Methodist constituency.

18. To perform such other administrative and fiscal functions and services as the annual conference may assign.

19. To ensure that no apportioned conference funds are expended for the use of alcoholic beverages.

20. 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” (§ 161.F). The Council Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry 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.

¶629 *Conference Board of Church and Society* – 1. The annual conference ~~shall~~ may organize a board of church and society or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationship between the ~~General Board of Church and Society~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and the conference, district....

2. . . . ~~and members of the General Board of Church and Society from the annual conference who shall serve within limits set by ¶¶610.6 and 710.5...~~

¶630 *Conference Board of Discipleship*. The annual conference ~~shall~~ may organize a board of discipleship or other equivalent structure to provide for those functions and maintain the connectional relationship between the ~~General Board of Discipleship~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and the conference, district and local church,. . . ~~The person or persons serving as members(s) of the General Board of Discipleship shall be member(s) of the conference Board of discipleship and may be granted voting privileges.~~

¶634 *Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry*. 1. There ~~shall~~ may be in each annual conference. . .

2. . . . shall provide for the connectional relationship between the ~~Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and the conference, district and local church. ~~and shall provide for a ministry in higher education related to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Division of Higher Education. A person serving as a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from that annual conference shall, by virtue of his or her office, be a member of the conference Board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure.~~

¶ 637. 4 The annual conference ~~council on finance and administration~~ shall make provision in its budget for the expenses of this committee.

82. See Judicial Council Decisions 711, 778.

¶ 641.1. In each annual conference there ~~shall~~ may be a conference commission on archives and history. The number of members of the commission and their terms of office ~~shall~~ may be as the conference may determine and may include an ex officio representative of each United Methodist heritage landmark in its bounds. It ~~shall~~ may be the duty of the commission to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies, including data relating to the origin and history of the conference and its antecedents; to encourage and assist the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage; to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned or discontinued churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents (see ¶ 2548.3); to maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved therein; to provide for the ownership of real property and to receive gifts and bequests; to nominate to the ~~General Commission on Archives and History~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry buildings, locations, or structures within the annual conference for designation as historic sites or heritage landmarks; to maintain contact with officially designated historic sites and heritage landmarks in their bounds; to assist the bishop or the appropriate conference committee in planning for the historical hour and other appropriate historical observances at annual conference sessions; to establish retention and disposition schedules for annual conference and local church records under standards or guidelines developed by the ~~General Commission on Archives and History~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry; to cooperate with and report, when requested, to the general and jurisdictional commissions on archives and history; and to engage with other Wesleyan, Methodist, or Evangelical United Brethren-related denominations in lifting up our joint heritage.

2. The commission may organize a conference historical society and encourage membership therein for the purpose of promoting interest in the study and preservation of the history of the conference and its antecedents. The officers of the conference commission on archives and history may be the officers of the conference historical society. Membership in the historical society shall be established as the society may determine. Membership may include the payment of dues as the society may direct, and in return, members shall receive official publications and publicity materials issued by the commission and the society and other such benefits as may be deemed suitable.

¶ 643.1 There ~~shall~~ may be in each annual conference a conference commission on religion and race or other structure to provide for those functions and maintain the connectional relationships. It shall follow the general guidelines ~~and structure of the General Commission on Religion and Race as outlined in ¶¶ 2002 and 2008, where applicable~~ established by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

¶ 644. There ~~shall~~ may be in each annual conference, including the central conferences a conference commission on the status and role of women or other structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationships.

1. The responsibility of this commission shall be in harmony with ~~the responsibility of the general commission~~ (see ¶ 2103), the following objectives established as guidelines for adaption

to the needs of the respective annual conferences or guidelines provided by the Center on Connectional Mission and Ministry.

¶ 701. ~~Agencies and General Agencies~~ Connectional Structures in the General Church – 1. Connectionalism is an important part of our identity as United Methodists. It is a vital web of interactive relationships (¶131) that includes the agencies of the church as defined in ¶¶ 701.2 and 701.3, with the purpose of equipping local churches for ministry by providing a connection for ministry throughout the world, all to the glory of God. It provides us with wonderful opportunities to carry out our mission in unity and strength.

2. We experience this connection in many ways, including our systems of episcopacy, itinerancy, property, and mutual cooperation and support. Our connectional system performs at least three essential tasks: embracing God’s mission for the Church as making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and ensuring that all components in the connection carry out their appropriate responsibilities in ways that enable the whole United Methodist Church to be faithful in its mission. The term agency, wherever it appears in the Book of Discipline, is a term used to describe the various councils, boards, commissions, committees, divisions, or other units constituted within the various levels of Church organization (general, jurisdictional, central, annual, district, and charge conferences) under authority granted by the Book of Discipline; the term does not and is not meant to imply a master-servant or principal-agent relationship between these bodies and the conference or other body that creates them, except where the authority is specifically granted.

3. General agencies, in particular, are important to our common vision, mission and ministry. They provide essential services beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences through services and ministries that are highly focused, flexible and capable of rapid response. The general agencies of The United Methodist Church are the regularly established councils, boards, commissions, committees, or other units with ongoing responsibilities that have been constituted by the General Conference. Not included are such commissions and committees as are created by the General Conference to fulfill a special function within the ensuing quadrennium, ecumenical groups on which The United Methodist Church is represented, or committees related to the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference.

¶ 701.4. The connectional system will provide resources for organizing our whole Church to enable local congregations, the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs, and the annual conferences (¶6 01), the basic body in the Church, (¶32).-faithfully and fruitfully to make disciples for Jesus Christ; and ensure that all components in the connection carry out their appropriate responsibilities in ways that enables the whole United Methodist Church to be faithful in its mission. General church structures are important to our common vision, mission, and ministry. They provide essential services beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences.

Delete ¶702 and move ¶ 702.5. to ¶716.2

Delete ¶703 and replace as follows:

¶703. Definitions, Structures, and Titles –1. The General Council for Strategy and Oversight -- An organization composed of 45 people who meet annually to review and evaluate the work of

the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. They shall elect members of the Board of Directors as specified in ¶¶ 705 and 906.

2. The Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry -- An organization including the staff of the global church governed by a 15-member Board of Directors elected by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight to perform defined responsibilities in order to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The executive general secretary of the Center shall supervise all offices including those having responsibilities previously assigned to the general boards and commissions as detailed in the 2008 Book of Discipline.

3. Office —A group of staff members assigned to functions and site(s) as established by an agency or Council.

4. Commission--An organization created by the General Conference for the fulfillment of a specific function for a specified or an indefinite period of time.

5. Study Committee--An organization created by the General Conference for a limited period of time for the purpose of making a study. The Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall provide for coordination with and among the study committees except where General Conference otherwise designates.

6. Other Boards-- These include the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the United Methodist Publishing House.

7. Advisory Committee – A designated representative group providing advice and counsel to agencies and/or the General Conference.

8. Membership Organizations – Governing bodies for United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, agencies who raise at least 80 percent of their own funds based on membership dues or fees.

9. Staffing -- The Center shall appoint an executive general secretary as the chief administrative officer of the Center. Each general agency may adopt appropriate staff positions and titles.

Delete ¶704 and replace as follows:

¶704. Connectional Structure Governance --1. All the general agencies, boards, membership organizations and the advisory committee of The United Methodist Church that have been constituted by the General Conference are amenable to the General Conference, except as otherwise provided. The General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall establish long-term strategies to be implemented under the direction of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. The Center shall create and supervise the Office of Shared Services, the Office of Congregational Vitality, the Office of Leadership Excellence, the Office of Missional Engagement, the Office of Justice and Reconciliation, and other offices as it may deem necessary to carry out long-term strategies established by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and the Council of Bishops.

a) Following the initial election of the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry by the Connectional Table, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, the General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall elect all future members of the Center (See ¶907 for the initial election of members of the Board of Directors of the Center).

b). The 15- member Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall be divided into three classes; each class shall serve for four years (except five members of the initial Board shall serve for two years; five members of the initial Board shall serve for three years; and the remaining members of the initial Board shall serve for four years). The General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall fill any vacancies as they occur.

c). The Board of Directors of the Center shall select one lay member to serve as the chair at the pleasure of the Board.

d). The Council is responsible for measuring the effectiveness of the Center.

e) The Center shall supervise the Offices as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

2. Agency and board transparency -- Questions and concerns about programs, projects or decisions of any agency or board may be addressed to that agency or board. Agencies or boards shall acknowledge receipt of requests for information within ten days and provide information requested within the limitations of ¶ 721 within 30 days or as soon thereafter as it is available.

Move ¶ 702.5. to ¶ 716.2

¶ 705. General Agency ~~and Connectional Table~~ Membership—1. The people of God are called to faithful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ. “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12). In response to God’s call, some are called forth from local congregations to fulfill the common mission of The United Methodist Church as an expression of the Church made visible in the world. This call includes the invitation to some to be in ministry with others who together seek to fulfill the vision for the Church as members of general agencies. Such persons come to this ministry as servants of the whole Church.

The following provisions shall govern the nomination and election of the voting membership of those general Church bodies to which the jurisdictional conferences elect and central conferences nominate members. All lay voting members of general agencies and boards ~~and the Connectional Table~~ shall be professing members of the United Methodist Church and active in local churches unless otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. All provisions pertaining to the nomination and election of general agency and board members ~~and Connectional Table members~~ shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the General Conference that enacts them. The secretary of the General Conference shall coordinate the processes pertaining to nominations and election of members of general agencies and boards. ~~and Connectional Table members.~~

2. *Nominations by Conferences--a)* Each annual and missionary conference in the United States, upon recommendation from a committee composed of the bishop and the general and jurisdictional conference delegation, and having allowed opportunity for nominations from the

floor, shall elect persons to be submitted to a jurisdictional pool. The jurisdictional nominating committee shall select persons for election to the following general agencies: ~~Connectional Table the General Council for Strategy and Oversight; General Board of Church and Society; General Board of Discipleship; General Board of Global Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and the United Methodist Publishing House;~~ the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; and the United Methodist Publishing House; ~~General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; General Commission on Communication; General Commission on Religion and Race; and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.~~ Jurisdictional conferences may decide that persons elected by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the jurisdictional nominating committee.

b) Each annual and missionary conference in the United States shall nominate the persons most recently elected as delegates to the General Conference to the jurisdictional pool. In addition, it shall nominate at least fifteen and not more than forty-five persons to the jurisdictional pool, including, where available, at least two racial and ethnic persons from each of the ethnic groups Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, Pacific Islanders; and where available at least one and not more than five persons in each of the following seven categories: (1) clergy (including at least one woman), (2) laywomen, (3) laymen, (4) youth (§ 710.3), (5) young adults (§ 710.3), (6) older adults, and (7) persons with disabilities. Elected members of General and Jurisdictional Delegations, and others nominated by their Annual Conference shall list all of the categories for which they qualify, i.e., nationality, age, gender, ethnic origin, etc., and shall be eligible to be nominated by the Jurisdictional Nominating Committee to a General Agency in any one of the categories for which a delegate is qualified.

