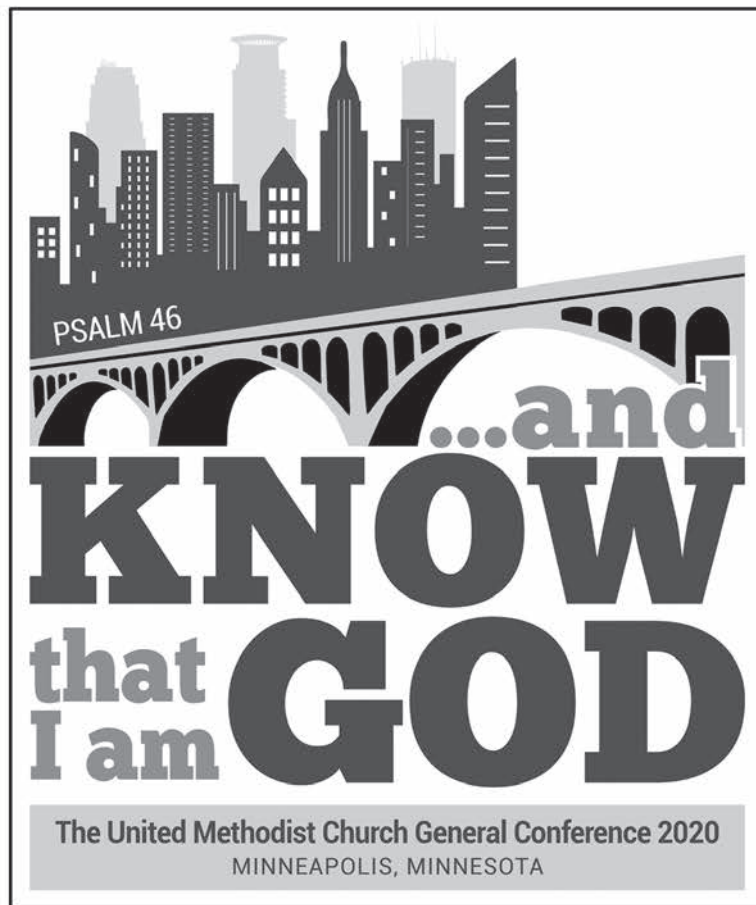


# Daily Christian Advocate



## Volume 2, Section 2 Reports and Proposed Legislation

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# Higher Education/Superintendency

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 2

Nashville, Tennessee

## 2017-2020 Quadrennial Report of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

### Preparing Leaders for a Vital Worldwide Church

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) engages, equips, and supports faithful and effective lay and clergy leaders to serve congregations, institutions, and communities throughout the world. GBHEM embraces the ministry of learning and leadership formation in the Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition, and serves Christian leaders who are shaped by a process of intellectual engagement, spiritual and character formation, and leadership development.

### Context of Call

GBHEM cultivates a dynamic context of call and vocational discernment that encourages lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim, and flourish in God's ministry and mission for the church, the academy, and the world.

### Access to Education

Lay and clergy leaders are formed in the Wesleyan and United Methodist (UM) tradition through our network of more than one thousand institutions in **Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America**. In the **United States**, our **13 UM theological schools; 92 UM-related schools, colleges, and universities; and 520 collegiate ministries** are diverse, expand educational access, and prepare the next generation of leaders for our worldwide connection.

Collaborating with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM's **E-Reader Project** offers affordable, reliable access to textbooks, reference books, the Bible, and Wesleyan resources in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Faculty and students of twenty-two UM-related theological and thirty higher education institutions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia use these resources.

The **Office of Loans & Scholarships** administers more than ninety programs and awards \$6 million in assistance annually to UM undergraduate, graduate, and theological students. Since 2016, we have awarded \$16.5 million to 8,796 students enrolled in U.S. higher educa-

tion institutions and seminaries. **Forty percent of recipients identified as racial/ethnic students.**

The **Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)** supports the thirteen UM theological schools in the U.S. and the Course of Study theological education programs for elders, deacons, and local pastors. MEF also funds Boards of Ordained Ministry in clergy recruitment and education and underwrites GBHEM ministry programming.

### Resourcing and Supporting Clergy Leaders

GBHEM's ministry nurtures people as they listen, discern, and respond to God's call.

**Exploration** and the **Journey Toward Ordained Ministry** scholarships guide hundreds of diverse students considering church leadership. **Called** is a no-cost resource available to local church leaders assisting children, youth, and young adults in discerning their vocation.

**Effective Ministry 360™ (EM360™)** is based on in-depth research into the attributes clergy need to be successful and effective in ministry. EM360's formation process supports clergy, congregations, and related ministries in meeting the conference's and church's mission and ministry goals. Since 2016, EM360 has expanded from an initial pastoral assessment to include modules for ministry candidates, students enrolled in Course of Study, and district superintendents.

