



**Suggested Title: Educational Requirements for Voting Privileges**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 35**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 35

¶ 35. *Article IV.*—The clergy delegates to the General Conference... and local pastors who have completed course of study or an ~~M. Div.~~ Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a Central Conference and have served ....

*Rationale* – Consistent with the worldwide nature of the church, the educational requirements inserted here ensure that those voting for clergy delegates have completed the denominational-standard expectations for theological education.

**Suggested Title: Proposed Changes for United Methodist Student Day**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 263.4**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 263.4

¶ 263.4 – United Methodist Student Day  
*4. United Methodist Student Day*—~~Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. Congregations are to observe United Methodist Student Day on any Sunday in the month of May this date or on another date appropriate to the local church to celebrate high school graduates or active students in higher education.~~ United Methodist Student Day calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund. In connection ...

*Rationale* – Moving the observation time frame for United Methodist Student Day to May encourages

promotional alignment with student graduation celebrations. United Methodist Student Day no longer supports the UM Student Loan Fund.

**Suggested Title: Proposed Changes for Native American Ministries Sunday**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 263.6 c)**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: No**

Amend ¶ 263.6 c)

¶ 263.6 – Native American Ministries Sunday  
...

c) Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agencies: (1) Scholarships for Native Americans attending ~~United Methodist schools of theology and schools of theology approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church~~ University Senate-approved theological schools or approved Course of Study programs, or the recruitment and education of Native Americans who are pursuing ordained or licensed ministry: 50 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry). ...

*Rationale* – Broadens the support available for Native Americans pursuing licensed or ordained ministry and helps ensure that more students and potential candidates are eligible to be supported by this fund.

**Suggested Title: Requirements for Transitioning Orders Between Deacon and Elder**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 309.2e**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 309.2e

e) completed at least two years, and no more than eight years, under appointment in a context related to ~~while licensed for the ministry~~ of the order to which they are transitioning.



*Rationale* – Deacons or elders transitioning orders must demonstrate effective service before being received into the new order. Ordained clergy are not licensed to practice ministry. Deacons may officiate sacraments with the resident bishop’s permission. To require a license during this transition causes confusion about a deacon’s clergy status during the transition.

**Suggested Title: Categories and Qualifications for the License for Pastoral Ministry**

**Discipline Paragraph: 315**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 315

¶ 315. *License for Pastoral Ministry*—All persons not ordained as elders who are appointed to preach and conduct divine worship and perform the duties of a pastor shall have a license for pastoral ministry. Those listed below (¶ 315.2a-d) shall have been approved by a three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 635.2h) and a three-fourths majority vote of the clergy session.

~~6.1.~~ In every case, ~~¶~~ Those who are licensed shall have:

~~a)~~ Released the required psychological reports, criminal background and credit checks, and reports of sexual misconduct and/or child abuse. They shall submit, on a form provided by the ~~conference~~ Board of Ordained Ministry:

(1) a notarized statement detailing any convictions for felony or misdemeanor or written accusations of sexual misconduct or child abuse; or

(2) a notarized statement certifying that the candidate has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor, or accused in writing of sexual misconduct or child abuse.

~~b)~~ Been approved by a three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 635.2h);

~~c-b)~~ Provided the board with a satisfactory certificate of good health on a prescribed form from a physician approved by that board.

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

2. The Board of Ordained Ministry (¶ 635.2h) may recommend to the clergy session of the annual conference the licensing of those persons who are:

1. ~~Provisional elders commissioned by the annual conference, or~~

2. ~~a)~~ Local pastors who have completed the following:

~~a)~~ (1) The conditions for candidacy certification in ¶¶ 310.1-2;

~~b)~~ (2) The Orientation to Ministry;

~~c)~~ (3) The studies for the license as a local pastor as prescribed and supervised by the Division of Ordained Ministry or one-third of their work for a Master of Divinity degree at a ~~school of theology listed by the University Senate~~ University Senate-approved theological school;

~~d)~~ (4) Been examined and recommended by a three-fourths majority vote of the district committee on ordained ministry (¶ 666.9); or

3 ~~b)~~ Associate members of the annual conference; or

~~c)~~ Provisional elders commissioned by the annual conference; or

4. ~~Diacons in full connection, seeking to qualify for ordination as an elder; or~~

~~5-d)~~ Licensed or ordained clergy from other denominations who have training equivalent to the studies for license as a local pastor prescribed by the Division of Ordained Ministry but do not meet the educational requirements for provisional membership in the annual conference.

*Rationale* – Lists the categories of licensing in sequential order and clarifies which categories of licensed clergy must receive a 3/4 majority recommendation of the BOM and approval of the clergy session. Clarifies that deacons in full connection, seeking to qualify for ordination as an elder, do not require licensing.



**Suggested Title: Interim License for Pastoral Ministry Approval**

**Discipline Paragraph: 317**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Delete ¶ 317 from current location and move it to follow ¶ 315

¶ 317. **NEW ¶.** ~~Following ¶ 315~~ *Interim License as Local Pastor* – Between sessions of the annual conference, persons who have completed the conditions for licensing ~~listed above (¶ 315.6)~~ may be granted interim license as a local pastor before receiving approval of the clergy session. ~~upon~~ Upon recommendation of the cabinet, the district committee on ordained ministry, and executive committee of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the candidate ~~and~~ may be appointed by the bishop.