~~*c)* Each central conference or a body authorized by it shall nominate to each general program Board membership at least one person from each of the following three categories: (1) clergy, (2) laymen, and (3) laywomen to form a pool from which each Board is to elect the additional members that are to come from the central conferences pursuant to § 705.4.c. These lists shall be sent to the Connectional Table for use by the general agencies in electing additional members.~~

d) All nominees shall list one to three preferences for agency membership. In addition all nominees shall prepare an up to one-hundred-word biographical statement listing experience, gifts, training, and other qualifications for general agency membership. Biographical statements for all persons in the central and jurisdictional conference pools shall be available to the nominating committee members in the meeting at which they make their nominations. Names and biographical data of all persons nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States or the central conferences, but not elected, shall be forwarded by the jurisdictional or central conference secretary to the ~~Connectional Table~~ secretary of the General Conference to be used by the general agencies as a pool from which additional members may be elected (§§ 5e, 6b).6

~~705.2. Additional Nominations~~ In addition to the foregoing provisions (§ 705.1), the ~~Division on Ministries With Young People of the General Board of Discipleship~~ shall nominate ten youth and ten young adults (§ 710.3) to each jurisdictional pool, inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender, size of church, and persons with disabilities.

3. Members of the general agencies ~~and the Connectional Table~~ shall be elected using the following provisions:

a) Each jurisdiction shall elect members of the general agencies ~~and the Connectional Table~~ as provided in ¶ 705.4 and ¶ 705.5. ~~Persons within any jurisdiction elected by the Women's Division to serve as members of the General Board of Global Ministries (¶ 1325) shall be counted in, and not be additional to, the total number of members allocated to each jurisdiction for purposes of determining proportional distribution, but Women's Division members are additional to the membership prescribed in ¶ 1311.1.~~ The secretary of the General Conference shall offer to each jurisdiction a suggested fair and equitable allocation of members to the annual and missionary conferences within each jurisdiction; however, each jurisdiction shall determine for itself how members will be allocated among the annual and missionary conferences of the jurisdiction.

~~Each general agency shall elect at least one, but not more than three, member(s) with vote and voice from among the member churches of the Commission on Pan Methodist Cooperation and Union. In addition, it is recommended that each general agency elect at least one member without vote from among the other member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ. These members would be in addition to those otherwise specified in ¶ 705.3a above. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious shall assist general agencies in their compliance with this provision.~~

Delete 705.3 (b)

e) b) It is recommended that the membership of general agencies include both youth (¶ 256.3) and young adults. It is recommended that, wherever possible, at least 10 percent of the membership of each general agency be equally divided between youth and young adults. The youth and young adult membership of each general agency should be inclusive (consistent with ¶ 705.3d).

d) c) It is recommended that the membership of each of the general agencies seeks to be inclusive based on gender, racial and ethnic persons, age, persons with disabilities, and size of church. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian American, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that a jurisdiction's membership on each general agency be at least 30 percent racial and ethnic persons and incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶ 1105, ¶ 2303.3). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.

e) d) The membership of the Board of General Commission on United Methodist Men shall be elected in accordance with ¶ 537 and ¶ 2303.3. Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, members of the Board Commission holding membership by virtue of office may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

~~4. General Program Board Membership--a) Each general program Board shall have the number of members specified in ¶¶ 1006, 1105, 1311, and 1407, or as determined by the secretary of the General Conference (see ¶ 705.4e).~~

~~705-4-(b) 4. Jurisdictional Membership--~~Each jurisdiction shall elect the number of persons listed in the specific legislation for membership on the General Council for Strategy and Oversight ~~each of the four general program boards~~. In the jurisdictional nominating process for membership on those boards ~~the General Council for Strategy and Oversight~~, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth, young adults, older adults, people with disabilities, and persons from small membership churches. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic

Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that at least 30 percent of a jurisdiction's membership ~~on each general program~~ the General Council for Strategy and Oversight be racial and ethnic persons. It is further recommended that the jurisdictional membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶¶ 1104.1, 1311.2; *see also* ¶¶ 1311.6, 1407). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.⁷

~~c) Central Conference Membership—The total central conference membership on the General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall be one member from each of the seven central conferences. in general agencies shall be 10 percent of the total membership of the general Agencies shall be allocated as follows: at least one from each region (Philippines, Europe, Africa) three each on the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communication, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Board of United Methodist Men, and The United Methodist Publishing House; five each on the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; and seven (one from each Central Conference) on the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries. It is recommended that the central conference membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third lay men, and one-third lay women. The remainder shall be allocated as determined by the Commission on Central Conferences. GCFA will provide the expenses for the additional central conference members.~~

Delete 705.4.(d)

~~705.4.(e)~~ (d) Additional Membership—(1) Additional members shall be elected by each ~~general program~~ board in order to bring into the board persons with special knowledge or background that will aid in the work of the agency, to consider differing theological perspectives, and to perfect the representation of racial and ethnic persons, youth (¶ 710.3), young adults (¶ 710.3), older adults, women and men, people with disabilities, and persons from small-membership churches. After the election of central conference members as provided in ¶ 705.4c, the remaining number of additional members shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to ~~insure~~ ensure to the extent possible that membership of each Board reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible, the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (¶ 705.4b). ~~Each general program Board shall elect additional members as specified in general program Board membership paragraphs. Insofar as possible, no more than one person shall be elected from each episcopal area. It is recommended that such additional membership shall maintain the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, and one-third clergy balance.~~⁸

~~(2) Consultation Membership—It is recommended that each general program Board elect at least one member without vote from among the member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ, other than The United Methodist Church, as an additional member.~~

~~f) Liaison Representatives—The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (Iglesia Metodista Autonomo Afiliada de Puerto Rico) will have one liaison representative, at its own expense, to each of the general program agencies of the United Methodist Church.~~

705.5. Other General Boards —a) Each jurisdictional conference shall elect members from the jurisdictional pool nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States (§ 705.1) in accordance with the specific membership provisions of those agencies as set forth in the Book of Discipline: General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1a), The United Methodist Publishing House (§ 1602), ~~General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (§ 1906), General Commission on Communication (§ 1807), General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (§ 2104), and General Commission on Religion and Race (§ 2003).~~ With the exception of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1) and The United Methodist Publishing House (§ 1602.1) the number of additional members to be elected shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that membership of each agency reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions ~~insuring~~ ensuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (§ 705.4b).

b) Episcopal and additional members, if any, of the general agencies ~~listed in § 705.5a~~ shall be nominated and elected by the procedures specified in the paragraphs listed in §§ 705.1b, 705.1d, and 705.4e. The agencies shall consider names forwarded to them by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight ~~Connectional Table~~ as having been nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States or in the central conferences, but not elected by these conferences to general agency membership. Additional names may be considered in order to perfect the representation as provided in § 705.4e.

§ 706. Nomination of Additional Board Members—1. Giving due consideration to inclusiveness (see §§ 124, 139), each jurisdiction shall designate one clergy, one laywoman, and one layman whom it has elected to a general program agency to nominate the additional members of that program agency (§ 705.4). The members thus designated by the five jurisdictions in each general program agency shall constitute a committee to nominate additional members for that agency and shall be convened as provided in § 706.2. The number of additional members shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to ~~insure~~ ensure to the extent possible that membership of the program agency reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. In so far as possible, the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (§ 705.4b)

2. A bishop designated by the president of the Council of Bishops shall convene the committee as soon as practical after jurisdictional elections have been completed. The committee shall, in so far as possible, use the names forwarded to it by the jurisdictions as having been nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States to their jurisdictional pool as well as names from caucuses and other appropriate groups. To aid the committee, biographical data submitted by the annual conferences (§ 705.1d) shall be made available from the jurisdictional conference secretaries. In addition, general agencies shall submit to the committee names and biographical data of persons eligible for reelection who are willing to serve.

3. The committee shall complete its work prior to the organizational meeting (§ 707) of any of the agencies listed in § 703.5 and report by mail to the previously elected members of each of those agencies the names of persons nominated as additional members of that agency. All members shall be elected and seated before an agency proceeds to the election of officers or any other business.

~~¶ 707. Meetings-- Organization of agencies and boards --1. In those years in which the General Conference holds its regular session, all general program agencies The General Council for Strategy and Oversight, the Advisory Committee on Ministries with Young People, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Board of the United Methodist Publishing House shall meet, organize, and conduct such business as may properly come before ~~the agency~~ them not later than ninety days after the close of the jurisdictional conferences. ~~Each organizational meeting shall be convened by a bishop designated by the president of the Council of Bishops.~~~~

2 All councils, boards, commissions, and committees established by a general, jurisdictional, central, annual, or other conference shall meet and organize as promptly as feasible following the selection of their members.

3 Unless otherwise specified in the *Discipline* or by the establishing conference, every council, board, commission, and committee shall continue in responsibility until its successor council, board, commission, or committee is organized.

Delete ¶ 708 and replace as follows:

¶ 708. Organization--1.Immediately following the 2012 session of General Conference, the Connectional Table as constituted in the 2009-12 quadrennium shall initiate a process and elect the 15 directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry no later than July 31, 2012.

2. The membership of the boards of directors from the 2009-2012 quadrennium of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communications, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be authorized to meet within 90 days of the adjournment of General Conference to transfer responsibility and property from the existing Board to the Board of directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

3. Terms of officers of boards, divisions, and departments, or other subunits shall be for the quadrennium or until their successors are elected, except in the case of the Board of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry (see Para. 704.2(b)).

4. No person shall serve as president or chairperson of more than one general agency or division, department, or the structural counterpart thereof.