The **Eight-Year Assessment Process (EYA)**, mandated by GC2016, is a partnership between GBHEM, annual conference leaders, and Wespeth. Using EM360's framework and resources, EYA helps clergy determine formational goals and the steps needed to meet them. The system provides support and accountability as clergy meet and report on those goals to their annual conferences. EYA and EM360 work together to undergird clergy formation throughout ministry.

Addressing emerging needs in innovative ways, the new **Center for Integrative Pastoral Practice (CIPP)** includes an accredited hybrid Clinical Pastoral Education program, **Introduction to Chaplaincy** training in the central conferences, and new methods of reflective supervision.

Providing contextual theological education, GBHEM has developed new partnerships for the **Course of Study**: Missouri Part-Time Ministerial Leaders COS, a new Native American satellite COS, a Portuguese-language COS, and the Burundi Conference COS. GBHEM collaborates with central conferences and mission initiatives to broaden support for Boards of Ordained Ministry and pastoral leaders throughout the connection, offering BOM and leadership training in Eurasia, Africa, and Asia.

The **United Methodist Endorsing Agency (UMEA)** validates credentials and advocates for endorsed clergy in ministry beyond church walls. Currently, 1,650 clergy work with UMEA (1,431 endorsed and 392 ecclesiastically approved). UMEA leads the development of an online collaborative application system with members of the Pan-Methodist Commission and chaplaincy training for central conferences.

### Strengthening Methodist-Related Higher Education

The **Africa University Fund** sustains the critical mission of Africa University (AU). Currently, around 1,800 students are enrolled full-time at the Zimbabwe campus. More than 9,400 AU graduates are transforming Africa by serving in significant leadership roles. Faithful connective funding has led to a permanent endowment of more than \$77 million and enabled the university to surpass its goal of \$50 million in a campaign for additional investment in academic and infrastructure development.

The **International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU)** fosters cooperation, exchanges, and support among more than one thousand Methodist-related institutions worldwide. IAMSCU develops quality, value-centered education and increases the availability of educational opportunities. Since 2016, GBHEM has awarded 241 international scholarships to students enrolled in IAMSCU institutions through the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP).

The **National Association of Schools and Colleges of the UMC (NASCUMC)** develops programming and strengthens educational ties across the UM connection in the U.S. NASCUMC institutions serve nearly three hundred thousand students annually. Recently, NASCUMC partnered with sister institutions in Japan, developed a Leadership Pipeline program to expand the pool of qualified leaders to serve Methodist institutions, and created a joint funding platform for campus initiatives.

The **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD)** offers technical, scholarship, and fundraising assistance. MGEFLD has established eleven Leadership, Education, and Development

(LEAD) Hubs in **Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America** to promote a decentralized model of leadership based on “shared vision, responsibilities, and costs.”

The **Black College Fund** supports eleven UM-related historically black colleges and universities and demonstrates the church’s continued commitment to access and empowerment through higher education. These institutions advance research, maintain facilities, and create a nurturing environment for more than fifteen thousand students, many of whom are first-generation college students.

With three imprints and a vast catalog of books, **GBHEM Publishing** helps engage and grow the intellectual life of The UMC. GBHEM Publishing is a member of the Association of University Presses and its titles are regularly recognized with Saddlebag Awards.

*The Awakened Life: An 8-Week Guide to Student Well-Being* trains, guides, and addresses student health and wholeness through mindfulness practices proven to reduce stress, improve concentration skills, and help build healthy relationships. The simple but profound program, facilitated by campus ministers, chaplains, and student life professionals, helps students struggling with today’s challenges to build resilience, find joy, and connect with the world around them

The **University Senate**, an elected body of higher education professionals, collectively determines which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The Senate’s consultative, collegial role focuses on church-relatedness with regard to UM-related institutions. The Senate also promotes a Senate-type review body serving Methodist institutions across Africa.

### General Conference Initiatives

Find full reports on these initiatives at [www.gbhem.org/GC20](http://www.gbhem.org/GC20).

If current trends continue, The UMC will face a shortage of ordained elders by 2032. The \$7 million **Young Clergy Initiative Fund**, administered by GBHEM and designed to “increase the number of young clergy among the jurisdictional conferences,” awarded seventy-six grants in 2013-2016 and seventy-two grants in 2017-2020 and doubled the investment in vocational discernment by encouraging grant recipients to secure additional funding.

Administered by GBHEM, the \$10 million **Central Conference Theological Education Fund** is overseen by a commission named by the Council of Bishops. The commission meets annually to review grant proposals to bolster theological education in central conferences.

Since 2016, CCTEF has awarded 232 grants to fund scholarships, faculty development, Courses of Study, and improved libraries, and has doubled its investment from the prior quadrennium.

GBHEM, Wespeth Benefits and Investments, and the National Association of United Methodist Foundations

partnered to apply for a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to address the financial challenges facing clergy. The **Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship** reduces seminary educational debt and increases financial acumen for ordained ministry candidates.

