



**Suggested Title: Remove “under appointment” from local pastors description**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 32

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶¶32, 142, 370.1, 602.1

¶ 32. Article I.—The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors ~~under appointment~~. The lay membership shall consist of . . .

Rationale: “under appointment” is redundant because one must be under appointment in order to be categorized as a local pastor.

**Suggested Title: General Book of Discipline Process**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 101

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶101

**Part II. GLOBAL BOOK OF DISCIPLINE THE NEW GENERAL DISCIPLINE**

~~¶ 101. The *Book of Discipline* reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through doctrine and disciplined Christian life. We are The United Methodist Church is a worldwide denomination united by doctrine, discipline, and mission through our a connectional covenant. The *Book of A new General Discipline* will reflect our Wesleyan way of serving Christ and expresses that our unity. Each central conference may make changes and adaptations to the *Book of Discipline* to more fruitfully accomplish our mission in various contexts. However, some portions of the *Book of Discipline* are not subject to adaptation. The following parts and paragraphs are not subject to change or adaptation except by action of the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has primary responsibility for proposing to General Conference revisions to this paragraph.~~

~~Parts I, III–V~~

The new *General Discipline* will contain what is distinctively connectional and is subdivided into the following parts:

I. Constitution ¶¶ 1–61

III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶¶ 102–105

IV. The Ministry of All Christians ¶¶ 120–143

V. Social Principles Preface, Preamble, and ¶¶160–166

VI. Organization and Administration: The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order, will bring recommendations to the 2016 2020 General Conference as to the draft of all of Part VI in a new *General Discipline*, the draft of *General Regulations*, and the draft of additional legislation for territories outside the boundaries of central conferences, for adoption and implementation by the 2020 General Conference. In preparation of the draft of Part VI, chapter 5 (Administrative Order), the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall work jointly with the Connectional Table. In preparation of the draft of Part VI, Chapter Two (The Ministry of the Ordained), and



Part VI, Chapter Three (The Superintendency), the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall work jointly with the Commission for the Study of Ministry. Following the 2016 General Conference, central conferences shall continue to have the power of adaptation of the *Book of Discipline* according to par. 31.5.

Rationale: Because of the Connectional Table’s responsibility for recommendations related to Administrative Order and the Commission for the Study of Ministry’s responsibility for studying and making recommendations for Licensed/Ordained Ministry and Superintendency, both of these bodies need to be included in the development of a new *General Discipline*.

**Suggested Title: Remove “under appointment” from local pastors description**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 142

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶¶32, 142, 370.1, 602.1

¶ 142. *Definition of Clergy*—Clergy in The United Methodist Church are individuals who serve as commissioned ministers, deacons, elders, and local pastors ~~under appointment of a bishop~~ (full- and part-time), who hold membership in an annual conference, and who are commissioned, ordained, or licensed.

Rationale: “under appointment” is redundant because one must be under appointment in order to be categorized as a local pastor.

**Suggested Title: Translation and Cultural Accommodation for Candidates**

*Discipline* Paragraph: **310 and 666**

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶310.2b)(2) and ¶666

¶310.2b)(2)

(2) a notarized statement...sexual misconduct, or child abuse.

The district committee on ordained ministry through the Board of Ordained Ministry shall seek ways to consider cultural and ethnic/racial realities and language translations as candidates in meeting meet these requirements, including interviews, psychological assessments, criminal background, and credit checks.

¶666. Add after current ¶666.3 and renumber following sub-points.

4. The committee, through the Board of Ordained Ministry, shall seek ways to make reasonable accommodations for cultural and ethnic/racial realities and language translations as candidates meet the requirements for candidacy, including interviews, psychological assessments, criminal background, and credit checks.

Rationale: To honor the language and cultural realities of candidates who do not speak English as their first



language and respond to the need for some candidates to need translation or other accommodation to successfully complete certain candidacy requirements.

**Suggested Title: Three-Fourths Majority Vote – Licensing**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 315

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶315

¶315. *License for Pastoral Ministry* - ... The Board of Ordained Ministry (¶635.2h) may recommend to the ~~executive~~ clergy session of the annual conference the licensing of those person who are:...

2.d) Been examined and recommended by a three-fourths majority vote of the district committee on ordained ministry (¶666.8); or...

...

6. In every case, those who are licensed shall have:...

b) Been approved by a three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry (¶635.h);...

d) Received approval by a three-fourths majority vote of the clergy session.

Rationale: To require a consistent three-fourths voting approval from the dCOM, BOM, and clergy session for the “milestone” candidacy, licensing, provisional membership, and full membership votes. Related ¶¶s include 315; 322.1; 324; 330; and 335.

**Suggested Title: Three-fourths Majority – Associate Membership**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 322

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶322.1

¶ 322. *Requirements for Election as Associate Members*—1. Local pastors may be elected to associate membership by a three-fourths majority vote of the clergy session ~~members in full connection, upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry,~~ when they have met the following conditions. They shall have: (1) been recommended to the clergy session based on a three-fourths majority vote of the conference board of ordained ministry; ....

Rationale: To require a consistent three-fourths voting approval from the dCOM, BOM, and clergy session for the “milestone” candidacy, licensing, provisional membership, and full membership votes. Related ¶¶s include 315; 322.1; 324; 330; and 335.



**Suggested Title: Associate Membership – Educational Requirements**

Discipline Paragraph: 322

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶322.1 (3)

¶ 322. *Requirements for Election as Associate Members*—

.... (3) completed the five-year Course of Study ~~for ordained ministry~~ in addition to the studies for license as a local pastor, ....

.... , or received a Master of Divinity degree that includes the basic graduate theological studies from a school of theology listed by the University Senate; (4) completed a minimum of sixty semester hours toward the Bachelor of Arts or an equivalent degree in a college or university ~~listed~~ recognized by the University Senate; ....

Rationale: Adds the option for the Master of Divinity to satisfy some of the educational requirements for Associate Membership. Clarifies that the University Senate does not list undergraduate institutions for approval but does recognize certain accredited undergraduate institutions.

**Suggested Title: Three-fourths Majority Vote – Provisional Membership**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶324

¶ 324. *Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership*—A person shall be eligible for election to provisional membership in the annual conference by a three-fourths majority vote of the clergy session on recommendation of its Board of Ordained Ministry after meeting the following qualifications....

Rationale: To require a consistent three-fourths voting approval from the dCOM, BOM, and clergy session for the “milestone” candidacy, licensing, provisional membership, and full membership votes. Related ¶¶s include 315; 322.1; 324; 330; and 335.

**Suggested Title: Provisional Membership – Candidacy Requirement**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶324.1

¶ 324. *Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership*

.... 1. Candidacy Requirement: Each candidate shall have been a certified candidate ~~for provisional membership~~ for at least one year ~~and no more than twelve years~~. Those appointed as local pastors are clergy members of the



annual conference and are no longer certified candidates (§311).....

Rationale: Clarifies that local pastors are clergy members of the annual conference and do not need to become a provisional member in fewer than 12 years. Twelve-year limit for certified candidacy is retained in §313.5.