5. Staff of boards shall not be eligible to serve as officers of corresponding General Conference legislative committees.

Delete ¶ 709

¶710 Membership Qualifications--1. Members of all ~~general agencies~~ councils and boards shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church. ~~except as provided in ¶ 705.3h.~~

2. Members of all ~~general agencies~~ councils and boards shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the Church, are morally disciplined and loyal to the ethical standards of The United Methodist Church as set forth in the Social Principles, and are otherwise competent to serve as members of general agencies.

3. All youth representatives (¶ 256.3) elected to general agencies shall be at the time of organizational Board meetings twelve to sixteen years of age. All young adults (¶ 256.3) elected to general agencies shall be at the time of organizational Board meetings seventeen to thirty years of age.

4. With the exception of the Board of the United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, a voting member of a council or board ~~general agency~~ shall be eligible for membership on that agency for no more than two consecutive four-year terms unless otherwise stipulated. The four-year term shall begin at the first organizational meeting of that agency following General Conference. Service of more than one year in fulfilling an unexpired or vacated position shall be considered as a full four-year term. To provide a continuing membership on these agencies, it is recommended that each nominating and electing body give special attention to continuing and effective membership on these agencies. If a general agency is merged with another agency, the years served by members prior to the merger shall be counted as part of the maximum specified above.

A person who has been a voting member of general agencies for four consecutive quadrennia shall be ineligible for election to a general agency in the succeeding quadrennium. The foregoing shall not apply to episcopal members.

5. No person shall serve at the same time on more than one general agency or Board, or any part thereof, except where the *Discipline* specifically provides for such interagency representation; provided, however, that if this limitation would deprive a jurisdiction of its full episcopal representation on an agency, it may be suspended to the extent necessary to permit such representation. (See ¶ 905.1a.)

6. A voting member of a general agency, by virtue of such membership, shall become an ex officio (voting) member of the corresponding agency or its equivalent structure, if any, in the annual conference in accordance with the provisions of ¶ 610.6; unless such membership would conflict with ¶ 612.2c (2). ~~Elected lay members of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry may serve as lay observers in their annual conference Board of ordained ministry (¶ 634.1) if so nominated by the resident bishop. Delete remainder of paragraph~~

7. No person who receives compensation for services rendered or commissions of any kind from an agency shall be eligible for voting membership on that agency.

8. No elected member, officer, or other employee shall vote on or take part in deliberations on significant matters directly or indirectly affecting his or her business, income, or employment, or the business, income, or employment of a member of his or her immediate family.

9 a) If any clergy member of a general or jurisdictional agency who was elected to represent a certain annual conference ceases to be a member of that annual conference, or if any lay member so elected changes permanent residence to a place outside the bounds of that annual conference, that member's place shall automatically become vacant.

b) If any clergy member of a general agency who was chosen to represent a certain jurisdiction ceases to be a member of an annual conference in that jurisdiction, or if any lay member so elected changes permanent residence to a place outside the bounds of that jurisdiction, that member's place shall automatically become vacant.

c) If any clergy member of a jurisdictional agency ceases to be a member of an annual conference in that jurisdiction, or if any lay member so elected changes permanent residence to a place outside the bounds of the jurisdiction, that member's place shall automatically become vacant.

10. If a member of a general agency is absent from two consecutive meetings of the agency without a reason acceptable to the agency, that person shall cease to be a member thereof. In that case the person shall be so notified, and that place shall be filled in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the *Discipline*.

11. When a bishop is unable to attend a meeting of an agency of which that bishop is a member, that bishop may name another bishop to attend that meeting with the privilege of vote. When an alternate to a central conference bishop must be named, that alternate shall be another central conference bishop.

¶ **711. Dismissal of Members and Employees**--The councils, boards, committees, or commissions elected, authorized, or provided for by the General Conference shall have full power and authority to remove and dismiss at their discretion any member, officer, or employee thereof:

1. Who has become incapacitated so as to be unable to perform official duties.

2. Who is guilty of immoral conduct or breach of trust.

3. Who for any reason is unable to or who fails to perform the duties of the office or for other misconduct that any council, board, committee, or commission may deem sufficient to warrant such dismissal and removal.

In the event that any member, officer, or employee of such council, Board, committee, or commission, elected, authorized, or provided for by the General Conference, is found guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude by any federal, state, or county court or pleads guilty thereto, then the council, board, committee, or commission of which that person is a member, officer, or employee shall be and is hereby authorized to remove such member, officer, or employee so convicted; and the place so vacated shall be filled as provided in the *Discipline*.

¶ **712. Vacancies**--Unless otherwise specified (i.e. see ¶702.4.2) vacancies on general agencies and boards occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled as follows: an episcopal vacancy

shall be filled by the Council of Bishops; a vacancy in the jurisdictional or central conference membership shall be filled by the corresponding College of Bishops, with notice of the vacancy sent by the agency to the secretary of the Council of Bishops; a vacancy in the additional membership shall be filled by the agency itself. When the vacancy has been filled, the secretary of the agency will immediately notify the new member's annual conference secretary.

~~¶ 713. *Election of General Secretaries of Program Agencies*—The general secretary of each general program agency that is accountable to the Connectional Table shall be elected annually by ballot of the board of the agency involved. Each general program agency shall elect annually by ballot its deputy and associate general secretary(ies) and may elect or appoint such other staff as may be necessary.12~~

~~¶ 714 *Provisions Pertaining to Staff*--1. The executive general secretary of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall not hold ~~—No elected general program agency staff shall hold the same position more than twelve years. Years of service prior to January 1, 1989, are not counted. The agency responsible for the election of such staff may annually suspend this provision by a two-thirds ballot vote.13~~~~

Note: ¶714.1 has been revised and moved to ¶904

2. Official travel of the staffs of agencies shall be interpreted to include all travel that is necessary in the performance of official duties directly related to the agency functions. No staff person shall accept honoraria for such official duties. A staff member may accept an engagement not related to the functions of the employing agency when such an engagement does not interfere with official duties; the staff member may accept an honorarium for services rendered in connection with such engagements.

3. Normal retirement for all general agency staff personnel shall be at age sixty-five or the completion of forty years of service to The United Methodist Church in an elective, appointive, or employed capacity. Mandatory retirement for elective and appointive staff shall be at age seventy. There shall be no mandatory retirement age for other employed staff. All general agency staff personnel may elect to retire from the employing general agency at any time in accordance with the policy in place at the general agency or, ~~if the general agency has a voting representative on the Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices of the General Council on Finance and Administration, with the policy established by the General Council on Finance and Administration upon recommendation of the Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices.~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

4. Provisions of the Staff Retirement Benefits Program, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Retirement ~~Security Program Plan~~ Plan for General Agencies of The United Methodist Church, shall be reviewed, ~~with recommendations, by the Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. (¶ 807.13b).~~

a) Each general agency shall sponsor or participate in a group health care plan that covers the agency's full-time clergy and full-time lay employees in the United States. For the purpose of this paragraph, group health care plan shall mean a health insurance plan, group health care plan, or multiple-employer health care plan that provides benefits for major medical and hospitalization expenses. The sponsoring general agency may determine additional eligibility for

the group health care plan in its discretion. In addition, general agencies shall develop and maintain health and wellness programs for their full-time clergy and full-time lay employees. Moreover, each general agency shall annually submit its health plan data, de-identified as necessary, including, but not limited to, financial soundness, claims experience and other cost drivers, plan designs and coverage, and eligibility to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

b) Each general agency shall respect the health and wholeness of its clergypersons and lay employees, who have retired in accordance with the general agency's retirement policy, and their spouses, by providing access to Medicare supplement plans and prescription drug coverage plans. Access for retirees and their spouses may include, but shall not be limited to, (i) sponsoring an employer retiree health care plan that supplements Medicare; (ii) participating in a multiple employer retiree health care plan that supplements Medicare; (iii) securing eligibility under group contracts with Medicare supplement plan providers; (iv) subsidizing the costs for retired clergypersons and lay employees and their spouses to enroll in Medicare Part D plans or Medicare Advantage plans; (v) providing subsidies toward and group relationships with providers of individual retiree policies; and (vi) providing fixed dollar retiree health benefits.

d) ~~On or before December 31, 2008, each~~ Each general agency must submit a biennial generally accepted financial valuation, such as in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 106, as amended, of its projected medical liabilities for its population covered by its employer retiree health care plan to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, ~~and must submit a similar report biennially thereafter. EX~~

~~5. All general secretaries, deputy general secretaries, associate general secretaries, assistant general secretaries, and treasurers~~ executives of all general agencies shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church. This provision shall not apply to persons employed prior to the 2004 General Conference. ~~14 This legislation shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the 2004 General Conference.~~

6. No member of the staff of a general agency shall be eligible for voting membership on any general or jurisdictional agency of The United Methodist Church, except where the *Discipline* specifically provides for such interagency representation.

7. ~~Elected~~ Executive staff shall be allowed voice, but not vote in the agency and its subunits.

8. All elected staff persons of general agencies shall be persons who model themselves after the servanthood of Jesus Christ. They shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the Church and are committed to the oneness of the body of Christ, are morally disciplined and shall uphold the doctrinal and ethical standards of The United Methodist Church as set forth in the Doctrinal Standards (§ 103) and Social Principles, and are competent to administer the affairs of a general agency.

9. Prior to any interviews of clergypersons for general Board or agency staff positions, the bishop of the clergyperson under consideration shall be consulted at the initiative of the Board or agency.

¶ **715. *Nondiscrimination Policies***--1. It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, and educational institutions, shall: (a) recruit, employ, utilize, recompense, and promote their professional staff and other personnel in a manner consistent with the commitment of The United Methodist Church to women and men of all races and ethnic origins, including persons with disabilities; (b) fulfill their duties and responsibilities in a manner that does not involve segregation or discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, sex, or disability, including HIV status; and (c) provide for adequate representation by laity.

2. All agencies and institutions shall, insofar as reasonably possible, schedule and hold all events, including designated places of lodging and meals for the events, in accessible settings that adequately accommodate persons with disabilities.

If for any reason whatsoever any event is scheduled or held in a facility that does not so conform, all notices of the meeting will include plainly stated advice to that effect, or alternatively may bear a logo consisting of the international symbol for access placed inside a slashed circle. The term *event* shall be given a broad interpretation and shall include, by way of example, scheduled conferences, seminars, and other meetings to which persons are invited or called to attend as representatives of the Church or its various institutions and agencies.