## 2017-2020 Quadrennial Report of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools

The thirteen official UMC seminaries are deeply dedicated to The UMC and to forming its leaders for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A comprehensive study of our schools was completed this year by the Rev. Dr. Dan Aleshire, fellow United Methodist and recently retired executive director of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). An organization with a membership of more than 270 seminaries in the United States and Canada, ATS is one of three accrediting bodies who hold our thirteen UMC schools of theology accountable to the highest standards in theological education, and Dr. Aleshire is one of the most respected leaders in theological education. The full report is available at [www.gbhem.org/GC20](http://www.gbhem.org/GC20).

The Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) commissioned this study of the thirteen UMC seminaries to address three questions:

1. What is the place of the thirteen UMC schools in the larger ecosystem of theological education in the United States, including the other thirty-eight schools recognized by the University Senate for the education of United Methodist ministers?
2. What is the sustainability of a system of thirteen institutions with official support from the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) of The United Methodist Church?
3. What is the contribution that UMC seminaries make to the witness and ministry of The UMC?

AUMTS commissioned this report in part to assist the denomination in better understanding who we are and what we do within the higher education and denominational contexts within which our thirteen schools function. We also wanted an external perspective on the schools to clarify our strengths, our vulnerabilities, and our needs in faithfully serving the church now and in the future.

In separate chapters, the report addresses: the history and context of UMC theological schools, the thirteen official schools as a system of UMC theological schools, the thirteen schools as individual institutions, the thirty-eight additional seminaries the UMC University Senate has approved for those seeking ordination in The UMC, and American Protestant theological education. The study also reviewed extensive financial data for each school, including MEF contributions from The UMC. The report concludes with findings emerging from the analyses.

A few key conclusions:

1. A deep Wesleyan theology and ethos pervades the campuses of the thirteen official seminaries. As Aleshire puts it, “these schools are Wesleyan in their bones. . . .” We educate about 60 percent of (primarily U.S.) UMC students enrolled in master of divinity degree programs as they seek ordination in The UMC, and about 60 percent of all (predominately U.S.) ordinands are educated at our schools. Our faculties overall are 46 percent UMC (and 60 percent Wesleyan), and we employ 52 percent of UMC faculty teaching in all U.S. seminaries. All the other thirty-eight University Senate-approved seminaries combined have only 9 percent UMC faculty. Chapel worship across our schools embodies the Methodist tradition and reflects the range of UMC liturgical practices. Aleshire states, “The thirteen schools . . . are pervasively United Methodist . . . Ethos can be taught, no doubt, but perhaps more importantly, it is ‘caught’—carried from persons to persons.”
2. As is the Wesleyan tradition, the thirteen seminaries are also self-consciously ecumenical in thought and practice, teaching students from a wide array of denominations.
3. The thirteen are forming leaders for the future, not the past. Our student bodies overall are far younger and much more racially diverse than The UMC. Half of our UMC students are women. We are deeply committed to racial justice and to the equality of women. Historically we pioneered work to achieve racial equality and women’s full inclusion and continue to do so today. We systematically and enthusiastically engage and support new models of ministry every day.
4. The thirteen schools are very diverse in many ways, including that they reflect the full theological diversity of The UMC. Each school embodies its own range of styles and specialties, yet all thirteen are dedicated to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Through their Ph.D. programs, many of the thirteen educate future faculty who will populate not only UMC and other seminaries, but also UMC-related colleges and universities all over the world.

5. Overall, the thirteen seminaries provide far more resources to The UMC than we receive from it through annual MEF allocations. This is most strikingly evident in scholarships we provide for students; leadership our faculties provide in local churches, annual conferences, and national and international denominational arenas and agencies; and our subsidies for the denomination's Course of Study. In discussing the MEF, Aleshire points out that "the thirteen United Methodist seminaries bring in large amounts of financial resources from beyond the denomination to pay for the preparation of United Methodist clergy and lay leaders in the United States. And [they] provide the second largest source of funds for the preparation of United Methodist clergy from outside the U.S. [that is, second only to the Central Conference Theological Education Fund]. . . . What other United Methodist organization is producing such a large net return on investment?"
6. MEF is a crucial material connection that the thirteen official seminaries and their students have with the denomination. We are proud of the historic commitment to MEF as one of the key indicators of The UMC's dedication to an educated clergy. It is a crucial source of support for the schools, without which some would be in serious financial jeopardy. Moreover, loss of or radical reductions in MEF undercut the basic economic foundation for students who are seeking ordination, adding to their financial hardship and debt. Overall, Aleshire concludes that "Most of the schools could likely find their way to a financial future that includes reduced MEF income, but denominational funding has value beyond its absolute amount. Its presence solidifies connections and its absence strains those connections, and weakened connections could be the more difficult to overcome than reduced revenue."
7. Are there too many seminaries? The study says maybe, but maybe not. Many factors must be considered in answering this question, and they are discussed in Aleshire's report. He notes, however, that per capita, The UMC has fewer seminaries than any other Protestant denomination. All thirteen have experienced substantial financial stress and across the last decade have reduced faculty, staff, and other non-scholarship expenditures (including for some radical reductions in the property they own), all while creatively innovating curriculum and pedagogy. For example, almost all provide online learning in one form or another.
8. We are highly regulated, and the outcomes we produce are continuously studied and evaluated by ourselves and our accreditors. As institutions of higher education that serve the church, we always welcome careful and critical analysis of what we do, which is why we commissioned the study.
9. The Wesleyan tradition is practiced by many people and institutions across The UMC, thanks be to God! The seminaries, however, are keepers of the "intellectual soul" of the Wesleyan faith through faculty who confirm and debate the meaning of Wesleyan theology and history and who teach generations of UMC ministers, as well as through library collections that chronicle the history of Wesleyan thought and life. The thirteen schools "remember what has been given in the past, . . . test past thought in the context of present realities, . . . curate future possibilities, and . . . do all three in the presence of students who will lead the continuing extension of the church's work."