**Suggested Title: Provisional Membership – Educational Requirements**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend §324.4 and §324.5

§ 324. *Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership*

.... 4. *Graduate Requirement:*

a) Candidates for deacon or elder shall have completed a minimum of one-half of the 27 semester hours of basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith. ....

....5. In some instances a candidate who is pursuing ordination to serve as deacon in full connection may fulfill the academic requirements through the following professional certification alternate route: ....

.... c) have completed a minimum of one half of the ~~minimum of twenty-four~~ twenty-seven semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith....

Rationale: Clarifies that the required Basic Graduate Theological Studies are a minimum of 27 semester credit hours.

**Suggested Title: Local Pastor Election to Provisional Membership – Educational Requirements**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend §324.6

§ 324. *Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership*

.... 6. Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership as elders when they have....

.... d) completed an Advanced Course of Study consisting of thirty-two semester hours of graduate theological study offered by a seminary recognized by the University Senate or its equivalent as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Advanced Course of Study that shall include the basic graduate theological studies (§324.4a). ~~United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity.~~

Rationale: Requires completion of an Advanced Course of Study that includes completion of the Basic Graduate Theological Studies in order for local pastors to be elected to provisional membership.



**Suggested Title: Expand Course of Study Education**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶324.6c

6. Local pastors may fulfill the requirements for provisional membership when they have...

c) completed the ~~five-year~~ Course of Study for ordained ministry, Course of Study requirements may be fulfilled as determined by GBHEM (¶1421.3d) by:

Completion of Course of Study of which no more than one-half may be taken by correspondence or Internet; up to one-half of Course of Study may be online courses; and

Completion of an equivalent program of study embedded in an undergraduate degree at a UM-related college or university.

Rationale: Increases accessibility to Course of Study (COS) for local pastors to complete educational requirements toward provisional membership. Encourages partnership between COS and United Methodist-related colleges/universities. Allows for simultaneous completion of COS and a bachelor degree as a part of completing educational requirements for local pastors seeking provisional membership.

**Suggested Title: Provisional Membership – Doctrinal Exam**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 324

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶324.9 k)

k) Explain your understanding of the distinctive vocations of the order of elder and the order of deacon. How do you perceive yourself, your gifts, your motives, your role, and your commitment as a ~~provisional member and commissioned minister~~ provisional deacon or provisional elder in The United Methodist Church?

Rationale: Strengthens this question by requiring all provisional member applicants to demonstrate they understand the difference between the orders of deacon and elder. Asks applicants to talk about their ministry in light of their understanding of the different orders and how they are called to serve in ordained ministry.

**Suggested Title: Provisional Membership – Annual Renewal of License**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 326

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶326.1 and ¶326.2 by addition

¶326.1 .... and be granted support as stated in ¶331.10. Such authorization granted by the license may be



renewed annually by the clergy session upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

¶326.2 ... shall be licensed for pastoral ministry (¶315). Such authorization granted by the license may be renewed annually by the clergy session upon recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Rationale: Clarifies that the BOM and clergy session have the authority to make a recommendation and decision regarding the annual renewal of licensing for provisional members.

**Suggested Title: Three-Fourths Majority Vote – Full Membership Deacons**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 330

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶330

¶330. *Requirements for Ordination as Deacon and Admission to Full Connection* – Provisional members who are applying for admission into full connection...may be admitted into membership in full connection in an annual conference by ~~two-thirds~~ three-fourths majority vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference, upon ~~two-thirds~~ three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, after they have qualified as follows:....

Rationale: To require a consistent three-fourths voting approval from the dCOM, BOM, and clergy session for the “milestone” candidacy, licensing, provisional membership, and full membership votes. Related ¶¶s include 315; 322.1; 324; 330; and 335.

**Suggested Title: Educational Requirements for Deacons’ Ordination**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 330

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶330.3

¶330.3 Educational requirements in every case shall include the completion of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith, as outlined in ¶324.4a.

Rationale: Clarifies that the all of the basic graduate theological studies must be completed before a provisional member may be ordained. This is parallel to the petition for elders in ¶335 that clarifies that educational requirements must be completed before ordination and admission to full membership.





**Suggested Title: Ordination Requirements – Deacons**

*Discipline* Paragraph: **330**

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶330.4

~~¶ 330.4. They shall have responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The candidate shall have (1) demonstrated the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written form; (2) satisfied the board regarding physical, mental, and emotional health; (3) prepared and preached at least one written sermon on a biblical passage specified by the Board of Ordained Ministry or another act of proclamation of the Word appropriate to the candidate’s ministry setting; (4) presented a detailed plan and outline for teaching a Bible study; (5) presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World;” (6) responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The candidate shall demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly in both oral and written form.~~

(Insert Paragraph Break) The candidate’s reflections and the board’s response shall be informed by the insights and guidelines of Part III of the *Book of Discipline*....

Rationale: Rewording to avoid implication that the phrase “The candidate’s reflections and the board’s response...the *Book of Discipline*” relates specifically to “presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness...for the Transformation of the World.” – a reading suggested by the current syntax. Rewording also makes ¶330.4 appropriately parallel to related ¶335.

**Suggested Title: Questions for Ordination Exam - Deacons**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 330

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Delete ¶330.5 a) (5)

¶330.5 a) Theology...

... (4) ... been affected by this understanding? ~~(5) How has the practice of ministry enriched your understanding of the meaning and significance of the sacraments?~~

b) Vocation...

Rationale: Question ¶330.5 a) (5) is redundant with ¶330.5 a) (f), so should be removed. Retain ¶330.05 a) (f).





**Suggested Title: Endorsement for Deacons**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 331

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Insert new sub-section b) after ¶331.4a) and renumber current b) – d)

¶331.4 b) Deacons or provisional deacons who are appointed beyond the local church may pursue endorsement by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall annually request the deacon or provisional deacon's bishop in the conference of membership to verify the appropriate employment of persons under its endorsement and request the bishop to reappoint.

Rationale: The United Methodist Endorsing Agency is concerned that deacons and bishops are not aware that deacons may pursue ecclesiastical endorsement. This is one way to address that. This language is copied and adapted to follow the language related to extension ministries in ¶344.1b.

**Suggested Title: Educational Requirements for Elders' Ordination**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 335

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶335 (d)

*¶ 335. Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder—*

.... (d) educational requirements in every case shall include completion of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith as outlined in ¶324.4 (a). ~~a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours in each of the fields of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity, provided that a candidate may meet the requirements of United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity by undertaking an independent study program provided and administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (see ¶1421.3d); satisfied the board....~~

Rationale: Clarifies that candidates for elders' orders must complete the basic graduate theological studies as a part of their educational requirements for ordination and that United Methodist history, doctrine and polity classes may be taken in addition to degree work.



**Suggested Title: Questions for Ordination Exam - Elders**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 335

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Delete ¶335 a) (5)

¶335 a) Theology....

... (4) ... been affected by this understanding? ~~(5) How has the practice of ministry enriched your understanding of the meaning and significance of the sacraments?~~

b) Vocation...

Rationale: Question ¶335 a) (5) is redundant with ¶335 a) (1) (f), so should be removed. Retain ¶335 a) (1) (f).