*Rationale* – Clarifies that interim local pastors may be appointed between annual conference sessions before receiving approval of the clergy session. Also, better organizes licensing paragraphs by ordering the two paragraphs on qualifications for licensing together.

**Suggested Title: Reinstatement of Local Pastors**

**Discipline Paragraph: 320.4**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 320.4

¶ 320. *Exiting, Reinstatement, and Retirement of Local Pastors Who Are Not Provisional Members*—

... 4. *Reinstatement of Local Pastor Status*—  
Local pastors whose approved status has been discontinued ... and the cabinet.  
Persons seeking reinstatement shall ... membership is currently held.  
When approved by the clergy members in full connection ... meet requirements as provided in ¶¶ 315, 318.  
Whenever persons whose approval as local pastors has been discontinued by an annual

conference are being considered for ~~appointment or temporary employment~~ licensing in another annual conference, ... approval as local pastors.

*Rationale* – Numbering the steps for the process of reinstatement clarifies what local pastors must do in order to be reinstated either in their home conference or in a new conference.

**Suggested Title: Editorial Changes for Clarity in Provisional Membership Paragraph**

**Discipline Paragraph: 324**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 324

¶ 324. *Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership* - ...

4. *Graduate Requirement:*

a) Candidates for ~~deacon or elder~~ provisional membership shall have completed a minimum of one-half of the 27 semester hours of basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith from a University Senate-approved theological school. These courses may be included within or in addition to a seminary degree. These basic graduate theological studies ~~must~~ shall include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist studies in doctrine, polity and history.

b) A) Elder - a candidate for ordination as an elder shall also:

1. Have completed a minimum of one half of the studies toward a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent; ~~or including one-half of the basic graduate theological studies from a seminary listed by the University Senate.~~

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





c) completed the Course of Study. Course of Study requirements may be fulfilled as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§ 1421.3d) by:

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

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

d) completed an Advanced Course of Study ... The Advanced Course of Study shall include the basic graduate theological studies (§ 324.4a).

e) B) Deacon – a candidate for ordination as a deacon shall also have:

(1) 1. completed a minimum of one half of the studies of a master's degree from a United Methodist seminary or one listed by the University Senate/University Senate-approved theological school, or

(2) 2. received a master's degree in the area of the specialized ministry in which the candidate will serve, or

(3) 3. completed one half of the basic graduate theological studies, in a context which will provide formation as a United Methodist deacon in full connection within a cohesive program developed by the seminary and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, documented by a record of completion from that school.

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

a) shall have reached thirty-five years of age at the time to become a certified candidate;

b) completed a bachelor's degree, received professional certification or license in the area of ministry in which the candidate will serve, have completed a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate credit or equivalent quarter hours in the area of specialization, and have

been recommended by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry;

e) have completed a minimum of one half of the twenty-seven semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith including the areas of: Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist doctrine, polity, and history, in a context which will provide a cohesive program and formation as a United Methodist deacon in full connection within a cohesive program developed by the seminary and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, documented by a record of completion from that school.

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

a) completed four years of full-time service or the equivalent;

b) satisfied all requirements of Sections 1-3 and 7-14 of this paragraph;

c) completed the Course of Study. Course of Study requirements may be fulfilled as determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§ 1421.3d) by:

1. 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

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

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 shall include the basic graduate theological studies (§ 324.4a).

7. ...

8. ...

9. Each candidate shall respond to a written and oral doctrinal examination administered by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The examination shall cover the following:



...

10. Each candidate shall have been recommended in writing to the conference Board of Ordained Ministry...

11. Each candidate shall have a personal interview with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry ...

12. ...

13. ...

14. Each candidate shall have been recommended in writing to the clergy session based on at least a three-fourths majority vote of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Rationale – The paragraph is reorganized to group deacon ordination and elder ordination into separate subparagraphs. Additional changes are editorial to make the paragraph more concise and clearer.

Suggested Title: Candidacy or Licensing Requirement for Provisional Membership
Discipline Paragraph: 324.1
General Church Budget Implications: None
Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 324.1

¶ 324. Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership—

...

1. Candidacy or Licensing Requirement: Each candidate shall have been a certified candidate or a local pastor for at least one year.

Rationale – Certified candidates can be licensed for ministry without being certified for one year. This petition clarifies that a minimum of one year of service as local pastor also qualifies as experience toward eligibility to apply for provisional membership.

Suggested Title: Basic Graduate Theological Studies Requirements

Discipline Paragraph: 324.4

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 324.4

¶ 324. Qualifications for Election to Provisional Membership—...

4. Graduate Requirement:

Candidates for deacon or elder shall have completed a minimum of one-half of the 27 semester hours of the basic graduate theological studies in the Christian faith. These courses shall each be three (3) semester hours, or the equivalent and may be included within or in addition to a seminary degree. These basic graduate theological studies must shall include courses in Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; evangelism; worship/liturgy; and United Methodist doctrine, polity and history. The combined credit hours for the United Methodist studies shall be a minimum 6 semester hours, or the equivalent. Basic graduate theological studies shall not be taken pass/fail.

Rationale – Since BGTS are critical to theological education and preparation for ministry, these courses should be taken for a grade and completed prior to commissioning. Clarifies hour requirements for BGTS and UM Studies.