¶ **716 *Socially Responsible Investments***—1. It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.

2. If any district, annual conference, or general agency initiates, joins, monitors, or terminates a boycott, the guidelines in the 2008 Book of Resolutions should be followed. The General Conference is the only body that can initiate, empower, or join a boycott in the name of The United Methodist Church.

¶ **717 *Record Maintenance***--Each general agency shall keep a continuous record of its advocacy roles, coalitions, and other organizations supported by membership or funds, and endorsement or opposition of federal or state legislation. Information concerning these activities shall be available to United Methodist churches upon written request. Organizations not officially related to the General Conference may take positions only in their own names and may not speak for a general agency or the denomination as a whole (¶ 509.1).

¶ **718 *Decisions for Program Expenditures***--All programs or general funds administered by any general agency of The United Methodist Church (¶ 701) that are proposed to be used within an annual conference shall be implemented or disbursed only after consultation with the presiding bishop, the director of connectional ministries or equivalent, the Council on Ministries, and the appropriate district superintendent(s) of that annual conference. Consultation in matters of

program implementation, funding, and relationships among various agencies, conferences, and other bodies of the Church requires communication, including written documentation, in which each party reveals plans and intents in such a way as to assure dialogue and mutual awareness, even if not agreement.¹⁵

¶ **719** *International and Ecumenical Settings*--~~The General Board of Global Ministries Council of Bishops shall facilitate and coordinate the program general church relationships of other program agencies of The United Methodist Church with colleague churches and agencies in nations other than the United States. The resources of the General Board of Global Ministries Center shall also be available to the Council of Bishops in the implementation of its responsibilities as defined in ¶ 416.2, .3.~~ Central conferences of The United Methodist Church may request program and other assistance through direct relationships with the ~~program agencies of The United Methodist Church~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

¶ **720** *Program and Fiscal Year*--1. The program and fiscal year for The United Methodist Church shall be the calendar year.

2. Unless otherwise specified in the *Discipline* for a specific purpose, the term *quadrennium* shall be deemed to be the four-year period beginning January 1 following the adjournment of the regular session of the General Conference.

¶ **721.** *Restrictions on Closed Meetings*—In the spirit of openness and accountability, all meetings of councils, boards, agencies, commissions, and committees of the Church at all levels of the church, including subunit meetings and teleconferences, shall be open. Portions of a meeting may be closed for consideration of specific subjects if such a closed session is authorized by an affirmative public vote of at least three-fourths of the voting members present. The vote shall be taken in public session and recorded in the minutes. Documents distributed in open meetings shall be considered public.

Great restraint should be used in closing meetings; closed sessions should be used as seldom as possible. Subjects that may be considered in closed session are limited to real estate matters; negotiations, when general knowledge could be harmful to the negotiation process; personnel matters;¹⁷ issues related to the accreditation or approval of institutions; discussions relating to pending or potential litigation or collective bargaining; communications with attorneys or accountants; deployment of security personnel or devices and negotiations involving confidential third-party information. Meetings of the committee on pastor-parish or staff-parish relations are to be closed meetings pursuant to ¶ 258.2e. While it is expected that the General Conference, the Judicial Council, and the Council of Bishops will live by the spirit of this paragraph, each of these constitutional bodies is governed by its own rules of procedure.

A report on the results of a closed session shall be made immediately upon its conclusion or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

17. See Judicial Council Decisions 751, 869.

¶ **722** *Translation of Church Name*--The name of The United Methodist Church may be translated by any central conference into languages other than English. The United Methodist Church in the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference and the Germany Central Conference may use the name *Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche*.

¶ 724 *Church Founding Date*--The United Methodist Church (¶ 139) has become the successor to all rights, powers, and privileges of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. The two churches, from their beginnings, have had a close relationship. The Methodist Church, the first of the two churches to organize, dates from the Christmas Conference of 1784. Therefore, The United Methodist Church recognizes as its founding date the year 1784.

All General Conferences shall be designated not in numerical sequence from any particular date, but merely by the calendar years in which they are respectively held. An annual conference, local church, or other body within The United Methodist Church that is composed of uniting units with differing dates of origin shall use as the date of its founding the date of founding of the older or oldest of the uniting units while remaining sensitive to the recording of the entirety of the Church's history, including all information regarding the younger unit.

Delete ¶801-¶809 and replace as follows:

Section II. the General Council for Strategy and Oversight

¶801 Purpose—In consultation with the Council of Bishops, the General Council for Strategy and Oversight (the Council) shall discern and articulate a vision for the church and develop long-term strategies to be implemented by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

¶ 802. Objectives--. 1. The essential functions of the Council are:

- a). To provide strategic guidance to increase understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church as determined in consultation with the Council of Bishops and/or the actions of the General Conference.
- b). To appoint members and set goals for the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.
- c). To review and report to General Conference on the missional effectiveness of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry as it seeks to aid annual conferences and local churches in their effort to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- d) To assess and report about the work of the General Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry to the General Conference.

¶ 803 Organization of the Council — 1. Membership—The voting members of the Council shall consist of 45 persons as follows:

- a) Twenty-eight persons elected through jurisdictional and central conferences, one from each of the central conferences by their own nomination processes and 21 from the jurisdictional conferences elected by the jurisdictional nomination process. Jurisdictional membership shall include one person from each jurisdiction and the balance of the jurisdictional members shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to ensure to the extent possible that the members represent the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership.
- (b) Five bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops, one of whom shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops to serve as the chair of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight.

(c) Five members from racial ethnic caucuses as selected by Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodists Associated to Represent Hispanic Americans, Native American International Caucus, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, and Pacific Islanders National Caucus United Methodists.

(d) Three representatives from the Advisory Committee on Ministries with Young People.

(e) The chief executive officer of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the president and publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House, the chief staff executives of the boards of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women shall be members with voice and without vote. Their agencies shall cover the cost of their participation.

2 (a) Jurisdictional, central conferences, and other groups involved in the nominating and election of persons to the General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall ensure the diversity objectives of, insofar as possible, fifty percent clergy, fifty percent laity, fifty percent female, fifty percent male, not less than thirty percent members of racial/ethnic groups (excluding central conference members), and not less than ten percent youth and young adults, ensuring diversity as otherwise provided in ¶ 705.5b.

(b) Vacancies of members elected from central and jurisdictional conferences occurring between sessions of the general conference shall be filled by the College of Bishops where the vacancy occurred, in so far as possible from the same annual conference.

(c) Members shall meet all the membership qualifications as expressed in ¶ 710.

¶804 Meetings -- The Council for Strategy and Oversight shall meet at least annually and at such other times as are necessary on call of the president or on written request of one-fifth of the members.—One more than half of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

¶805. Officers -- Officers other than the chair shall be elected by members of the Council and shall serve for a quadrennium or until their successors are duly elected.

¶806. Internal Structure -- The Council shall determine its own internal structure and policies as it deems appropriate for the performance of its duties.

Replace ¶1609 as follows:

¶807 The Curriculum Resources Committee— 1. There may be a Curriculum Resources Committee, organized by the General Council on Strategy and Oversight, which shall be responsible for the construction of plans for curriculum and curriculum resources to be used in the Christian educational ministry of the Church and other study settings.

2. The Curriculum Resources Committee shall carefully review and act on the plans constructed and proposed by the staff of Church School Publications of the United Methodist Publishing House.

3. The plans for curriculum and curriculum resources shall be designed to help local churches carry out the Church’s educational ministry with children, youth, young adults, adults, and families and to meet the needs of various racial, ethnic, age, cultural, and language constituencies, as well as the needs of persons of various learning capacities, backgrounds, levels of psychological development, sight and hearing impairments, and Christian maturity. Plans for curriculum shall give particular attention to the characteristics and needs of small membership congregations. They shall be for use in a variety of settings, both formal and informal, including

Sunday schools; fellowship groups; outdoor experiences; family life; leadership education; campus ministries; preparation with parent(s), guardian(s), and sponsor(s) or godparent(s) who are presenting children to be baptized; and classes preparing youth for their profession of faith and their confirmation.

4. The plans for curriculum and curriculum resources shall reflect a unity of purpose and a planned comprehensiveness of scope. They shall be designed to support the total life and work of the Church, shall teach Christian truth consistent with the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules of The United Methodist Church (¶ 103), and shall reflect the official positions of The United Methodist Church as authorized by the General Conference.

5. The curriculum resources shall meet the needs of pastors in local churches of various sizes, locations, and racial, ethnic and cultural constituencies.

6. All curriculum resources shall: a) be based on the Bible and reflect the universal gospel of the living Christ and b) use the traditional calendar year designations of B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini, or Year[s] of the Lord).

7. The United Methodist Publishing House shall at its discretion publish, manufacture, and distribute the curriculum resources prepared by its-editorial staff.

8. The work of the Curriculum Resources Committee shall be administered and financed by The United Methodist Publishing House and may be conducted in the most economical manner possible, including the use of web technology, conference calls, etc., as determined by The United Methodist Publishing House.

¶808. *Membership of the Curriculum Resources Committee*--1. The Curriculum Resources Committee shall consist of eight voting members elected quadrennially by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight as follows:

a) A bishop with experience in teaching and learning ministries, to be named by the Council of Bishops.

b) Seven members, nominated by the General Council who shall be selected for expertise in educational ministries and knowledge of the various concerns of congregations in teaching and learning ministries.

c) The president and publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House and an executive appointed by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall be ex officio members of the Curriculum Resources committee with the privilege of voice but without vote.

Retain ¶817-823 changing the name of the General Council on Finance and Administration wherever it appears to the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. Move these paragraphs to Paragraphs following 907.

Delete ¶901-¶907 and replace as follows:

Section III. The Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry

¶ 901. Name—1. There shall be a Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry (the Center) in The United Methodist Church which is responsible for the management of the offices under policies established by the General Council on Strategy and Oversight.

Effective July 31, 2012, the Center shall be assigned the primary responsibilities, previously assigned to the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the Commission on Archives and History, the Commission on Communications, the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Role and Status of Women.

¶ 901.2 Upon the adjournment of General Conference, the corporations and functions of all agencies receiving general church funds will continue under the direction of the Center as elected by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and will be reorganized into the offices as described in ¶¶ 1101-1105.