**Suggested Title: Three-Fourths Majority Vote – Full Membership Elders**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 335

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶335

¶335. *Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder* – Provisional members who are candidates for full connection and ordination as elders ... approved for elder’s ordination by ~~two-thirds~~ three-fourths majority vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference, upon recommendation by ~~two-thirds~~ three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry, after they have qualified as follows....

Rationale: To require a consistent three-fourths voting approval from the dCOM, BOM, and clergy session for the “milestone” candidacy, licensing, provisional membership, and full membership votes. Related ¶¶ include 315; 322.1; 324; 330; and 335.

**Suggested Title: Remove Deacons from Description of Extension Ministry**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 337.3

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶337.3 and ¶337.3b)

¶337. 3. Elders ~~and deacons~~, associate members, provisional ~~members~~ elders, and persons licensed for pastoral ministry may be appointed ....

.... b) ~~Deacons in provisional membership and full connection may be appointed to appointments beyond the local church that extend the witness and service of Christ’s love and justice in a ministry to both the community and the church. This ministry connects community and church and equips all Christians to fulfill their own~~



~~calls to Christian service. See ¶¶ 326, 328, 329, 331 for specific information about these ministries.~~

Rationale: ¶337.3 relates to appointments of elders, not deacons. ¶331, is the distinct paragraph for appointments of deacons, and that paragraph includes appointments beyond the local church.

**Suggested Title: Less than Full-time Appointment**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 338.2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶338.2

~~338.2. *Less Than Full-Time Service* – On occasion, less than full-time service is requested by or required of an elder, provisional elder, or associate member. A clergy member may be appointed in one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter time increments by the bishop to less than full-time service without loss of essential rights or membership in the annual conference. Division of Ordained Ministry-endorsed appointments beyond the local church may be for less than full-time service. At the initiative of the bishop and cabinet, or at his or her request, an elder, provisional elder, or associate member, may receive a less than full-time appointment under the conditions stipulated in this paragraph.<sup>24</sup> Less than full-time service shall mean that a specified amount of time less than full-time agreed upon by the bishop and the cabinet, the clergy member, and the annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry is devoted to the work of ministry in the field of labor to which the person is appointed by the bishop. At the initiative of the bishop and cabinet or at his or her own initiative, a clergy member may be appointed in one-quarter, one-half, or three-quarter time increments by the bishop to less than full-time service without loss of essential rights or membership in the annual conference. Division of Ordained Ministry-endorsed appointments beyond the local church may be for less than full-time service.~~

~~a) Appointment to less than full-time service is not a guarantee, but may be made by the bishop, provided that the following conditions are met under the following circumstances:~~

~~(1) *Limited Itineracy* – Less than full-time service may be granted—but is not guaranteed—when the elder, provisional elder, or associate member has declared in writing that itineracy is limited due to temporary constraints. The clergy member shall present that written declaration to the bishop and the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is made.~~

~~(2) *Self-Initiated* – ~~a)~~ The ~~ordained~~ elder, provisional elder, or associate member seeking less than full-time service ~~should~~ shall present a written request to the bishop and the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry at least 90 days prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is made. Exceptions to the 90-day deadline shall be approved by the cabinet and the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.~~

~~(3) *Bishop-Initiated* – ~~b)~~ For missional purposes, ~~the~~ bishop may appoint an ~~ordained~~ elder, provisional ~~member~~ elder, or an associate member to less than full-time service. The clergy person shall be notified at least 90 days prior to ~~the annual conference at which the appointment shall be made~~ final termination of the current appointment. Special attention shall be given to ensure that the values of open itineracy are preserved.~~

~~b) *Provisions for Less Than Full-Time Appointment*~~

~~(1) Following appropriate consultation, as established in ¶¶ 338 and 425-429, and upon joint recommendation of the cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry, the less than full-time category shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference.~~



⊕) (2) Reappointment to less than full-time service shall be requested by the ordained elder, provisional elder, or associate member and approved annually by the bishop and cabinet and shall not be granted for more than a total of eight years, except by a three-fourths vote of the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference.

⇒) (3) ~~Ordained elders~~ Elders, provisional elders, and associate members who receive appointment at less than full-time service remain within the itineracy and, as such, remain available, upon consultation with the bishop and cabinet, for appointment to full-time service. A written request to return to full-time appointment shall be made to the bishop and cabinet at least six months prior to the annual conference session at which the appointment is to be made.

⊕) (4) The bishop may make *ad interim* appointments at less than full-time service upon request of the ~~ordained~~ elder, provisional elder, or associate member following consultation as specified in ¶¶ 424-428 and upon recommendation of the cabinet and executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the same to be acted upon by the next regular session of the annual conference.<sup>22</sup>

Rationale: Provides an option for limited itineracy due to temporary constraints of the clergy. Additionally, allows for flexibility in appoint-making due to missional circumstances.

**Suggested Title: Categories and Definition of Pastor**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 339

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶339

¶ 339. Definition of a Pastor—A pastor is an ordained elder, ~~provisional~~ probationary deacon (according to 1992 *Book of Discipline*), associate member, provisional elder, or licensed person local pastor approved by vote of the clergy session ~~members in full connection~~ ....

Rationale: Clarifies the categories of ministry that serve as pastors and are defined that way by the church. Broadens definition to include associate members and provisional elders. Deletes redundant words regarding the clergy session (¶605.7) and clarifies this is a vote of the clergy session.

**Suggested Title: Alignment of Transfer Process from Other Denominations**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 347 and 348

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶347 by inserting current ¶348.2 after current ¶347.5 and then deleting ¶348

¶ 347. ....

.... 6. After the orders of an ordained minister of another church shall have been duly recognized, and the minister has been approved for full membership, the certificates of ordination by said church shall be returned to the minister with the following inscription written plainly on the back:



*These orders are recognized by the \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ [year]. \_\_\_\_\_, President \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary*

The ordained minister also will be furnished with a certificate of recognition of orders signed by the bishop.

~~¶ 348. Recognition of Orders of Clergy from Other Denomination — 1. Clergy from other denominations may have their orders recognized by the clergy members in full connection of the annual conference after examination of their credentials by the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry. Prior to admission to membership in the annual conference, such recognition of orders may be given upon recommendation of the bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry.~~

~~2. When the orders of an ordained minister of another church shall have been duly recognized, the certificates of ordination by said church shall be returned to the minister with the following inscription written plainly on the back:~~

~~*These orders are recognized by the \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ [year]. \_\_\_\_\_, President \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary*~~

~~The ordained minister also will be furnished with a certificate of recognition of orders signed by the bishop.~~

Rationale: Recognition of orders indicates a clergyperson has transferred membership to the UMC. Clergy who aren't transferring serve under ¶346 without having orders recognized. This petition clarifies that due process is followed by making recognition of orders the last step in the transfer process as outlined in ¶347.

**Suggested Title: Renewal of Transitional Leave**

Discipline Paragraph: 354

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶354.2 and ¶354.3

¶ 354. 2. A voluntary leave of absence may be taken for a variety of reasons: ....

.... c) *Transitional Leave* ....

.... (2) A provisional member or full member elder, or an associate member, or full member elder needs to transition from an extension ministry to another appointment, or from a local church appointment to an extension ministry appointment.