AUMTS will seek to draw further insight from this comprehensive report. We will use it, as well as all that we learn through our extensive connections throughout the church, to improve our individual and collective offerings of theological education so we may serve the church and the world to which we are called to minister. Methodism offers a profound legacy of theological education that responds to diverse contexts and times. The AUMTS is committed to maintain that historic legacy and characteristic openness to change for the sake of more effective ministries around the world.



## 2017-2020 Quadrennial Report of Africa University

Initiated by action of the General Conference in 1988, Africa University is a flourishing global justice and evangelism ministry of The United Methodist Church with a history of relevance, accountability, and impact.

Grounded in the mission of The United Methodist Church—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—Africa University equips leaders for meaningful discipleship and service within and beyond the denomination. Through its missional contributions, AU enables African communities to experience hope, peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security, and abundant health.

**With steadfast investment, a sustained focus on transformational engagement and commitment to global connection, The United Methodist Church plays a pivotal role in the ongoing evolution and efficacy of Africa University’s ministry.**

### Relevance

Since opening in 1992, Africa University has evolved into the cornerstone institution for United Methodist-related higher education efforts on the continent of Africa. Through Africa University, The United Methodist Church offers a high-quality educational experience, provides access through scholarships for financially disadvantaged students such as orphans and refugees, and nurtures ethically grounded and proactive leaders. Groundbreaking programs in peace and governance; migration, citizenship, and refugee protection; health sciences; child rights and childhood studies; public sector management; and intellectual property have made Africa University the institution of choice for both students and a growing number of international partners.

Young people from as many as twenty-nine African nations access leadership training and gain professional skills in three colleges—Health, Agriculture, and Natural Sciences; Business, Peace, Leadership, and Governance; and Social Sciences, Theology, Humanities, and Education. More than eighteen hundred predominantly first-generation college students enroll at Africa University each year and are the institution’s primary focus. However, as both United Methodism in Africa and the priorities of African communities grow and change, so must the institutions that serve them.

In 2016, Africa University began implementing fundamental changes to address emerging needs and harness new opportunities:

- Africa University restructured its undergraduate programs to include research and internship placements of up to one year in a bid to enhance workplace readiness among graduates.
- The Faculty of Theology, which operated as a traditional seminary, was transformed into the Institute of Theology and Religious Studies (ITRS). The ITRS is piloting a new doctoral degree program for theological educators in Africa in collaboration with Wesley House Cambridge and working on new training options for laity and military chaplains in Africa.
- A campus-based innovation center, the i5Hub, was established in 2018 to support entrepreneurs as they develop and commercialize new products and services. The i5Hub boasts an enviable list of partners and projects in development. As the focus of Africa’s young population shifts from seeking to creating employment, Africa University is well positioned to champion enterprise development.

### Accountability

Africa University has relied on the generous support of The United Methodist Church to grow and sustain its ministry. The support of United Methodists—realized through World Service Special Gifts since 1988, and the recently completed \$50 million Campaign for Africa University—affirms the church’s passionate belief in the worth of Africa University’s mission. Gifts to the campaign surpassed the \$50 million goal and provided crucial funding for teaching and research. Long-term, sacrificial giving by individuals, congregations, districts, and annual conferences has helped Africa University realize a permanent endowment of more than \$78 million, build a well-equipped, modern campus debt-free, and provide scholarships and financial aid to about 70 percent of its students.

The university is profoundly grateful to United Methodist congregations for investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 100 percent. The AUF funds learning resources in Africa University’s libraries and laboratories, supports salaries, and supplies utilities (electricity, water) and other operational needs. It represents 17.2 percent of the institution’s annual budget of \$12 million and is crucial to the university’s ongoing financial health. The AUF also allows Africa University to assure friends and supporters who invest in capital projects, endowed chairs, and direct or endowed scholarships that 100 percent of every dollar they give is used as designated.