Suggested Title: Alternate Provisional Membership Route for Deacons

Discipline Paragraph: 324.5

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 324.5

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: Candidates who have professional certification may



fulfill the requirements for provisional membership as deacons when they have:

a) shall have reached thirty-five years of age at the time to become a certified candidate; completed four years of full-time (or the equivalent) employment in the area of specialized ministry; and

b) completed a bachelor's degree, received professional certification or license in the area of ministry in which the candidate will serve, have completed a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate credit or equivalent quarter hours in the area of specialization, and have been recommended by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry;

*Rationale* – This change validates years of experience in ministry as an equivalent to some of the required education in the other available paths toward becoming an ordained deacon. The required bachelor's degree is retained in ¶ 324.3.

**Suggested Title: Clarify Authority of Provisional Deacon**

**Discipline Paragraph: 326.1**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 326.1

¶ 326. *Service of Provisional Members*—

...

1. Provisional members ... local church. A provisional member preparing for ordination as a deacon shall be ~~licensed for~~ commissioned to the practice of ministry within the appointment setting during provisional membership to perform the duties of the ministry of the deacon as stated in ¶ 328 and be granted support as stated in ¶ 331.10. The appointment setting is defined as "people within or related to the community or ministry setting being served." Such authorization granted by the license ....

*Rationale* – Clarifies that the practice of provisional member deacons is limited to the appointment setting during provisional membership. This makes the authority of provisional member deacons and provisional member elders the same in being located within the appointment setting.

**Suggested Title: Fair Process Appeal Timeline for Provisional Members**

**Discipline Paragraph: 327.6**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 327.6

¶ 327. *Eligibility and Rights of Provisional Membership*—

...

6. *Discontinuance from Provisional Membership*—

... In the case of discontinuation without consent, prior to any final recommendation, a provisional member will be advised of the right to receive a fair process hearing before the committee on conference relations of the Board of Ordained Ministry. To receive a fair process hearing, the provisional member shall notify the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry in writing no later than forty-five days preceding the beginning of the annual conference session. A report of the action....

*Rationale* – This change provides adequate time for a Board of Ordained Ministry to administer a fair process hearing that adheres to timelines in the Discipline and as well as falling within established dates of the annual conference session.

**Suggested Title: Alternate Ordination Route for Deacons**

**Discipline Paragraph: 330.3c**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 330.3c

3. They shall have met the following educational requirements: (a) graduation with a Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree ...; (b) graduation with a Master of Divinity degree or a master's degree from a graduate theological school recognized by the University Senate, or a master's degree in an area of specialized ministry; (c) or are candidates ~~over the age~~





~~of 35 who have completed four years of full-time (or the equivalent) employment in the area of specialized ministry with and who have received professional certification or license in their area of ministry including a minimum of eight semester hours of graduate academic credit. Educational requirements in every case shall include the completion of the basic graduate theological studies of the Christian faith, as outlined listed in ¶324.4a.~~

*Rationale* – This validates ministry experience as an alternate way to meet some of the requirements toward becoming an ordained deacon. This is a similar alternate ordination route to what local pastors may use after completing educational requirements and a minimum of four years’ service in appointive ministry.

**Suggested Title: Provisions for Associate Members From Outside the Annual Conference**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 346.1**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 346.1

¶ 346. *Provisions for Clergy From Outside the Annual Conference*—Ordained clergy, associate members, or provisional members from other annual conferences and Christian denominations may receive an appointment in the annual conference in the following manner:

1. *Ordained Clergy, Associate Members, or Provisional Members From Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations*—With approval and consent of the bishops or other judicatory authorities involved, ordained clergy, associate members, or provisional members of other annual conferences or other Methodist churches may receive appointments in the annual or missionary conference while retaining their home conference membership or denominational affiliation....

*Rationale* – Associate members are not required to have their license approved annually by their conference and have an ongoing relationship with the

conference and the UMC. Therefore, they should be able to serve in other conferences after meeting all requirements listed in ¶ 346.1.

**Suggested Title: Associate Members Transferring to Another Annual Conference**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 347.1**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 347.1

¶ 347. *Transfers*—1. *From Other Annual Conferences*—Ordained clergy, associate members, or provisional members from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church may be received by transfer into full, associate, or provisional ~~or full~~ membership with the consent of the bishops involved....

*Rationale* – Provides a way for Associate Members to transfer annual conferences.

**Suggested Title: Full BOM Recommendation Required for Transfer**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 347.1**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 347.1

¶ 347. *Transfers*—1. *From Other Annual Conferences*—Ordained clergy, or provisional members from other annual conferences of The United Methodist Church may be received by transfer into provisional or full membership with the consent of the bishops involved. Recommendation by the ~~executive committee of the~~ Board of Ordained Ministry and approval of the clergy session shall take place prior to the transfer.

*Rationale* – Requires that the full Board of Ordained Ministry (rather than only the Executive Committee) recommend a candidate to the clergy session for transfer.



**Suggested Title: Clergy Session Approves Transfers from Other Methodist Denominations**

**Discipline Paragraph: 347.2**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 347.2

¶ 347. *Transfers*—

...

2. *From Other Methodist Denominations*—a)

Ordained elders or ordained clergy from other Methodist churches may be received by transfer into provisional or full conference membership or as local pastors, ... that meet this definition. ~~Prior-consultation with the chairperson or executive-committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be held in order to determine that the minister meets the standards for conference membership established by the Discipline and the annual conference. Recommendation by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approval of the clergy session shall take place prior to the transfer.~~ A psychological report, ...