During transitional leave, the clergyperson...



3. Written request... ~~This relationship~~ Personal leave and family leave shall be approved annually upon written request of the clergy member and personal or family leave shall not be granted for more than five years in succession, except by a two-thirds vote of the clergy members in full connection. Transitional leave shall not be renewed beyond a twelve-month period. ~~The Voluntary~~ leave shall be counted as a part of the eight-year limit for provisional members (§ 327).

Rationale: Transitional leave is a temporary voluntary leave of absence that allows for elders, provisional elders, or associate members to transition between extension ministries and/or local church ministries.

**Suggested Title: Process for an *ad interim* Voluntary Leave of Absence**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 354

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend §354.4

§ 354.4. Between sessions of the annual conference, voluntary leave of absence may be granted or terminated by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry after consultation with and approval by the bishop and district superintendents. ~~, with the approval of the bishop and district superintendents, by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry.~~ This interim action shall be subject to the approval of the clergy session of ~~members in full connection with~~ the annual conference at its next session.

Rationale: Clarifies that the authority for granting an *ad interim* status change resides with the executive committee of the BOM after they have consulted with the bishop and cabinet.

**Suggested Title: Provisions for Administrative Location During Voluntary Leave of Absence**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 354

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend §354.9 and §354.12

§ 354.9. Those on voluntary leave of absence shall be held amenable to the annual conference for their conduct and the performance of their ministry. In case of failure to report to the Board of Ordained Ministry, the ~~complaint procedures may be invoked (§ 363).~~ provisions for Administrative Location (§360) may be invoked.

§ 354.12. When clergy members on voluntary leave of absence ... the provisions of administrative location (§359)<sup>43</sup> (§360) ~~or the complaint procedures of § 363~~ may be invoked.

Rationale: Voluntary Leave of Absence is a choice and not the result of a complaint process. This petition changes the possible steps available from a complaint process to an administrative process when clergy on Voluntary Leave of Absence fail to report or request an extension of leave.



**Suggested Title: Involuntary Leave of Absence**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 355

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶355

¶355. *Involuntary Leave of Absence*—

.... 2. a) A written ~~or~~ and signed complaint is not resolved through the supervisory (¶ 363.1b, c), complaint (¶ 363.1e), or trial process ....

.... 3. ~~e~~) Should there be complaints or charges pending at the time of a request for involuntary leave of absence,....

.... 3 ~~4~~. Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved ....

.... 4 ~~5~~. Between sessions of the annual conference, the bishop and cabinet may request that an involuntary leave of absence may be granted or terminated (~~¶364~~), ~~with the approval of the bishop and cabinet~~, by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry. ....

Rationale: Aligns definition of complaint with ¶363. Clarifies process for *ad interim* beginning or termination of Involuntary Leave of Absence.

**Suggested Title: Thirty-Day Extension Applies Throughout Complaint Procedures**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 363

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶363.1 and ¶363.1e)

¶363.1 ....

When and if the stage changes, those persons will continue to be informed in writing of the new process in a timely fashion. All original time limitations in the process outlined in this paragraph, except suspension, may be extended for one 30-day period upon the consent of the complainant and the respondent.

Supervision...

....

e) *Referral of a Complaint*...

(2) Refer the matter to the counsel for the church as a complaint.

~~All original time limitations may be extended for on 30-day period upon the consent of the complainant and the respondent.~~

Rationale: Moves to statement about a 30-day extension to the introduction of this paragraph in order to clarify that a 30-day extension can be applied throughout the process and not simply during the referral of complaint stage.





**Suggested Title: Definition of Complaint**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 363

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶363.1a)

¶ 363. *Complaint Procedures*—1. ...

a) *Supervision*—In the course of the ordinary fulfillment of the superintending role, the bishop or district superintendent may receive or initiate complaints about the ~~performance-conduct~~ or character of a clergyperson (~~¶2702.1~~). ~~A complaint is a written and signed statement claiming misconduct or unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties.~~

Rationale: Clarifies that complaints are based on specific conduct of a clergyperson and not on general ineffective job performance. Removes the definition of complaint from sub-paragraph a) since the correct definition is written and retained in ¶363.1.

**Suggested Title: Just Resolution Before and After Referral to Counsel for the Church**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 363

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶363.1 c) and ¶2701.5

363.1 c) Just Resolution Prior to Referral of Complaint to Counsel for the Church

... If the bishop chooses to initiate ~~a mediated attempt to produce~~ a just resolution process prior to referral of the complaint to counsel for the Church, then the bishop, the person ~~filing~~ making the complaint, the respondent, and other appropriate persons as determined by the bishop, shall enter into a written agreement outlining the process, including any agreements on confidentiality. The person against whom the complaint was made may choose another person to accompany him or her with the right to voice; the person making the complaint shall have the right to choose a person to accompany him or her with the right to voice. No legal counsel shall be present. ~~A process seeking a~~ Just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory, ~~complaint or trial~~ process. If resolution is achieved during the supervisory process, a written statement of resolution, including any terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. A just resolution agreed to by all parties, including the person making the complaint, shall be a final disposition of the related complaint.

~~A process seeking a just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory or complaint process. This is not an administrative or judicial proceeding; for just resolution during judicial proceedings, see ¶2701.5.~~

Rationale: This petition seeks to reconcile differences in the just resolution process in ¶¶ 363.1c and 2701.5, including the period in which each applies and the parties who are required to be participants in each of the processes.

**Suggested Title: Provision for Thirty-Day Extension of Suspension**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 363

General Church Budget Implications: None



Global Implications: No

Amend ¶363.1 d)

d) Suspension—

.... may suspend the person from all clergy responsibilities, but not from an appointment, for a period not to exceed ninety days. With the agreement of the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the bishop may extend the suspension for only one additional period not to exceed thirty days. ....

Rationale: At times additional days are needed in order to resolve a complaint, move a complaint forward, or complete fair process procedures for a requested status change. This extension allows for some flexibility while still requiring timely processing of a complaint.

**Suggested Title: Readmission after Honorable or Administrative Location**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 366

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶366.3

¶366. Readmission after Honorable or Administrative Location

3. A satisfactory certificate of good health on the prescribed form from a physician approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Board of Ordained Ministry ~~should~~ shall require psychological evaluation.

Rationale: Changes the psychological evaluation from a suggestion to a requirement when a clergy person is applying for readmission after Honorable or Administrative Location.

**Suggested Title: Remove “Under Appointment” from Local Pastor Description**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 370

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶¶32, 142, 370.1, 602.1

¶ 370. 1. The annual conference is the basic body of The United Methodist Church. The clergy membership of an annual conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection ( ¶ ¶ 329 , 333 ), provisional members ( ¶ 327 ), associate members, affiliate members ( ¶ ¶ 344.4 , 586.4 ), and local pastors ~~under fulltime and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge~~ ( ¶ 317 )....

Rationale: “under appointment” is redundant because one must be under appointment in order to be categorized as a local pastor.



**Suggested Title: Remove Consecration of Diaconal Ministers**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 415

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶415.6 by deletion

¶ 415. *Presidential Duties* – 6. To consecrate bishops; to ordain elders and deacons; ~~to consecrate diaconal ministers~~, to commission deaconesses, home missionaries and missionaries; . . .