Fiscal accountability and prudent investment are major priorities for the Africa University Board of Directors and for its executive cabinet, led by Professor Munashe Furusa, the vice chancellor/CEO. Over the past four years, the AU Board's and senior administrators' efforts, coupled with the institutional advancement contributions of the Africa University Development Office, have led to a rightsizing of the institution's operations, balanced budgets, and investment in new buildings, recreational facilities, and information and communications technology. The results include strengthened teaching and learning and an enhanced quality of life for students, faculty, and staff.

### Impact

The institution's twenty-sixth commencement, in June 2020, is expected to crest the milestone of ten thousand graduates. With a graduation rate of 97 percent and more than 94 percent of its alumni at work on the continent, Africa University's impact is tangible and ever-growing.

Africa University alumni are entrusted with the implementation and oversight of important United Methodist-related initiatives and development projects in the thirteen episcopal areas spread across twenty-six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. A growing number of Africa University graduates are missionaries serving under the Global Ministries agency in Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Graduates hold key cabinet-level positions in episcopal offices and serve as seminary/university presidents, faculty, and administrators of the growing number of United Methodist higher education institutions in Africa.

Beyond denominational settings, Africa University graduates are launching new businesses, founding charitable and service organizations, representing and advocating for constituencies as elected officials, and conducting

critical research. AU graduates are sought after, and their impact is being felt in government, business, and civil society in Africa.

### Looking Ahead

Growth trends in The United Methodist Church, based on GCFA statistics, show the majority of new United Methodists are in Central and West Africa. Africa's rapid growth brings with it a general church responsibility to ensure that the "United Methodist DNA" grows with integrity and in contextually relevant ways within new worshipping communities.

**Increased investment in Africa University over the next quadrennium represents an extraordinary opportunity for The United Methodist Church to remain engaged in nurturing the leaders on whose shoulders the future of Africa and African Methodism will rest over the next five decades. It has the potential to yield a renewed and vibrant connectional reality.**

Africa University remains "a uniting, United Methodist dream come true." Together, as a global church, United Methodists envisioned and brought to fruition a university for all of Africa. The reality of Africa University is a testimony to faithfulness in living fully into the Word of God. "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23 ESV).

Through its support of Africa University, the church models its ideals in profound ways. Africa University's value as a source of clergy and lay leaders for Africa *who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world* is unparalleled. Moreover, through Africa University, new people in new places are invited to embrace the social principles, values, and mission of United Methodism as their foundation for courageous personal witness and service.

## 2017-2020 Quadrennial Report of the Central Conference Theological Education Fund

The 2016 General Conference doubled the apportioned amount to \$10 million for the 2017-2020 quadrennium because it recognized the tremendous impact of the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF) on the formation and education of pastoral leaders in the central conferences of Africa, Asia, and Europe. The CCTEF commission is grateful for this increased funding, which enabled central conferences to expand initiatives and innovations in theological education and leadership development.

While General Conference 2016 approved \$10 million for the fund, the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) expected the World Service Apportionment Fund to pay out at approximately 90 percent. Therefore, the commission awarded \$2 million to applicants in 2017-2019. However, GCFA anticipates the available funds for 2020 will decrease to \$1.5 million due to reduced apportionment receipts.

Under the leadership of Bishop Pedro Torio and the support of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), the commission members met annually to review and award grant applicants in a spirit of mutual accountability with a shared commitment to the advancement of theological education and pastoral formation and develop guidelines with similar high standards of accountability for grant recipients in all central conferences in Africa, Asia, and Europe. The commission continues to utilize regional screening committees from each central conference to review and recommend awards for qualified applicants.

In the first half of the quadrennium, the commission awarded 154 grants that increased the capacity of leaders in mission fields, developed contextual resources and supported innovations in education and ministry, and enabled sustainable programs and practices.

### Outcome and Impact of the CCTEF Initiative

The CCTEF directly impacts the lives of clergy and church leadership who are stakeholders in theological education in the central conferences. Such impact enables the church to move forward in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. After two cycles of the CCTEF program, the quality of theological education in the central conferences improved significantly in areas such as teaching, research, resource creation, and networking.

Also, the number of well-educated theological professors, pastors, and leaders of the church, particularly women clergy, who benefit from these initiatives increased substantially. The CCTEF helped advance theological education in all central conferences by strengthening theological institutions, creating networks among these schools, and increasing access to theological education.