*Rationale* – The Board of Ordained Ministry recommends to the clergy session all clergy membership and conference relations requests before decisions are final. The clergy session is the only body with authority to approve conference relations and membership decisions and must be included in any decision about transfer into the conference.

**Suggested Title: Clarity for Transfer Process from Another Denomination**

**Discipline Paragraph: 347.3**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 347.3

¶ 347. *Transfers*—

3. *From Other Denominations*—

e) ~~Following the provisional-~~

~~member's election to full conference membership as a deacon or elder as provided in ¶ 326, the bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide a certificate~~

~~of full membership in the annual conference.~~

4. ...

5. ...

6. Election to membership and recognition of orders. To complete the transfer process:

a) Following the provisional member's election to full conference membership as a deacon or elder as provided in ¶ 330 or ¶ 335 respectively, the bishop and secretary of the conference shall provide a certificate of full membership in the annual conference; and

b) 6- After the orders of an ordained minister of another church shall have been duly recognized, and the minister has been ~~approved for~~ elected to full membership, ...

*Rationale* – Reordering the paragraph in this sequence shows the entire process required to complete a transfer from another denomination. This ordering ensures that those who transfer receive a certificate of membership and that their original ordination is recognized in the UMC after the vote for election into full membership.

**Suggested Title: Assigning Clergy Mentors**

**Discipline Paragraph: 348**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 348

¶ 348. *Mentors*—~~1. Mentors shall be recommended by the cabinet, selected, trained and held accountable by the Board of Ordained Ministry. There are two categories of mentor, each with distinct functions and responsibilities as follows:~~

~~2. 1. Mentoring occurs within a relationship ... preparation for ministry.~~

It is expected that all annual conferences will make available and encourage the use of spiritual directors, coaches, pastoral counselors or vocational mentors for all clergy, separate from the superintendent, and that clergy will utilize these kinds of support as a standard practice of ministry throughout the clergy career, and in all assignments or appointments.





1. 2. Mentors shall be recommended by the cabinet, selected, trained and held accountable by the Board of Ordained Ministry. There are two categories of mentor, each with distinct functions and responsibilities as follows:

a) Candidacy mentors . . . .

b) Clergy mentors are clergy in full

connection, associate members, full-time, or part-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity from a University Senate-approved theological school and are trained to provide ongoing oversight and counsel with local pastors and with provisional members. Local pastors, while in Course of Study or seminary (§ 316.4), shall be assigned a clergy mentor by the district committee on ordained ministry in consultation with the district superintendent. Provisional members shall be assigned a clergy mentor in full connection by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry in consultation with the district superintendent. A candidacy mentor may continue with the same person if trained to serve as a clergy mentor. Licensed or ordained clergy from other denominations shall be assigned a clergy mentor by the Board of Ordained Ministry (§ 346.2, § 347.3b). 4- Clergy mentoring begins when a person local pastor, provisional member, or clergy of another denomination receives an appointment as a local pastor or as a provisional member.

3- Local pastors and provisional members will be assigned to a clergy mentoring group, wherever possible, or to a clergy mentor by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Persons transferring from other denominations will also be assigned a clergy mentor (§ 347.3b).

It is expected....

Rationale – The previous wording caused confusion regarding the role of the BOM and Superintendent in assigning clergy mentors. This new wording and ordering help to clarify the purpose and implementation of mentoring.

Suggested Title: Organize Administrative Fair Process Paragraphs

Discipline Paragraph: 361

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

Move current § 363 to the beginning of § 361

§ 361. ~~§ 363.~~ *Disposition of Recommendations of In Cases of Involuntary Status Change—*

1. When there is a recommendation for an involuntary status change, the Board of Ordained Ministry shall take action in a timely manner. The recommendation shall be referred to the conference relations committee who shall conduct an administrative hearing following the fair process provisions of § 361.2. The bishop or the Board of Ordained Ministry, as appropriate, shall designate the person to present the recommendation to the committee. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to address the recommendation in person, in writing, and with the assistance of a clergyperson who is a member in full connection of the respondent's annual conference, and who shall have voice. Once the committee has heard the person designated to represent the recommendation, the respondent, and others as determined by the chairperson of the committee, it shall report its decision to the Board of Ordained Ministry. The board may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee.

1 2. Conference Relations Committee—Each annual conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall establish . . . .

(Renumber rest of paragraph)

Rationale – Moves the explanation of the involuntary status change process to the beginning of the administrative fair process section. The requirements and steps for completing the process now follow. This organization provides a clearer understanding of the administrative fair process. The contents of § 363 are not changed.



**Suggested Title: Organize Complaint Procedures Paragraphs**

**Discipline Paragraph: 362**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Move ¶ 362 to be inserted before current ¶ 2703

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRAL AND  
INVESTIGATION OF A JUDICIAL  
COMPLAINT

~~¶ 362.~~ ¶ NEW. *Complaint Procedures*—1.

Ordination and membership in an annual conference in The United Methodist Church is a sacred trust. The qualifications and duties of local pastors, associate members, provisional members, and full members are set forth in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, and we believe they flow from the gospel as taught by Jesus the Christ and proclaimed by his apostles. Whenever a person in any of the above categories, including those on leaves of all types, honorable or administrative location, or retirement, is accused of violating this trust, the membership of his or her ministerial office shall be subject to review.

This review shall have as its primary purpose a just resolution of any violations of this sacred trust, in the hope that God's work of justice, reconciliation and healing may be realized in the body of Christ.