Rationale: The United Methodist Church no longer consecrates diaconal ministers.

**Suggested Title: Remove under appointment from local pastors description**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 602

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶¶32, 142, 370.1, 602.1

¶ 602. Composition and Character—1. The clergy membership of an annual conference (¶370) shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶333), provisional members (¶327), associate members, affiliate members (¶¶344.4, 586.4), and local pastors ~~under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge~~ (¶317). . . .

... d) Full-time and part-time local pastors ~~under appointment to a pastoral charge~~ shall have the right to vote in the annual conference....

Rationale: “under appointment” is redundant because one must be under appointment in order to be categorized as a local pastor.

**Suggested Title: Remove Candidacy Process for Diaconal Ministers**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 602

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶602.2 by deletion

¶ 602.2 – ~~Persons who enter candidacy for diaconal ministry prior to January 1, 1997, shall be allowed to complete candidacy, and those consecrated~~ Consecrated diaconal ministers will serve as lay members of the annual conference as long as they maintain this status in The United Methodist Church.

Rationale: This phrase no longer has relevance. Per ¶306.1 of the 1992 *Book of Discipline* (the last edition to have requirements for diaconal ministers), diaconal ministry candidacy shall last no more than 8 years. This maximum expired in 2005.



**Suggested Title: Administrative Review Committee – Fair Process with Unresolved Medical Issues**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 636

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶636

...Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for discontinuance of provisional membership (¶327.6), involuntary leave of absence (¶355), involuntary retirement (¶358.3), or administrative location (¶360) are properly followed. Additionally, if in the event of unresolved issues related to medical leave (¶357.4) a fair process hearing occurs, the Administrative Review Committee shall ensure that fair process was followed. The entire administrative process leading...

Rationale: ¶357.4 dictates fair process for clergy when there are unresolved issues. The Administrative Review Committee is the committee responsible for ensuring fair process, so in the event of a fair process hearing the ARC is responsible for reviewing and ensuring fair process.

**Suggested Title: District Superintendent Role on District Committee on Ordained Ministry**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 666

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶666.1

¶ 666 – There shall be a district committee on ordained ministry....

1....The committee shall be ~~comprised~~ composed of ...; the district superintendent, ~~who may serve as the executive secretary~~ who shall not be the chairperson and....

Rationale: Makes clear that the district superintendent shall not serve as the chair of the district committee on ordained ministry.

**Suggested Title: Resolution Before and After Referral to Counsel for the Church**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 2701

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: No

Amend ¶363.1 c) and ¶2701.5

2701.5. ~~A Just Resolution in Judicial Proceedings~~ After Referral of Complaint to Counsel for the Church –  
A ~~just~~ resolution is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability by making things right in so far as possible and bringing healing to all the parties. Special attention should be given to ensuring that culture, racial, ethnic, age and gender context are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration. During the ~~just~~ resolution process, the parties may be assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s), in reaching an



agreement satisfactory to all parties. Processes that seek a ~~just~~ resolution are encouraged at any time after referral to the counsel for the Church, including through the judicial proceedings. After the referral of a matter as a judicial complaint from to counsel for the Church ~~church to the committee on investigation~~, if a process seeking a ~~just~~ resolution is used, the appropriate persons, including, but not limited to, the counsel for the Church and the counsel for the respondent, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including any agreement on confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the same persons who signed the written agreement outlining the process, and they shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. The approval of the resolution agreement by the person filing the complaint shall not be required, but the parties to the process seeking a resolution shall provide an opportunity for the complainant to express his or her position on the proposed resolution before the written statement of resolution is signed by the parties to the resolution process. If the resolution proposes a change of ministerial status, the resolution shall not become binding or effective until the status change is approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. If the resolution results in a change of ministerial status, the disclosure agreement shall not prevent the disciplinary disclosures required for possible readmission.

Rationale: This petition reconciles differences in the resolution process in ¶¶ 363.1c and 2701.5, including timeframe and the parties who participate in each process. The word “just” is removed from ¶2701.5 because once proceedings become judicial a resolution might occur that may, or may not be, agreed upon by all parties.

**Suggested Title: Add Fiscal Malfeasance as a Chargeable Offense**

*Discipline* Paragraph: 2702

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶2702.1, ¶2702.3

¶2702.1

....(j) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; or (k) racial or gender discrimination; or (l) fiscal malfeasance.

¶2702.3

....(j) relationships and/or behaviors that undermine the ministry of persons serving within an appointment. ; (k) fiscal malfeasance.

Rationale: Provides for a chargeable offense when fiscal malfeasance is committed whether or not the person has been convicted of crime.



**Suggested Title: Christian Education**

Resolution Number: 2001

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Renew Resolution 2001 with edits

WHEREAS, every elder, at ordination covenants to “preach and teach the Word” (2012 Discipline ¶ 340.1); and every deacon at ordination covenants to “create opportunities for others to enter into discipleship” (2012 Discipline, ¶ 329.1); and

WHEREAS, the early Methodist movement was guided by the educational genius of John Wesley, who crafted an ecology of faith formation and leadership development for making disciples; and

WHEREAS, question number fourteen of the Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection is “Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?” (2012 Discipline, ¶ 336), ; ~~but yet, two-thirds of our baptized children leave the church because they are not rooted in the traditions of The United Methodist Church, as acknowledged by the Council of Bishops’ Episcopal Initiative on Children and Poverty; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the document “Our Shared Dream: The Beloved Community” emphasizes the bishops’ vision of building Beloved Community, including a deep commitment to children, and their seven “Vision Pathways” includes reaching and transforming “the lives of new generations of children” and “teaching the Wesleyan model of reaching and forming disciples of Jesus Christ,” and the “Provocative Propositions” of the general agencies and commissions includes preparing leadership for the church; and the bishops’ Call to Action lists four ways to move forward on the vision, including to “Reach and Care for the Children” and to “Live the United Methodist Way”;~~

WHEREAS, the *Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church affirms the right of every person to an education and the role of faith communities in educating the young (2012 *Discipline*, ¶164 E); now

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the ~~2008~~ 2016 General Conference affirm the imperative to engage in the work of Christian education and direct United Methodist seminaries and colleges, collegiate ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Publishing House, annual conferences, and local churches to assess and expand how they advance the work of Christian education in the church. This includes promoting the professional, ~~and~~ para-professional, ~~and~~ undergraduate certification in camp/retreat ministry, children’s ministry, Christian education, collegiate ministry, evangelism, ministry with the poor, ministry with people with disabilities, music ministry, ministry with older adults, spiritual formation, urban ministry, and youth ministry, and, where appropriate, monitoring all approved seminary M.Div. programs to ensure that future leaders are being trained in the ministries of Christian education.

ADOPTED 2008 RESOLUTION #2001, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

See Social Principles, ¶ ¶ 161 and 162.

**Suggested Title: Faith Communities on Campus**

Resolution Number: 2002

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes



Allow 2002. *Faith Communities on Campus* to Expire.