¶ 902. Membership – 1. Following initial election by the Connectional Table (see ¶ 907), future members of the 15-member Board of Directors of the Center shall be appointed by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight. The bishop who serves as chair of the Council for Strategy and Oversight shall be an ex officio member of the Center with voice, but without vote.

¶ 902.1 In addition to meeting all other disciplinary requirements for membership on United Methodist agencies, directors of the Center shall be members of the United Methodist Church with some combination of the following skills:

- a) Experience teaching, leading and serving at the local church and annual conference levels;
- b) A high level of writing and verbal skills;
- c) Experience in leading and/or governing large complex organizations;
- d) Experience in implementing large-scale change in either non-profit or corporate settings;
- e) Specific skill sets in at least one of the following: financial planning and management; human resources management; organizational change management; large organization operations management; information technology management; real estate management; consulting in organizational development; or long-range strategic planning;
- f) Experience in working with measurable results along with high expectations, and a passion for excellence and sense of urgency.

¶ 902. Incorporation--The Center shall be incorporated in such state or states, as the Center shall determine. This corporation shall be the successor corporation and organization to the Connectional Table, the General Council on Finance and Administration, and the General Council on Ministries of The United Methodist Church, an Ohio corporation, and the Program Council of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 903. Amenability--The Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall report and be amenable to the General Council for Strategy and Oversight between sessions of the General Conference.

¶ 904. Staff -- The Center shall elect an executive general secretary and, upon nomination by that executive, the Board of Directors shall name executives of each of the five offices. The executive general secretary shall be limited to a total of 12 years in the same office. This limitation may be extended annually by a two-thirds ballot vote of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight. The executive general secretary shall be ex officio on the Board of Directors of the Center with voice but without vote.

¶ 905 Responsibilities -- The performance of all functions assigned by General Conference in ¶¶ 1001-1011; ¶¶ 1101-1127; ¶¶ 1201-1212; ¶¶ 1301-1317; ¶ 1327; ¶¶ 1401-1423; ¶¶ 1701-1712; ¶¶ 1801-1808; ¶¶ 2001-2008; ¶¶ 2101-2109 of the 2008 Book of Discipline shall be the responsibility of the Center.

In order to be accountable to The United Methodist Church through the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, The Board of Directors of the Center shall have the authority and responsibility in the following matters:

1. To protect the resources and assets of the denomination.
2. To enable the flow of information and communication among annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, general agencies, and the Council of Bishops.
3. Consistent with actions of the General Conference to coordinate the program life of the church with the mandates of the gospel, the mission of the church, and the needs of the global community by listening to the expression of needs, addressing emerging issues, and determining the most effective, cooperative, and efficient way to provide optimum stewardship of ministries, personnel, and resources.
- .4. To recommend to the General Council for Strategy and Oversight for consideration by General Conference such changes and implementing legislation as may be appropriate to ensure effectiveness of the offices, departments, and general agencies.
5. To provide leadership in planning and research, assisting all levels of the church to evaluate needs and plan strategies to carry out the mission of the church.
6. To receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal be the successor in trust of: The General Council on Finance and Administration, The Board of Trustees of The United Methodist Church; The Board of Trustees of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of The Evangelical Church, an unincorporated body; The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, incorporated under the laws of Tennessee; and The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Protestant Church, incorporated under the laws of Maryland; and so far as may be legal, as such successor in trust, it is authorized to receive from any of its said predecessor corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character-real, personal, or mixed-held by them or any one of them, or to merge into itself any one or more of its said predecessor corporations. Any such trusts and funds coming to it as successor corporation, either by transfer or by merger, shall be administered in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said predecessor corporations or unincorporated body. These funds shall not include funds held and managed by the United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

7. To appoint a Committee on Audit and Review, no members of which shall be officers or members of the Board of Directors. Not included are the audits of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the United Methodist Publishing House. In any matter of possible or potential financial impropriety reported to the committee by the auditors, the committee chair shall immediately inform the executive general secretary and the staff executive of the applicable office.
8. To review and approve special offerings and churchwide appeals upon consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight.
9. To evaluate spending across the seven general church funds in order to support the witness and ministry of the denomination in ways that are consistent with our Wesleyan heritage, theology, and United Methodist polity.
10. To administer all funds and institutions formerly related to general agencies including all foundations previously managed by general agencies on behalf of the United Methodist Church. These funds shall not include funds held and managed by the United Methodist Publishing House, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the Board of United Methodist Women.
11. To lead the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries.
12. To promote and maintain active and effective systems for youth and young adult ministry programming at the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional/central conference, and general church levels for the full involvement of young people in leadership and membership;
13. To develop and support three constituency networks: a Network for United Methodist Youth, a Network for United Methodist Young Adults, and a Network for United Methodist Workers With Young People.
14. To plan and carry out a quadrennial global young people's convocation and to provide program resources and support services for regional and national convocations;
15. To provide administrative oversight to the Youth Service Fund;
16. To supervise the use of the official United Methodist insignia and preserve the integrity of its design. Any commercial use of the design must be explicitly authorized in writing by an appropriate officer of the Center.
17. To identify the needs, concerns, and potential contributions of older adults and to plan of comprehensive ministry by, with, and for older adults in local churches that includes spiritual growth, education, training, mission, service, and fellowship;
18. To develop and administer a program of financial grants for older adult ministries.
19. The Center may assign any of the above responsibilities to one or more of the five offices, and it shall continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the offices.

¶ 906 Fiscal Responsibilities—1. 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 Center and distributed only in support of the ministries of the respective funds.

2. The Center shall be accountable to the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and General Conference in all matters relating to the receiving, disbursing, and reporting of such funds, and, with the exception of the Board of the United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, general agencies receiving such funds shall be fiscally accountable to the Center.

3. Titles to historic sites and heritage landmarks, and such historical properties as may be acquired in the future, shall be held by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

4. Between the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, proposed churchwide financial appeals shall require the approval of the Center, the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and Council of Bishops. In case of emergency, the executive committee of these bodies may act in such matter for the body itself, but only by a three-fourths vote.

5. The Center 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” (¶ 161.F). The ~~Council~~ Center shall have the right to stop such expenditures.¹⁹ It shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

6. In the exercise of its fiscal accountability role, the Center shall have the authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:

a) It shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference, for its action and determination, budgets of expense for each of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1, and such other general funds as the General Conference may establish. It shall also make recommendations regarding all other funding considerations to come before General Conference. Actual receipts for each fund for the quadrennium then ending shall be the basis for all budgeting procedures and comparisons for the coming quadrennium.

b) In consultation with the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and the Council of Bishops, the Center may reallocate available monies during the quadrennium among the various functions and offices within the World Service Fund and within the General Administration Fund.

c) The Center and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall estimate the total dollar amount available for distribution from the World Service Fund.

d) In consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, the Center will make recommendation regarding all funding considerations to come before the General Conference.

907. Organizational meeting— In consultation with the Council of Bishops, members of the Connectional Table from the 2009-2012 quadrennium shall select directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry at a meeting immediately following the 2012 General Conference; the newly chosen members of the Board of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall meet by July 31, 2012 to begin implementing the changes in the program structure of the United Methodist Church.

Delete 1001 to 1011 and replace as follows:

Section IV. Offices of the United Methodist Church

¶ 1001. The Office of Shared Services 1. The Office of Shared Services provides the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry with financial counsel and services, administrative and technological support, churchwide communications and archival maintenance, and other services as determined by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

2. Staff -The Office shall be led by an executive who reports to and is amenable to the executive general secretary.

Delete ¶¶ 1701-1709;

Retain 1710-1712

¶1002 The Office of Leadership Development 1. There shall be an Office of Leadership Development to develop excellence in lay and clergy leaders of the United Methodist Church with special attention to institutions of higher education, campus ministries, the education and ordination of clergy, and to carry out other functions as determined by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

2. Staff- The Office shall be led by an executive who reports to and is amenable to the executive general secretary.

Delete ¶¶ 1401-1413, 1421

¶ 1003. Office of Congregational Vitality 1. There shall be an Office of Congregational Vitality to assist annual conferences, districts, and local churches in their efforts to win persons to Jesus Christ as his disciples, to help these persons grow in their understanding of God that they may live in the Spirit of God in every relationship, and to carry out other functions as determined by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

2. Staff -The Office shall be led by an executive who reports to and is amenable to the executive general secretary.

Delete ¶¶ 1101-1127

¶ 1004 Office of Missional Engagement. 1. There shall be an Office of Missional Engagement to serve as a missional instrument of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences, and local congregations in the context of a global setting. The goal of the office is to embody and exemplify God's mission to reclaim, restore and redeem all creation. The office shall discern those places where the gospel has not been heard or heeded and to

witness to its meaning throughout the world, inviting all persons to newness of life in Jesus Christ through a program of global ministries. The office shall engage in ministries to human need in emergency situations and in institutional and non-institutional settings. The office shall also perform other functions as determined by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

2. The office shall be responsible for the United Methodist Committee on Relief and provide service as funds are available as requested by central conferences.

Delete references to the General Board of Global Ministries and substitute the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry in all paragraphs in ¶ 1327.2 and renumber as 1103.2

-3. Staff -The Office shall be led by an executive who reports to and is amenable to the executive general secretary.

Delete ¶¶ 1301-1327.1,

¶ 1005 Office of Justice and Reconciliation 1. There shall be an Office of Justice and Reconciliation to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church with the persons and structures of the communities and world in which they live and to ensure that women and members of ethnic and racial groups of The United Methodist Church will have equal opportunities for service, representation, and voice on every level of the Church's life and ministry and the world beyond the church. The office shall identify and address the root causes of poverty, and fulfill other functions as determined by the Board of Directors of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

2. Staff -The Office shall be led by an executive who reports to and is amenable to the executive general secretary.

Delete ¶¶ 1001-1011, 2001-2008, and 2301-2303.