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. In appropriate situations, processes seeking a just resolution as defined in ¶ 362.1c may be pursued. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration.

A complaint is a written and signed statement claiming misconduct as defined in ¶ 2702.1. When a complaint is received by the bishop, both the person making the complaint and the person against whom the complaint is made will be informed in writing of the process to be followed at that stage. 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 may be extended for one 30-day period upon the consent of the complainant and the respondent.

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 or character of a clergy person. A complaint is a written and signed statement claiming misconduct or unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties. The person filing the complaint and the clergy person shall be informed by the district superintendent or bishop of the process for filing the complaint and its purpose.

b) *Supervisory Response*—The supervisory response of the bishop shall begin upon receipt of a formal complaint. The response is pastoral and administrative and shall be directed toward a just resolution among all parties. It is not part of any judicial process. The complaint shall be treated as an allegation or allegations during the supervisory process. At all supervisory meetings no verbatim record shall be made and no legal counsel shall be present. 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.

The supervisory response shall be carried out by the bishop or the bishop's designee in a timely manner, with attention to communication to all parties regarding the complaint and the process. At the determination of the bishop, persons with qualifications and experience in assessment, intervention, or healing may be selected to assist in the supervisory response. The bishop also may consult with the committee on pastor-parish relations for pastors, the district committee on superintendency for the district superintendents, appropriate personnel committee, or other persons who may be helpful.

When the supervisory response is initiated, the bishop shall notify the chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry that a complaint has been filed, of the clergy person named, of the general nature of the complaint, and, when concluded, of the disposition of the complaint.





c) *Just Resolution*—The supervisory response may include a process that seeks a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s), in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. If the bishop chooses to initiate a mediated attempt to produce a just resolution, then the bishop, the person filing the complaint, the respondent, and other appropriate persons shall enter into a written agreement outlining the process, including any agreements on confidentiality.

A process seeking a just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory, complaint, or trial process. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including any terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. A just resolution agreed to by all parties shall be a final disposition of the related complaint. A process seeking a just resolution may begin at any time in the supervisory or complaint process. This is a not an administrative or judicial proceeding.

d) *Suspension*—When deemed appropriate, to protect the well-being of the person making the complaint, the congregation, annual conference, other context for ministry, and/or clergy, the bishop, with the recommendation of the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, 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. During the suspension, salary, housing, and benefits provided by a pastoral charge will continue at a level no less than on the date of suspension. The person so suspended shall retain all rights and privileges as stated in ¶ 334. The cost of supply of a pastor during the suspension will be borne by the annual conference.

e) *Referral or Dismissal of a Complaint*—Upon receiving a written and signed complaint, the Bishop shall, within 90 days, carry out the supervisory response process outlined above. If within 90 days after the receipt of the complaint resolution is not achieved, the bishop shall either:

(1) Dismiss the complaint

with the consent of the cabinet giving the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the clergy person's file; or

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

f) *Supervisory Follow-up and Healing*—The bishop and cabinet shall provide a process for healing within the congregation, annual conference, or other context of ministry if there has been significant disruption by the complaint. This process may include sharing of information by the bishop or the bishop's designee about the nature of the complaint without disclosing alleged facts, which may compromise any possible forthcoming administrative or judicial process. When facts are disclosed, due regard should be given to the interests and needs of all concerned, including the respondent and complainant who may be involved in an administrative or judicial process. This process for healing may include a process of a just resolution, which addresses unresolved conflicts, support for victims, and reconciliation for parties involved. This can take place at any time during the supervisory, complaint, or trial process.

g) A complaint may be held in abeyance with the approval of the Board of Ordained Ministry if civil authorities are involved or their involvement is imminent on matters covered by the complaint. The status of complaints held in abeyance shall be reviewed at a minimum of every 90 days by the bishop and the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry to ensure that the involvement of civil authorities is still a valid impediment for proceeding with the resolution of a complaint. Abeyance of a complaint may be terminated by either the bishop or the Board of Ordained Ministry. The time in which a complaint is held in abeyance shall not count toward the statute of limitations. A clergy person shall continue to hold his or her current status while a complaint is held in abeyance.

¶ 2703. *Composition of the Committee on Investigation*

*Rationale* – Locating all complaint procedures into the judicial complaint process section by moving them from the administrative fair process section (¶361-¶363) better organizes the related paragraphs.





The contents of the current ¶ 362 have not been changed.

**Suggested Title: Delete Outdated Readmission After Termination Process**

**Discipline Paragraph: 367**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Delete ¶ 367 in its entirety.

*Rationale* - The procedures in this paragraph apply to those terminated prior to General Conference 1976. They are no longer timely and need to be deleted.

**Suggested Title: Remove Course of Study Record from Procedures for Conference Transfers**

**Discipline Paragraph: 416.5**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 416.5

5. To transfer, upon the request of the receiving bishop (¶ 347.1), clergy member(s) of one annual conference to another, ... to the ~~conference~~ boards of ordained ministry, ... written notices of the transfer of members and of their ~~conference~~ standing ~~in the~~ Course of Study if they are undergraduates.

*Rationale* – the reference to Course of Study is inappropriate in this paragraph because there are no provisions in the Discipline for local pastors to transfer. This reference needs to be removed.

**Suggested Title: Annual Conference Reporting for Ministerial Education Fund**

**Discipline Paragraph: 816**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 816

¶ 816. The Ministerial Education Fund—The ~~council~~ General Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend to the General Conference the sum...