~~WHEREAS, just as parish churches are the center of spiritual life for their communities, so too are campus ministries a center of spiritual life for their campuses. Students often find their place and spirituality within these ministries, substituting time spent in fellowship with peers for time spent in a formal worship setting. Oftentimes, these fellowships serve as an introduction to the church and as settings for affirmation of faith; and~~

~~WHEREAS, many people find their faith, change their faith, and challenge their faith during their formative young adult years, it is important to have a presence and the technology to answer questions and attract seekers. We believe The United Methodist Church is a strong spiritual home with a table open to any who want to participate. Through campus ministries, students are given the chance to find their “home” in our church; and~~

~~WHEREAS, as representatives from campuses across the country, we embrace common challenges found today and envision ways to work with annual conferences to strengthen our ministries; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the common challenges of campus ministries include: • a rapid turnover of population; • an inability to be self-sustaining through the traditional parish methods of tithing and lay leadership; • a disconnection in the transfer between high school and college fellowships; • ministers who face unique challenges outside that of parish churches; and~~

~~WHEREAS, we see a higher percentage of young adults attending college, demanding a proportional increase in campus ministry support; and~~

~~WHEREAS, many universities are the size of small cities, the same size as other population centers where we maintain a United Methodist presence;~~

~~Therefore, be it resolved, that we see a growing importance for campus ministries within the church. The 2008 General Conference affirms the work of our campus ministries with an increased presence and place in The United Methodist Church; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that we ask annual conferences to: • acknowledge the unique challenges campus ministries face; • support their campus ministry programs and campus ministers; and • help high school graduates and young adults connect with campus ministries.~~

~~ADOPTED 2008 RESOLUTION #2002, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS~~

~~See Social Principles, ¶¶ 161 and 162.~~





**Suggested Title: Support Campus Ministers**

Resolution Number: 2003

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Allow 2003. *Support Campus Ministers* to expire

~~WHEREAS, campus ministry is essential to the mission, growth, and future of The United Methodist Church;~~

~~WHEREAS, campus ministries are dependent on the commitment and passion of campus ministers;~~

~~WHEREAS, campus ministry often can be isolating for campus ministers and unrecognized by the church;~~

~~Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2008 General Conference affirms the campus ministers of United Methodist and ecumenical campus ministries, who have committed themselves to the work of the church in college environments and calls the entire church to join in acknowledging this important contribution. The 2008 General Conference also remains committed to working with campus ministers to further campus ministry.~~

~~ADOPTED 2008 RESOLUTION #2003, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS-~~

~~See Social Principles, ¶ 161 and 162.~~

**Suggested Title: Education: The Gift of Hope**

Resolution Number: 3161

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Renew and Amend Resolution 3161

3161. Education: The Gift of Hope

WHEREAS, John Wesley was a “unique and remarkable educator (who) gave to the whole Methodist movement... a permanent passion for education”<sup>1</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Wesley believed that persons develop their full God-given potential when they educate their mind as well as nurture their spirit; and

WHEREAS, the historic United Methodist concern for education is witnessed through commitment to educational opportunity for all persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or economic or social background; and

WHEREAS, this commitment continues as United Methodist individuals, congregations, colleges, ~~campus~~ collegiate ministries, and other groups become involved in local education in their communities; and

WHEREAS, these efforts make a significant contribution to furthering access, advancing and enhancing student learning, and advocating for the continued improvement of educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, educators, families, and communities are concerned about substance abuse and violence in our schools and communities, along with other social problems which undermine the safety of children and the quality of their lives in school and in society at large; and

WHEREAS, United Methodists have a moral concern to take initiatives to support and create alliances involving educators, community leaders, and students to address the challenges of contemporary education and to work to resolve the threats to quality education; ~~and~~



~~WHEREAS, the 1996 General Conference of The United Methodist Church received Education: The Gift of Hope, a study of the historic and current United Methodist concern for education, and urged every local church to use the study to understand our historic educational concern and to become enlivened in educational partnerships in the local community; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has revised Education: The Gift of Hope, to address concerns about drugs and violence in our schools and to further remind United Methodists of the Wesleyan challenge to become involved in local efforts in education;~~

~~Therefore, be it resolved, that every local United Methodist congregation is encouraged to study Education: The Gift of Hope to learn of our heritage and concern; and~~

~~Be it further resolved, that each local congregation develop a strategy for being in partnership with local United Methodist-related educational institutions and collegiate ministries, other educators, community leaders, and students in providing a positive, safe, helpful, and hopeful environment in which students can live and learn and grow into principled Christian leaders.~~

ADOPTED 1996

AMENDED AND READOPTED 2000

AMENDED AND READOPTED 2008

RESOLUTION #3161, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #98, 2004 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #87, 2000 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

See Social Principles, ¶ 162 C, D.

**Suggested Title: The Black College Fund**

Resolution Number 4033

General Church Budget Implications: Yes

Global Implications: No

Renew and Amend 4033

**4033. The Black College Fund**

WHEREAS, since 1866 when Rust College was established to address the educational needs of freed slaves, and over the next ~~142~~ 150 years, the mission to empower African Americans through education continued with the founding of Bennett College for Women, Bethune-Cookman University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Huston Tillotson University, Meharry Medical College, Paine College, Philander Smith College, and Wiley College, The Methodist Church's commitment to higher education has been unequivocal; and

WHEREAS, since the founding of these colleges, they have added value to our society, educating some of the world's great teachers, scientists, bishops, doctors, ministers, politicians, and professionals in other walks of life, and some of the world's best and brightest students are today enrolled in these schools and are receiving a quality education through the work of dedicated and committed faculties and staffs; and

WHEREAS, since 1972, the Black College Fund has been an apportioned item and continues to provide necessary funds for daily operation, capital improvements, and academic program enhancement at these schools, and this funding is a critical investment in the dreams of young people and all those who thirst for knowledge; and

WHEREAS, these institutions are and have been since their founding, open to people of all ethnicities,



racess, creeds and nationalities, and all are treated with dignity and respect, and therefore the mission and ministry of these schools is still vital and important; and

WHEREAS, many annual conferences are going the extra mile to pay their 100 percent apportionments and this commitment and faithfulness to this important cause continues to make a difference;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference reaffirms its commitment to the ministry of the eleven church-related historically black colleges and universities;

Be it further resolved, that the General Conference reaffirms its commitment to the Black College Fund and expresses its intention to continue the Black College Fund as an apportioned item for the ~~2009-2012~~ 2017-2020 and 2021-2024 quadrennium quadrennia.

ADOPTED 2008

RESOLUTION #4033, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

See Social Principles, ¶ 163.