The commission lifts these examples of CCTEF impact in four areas:

#### *Capacity building*

- The support for Courses of Study and continuing theological education programs resulted in an increase of trained pastors from approximately 50 to 90 percent in many annual conferences in Africa, including a significant increase in the number of women clergy, and a 95 percent increase in better-equipped pastors in the Philippines.
- In the case of the Moscow Theological Seminary, development funds for libraries enabled it to pass government inspection, while other independent institutions in Russia lost educational licenses.
- The growth of in-country training has led to more faculty teaching in theological institutions of their countries rather than staying abroad after being trained in other countries.
- Refocused competencies in Covenant Discipleship Groups integrated widespread ministry engagements with the poor through micro-finance and livelihood development in the Philippines.

#### *Development of contextual education and resources*

- Providing funds to produce materials and theological literature in local languages gives more access to theological education and resources and encourages pastoral leaders to expand ministry to others.
- Events such as the African UM Clergywomen's Consultation and Women Coaching Women empower and equip clergywomen to flourish and find ways to balance their personal responsibilities and ministries.
- The preloaded devices provided by the E-Reader program in central conferences offer students wide access to theological books and resources, even if they do not have access to a well-equipped library.

### *New and innovative initiatives*

- CCTEF funds helped add Methodist literature to the Global Digital Library for Theology and Ecumenism ([www.methodist-studies.world](http://www.methodist-studies.world)), which is accessible worldwide.
- E-learning and modular programs in Europe and Eurasia, and the Union Theological Seminary Hybrid Online courses in the Philippines, make theological education and training accessible to more people.
- The Global Chaplaincy Training program provided chaplains in Africa with the knowledge and skills to minister in this specialized chaplaincy field.
- Revitalized radio ministries of southern Philippines exposed pastoral students to a public service of gospel witness and advocacy of the UMC Social Principles.

### *Sustainability*

- The CCTEF support of the Endowment Fund for Theological Education in the central conferences contributes to sustainable long-term support of theological education in the central conferences.

- The requirement of a local contribution of at least 10 percent by any awarded project encourages ownership and responsibility in the projects.
- Utilizing a “train-the-trainer” format ensures long-term availability of leadership for theological education programs.

As The United Methodist Church in most of the central conferences continues to grow, the need for effective, contextual, and sustainable theological education grows as well. In addition to empowering pastoral leaders in their local communities, high-quality theological education enables deeper cross-cultural dialogue within our denomination and beyond. The commission celebrates the impact and the difference that The United Methodist Church has made in the lives and ministries of pastors and communities through the CCTEF. With that confidence, the commission recommends that General Conference 2020 renew its approval of \$10 million for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund through the World Service Apportionment Fund.

## Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Discipline*

### ¶45

Petition Number: 20277-HS-¶45-C-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### Delete Historical Material

Amend ¶ 45 as indicated following:

¶ 45. Article I.—~~There shall be a continuance of an episcopacy in The United Methodist Church of like plan, powers, privileges, and duties as now exist in The Methodist Church and in The Evangelical United Brethren Church in all those matters in which they agree and may be considered identical; and the differences between these historic episcopacies are deemed to be reconciled and harmonized by and in this Plan of Union and Constitution of The United Methodist Church and actions taken pursuant thereto so that a unified superintendency and episcopacy is hereby created and established of, in, and by those who now are and shall be episcopal leadership and supervision through~~ bishops of The United Methodist Church; and the said episcopacy shall further, who shall have such powers, privileges, and duties as are herein set forth.

#### Rationale:

This removes important historical information that has no rational place in the currently active and controlling Constitution of the Church.

### ¶45.

Petition Number: 20278-HS-¶45-C-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### Bishop's Peer Review 2: A Helpful Constitutional Amendment

Amend ¶ 45; after “herein set forth,” add: The office of bishop is a privilege not a right. It may be lost by nonjudicial processes established by General Conference.

#### Rationale:

Paragraph 16.5 allows the discontinuation of bishops for unacceptability. No judicial process could determine unacceptability. Some still object to an annual peer review saying bishops have a right to trial. This amendment answers that objection. Bishops who see their office as a right may have lost the humility required to

### ¶45.

Petition Number: 20680-HS-¶45-C-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### Episcopacy Regionalization—Constitution

Amend ¶ 27 by inserting a new ¶ 27.3 that shall read as follows:

¶ 27.3 To provide for the support, financially and otherwise, of the bishops serving in the jurisdiction or in retirement after having served therein.

Amend ¶ 45 as follows:

¶ 45. Article I.—~~There shall be a continuance of an episcopacy in The United Methodist Church of like plan, powers, privileges, and duties as now exist in The Methodist Church and in The Evangelical United Brethren Church in all those matters in which they agree and may be considered identical; and the differences between these historic episcopacies are deemed to be reconciled and harmonized by and in this Plan of Union and Constitution of The United Methodist Church and actions taken pursuant thereto so that a unified superintendency and episcopacy is hereby created and established of, in, and by those who now are and shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church;~~ and the said episcopacy shall further have such powers, privileges, and duties as are herein set forth.