Section V. The United Methodist Publishing House

¶¶ 1601.1201. The United Methodist Publishing House-- Authorization and Establishment—The United Methodist Publishing House comprises the publishing interests of The United Methodist Church. It shall have responsibility for and supervision of the publishing and distribution for The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Publishing House shall, through agencies or instrumentalities it deems necessary, achieve the objectives set forth in ¶ 1613. The United Methodist Publishing House shall provide publishing and distribution services for other agencies of The United Methodist Church and shall share with other agencies of The United Methodist Church in the total program of The United Methodist Church, as well as share in the total ecumenical program in the area of publishing for the advancement of the cause of Christ and his Kingdom as The United Methodist Publishing House shall determine to be appropriate. All matters related to the work of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be under the direction of the Board of The United Methodist Publishing House in accordance with the provisions of the 1996 Book of Discipline and the Restrictive Rules (¶ 22, section III, article VI, of the Constitution) until and unless the General Conference takes specific action amending these provisions. The effective date of this subparagraph shall be the close of 2000 General Conference.

Delete ¶ 1602 and replace as follows:

¶ 1202. The Board of the United Methodist Publishing House shall consist of up to thirty-five members as follows:

a. Episcopal members – Two bishops named by the Council of Bishops

b) Jurisdictional members – Twenty-five members elected by the jurisdictional conferences based on the following formula: North Central – 4; Northeastern - 4; South Central – 5; Southeastern - 6; and Western – 1.

c. Additional members – Up to eight additional members may be elected by the Board with consideration given to special knowledge and background in publishing, marketing and related business fields, and representation of women and racial ethnic groups not elected by the jurisdictions.

d) The publisher of The United Methodist Church (¶ 1614) shall be an ex officio member of the Board without vote.

Retain paragraphs ¶¶1603 to 1642 renumber as ¶¶1203 to 1242

Section VI. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits

~~¶ 1501. Establishment—1. a) There shall be a General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, hereinafter called the general Board, having the general supervision and administration of the support, relief, and assistance and pensioning of clergy of this denomination, lay workers of the various units of the Church, and their families.~~

¶1301. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits 1. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized and empowered to manage and administer the benefit funds, plans and programs of the denomination, and provide administrative support, trusts and investments to The United Methodist Church and its constituent boards, agencies, conferences, organizations and other institutions.

b) The general Board shall be the successor to the General Board of Pensions of The United Methodist Church, the Board of Pensions of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the General Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church.

2. The general Board shall have authority to establish, maintain, and discontinue the location of its headquarters office and such auxiliary offices as it shall deem proper and advisable.

3. The general Board shall report to and be amenable to the General Conference.

~~¶ 1502. 1.Membership—a) The membership of the general Board shall be composed of two bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences from the annual conference nominations on a ratio providing for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions, based on the combined clergy and laity membership thereof, as determined by the secretary of the General Conference; six members, with not more~~

~~than two from the same jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops; and eight additional members for the purpose of bringing to the general Board special knowledge or background, not more than two from the same jurisdiction, nominated and elected by the general Board in such manner as it shall provide in its bylaws.~~

¶ 1302. *Membership* – a) The membership of the Board shall be composed of two bishops elected by the Council of Bishops; sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences from the annual conference nominations on a ratio providing for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions based on the combined clergy and laity membership thereof, as determined by the secretary of the General Conference and eight additional members for the purpose of bringing to the Board special knowledge or background not more than two from the same jurisdiction, nominated and elected by the Board in such manner as it shall provide in its bylaws.

Retain ¶1502b and following paragraphs through ¶1509 Renumber as ¶¶1302b to ¶1309

Section VII. Membership Organizations

~~¶ 1318. The Women's Division~~ **1400—*The Board of United Methodist Women*** 1. The Board of United Methodist Women shall be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and shall interpret the purpose of United Methodist Women. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today's world, the ~~Women's Division Board~~ **Board of United Methodist Women** shall be an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and children; shall work to build a supportive community among women; and shall engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement throughout the organization.

~~¶ 1319-¶1402.~~ **Responsibilities—**The responsibilities of the ~~Women's Division~~ **General Board of United Methodist Women** shall be:

1. To recommend program and policies to United Methodist Women.
2. To interpret the role and responsibility of the division in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church.
3. To provide resources and opportunities for women that enriches their spiritual life and increase their knowledge and understanding of the needs of the world and their responsibility in meeting those needs.
4. To secure funds through the channels of United Methodist Women for the support of the program of the Church ~~through the General Board of Global Ministries~~, with special concern for the needs and responsibilities of women.
5. To project plans specially directed toward leadership development of women through appropriate planning with the other units of the board.
6. To strengthen the Church's challenge to women to enlist in the diaconate as missionaries and deaconesses.

7. To enlist women in activities that have a moral and religious significance for the public welfare and that contribute to the establishment of a just global society.
8. To work with the other agencies of the Church and community in areas of common concern and responsibility. A United Nations Office shall be conducted in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society.
9. To give visible evidence of oneness in Christ by uniting in fellowship and service with other Christians, including the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, Church Women United, and other similar groups, thereby strengthening the ecumenical witness and program of the Church.
10. To formulate concepts of contemporary mission.

¶ ~~1320~~ ¶ **1403**. Authority—1. The ~~Women's Division~~ Board of United Methodist Women shall have the authority to make its bylaws and to regulate its proceedings in harmony with the charter of the board, and with its approval, to develop and carry out the functions of the board as described in ¶ 1302; to buy and sell property; to solicit and accept contributions, subject to annuity under the board's regulations; and to appropriate its funds.

2. The ~~division board~~ shall meet annually at the time of the meeting of the board and at such other times as it shall deem necessary.

3. The ~~Women's Division~~ Board of United Methodist Women shall include in its responsibilities:

a) Those formerly carried by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of The Methodist Church, and the Women's Society of World Service of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Women's Society of Christian Service of The United Methodist Church, and those other organizations of women of similar purposes that have operated in the churches forming the United Methodist tradition, including the Women's Missionary Association of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; the Woman's Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church; the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the Ladies' Aid Societies of The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Woman's Missionary Society, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and the Woman's Missionary Council of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Woman's Convention of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Protestant Church. This list shall not be construed as exclusive.

b) All policy matters pertaining to the homes for retired workers owned by the Women's Division.

4. The ~~Women's Division~~ Board of United Methodist Women shall have the authority:

a) To organize jurisdictional, conference, district, and local church organizations of United Methodist Women, ~~which shall be auxiliary to the General Board of Global Ministries, through the Women's Division, of The United Methodist Church.~~

b) To recommend constitutions and make bylaws for United Methodist Women.

c) To appropriate funds received through United Methodist Women.

d) To serve as the national official policy-making body of United Methodist Women, with the officers of the ~~Women's Division~~ Board of United Methodist Women designated as the national officers.

~~¶ 1321~~ **¶1404** Organization—The ~~Women's Division~~ Board of United Methodist Women shall elect an executive committee of nineteen members, which shall exercise the powers of the division ad interim. ~~The Women's Division~~ board shall name members of its executive committee to serve on the board executive committee. The number named shall be at least one-third of the board executive committee membership. Members of the ~~Women's Division~~ board executive committee shall be elected by the ~~Women's Division~~ board to serve on executive committees of board units and committees as defined in board bylaws. ~~The president, general secretary, and treasurer of the board (¶ 1307) and the deputy general secretary, treasurer, and assistant general secretaries of the Women's Division shall be members ex officio without vote.~~

~~¶ 1322~~ **¶1405**. Structure—The ~~Women's Division~~ board shall be organized into such sections as the division shall determine.

~~¶ 1323~~ **¶1406**. Assembly—There may be an assembly of United Methodist Women, including a delegated body termed the Assembly. The ~~Division~~ board shall determine the time and place of meeting and the purpose, composition, functions, and powers of the Assembly.

~~¶ 1324~~ **¶1407**. Financial Relationship to the General Board of Global Ministries—The funds for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Women's Division shall be derived from annual voluntary pledges, offerings, gifts, devises, bequests, annuities, or money received through special emphases and meetings held in the interest of the division. All funds, except those designated for local purposes, shall be forwarded through the channels of finance of United Methodist Women to the treasurer of the division. Undesignated funds received by the Women's Division shall be allocated by the division, on recommendation of the appropriate section or committee, for the work of the several sections of the Women's Division and to such other units of the General Board of Global Ministries as the division shall determine for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the division. Funds appropriated for the work of the other units of the board may be given with specific designations and time limits, after which unspent funds are to be.

~~1325~~ **¶1408**. Membership— 1. The ~~Women's Division~~ board shall be composed of fifty members as follows: forty shall be laywomen elected by the jurisdiction organizations of United Methodist Women at quadrennial meetings (¶ 536.4); five shall be the jurisdiction presidents of United Methodist Women; and five shall be elected by the ~~Women's Division~~ board. The president, ~~general secretary~~, chief staff executive, and treasurer of the board shall be members ex officio.

2 Staff—The Board of United Methodist Women shall elect annually by ballot an executive, who shall provide executive, administrative, and programmatic leadership (¶ 713). The Board shall elect such other staff members as needs require within the General Conference mandates and the authority vested in the commission to develop policies and programs directed toward the realization of its purpose. The top executive of the board shall be an ex-officio member of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight with voice and without vote.

~~¶ 1326-¶1409.~~ **¶1409.** Constitution of United Methodist Women—For the Constitution of United Methodist Women in the jurisdiction, see ¶ 536; for the Constitution of United Methodist Women in the conference, see ¶ 647; for the Constitution of United Methodist Women in the district, see ¶ 669; for the Constitution of United Methodist Women in the local church, see ¶ 256.

1500 The Board of United Methodist Men

~~¶ 2301-¶1501.~~ **¶1501.** There shall be a General ~~Commission~~ Board of United Methodist Men in The United Methodist Church.

The ~~general commission board~~ shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. ~~Between sessions of the General Conference, the general commission shall be accountable to the Connectional Table by reporting and interpreting activities in its purpose.~~ (~~¶¶ 2302-¶1502.~~ **¶1502.** Purpose—The General ~~Commission~~ Board of United Methodist Men shall have primary oversight for the coordination and resourcing of men’s ministry within The United Methodist Church.

1. United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man’s life. Men’s ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. This purpose is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.
2. Individual and group strategies form the foundation of UMMen ministry:
 - a) enhance Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life (EMS), as men become servant leaders.
 - b) advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries, including prayer, missions, stewardship, and civic/youth serving ministries.
 - c) forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.
 - d) enhance organizational strength by effective leadership, resources, membership growth, and financial accountability.
 - e) assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles and responsibilities in their family setting, workplace, and society.
 - f) cultivate leadership among men for a policy of no tolerance of sexual harassment in family, church, workplace and society
 - g) understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.
 - h) fulfill the membership vows through commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, and service in congregational life.
 - i) fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the body of Christ.
3. To provide support services to promote the ministry and growth of United Methodist Men:

a) provide specific and optional models for men in the local church, district, annual conference, and jurisdiction;

b) maintain effective communications and cooperation with the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men and other national organizations representing the central conferences and other worldwide Methodist liaisons;

c) promote the annual certification of local church men's ministry and the chartering/annual renewal of local church men's units (§ 256.6) with the General ~~Commission~~ Board of United Methodist Men.