**Suggested Title: Prayer and Support for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans**

Resolution Number: 5061

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Renew and Amend 5061. Prayer and Support for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans

WHEREAS, our Social Principles state that war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ (¶ 165 C); and

WHEREAS, the pervasiveness of violence and the threat of violence in social ordering on the local, national, and international levels present conscientious Christians with profound challenges in living out the Church’s rejection of war and violence; and

WHEREAS, reflecting these challenges, our Social Principles state that we “support and extend the ministry of the Church to those persons who conscientiously oppose all war, or any particular war, and who therefore refuse to serve in the armed forces ~~or to cooperate with systems of military conscription,~~” and that we “also support and extend the Church’s ministry to those persons who conscientiously choose to serve in the armed forces ~~or to accept alternative service~~” (¶ 164 I, ~~2008~~ 2012 *Book of Discipline*); and

WHEREAS, United Methodist men and women have served in various capacities in the armed forces and need the acceptance and pastoral ministry of the Church, regardless of the Church’s view of the wisdom or moral justification of the military operations into which national political leadership sent them; and

WHEREAS, the hardships and risks faced by members of the armed forces and the separations inherent in military service impact their families and especially their children; and

WHEREAS, many of those who serve in the military return with physical or emotional injuries, some of which may persist throughout life or first become apparent many years after their return from service; and

WHEREAS, expenditures for medical and readjustment services and the needs of military families should be recognized as a cost of war and an obligation of society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, many military veterans return with experiences that could be an asset in the ministries of the Church, for example, insights arising from the direct experience of military life and war, the perspective gained from having faced one’s own mortality, and an understanding of disciplined commitment to a team of people who depend on one another;

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that the ~~2008~~ 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church



honors, supports, and upholds in our prayers those men and women who serve in our armed services and, in addition, honors and supports those United Methodist clergy who serve as chaplains; and

*Be it further resolved*, that the Church commits itself to extend its pastoral ministry to members of the armed forces and their families during their time of service and after their return; and

*Be it further resolved*, that we call upon national governments to fully provide medical care and other benefits that promote the welfare of military veterans and their reintegration into civilian society; and

*Be it further resolved*, that we call upon our churches to extend a welcome home to persons who return from service in the armed forces, to respect their stories and interpretations of their experiences, and to value and encourage expression of their potential contributions to the ministry of our churches; and

*Be it further resolved*, that we call upon our churches and members to pray for persons serving in the armed forces and their families, to pray for persons whom circumstances have caused us to relate to as enemies, to pray for other persons for whom war has caused suffering and to pray for peace.

ADOPTED 2008

RESOLUTION #5061 2008 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*

RESOLUTION #268 2004 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*

RESOLUTION #251 2000 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*

See Social Principles, ¶ 164 I.

**Suggested Title: Military Service Regardless of Sexual Orientation**

Resolution Number: 5062

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Allow 5062. Military Service Regardless of Sexual Orientation to expire

~~5062. Military Service Regardless of Sexual Orientation~~

~~The United Methodist Church has historically been opposed to discrimination in society including the military. Our antidiscrimination stance is supported primarily through Jesus’ teachings about radical love and the acceptance of those persons living on the margins of society. Throughout Jesus’ life, this radical love was shared when Jesus healed the sick, conversed with women, ate with the rejected and brought hope to the hopeless. We see visibly the call to embrace others and not make judgment: “Don’t judge, so that you won’t be judged. You’ll receive the same judgment you give” (Matthew 7: 1-2). Although The United Methodist Church “deplore[s] war and urge[s] the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations” it “also support[s] and extend[s] the ministry of the Church to those persons who conscientiously choose to serve in the armed forces....” A commitment to the civil rights of people and their ability to follow a “call” to ministry, such as military service, should not be denied.~~

~~The United States of America, a nation built on equal rights, presently denies the right of professing homosexuals to actively serve their country, forcing men and women who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender to assume a “don’t ask, don’t tell” position when enlisting into military service. This situation is discriminatory, unethical, and regrettable; therefore, we affirm the stance that the US military should not exclude persons from service solely on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.~~

~~ADOPTED 2008~~

~~RESOLUTION #5062, 2008 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*~~



~~See Social Principles, ¶¶ 164H and 161F.~~

Rationale: The question of sexual orientation as related to who is able to serve in the military is no longer an issue for the military and this resolution is outdated.

**Suggested Title: Military Conscription, Training, and Service**

Resolution Number: 5063

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Renew 5063. Military Conscription, Training, and Service

*1. Conscription.* We affirm our historic opposition to compulsory military training and service. We urge that military conscription laws be repealed; we also warn that elements of compulsion in any national service program will jeopardize seriously the service motive and introduce new forms of coercion into national life. We advocate and will continue to work for the inclusion of the abolition of military conscription in disarmament agreements.

*2. Conscientious objection.* Each person must face conscientiously the dilemmas of conscription, military training, and service and decide his or her own responsible course of action. We affirm the historic statement: “What the Christian citizen may not do is to obey persons rather than God, or overlook the degree of compromise in even our best acts, or gloss over the sinfulness of war. The church must hold within its fellowship persons who sincerely differ at this point of critical decision, call all to repentance, mediate to all God’s mercy, minister to all in Christ’s name” (“The United Methodist Church and Peace,” 1968 General Conference).

Christian teaching supports conscientious objection to all war as an ethically valid position. It also asserts that ethical decisions on political matters must be made in the context of the competing claims of biblical revelation, church doctrine, civil law, and one’s own understanding of what God calls him or her to do.

We therefore support all those who conscientiously object to preparation for or participation in any specific war or all wars, to cooperation with military conscription, or to the payment of taxes for military purposes, and we ask that they be granted legal recognition.

Since 1936, The United Methodist Church or one of its predecessors has provided to those of its members who claim to be conscientious objectors the opportunity to register. Certified copies of such registration are supplied for use with the draft authorities. It is the responsibility of the church at all levels to inform its members of the fact that conscientious objection, as well as conscientious participation, is a valid option for Christians and is recognized in many countries as a legal alternative for persons liable to military conscription.

The local church’s support of an individual participating in this process does not express agreement or disagreement with the convictions of the applicant member. Rather, the church’s task is to record which of its members are opposed to participation in military service on grounds of conscience and to assist them in securing proper counsel. When a member has registered as a conscientious objector and his or her registration has been certified by the proper authorities, that action should be recorded with the annual conference and the General Board of Church and Society.

The United Methodist Church also supports those persons who refuse to register for the draft and deplores discrimination against those persons by any institution.





3. *Amnesty and reconciliation.* We urge understanding of and full amnesty or pardon for persons in all countries whose refusal to participate in war has placed them in legal jeopardy. We urge governments to grant political asylum to persons whose countries fail to recognize their conscientious objection to war.

ADOPTED 2008

RESOLUTION #5063, 2008 *BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS*

See Social Principles, ¶ 164 I.