1. Of the total money raised.... Administrative costs of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be a claim on the conference's operating budget. All United Methodist annual conferences receiving Ministerial Education Fund allocations shall submit annual reports to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry detailing how the Ministerial Education Fund allocations were spent. ~~No annual conference that participated in a 1 percent plan or other conference program of ministerial student scholarships and loan grants prior to the establishment of this fund shall receive less for this purpose than it received in the last year of the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund, provided the giving from that conference for ministerial education does not fall below the level achieved in the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund.~~

a) "Service Loans" from the conference ...

*Rationale* – Since 1968, MEF has supported ministers' education (primarily seminary students). 75% of funds collected from conferences are distributed to the 13 UM theological schools, with 25% retained in conferences. Schools submit an annual expenditures report to GBHEM. For accountability to the connection, annual conferences should likewise submit similar annual reports.

**Suggested Title: Proposed Changes for United Methodist Student Day**

**Discipline Paragraph: 824.3**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend ¶ 824.3

¶ 824.3 – United Methodist Student Day

3. *United Methodist Student Day*—Historically, ~~United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November.~~



Congregations are ~~encouraged~~ to observe United Methodist Student Day on any Sunday in the month of May this date or on another date appropriate to the local church to celebrate high school graduates or active students in higher education. The offering shall support United Methodist scholarships ~~and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund~~ (§ 263.4). The observance ...

*Rationale* – Moving the observation time frame for United Methodist Student Day to May encourages promotional alignment with graduation celebrations. United Methodist Student Day no longer supports the UM Student Loan Fund.

**Suggested Title:** Update GBHEM Objectives

**Discipline Paragraph:** 1405

**General Church Budget Implications:** None

**Global Implications:** Yes

Delete current § 1405 and replace with the following text

**§ 1405. Objectives**—The objectives of the board shall comprise all the objectives assigned to the offices, divisions, and units under its authority:

To serve the mission of The United Methodist Church by developing principled, Christian lay and clergy leaders for the life of the Church, the academy, and the world.

To cultivate a culture of call, vocational discernment, and spiritual formation that helps all persons discover, claim, and flourish in God's call for their lives.

To serve as stewards for the intellectual life of the Church.

To encourage and celebrate the worldwide emergence and growth of Methodist-related education and ministry, and to promote access to United Methodist-related institutions of education at all levels.

To interpret and promote the value of Methodist-related education and ministry; and to foster a Christian presence in institutions related to The United Methodist Church.

To prescribe professional ministerial courses of study for a systematic entrance into licensed and ordained ministry. Courses include the diversity of contextual, linguistic, and disability needs for clergy leadership formation.

To create and sustain a culture of assessment and evaluation that maintains standards of academic excellence.

To provide services that promote a climate of acceptance and empowerment within Methodist-related institutions of education and professional Church-related ministries for women, racial and ethnic persons, and people with disabilities; and to advocate on behalf of these persons in questions of equity and justice.

To collaborate with other general boards, agencies, and commissions of The United Methodist Church to strengthen leadership for a worldwide church.

To steward fiduciary and legal relationships with institutions and ministries, and steward the human, institutional, and material resources entrusted to the board.

**Suggested Title:** Update GBHEM Responsibilities

**Discipline Paragraph:** 1406

**General Church Budget Implications:** None

**Global Implications:** Yes

Delete current § 1406 and replace with the following text

**§ 1406. Responsibilities**—The responsibilities of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be:

To establish and review the vision, mission, objectives, and strategic direction of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and to advocate for its worldwide mission and vision throughout the United Methodist connection.

To give strategic direction to the staff and to delegate authority to board executives through general administrative oversight.



To determine policies and programs, establish goals and priorities, project long-range plans, and evaluate programs and services of the board.

To establish appropriate organizational structures within the board of directors and the staff to achieve established objectives, including writing bylaws, electing officers, and establishing committees.

To elect, supervise, and evaluate the general secretary (§ 713), and fill vacancies in accordance with § 712.

To develop the processes, tools, platforms, and institutions that support the leadership of laity and clergy for the life of the Church, the academy, and the world.

To interpret, promote, and administer the loans and scholarships programs of the board.

To develop, maintain, and assess standards for the credentialing of individuals for vocational ministry.

To provide effective processes for the evaluation of United Methodist-related institutions of education with concern for the quality of their performance and the integrity of their mission.

To promote and foster intercultural, intracultural, and cultural competencies and dialogue in leadership development.

To develop and maintain worldwide cooperative relationships with United Methodist boards, agencies, commissions, educational institutions and ministry structures; as well as with other denominations, and ecumenical and interfaith agencies for the full discharge of the objectives of the board and the fulfillment of the initiatives of the General Conference.

To provide counsel and guidance to related professional associations and fellowships for the fulfillment of the mission and vision of the board.

To provide for the allocation of funds to institutions and to programs related to the board.

To develop long-range investments, fund-raising projects, and revenue-generating programs in alignment with the Church's mission that shall provide for, insofar as possible, the continuous flow of resources for United Methodist-related education and ministry in perpetuity. The board shall adhere to the investment guidelines adopted by the General Conference.

To steward property and endowments as entrusted to the board and related institutions and to maintain and enforce adequate trust and reversionary clauses.

To provide support deemed necessary for the agency to carry out the work of the board.