Amend ¶ 49 as follows:

¶ 49. Article V.—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences in which they are elected, provided that no bishop shall be entitled to residential and presidential supervision when the bishop is relieved of that responsibility by the bishop's central or jurisdictional conference because of a reduction in the number of active and residential bishops. Bishops who are relieved of this responsibility shall be entitled to retire as provided by the General Conference or for appointment to service in the local church by an active bishop in the conference at the sole discretion of the appointing bishop. or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and

not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved.<sup>94</sup> After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or central conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central conference.

#### **Rationale:**

The episcopacy has functioned at least as regionally as it has globally since the creation of the jurisdictional system. No bishop has ever been transferred between jurisdictions after election. Moreover, regional theological differences make this step imperative if the church is to have any chance at organic unity.

#### **¶47.**

Petition Number: 20678-HS-¶47-C-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Limited Tenure for Bishops and Relationship of Retired Bishops—Constitution**

Amend ¶¶ 47, 48, and 50 as indicated following:

¶ 47. Article III.—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the residential bishops of The United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union. The word *residential* shall be under-

stood to indicate those bishops who have not retired and whose terms of office have not expired.

¶ 48. Article IV.—The residential bishops of each jurisdictional and central conference shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ 50. Article VI.—~~The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.~~

~~The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and b~~ Bishops elected by the jurisdictions and central conferences of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure a term of office as determined by the General Conference, provided that the term established shall be the same for all bishops. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.

Any bishop who retires while in residential status as a bishop will continue to be a bishop. However such a bishop will have membership in an annual conference of his or her choosing with the consent of the presiding bishop and will no longer have membership in a College of Bishops or in the Council of Bishops. A retired bishop will have all the powers, duties, and privileges of any other retired elder as long as he or she remains in good standing.

#### **Rationale:**

Life tenure is inconsistent with realities of human development and interaction. Accountability to the church and changes for bishops demand election be for limited terms. Moreover, membership of retired bishops should revert to the annual conference. And all bishops of the church should have the same term of office.

#### **¶49.**

Petition Number: 20279-HS-¶49-C-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

#### **Jurisdiction to Central Conference Partners**

Amend ¶ 49 by addition:

¶ 49. Article V.—The jurisdictions and central conferences shall form partnerships each quadrennium. These partnerships rotate each quadrennium according to a schedule:

Year 2024West - North Europe and EurasiaNorth Central - CongoNortheast - GermanySoutheast - West AfricaSouth Central - PhilippinesCentral and South Europe - AfricaYear 2028West - AfricaNorth Central - North Europe and EurasiaNortheast - CongoSoutheast - GermanySouth Central- West AfricaPhilippines - Central and South EuropeYear 2032West - Central and South EuropeNorth Central - AfricaNortheast - North Europe and EurasiaSoutheast- CongoSouth Central - GermanyWest Africa - PhilippinesYear 2036West - PhilippinesNorth Central - Central and South EuropeNortheast - AfricaSoutheast- North Europe and EurasiaSouth Central- CongoGermany - West AfricaYear 2040West - West AfricaNorth Central - PhilippinesNortheast - Central and South EuropeSoutheast - AfricaSouth Central - North Europe and EurasiaCongo - GermanyYear 2044West - GermanyNorth Central - West AfricaNortheast - PhilippinesSoutheast - Central and South EuropeSouth Central- AfricaNorth Europe and Eurasia - CongoYear 2048West - CongoNorth Central - GermanyNortheast- West AfricaSoutheast- PhilippinesSouth Central- Central and South EuropeAfrica - North Europe and EurasiaYear 2052West - North Europe and EurasiaNorth Central - CongoNortheast - GermanySoutheast- West AfricaSouth Central - PhilippinesCentral and South Europe - Africa

Bishops elected in a jurisdictional conference shall be sent to their central conference partner and bishops elected in the central conference shall be sent to their jurisdictional partner unless they are not aligned with a jurisdiction that quadrennium. Central conferences without a jurisdictional partner may partner with the other non-aligned conference, or they may elect their own bishops.

The jurisdictional conferences shall meet at the same time as their partnered central conference maintaining connections through emails and other forms of instant communication such as video conferencing through the internet. The jurisdiction will carry the burden of the cost of these electronic connections.

The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences in which they are elected or to which they are sent or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected or received the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected or received the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central conference to the

work of the said jurisdiction or central conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central conference.

#### Rationale:

Partnerships strengthen connections within the global church. This radical amendment asks bishops to lead the church in understanding and acceptance. Bishops become missionaries and cross-cultural ministers to teach by example how to love even across cultural and ideological barriers. Sending and receiving bishops would prove we value our unity.

#### ¶50.

Petition Number: 20280-HS-¶50-C-G; Plasterer, George - Clearwater, FL, USA.