**Suggested Title: Africa University**

Resolution Number 6001

General Church Budget Implications: Yes

Global Implications: Yes

Renew and Amend Resolution 6001

6001. Africa University

WHEREAS, the Africa University initiative formally began by the inspiring address delivered by Bishop Emilio de Carvalho of Angola at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church in October, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Bishop de Carvalho was joined by Bishop Arthur Kulah of Liberia, Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, then president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Bishop Felton E. May, then president of the General Council on Ministries, and other members in discussing the educational needs of Africa and ways the denomination might respond to this challenge; and

WHEREAS, the African central conferences of The United Methodist Church asked the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to assist them in developing significant post-secondary institutions of learning for the churches of Africa; and

WHEREAS, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 1988 General Conference of The United Methodist Church overwhelmingly approved the establishment of a university on the continent of Africa to be built in Zimbabwe and authorized an apportionment of \$ 10 million over a four-year period and an additional \$ 10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts; and

WHEREAS, the official groundbreaking for the university occurred on site in Old Mutare in 1991, and Africa University opened in 1992 with two faculties (schools) and forty students representing six nations on the African continent; and

WHEREAS, Africa University's enrollment reached a significant milestone in ~~2006~~ 2014 with its student population reaching ~~1,123~~ 1,474 representing ~~22~~ 23 African nations; and

WHEREAS, Africa University is committed to the education of African women with young women comprising 53.5 percent of the student population in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the number of faculties has grown from the initial two in 1992 to ~~nine~~ now six, plus the Institute of Peace, Leadership, and Governance; in 2006; and

~~WHEREAS, in February 2003, Africa University launched its Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance with an initial enrollment of 15 students, each of whom will earn a masters degree in Peace and Governance (MPC); and~~

WHEREAS, ~~2,317~~ more than 5,000 Africa University alumni have been deployed across the African continent in fulfillment of the University's mission to train new leaders for the nations of Africa— new leaders like Walter Manyangawirwa , who was in the first graduating class at Africa University and who is now ~~a leader in the field of study of fungi, viruses, bacteria, and other plant diseases~~ on the Africa University faculty and is one of Africa's few doctoral-level entomologists; and

~~WHEREAS, Africa University is the only private institution of higher learning on the African continent that may fly the international flag of the United Nations; and~~



~~WHEREAS, Africa University has been called "... one of the great success stories of Christian missions in the world today" by Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International; and~~

~~WHEREAS, in the year that The United Methodist Church is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the gender ratio in the student body is 53 percent female and 47 percent male; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Bishop Daniel Wandabula of Uganda was elected to the episcopacy on 28 May 2006 during a meeting of the denomination's Africa Central Conference on the Africa University Campus in Zimbabwe; and~~

WHEREAS, the support and enthusiasm of United Methodists worldwide for Africa University are demonstrated in the apportionments remitted annually, the second-mile givings, and contributions from churches and individuals for the Africa University Endowment Fund; and

WHEREAS, ~~the South Carolina Annual Conference calls upon~~ each local church is called upon to pay the full Africa University apportioned line item and give generously to the Africa University Endowment Fund;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference affirms that Africa University is a dynamic and important mission project of The United Methodist Church; affirms the leadership of all those involved in the continuing development and day-to-day operations of the university; and commends the Africa University Board of Directors and advisory Development Committee for their persistence, diligence, and visionary leadership in overcoming the obstacles and barriers to fulfilling the dream; and,

Be it further resolved, that the ~~2008~~ 2016 General Conference make Africa University a priority and allocate an apportionment of \$ 10 million over a four-year period and an additional \$ 10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts to continue development, construction, and endowment of Africa University as outlined in the planning process determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Africa University Board of Directors.

ADOPTED 2004

REVISED AND READOPTED 2008

RESOLUTION #6001, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #304, 2004 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #284, 2000 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS

See Social Principles, ¶ 165A.

**Suggested Title: Prayer for Military Personnel and for Peace in Iraq**

Resolution Number: 6136

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Allow 6136. Prayer for Military Personnel and for Peace in Iraq to expire

~~6136. Prayer for Military Personnel and for Peace in Iraq~~

~~The prophet Micah reminds us that God calls nations to "beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools," and that nations will no longer "take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war" (Micah 4: 3).~~

~~The war in Iraq must end. It is a tragedy that wounds the heart of God. Thousands of lives have been lost, millions of Iraqis have fled their country, and hundreds of billions of dollars wasted in a war the United States initiated and never should have fought.~~

~~A bipartisan US commission appointed by President Bush chaired by former Governor Tom Keane and~~





~~former Representative Lee Hamilton established that-~~

- ~~• No weapons of mass destruction were stored in Iraq;~~
- ~~• There was no attempt on the part of the government of Saddam Hussein to purchase uranium from the nation of Niger;~~
- ~~• There were no ties between Saddam Hussein and the events of September 11, 2001;~~
- ~~• There were no ties between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda.~~

~~As people of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray for peace, stability, and freedom in Iraq. We believe the Iraqi people can and should ultimately determine how these will be achieved. It is time for the United States to end the conflict and withdraw US troops, to discontinue waging war, and to seek a peaceful political solution in concert with the international community.~~

~~In recognition of the Church's responsibility to work for peace, The General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls upon the US government to:-~~

- ~~1. end the cycle of violence in Iraq by developing and implementing a plan for the immediate and safe withdrawal of US and partner coalition troops from the country;~~
- ~~2. work with Iraqis of good will, the United Nations, and nations in the Middle East to bring about a peaceful, long-term resolution to the conflict and rebuild Iraq;~~
- ~~3. commit US funds for the rebuilding of Iraq through a plan that ensures the participation of the Iraqis and gives them hope for their future;~~
- ~~4. provide adequate funding for US military personnel returning from Iraq and their families.~~

~~We urge United Methodists throughout the world to pray for an immediate end to the war in Iraq and to speak out for public policies that promote peace, justice, and reconciliation.~~

~~ADOPTED 2008-~~

~~RESOLUTION #6101, 2008 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS-~~

~~RESOLUTION #337, 2004 BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS-~~

~~See Social Principles, ¶ 165B, C.~~

Rationale: The war in Iraq has officially concluded and this Resolution is no longer relevant.

**Suggested Title: Collegiate Ministry as Priority of the Church**

Resolution Number: NEW

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Add New Resolution *Collegiate Ministry as Priority of the Church.*

WHEREAS, collegiate ministry is a term that fully includes campus ministries (Wesley Foundations and the like), college/university chaplains, ecumenical ministries, and church-based ministry with college students; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministry is the missional expression of the UMC on the college and university campuses of the world; and

WHEREAS, these campuses, many of them cities unto themselves, require their own unique faith communities; and

WHEREAS, those communities require called, gifted, trained, equipped, and supported collegiate ministers, who order the life of these unique ministries; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries actively offer the good news of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to



belong to an authentic Christian community on every university and college campus; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries provide substantive opportunities for students to become growing, serving, learning, and leading disciples of Jesus Christ in the United Methodist tradition; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries are communities that are intentionally and radically open, welcoming, and inclusive to all people, seeking to be communities that authentically reflect the diversity and unity of the Kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries help all students hear God's call to serve and lead in the church and world, including both lay vocations and ordained ministry in the Church; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries are incubators for new and effective ways for doing ministry as United Methodists, particularly with young adults; and

WHEREAS, collegiate ministries embody hope for the future of The United Methodist Church, as we raise up a new generation of disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world;

Therefore be it resolved, that every Annual Conference shall make collegiate ministry a priority; the Bishops and appointive cabinets take seriously the recruitment, appointment, and certification of missionally-minded, called, gifted, trained, equipped, and supported collegiate ministers; and conferences develop necessary funding to ensure the effectiveness of these ministries;

And be it further resolved, that every Annual Conference have a fully functioning Board of Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry (§634) that shall fulfill its role in supporting, funding, and evaluating the effectiveness of each collegiate ministry.

See Social Principles, ¶¶ 161 and 162.

<sup>1</sup> *The Story of Methodism*, Halford E. Luccock, Paul Hutchinson, Robert W. Goodloe (Abingdon Press, 1926; page 361).