**Suggested Title: Clarify Role of the Judicial Council as Related to Judicial and Administrative Appeals**

**Discipline Paragraph: 2609.9**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend § 2609.9

...

9. The Judicial Council shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine all appeals from decisions of the jurisdictional appeals committee related to the judicial complaint process.

*Rationale* – This change complies with the directive in Judicial Council Decision 1361 “to have one or two appellate bodies adjudicate claims of procedural errors...” Clarifies that the Judicial Council is not responsible for hearing administrative appeals. The responsibility to hear administrative appeals rests with the central conference or jurisdictional appeals committee.





**Suggested Title: Organize Administrative Fair Process Paragraphs**  
**Discipline Paragraph: 2718.3, 4**  
**General Church Budget Implications: None**  
**Global Implications: Yes**

Move ¶ 2718.3 and .4 to follow current ¶ 361

¶ 361.3 – *Immunity From Prosecution* – ... The immunity set forth in this provision shall extend to civil court proceedings, to the fullest extent permissible by the civil laws.

¶ NEW. ¶ 2718.3: Administrative Fair Process Appeals – 1. The order of appeals on questions of procedures in an administrative process shall be as follows: from the decision of the conference relations committee to the administrative review committee who has original jurisdiction over the administrative matter, and from the administrative review committee to the central conference or jurisdictional appeals committee in which the appellant holds membership, and from the jurisdictional appeals committee to the Judicial Council.

¶ 2718.4 2. When an appeal is made on questions of procedure in an administrative process:

a) In all cases of appeal, the appellant shall within thirty days give written notice of appeal and at the same time furnish to the officer receiving such notice a written statement of the grounds of appeal, and the hearing in the appellate body shall be limited to the grounds set forth in such statement.

b) The appellant body shall return to the convening officer of the administrative hearing and to the appellant a written statement of the grounds of its action.

c) An appeal shall not be allowed in any case in which the respondent has failed or refused to be present in person or by counsel during the administrative hearing. Appeals shall be heard by the proper appellate body unless it shall appear to the said body that the appellant has forfeited the right to appeal by misconduct; by withdrawal from the Church; by failure to appear in person or by counsel to prosecute the appeal; or, prior to the final decision on appeal by resorting to suit in the civil courts

against any of the parties connected with the ecclesiastical administrative process.

d) The right to appeal, when once forfeited by neglect or otherwise, cannot be revived by any subsequent appellate body.

e) The right to prosecute an appeal shall not be affected by the death of the person entitled to such right. Heirs of legal representatives may prosecute such appeal as the appellant would be entitled to do if living.

f) The records and documents of the administrative process, including any evidence, and these only, shall be used in the hearing of any appeal.

g) The appellate body shall determine one question only: Were there such errors of Church law as to vitiate the recommendation and/or action of the administrative body? This question shall be determined by the records of the administrative process and the arguments of the official representatives of all parties. The appellate body shall in no case hear witnesses. It may have legal counsel present for the sole purpose of providing advice to the appellate body.

h) If the appellate body determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action. The appellate committee shall not reverse the judgment nor remand the case for a new hearing on account of error plainly not affecting the result. All decisions of the appellate committee shall require a majority vote.

i) In all cases, the right to present evidence shall be exhausted when the case has been heard once on its merits in the proper administrative hearing body, but questions on Church law may be carried on appeal, step by step, to the Judicial Council.

j) Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer or secretary of the appellate body. Under no circumstances shall one party in the absence of the other party discuss substantive matters with members of any appellate body while the case is pending.

k) Contacts with members of any appellate body shall be limited to matters of



procedure and shall be directed only to the presiding officer or secretary of the appellate body. Under no circumstance shall matters of substance be discussed.

*Rationale* – Locating all administrative fair process procedures and appeals in one location by moving them from the judicial appeals section (§ 2718) into the administrative fair process section (§361-§363) better organizes the related paragraphs and provides a clearer understanding of administrative fair process. The contents of the current § 2718.3,4 have not been changed.

**Suggested Title: Define Administrative Appeals Process in Response to Judicial Council Decision 1361**

**Discipline Paragraph: 2718.3**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Amend § 2718.3

§ 2718.3. The order of appeals on questions of procedures in an administrative process shall be as follows: from the decision of the conference relations committee to the administrative review committee who has original jurisdiction over the administrative matter, and from the administrative review committee to the central conference or jurisdictional appeals committee in which the appellant holds membership, ~~and from the jurisdictional appeals committee to the Judicial Council.~~ For administrative fair process appeals, the decision of the central conference or jurisdictional appeals committee is final.

*Rationale* – This change complies with the directive in Judicial Council Decision 1361 “to have one or two appellate bodies adjudicate claims of procedural errors...” while still allowing for a clergy right of appeal in an involuntary status change.

**Suggested Title: Sexual Ethics as Integral Part of Formation for Ministerial Leadership**

**Resolution Number: 2046**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Update and Readopt Resolution 2046

Replace current Resolution 2046 with the following text:

WHEREAS, since 1996, The United Methodist Church has called for “United Methodist-related schools of theology to provide training on the prevention and eradication of sexual harassment, abuse, and misconduct within the ministerial relationship” (2008 *Book of Resolutions*, p.139; 1996 *Book of Resolutions*, p.131); and despite ongoing effort, these behaviors persist in epidemic proportion.