4. To provide resources that assist men in their growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and his church:

a) programs of evangelism that are geared to men's needs in cooperation with all areas of the Church dealing with the area of evangelism that model to men that witness is an integral part of daily life in the workplace, the community, the parish, and the home;

b) programs of mission in cooperation with all areas of the Church dealing with missional opportunities enabling men for outreach and service as an integral part of their Christian discipleship;

c) programs of spiritual life in cooperation with areas of faith development will assist men to realize that witness and outreach, with mission and ministry, become extensions of their faith development and their personal relationship to God through Jesus Christ;

d) programs of stewardship in cooperation with the area of stewardship that will lead men to an understanding of their responsibility as stewards of God's creation and personal stewardship of time, talent, money, and prayer;

e) programs that affirm the role of men in their family situations;

f) to advocate, research, and develop programs for The United Methodist Church to minister to and through men;

g) program partnership with The Upper Room in the Living Prayer Center ministry, including support for toll free telephone service and promotion. At all levels of the United Methodist Men's network there shall be prayer advocates;

h) United Methodist Men shall be in partnership with other general agencies and be a resource for men engaged in restorative justice and prison ministries.

5. The General ~~Commission~~ Board will provide resources and support for the office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting Ministries:

a) to provide training of local church, district, annual conference, and jurisdictional scouting coordinators;

b) to provide advocacy, cooperation, and relationship in partnership with the National (USA) Association of United Methodist Scouters, the General Board of Discipleship, the Council of

Bishops, and the civic youth-serving agencies (Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and such appropriate organizations within the Central Conferences) for the promotion of youth-serving/scouting ministries within The United Methodist Church;

c) to coordinate, promote, and resource as needed annual conference Bishop's Dinners for Scouting.

~~¶ 2303~~ **¶1503** *Membership*—1. The ~~commission board~~ shall consist of ~~twenty-five(25)~~ twenty (20) voting members as defined in ¶ 705.3 in the General Provisions and ¶537. Other paragraphs in the *Discipline* notwithstanding, members of the ~~Commission board~~ holding membership by office or organization, may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. The membership shall be composed of: ...

a) three bishops, including at least one from the central conferences, named by the Council of Bishops;

(b) the five (5) jurisdictional presidents of United Methodist Men and the national president

~~(c) six members elected by the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men, including the national president and five members at large (including at least two members of the commission from the previous quadrennium, for continuity) chosen for expertise and jurisdictional balance if possible;~~

d) two central conference members named by the Council of Bishops;

e) the president of the United Methodist Men Foundation;

~~f) the president of the National Association of United Methodist Scouters;~~

~~(g) six-eight members at large elected by the commission for inclusiveness, expertise and balance, which should include at least one young person under age 30 and at least two members of the commission from the previous quadrennium.~~

~~(h) one representative from a men's ministry from a Pan-Methodist church.~~

2. *Vacancies*—Vacancies in the general ~~commission board~~ membership shall be filled by procedures defined in ¶ 712 of the General Provisions.

3. *Officers*—The General ~~Commission Board~~ of United Methodist Men shall elect as its officers a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other such officers as it shall deem necessary. In addition, the president of the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men shall also be considered an officer.

4. *Staff*—The General ~~Commission Board~~ of United Methodist Men shall elect annually by ballot its general secretary, who shall provide executive, administrative, and programmatic leadership (¶ 713). The ~~Commission board~~ shall elect such other staff members as needs require within the General Conference mandates and the authority vested in the commission to develop policies and programs directed toward the realization of its purpose. The top executive of the board shall be

an ex officio member of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight with voice and without vote.

5. *Meetings*—~~The Commission board~~ shall meet annually, with such additional meetings as needs demand.

6. *Funding*—~~The General Council on Finance and Administration~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight shall make provision for the necessary support of the work of the commission by providing World Service Funds to complement the direct revenue and contributions from United Methodist Men. This shall include meeting and related expenses for the central conference representative.

Section VIII. Other organizations

Delete ¶¶1201-1207 and replace as follows:

¶ 1601. --*The Advisory Committee on Ministries with Young People* – The committee shall be a forum for the flow of information and communication among annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, general agencies and the Council of Bishops in order to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders.

¶ 1602. *Purpose*—The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders by

¶ 1603. *Authority and Accountability*—The Advisory Committee on Ministries With Young People shall be accountable to the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and the Council of Bishops. 1.

¶ 1604. *Structure*—The Advisory Committee on Ministries With Young People shall be organized around three basic units: United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Young Adults, and United Methodist Workers With Young People.

¶ 1605. *Membership*—The membership of the committee shall be inclusive with respect to gender, race/ethnicity, lay/clergy, and vocation.

1. Membership shall be as follows:

a) *Twenty-two youth*—One youth elected by the youth organization of each central conference (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 24); 2 youth from each jurisdiction elected by the jurisdictional youth convocation (¶ 533) who are 16 or younger at the time of appointment; one youth appointed by each racial/ethnic caucus who is 16 or younger at the time of appointment;

b) *Seventeen young adults*—one young adult elected by the young adult organization of each central conference (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 35); two young adults from each jurisdiction (as follows): one young adult elected by the jurisdictional conference, and one undergraduate student from each jurisdiction elected at the United Methodist Student Movement’s Student Forum (¶ 1412.2g). Jurisdictional and UMSM

representatives shall be 28 or younger at the time of election, with attention given to the diverse audiences of young adults.

c) One adult from each central conference region (Africa, Asia, and Europe), appointed by the central conference nominating committee;

d) One adult from each jurisdiction, elected by the jurisdictional conference;

e) Additional Members:

1) Two members of the United Methodist Student Movement steering committee (§ 1412.2g);

2) Up to five additional members as determined by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

¶ 1606. The committee shall name three of its members to be members of the General Council for Strategy and Oversight with voice and vote.

Retain ¶¶1208-10 and renumber as ¶1607 - ¶1609

¶ 1414-¶1607. *University Senate.*—1. The University Senate is an elected body of professionals in higher education created by the General Conference to determine which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Retain all paragraphs from 1414 to 1418 and renumber as 1606- – 1611

Delete ¶1121 and replace the following:

¶ 1608. *Committee on Older Adult Ministries*—1. There may be a *Committee on Older Adult Ministries*, which shall be administratively related to the *Office of Connectional Mission and Ministry*.

2. *Purpose*—The committee will provide a forum for information sharing, cooperative planning, and joint program endeavors as determined in accordance with the responsibilities and objectives of the participating agencies. The committee shall serve as an advocate for older adult concerns and issues and shall serve to support ministries by, with, and for older adults throughout The United Methodist Church and its affiliated agencies and in the larger society.

3. *Membership*—The committee shall be composed of members established by the *Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry*.

4. *Meetings*—The committee shall meet at least once a year.

Delete ¶ 1122 to ¶1127. and replace the following

Amend and renumber ¶¶1422-1423

¶ 1422. **1609.** *Schools of Theology of the United Methodist Church Goals*—1. United Methodist schools of theology share a common mission of preparing persons for leadership in the ministry of The United Methodist Church; of leading in the ongoing reflection on Wesleyan theology; and

of assisting the church in fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They contribute to the life of the global United Methodist connection through theological education for the sake of the worldwide mission of the church. These schools of theology are maintained for the education of ordained and lay leadership, for the interpretation of the Christian faith and United Methodist tradition through biblical and theological research, and for prophetic leadership. ~~The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry provides leadership and support in this common mission and in the development of relationships among the schools of theology in the U.S.A. and the central conferences and the various agencies of the General Church.

2. All candidates for ordination as deacon or elder in The United Methodist Church are strongly encouraged to attend United Methodist schools of theology since these schools ~~share with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the conference Boards of Ordained Ministry in the work of preparing~~ are especially equipped and certified to prepare persons for ordination and leadership in The United Methodist Church.

3. Schools of Theology of The United Methodist Church Located in the U.S.A.—a) Schools of theology of The United Methodist Church located in the U.S.A. exist to serve The United Methodist Church, primarily in the United States, but with concern for the witness of the church around the world. In addition to their commitment to United Methodism, they also serve students of other denominations in witness to United Methodism's ecumenical relationships. As denominational schools, they have a historic relationship to the denomination and are officially related to The United Methodist Church through ~~the Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ and the approval of the University Senate. The following schools comprise this network of United Methodist schools of theology in the U.S.A.: Boston University School of Theology, Claremont School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, Candler School of Theology, the Theological School-Drew University, Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC), Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Perkins School of Theology, Saint Paul School of Theology, United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio), and Wesley Theological Seminary. They are accountable to the church through ~~General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ and the University Senate and the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry or a unit appointed by the center and assigned to an office. ~~Therefore, agencies of the church seeking to monitor the use of the schools will do so in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry.~~

b) These schools of theology shall receive financial support for the current operating expenses from the annual conferences in the USA through the Ministerial Education Fund, administered by the ~~Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~. Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. or a unit appointed by the center and assigned to an office. ~~(See ¶ 816.2.)~~ The Ministerial Education Fund shall be regarded by the annual conferences in the USA as a priority to be met before any additional benevolence, grants, or funds are allocated to other theological schools or schools of religion.³³

c) In fulfilling their task of preparing persons for effective service for Christ and the church, The United Methodist schools of theology located in the USA shall acquaint students with the current polity, theology and programs of The United Methodist Church and shall offer practical experience in administration, evangelism, stewardship, and other areas which will prepare them

for effective Christian ministry in a multicultural society. Each school of theology, ~~in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry,~~ shall provide the courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity specified in ¶ 335.(3) and seek to form persons for ministry in the Wesleyan tradition.

d) Any institution seeking affiliation with The United Methodist Church for the preparation of candidates for ordination must first present its plan to the ~~General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry for approval and recommendation to the University Senate, which alone can grant affiliation and listing as a United Methodist school of theology. A select number of non-United Methodist schools of theology may be granted approval for the preparation of candidates for ordination under the criteria of the University Senate.