WHEREAS, the need continues for focused attention to: professional and sexual ethics, related biblical theological foundations, and the practices of pastoral care and self-care, and that competence in these dimensions of human experience and in the development of self-awareness is critical in ministerial leadership formation.

WHEREAS, Boards of Ordained Ministry, episcopal leaders and cabinets, and annual conferences have responsibility and oversight for ministry processes, supervision, training, and accountability, so they must ensure that ministry leaders participate in training and have access to resources which encourage healthy practices, appropriate boundaries, and ongoing accountability for the sake of the health of clergy, churches, and communities.

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church continues a program of ministerial readiness regarding professional ethics, sexual ethics, healthy boundaries and self-care as a standard aspect of United Methodist seminary and Course of Study education. And that candidacy programs, licensing school, and other ministerial preparation opportunities offered by Annual Conferences and Boards of Ordained Ministry will incorporate curriculum that meet these goals.





Goals—Future ministerial leaders are to:

1. understand healthy interpersonal boundaries as integral to enabling the trust necessary for ministry;
2. recognize sexual ethics in ministry as an issue of appropriate use of power and avoidance of abuse rather than exclusively an issue of “sexual morality”;
3. understand the appropriate use of power as it relates to consent;
4. understand the importance of professional ethics, including one’s own denominational policies and expectations;
5. learn the role of judicatories in prevention and response to clergy sexual misconduct;
6. become knowledgeable about human sexuality, one’s own sexual self, and how to deal with sexual feelings that may arise for congregants and vice versa;
7. appreciate how sexual integrity contributes to spiritual wholeness and that this is vital to ministerial formation and personal health;
8. become conversant with scriptural and theological resources for all of the above.

Competencies—Ministerial candidates are to:

1. practice healthy life-choices and work/life balance;
2. be sexually self-aware;
3. become comfortable talking about issues of sexuality;
4. develop skills to provide pastoral care and worship leadership on sexuality issues;
5. be committed to sexual justice in the congregation and in society at large.

Content Areas—Students will study:

1. theology of power, privilege, and abuse (including topics such as: fiduciary duty of ministry; professional ethics paradigm; conflicts of interest; healthy boundaries; predators vs. wanderers);
2. human sexuality (including topics such as: dating, intimacy, and work/life balance; pregnancy, birth control, and abortion; pornography and objectification of persons; shame and abuse; consent and vulnerability; genetic, cultural and physiological aspects of gender and sexuality);
3. sexual misconduct in ministry (including topics such as: boundary violations; judicatory processes of justice-making; secrecy; inappropriate uses of social networking and communication technologies);

4. pastoral care (including topics such as: working with victims of sexual violence and abuse; transference; dual relationships; confidentiality and stewardship of information; referrals);
5. best practices of ministry (including topics such as: cybersafety, Safe Sanctuaries [Joy T. Melton, Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church, Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1998]; healthy communications, clergy self-care; life-long sexuality education; ministering with sex offenders).

This common core of expectations will provide a baseline of preparation for ministerial leaders in The United Methodist Church. The regular, up-to-date sexual ethics training currently required of all clergy under appointment can build upon this shared foundation instead of having to start with the basics every time (Book of Resolutions 2008, p. 139). District committees on ordained ministry and conference boards of ordained ministry should expect clergy candidates to have a working knowledge and understanding of these facets of professional ethics and sexuality in ministry before they are appointed to serve a church. The continued training for clergy during residency can also build on this common core.

Seminaries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (in the case of Course of Study) shall identify curricular and co-curricular opportunities each year to meet these goals.

**Suggested Title: Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development**

**Resolution Number: 4031**

**General Church Budget Implications: None**

**Global Implications: Yes**

Renew Resolution 4031

**EDUCATION 4031. The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development Reaffirmation and Reauthorization of the World Service Special Gift—#05-06-04**

WHEREAS, the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church approved the Global Education Fund and authorized the General Board of





Higher Education and Ministry to raise \$4 million under the World Service Special Gift (#05-06-04) ~~during the 2005-2008 quadrennium~~ for the purpose of developing a new generation of principled Christian leaders who will inspire and transform the people of the world, and lead The United Methodist Church to become a truly global church through the worldwide cooperative network of Methodist schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools; and

WHEREAS, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry has been engaging in infrastructure and capacity building of United Methodist and Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, at a request of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Council of Finance and Administration, and the Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church, approved the name change from the “Global Education Fund” to the “Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development” in September 2006; and

WHEREAS, leadership development is recognized as one of The United Methodist Church’s most prominent and galvanizing issues and needs, and the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development is a dynamic mechanism for leveraging the connectional resources of The United Methodist Church to address its leadership crisis and to support the Church’s global mission; and

WHEREAS, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry serves as the lead program board for leadership development; and

WHEREAS, continuing to reaffirm the resolution for the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development and reauthorizing the raising of up to \$4 million under the World Service Special Gift ~~by the 2012 General Conference~~, are absolutely necessary to undertake this initiative;

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that the ~~2012~~ 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church reaffirms the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development and reauthorizes the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to raise up to \$4 million under the World Service Special Gift, ~~during the 2013-2016 quadrennium;~~ ~~and~~

Be it further resolved, that said fund will be raised and administered under the leadership of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

~~Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be recorded in the Book of Resolutions of the 2012 General Conference.~~

~~Voted on by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, August, 2011.~~

ADOPTED 2008  
AMENDED AND READOPTED 2012  
RESOLUTION #4031, 2008 BOOK OF  
RESOLUTIONS