4. Schools of Theology of The United Methodist Church Located in the central conferences—a) In order to meet the needs for theological education and clergy training in their regions, the central conferences establish schools of theology to serve the United Methodists in their distinct cultural, social, and linguistic context. Schools of theology and programs of clergy training are also established by the ~~General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry to serve the needs of the central conferences. These schools may be supported through the central conference and/or the ~~General Board of Global Ministries and/or the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and are accountable to the appropriate bodies for their program and their relationship to the denomination.

b) Additional schools of theology and pastoral training may be established by the central conference, ~~General Conference, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or the General Board of Global Ministries~~ and accountability depends on the founding documents of the institutions.

5. The United Methodist Church also shares in global theological education through ecumenical schools of theology where The United Methodist Church is a partner. Though not United Methodist-related, these institutions serve on behalf of United Methodists in those regions and may relate to the ~~General Board of Global Ministries and/or General Board of Higher Education and Ministry,~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry in accordance with their charter and mission.

33. See Judicial Council Decision 545.

¶ 1423. **1609.6.** Education of Ordination Candidates—The United Methodist schools of theology share with the conference boards of ordained ministry the responsibility for the education and formation of candidates for admission to the annual conferences.

¶ 1423. **1610.** *Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges*—1. There shall be an organization known as the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges. It shall be composed of all the presidents of the United Methodist institutions historically related to the education of African Americans and with a current relationship to The United Methodist Church.

2. Purposes and Objectives—The purpose of the council shall be to:

- a) Help identify and clarify the roles of these colleges in higher education and in The United Methodist Church.
- b) Promote fundraising efforts through the Church.
- c) Study, review, and discuss programs of member institutions.

The council shall have a minimum of two regular meetings in each calendar year ~~and shall be amenable to the Division of Higher Education in the implementation of its responsibilities.~~

~~¶ 1907.~~ **1611.** *¶ Committee on Faith and Order* 1. There shall be a Committee on Faith and Order that, while functioning with the authority of an independent committee (~~¶ 701.2, 2004 Book of Discipline~~), shall, for purposes of staffing, budgeting, and financial affairs, reside under the auspices of the ~~General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns~~ Council of Bishops.

~~¶ 1908.~~ **1611.2** Purpose—The Committee on Faith and Order shall give leadership to The United Methodist Church in reflecting upon, discerning and living out matters of faith, doctrinal teaching, order, and discipline in the midst of mission and ministry in the church and the world. The committee shall be a visible expression of the commitment of The United Methodist Church to carry on informed theological reflection for the current time in dynamic continuity with the historic Christian faith, our common heritage as Christians grounded in the apostolic witness, and our distinctive Wesleyan heritage. The committee shall be charged with three broad responsibilities:

1. To lead and coordinate studies commissioned by the General Conference in matters related to the faith, doctrine, order and discipline of the church.
2. To support and provide resources upon request to the Council of Bishops in their responsibility to “guard, transmit, teach and proclaim, corporately and individually the apostolic faith as it is expressed in Scripture and tradition, and as they are led and endowed by the Spirit, to interpret that faith evangelically and prophetically.”
3. To prepare and provide resources and study materials to the General Church upon request from the General Conference or the Council of Bishops, ~~or Connectional Table.~~

~~¶ 1909.~~ **1611.3**¶. Responsibilities—

Retain paragraph

~~¶ 1910.~~ **1611.4.** Authorities and Powers—The Committee on Faith and Order shall have the authority and power to fulfill all the responsibilities noted in ¶¶ 1908 and 1909. The Committee on Faith and Order shall be amenable to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, the Committee shall be accountable to the ~~Connectional Table~~ Council of Bishops by reporting and interpreting activities designed to fulfill the purpose of the Committee. ~~and by cooperating with the Connectional Table in fulfillment of its legislated responsibilities.~~

~~¶ 1911.~~ **1611.5.** Membership—The Committee on Faith and Order shall be organized each quadrennium and shall be composed of twenty-four persons chosen as follows:

- a). Six bishops shall serve as members, including the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church and five other bishops assigned by the Council of Bishops.
- b). Six members shall be nominated by the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools chosen from the faculties of seminaries affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The Association of United Methodist Theological Schools shall rotate nominations from among the seminaries on a basis established by itself.
- c). Twelve members who are not bishops shall be chosen by the Council of Bishops upon nomination by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight ~~General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.~~ Six of the twelve chosen by the Council of Bishops shall come from the nominations of the ~~General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and six shall be chosen from those nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. Three of the members ~~nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.~~ shall be nominated from the faculties of seminaries affiliated with The United Methodist Church in the central conferences. Funding for this will be provided ~~within the regular budgets for the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.~~ by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight.
- d). All twenty-four members of the committee shall be approved and elected by the Council of Bishops at its fall meeting following the General Conference each quadrennium.
- e). At least three (3) of the members of the committee shall be clergy actively serving full-time in the local church and three (3) shall be laity. One third of the membership shall be persons of minority racial/ethnic identity.
- f). In its capacity of providing spiritual and doctrinal leadership, the Council of Bishops shall exercise oversight in the nomination and election of members with regard to central conference inclusion, geographic diversity, and age representation; it shall also ensure that the committee models effective representation of the theological diversity of The United Methodist Church.
- g). Membership on the board of directors of any other general agency does not make one ineligible to serve as a member of this committee, ¶¶ 710.5 and 714.6 to the contrary notwithstanding.

¶ ~~1912.~~ **1611.6.** Organization—The Committee on Faith and Order shall be organized as follows:

1. The committee shall elect from its episcopal membership a chairperson and from its total membership other officers as it may determine.
2. There shall be an executive committee of the committee with powers as determined by the committee.
3. The initial election of members for the Committee on Faith and Order shall include twelve persons elected for four years and twelve persons elected for eight years. Thereafter, all persons elected to the Committee on Faith and Order shall be elected to eight year terms.

4. The committee shall meet for organizational purposes each quadrennium prior to the end of the year in which the General Conference is held.

5. The committee shall meet at least annually and at such other times as it shall deem necessary. A majority of members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The committee may conduct meetings by telephone conference or video conference, or make decisions by mail ballot or other method, provided that notification of all members is ensured and the provision of quorum is met.

¶ ~~2201.~~ **1612** *Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters* 1. The General Conference recognizes the differences in conditions that exist in various areas of the world and the changes taking place in those areas. There shall be a Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters serving as an independent coordinating body. ~~The General Board of Global Ministries. Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry~~ or a group named by the center shall be the facilitating agency to the standing committee. The standing committee shall serve as the coordinating body to study the structure and supervision of The United Methodist Church in its work outside the United States and its territories and its relationships to other Church bodies.

2. The standing committee shall meet twice within the quadrennium in order to review, consider, and develop resolutions and petitions related to central conferences and may be called into session during General Conference as needed. It shall review and prepare such recommendations as it considers necessary for presentation directly to the General Conference. The committee shall submit its report and recommendations in accordance with the timelines governing general agencies for submission of petitions and resolutions. All resolutions and petitions related to central conferences presented to the General Conference shall be referred to the committee for consideration, and the committee shall report its recommendations directly to the General Conference. On matters dealing with the determination of episcopal areas (¶ 404.1), affiliation and autonomy (¶ 572), and joining The United Methodist Church (¶ 575), the committee shall report directly to the General Conference.

3. The standing committee shall be composed of one bishop, one ordained minister, and one layperson from each jurisdiction who are delegates to the General Conference and named by the Council of Bishops; one bishop, one ordained minister, and one layperson from each central conference who are delegates to the General Conference and named by the Council of Bishops; one bishop, one ordained minister, and one layperson who are elected members of the ~~General Board of Global Ministries~~ General Council for Strategy and Oversight and named by the Council of Bishops. The central conference bishop assigned to the ~~General Council on Finance and Administration~~ Council for Strategy and Oversight shall also be a member of this committee. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, lay, clergy, youth and young adults. ~~The chairperson of the standing committee shall be a central conference bishop, and shall also serve as a member of the Connectional Table.~~

4. ~~The General Council on Finance and Administration~~ Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry shall recommend to the General Conference for its action and determination a provision in the budget of an appropriate general Church fund for the expenses incurred by the standing committee.

¶ ~~2406.~~ **1613** *JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation* -- 1. Mission—JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation is a mission of The United

Methodist Church to engage conflict constructively in ways that strive for justice, reconciliation, resource preservation and restoration of community in and through The United Methodist Church and with the Church universal to the world in which we live.

2. Relationship with the Church—JUSTPEACE shall be an incorporated resource of The United Methodist Church. It shall be accountable to the General Conference and in order to fulfill its mission be authorized to seek and create relationships with the agencies and organizations of The United Methodist Church and other organizations, while preserving its role as an impartial entity. JUSTPEACE shall be proactive in its efforts to transform conflict by accepting invitations to intervene in conflicts, train church leaders and members of annual conference conflict transformation teams in conflict transformation, connect and nurture a community of practitioners, and develop resources.

3. Financial Support—Either on behalf of its total work or on behalf of a specific program, JUSTPEACE may charge fees, solicit and create special funds or endowments, receive gifts and bequests, hold properties and securities in trust, and administer all its financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and relevant provisions of The Book of Discipline.

¶1700 Associations-- 1. There are a number of professional associations related to the United Methodist Church. These include, but are not limited to: The National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators, the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries, the National Association of Commission on Equitable Compensation of the United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Information Technology Association, United Method in Music and Worship Art, The Order of St. Luke, United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, United Methodist Association of Communicators, United Methodist Campus Ministry Association, Association of Annual Conference Lay leaders, and Fellowship of Local Pastors. There are also a number of racial/ethnic caucuses, and advocacy caucuses or organizations.

2. While the United Methodist Church recognizes the presence of such associations and appreciations the contributions they make to the church at all levels, the groups have no financial claim upon denominational funds.

3. Associations seeking voluntary relationships with any United Methodist agency shall seek the counsel of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

Rationale: To implement Call to Action recommendations endorsed by the Connectional Table and Council of Bishops that reorder general church resources, governance and structures giving increased focus, flexibility and efficiency for work supporting annual conferences to increase and sustain the number of vital United Methodist congregations.

For more information, please contact:

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