#### Term Limits for Bishops

Amend ¶ 50 as follows:

¶ 50. *Article VI.*—The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church prior to 2024 shall have life tenure. Beginning in 2024, all new elections for bishop in the jurisdictions and central conferences of The United Methodist Church shall be to elect elders for a single term of no longer than twelve (12) years or until they reach an age the General Conference has specified for mandatory retirement, whichever comes sooner. This term may not be extended. No individual elected to the episcopacy in or after the year 2024 may be subsequently reelected to the office. All bishops elected prior to 2024 shall continue to be entitled to the length of their tenure as bishop specified in the Book of Discipline, relevant central conference rules, and other church law at the time of their last election. Those who were elected to the office of bishop in or after the year 2024, complete their term in the office, and remain in good standing shall not remain members of the Council of Bishops, but shall become clergy members of the annual conference of which they were members at the time of their first election as bishop (or of any appropriate successor conference) and shall enjoy the same rights and privileges of any other elder in full connection, except that they may retain the honorary title of bishop as a sign of respect for their service. General Conference may also enact special

retirement benefits plans for former and retired bishops who remain in good standing.

~~Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.<sup>94</sup>~~

#### Rationale:

This petition enhances accountability and equity while reflecting our tradition's foundational belief that elders and bishops are the same order. Twelve (12) years would allow some time for itinerating, while making more room for the best new leadership available. Forcing bishops to run for reelection can unhelpfully politicize and compromise

#### ¶50.

Petition Number: 20281-HS-¶50-C-G; Wilson, John - Pittsburgh, PA, USA for Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

#### Term Elections for Bishops Worldwide

Initiate an amendment to our church Constitution, 2016 *Discipline*, so that the portion of ¶ 50 (p. 41) that now reads:

~~The bishops of the Methodist Church, elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of the Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of the Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.~~

be amended by substitution to read:

Incumbent bishops in good standing shall be entitled to the term of service for which they were last elected.

Bishops shall be elected quadrennially. Newly elected bishops shall serve for an initial term of not less than 4 or more than 8 years, with the possibility of additional quadrennial elections. The length of the initial term, and any maximum cumulative tenure for episcopal service, shall be the prerogative of the electing regional conference for its elected bishops.

Bishops shall retain the status of ordained elder throughout their time of service within or outside their episcopal role. The honorary title of "bishop" may be retained among those who have completed their terms of service in good standing.

#### Rationale:

There remains in our denomination's constitution a provision for two standards of episcopal tenure; automatic



life tenure for U.S. bishops and optional term episcopacy for the rest of the world. Nearly all central conferences, including the conferences that exhibit significant discipline-making growth, embrace some standard of term episcopacy.

## ¶50.

Petition Number: 20282-HS-¶50-C-G; Fordham, Rita - Dalton, GA, USA.

### Term Limits for Bishops

Amend ¶ 50 as follows:

**¶ 50. Article VI.**—The bishops, both active and retired, of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church prior to 2024 shall have life tenure. Beginning in 2024, all new elections for bishop in the jurisdictions and central conferences of The United Methodist Church shall be to elect elders for a single term of no longer than twelve (12) years or until they reached an age the General Conference has specified for mandatory retirement, whichever comes sooner. This term may not be extended. No individual elected to the episcopacy in or after the year 2024 may be subsequently reelected to the office. All bishops elected prior to 2024 shall continue to be entitled to the length of their tenure as bishop specified in the *Book of Discipline*, relevant central conference rules, and other church law at the time of their last election. Those who were elected to the office of bishop in or after the year 2024, complete their term in the office, and remain in good standing shall not remain members of the Council of Bishops, but shall become clergy members of the annual conference of which they were members at the time of their first election as bishop (or of any appropriate successor conference) and shall enjoy the same rights and privileges of any elders in full connection, except that they may retain the honorary title of bishop as a sign of respect for their service. General Conference may also enact special retirement benefits plans for former and retired bishops who remain in good standing.

#### Rationale:

This enhances accountability and equity while reflecting our tradition's foundational belief that elders and bishops are the same order. Twelve (12) years would al-

low some time for itinerating, while making more room for the best new leadership available. Forcing bishops to run for reelection can unhelpfully politicize and compromise their

## ¶125.

Petition Number: 20651-HS-¶125-G; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops. Kemper, Thomas - Atlanta, GA, USA for General Board of Global Ministries.

### Affiliated Methodist Churches

#### Amend ¶ 125 as follows:

**¶ 125.** United Methodists throughout the world are bound together. . . ~~in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission.~~ Integrally holding connectional unity and local freedom, we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social context while maintaining “a vital web of interactive relationships” (¶ 132). At the same time, we desire to affirm and celebrate our relationships, covenants, and partnership with autonomous, affiliated ~~autonomous Methodist~~, affiliated united covenanting, and concordat churches (¶¶ 570-574) as well as other partners in the Wesleyan and ecumenical Christian families. . . .

*(The remainder of the paragraph follows unamended)*

#### Amend ¶ 227 as follows:

**¶ 227.** A professing member of The United Methodist Church, of an affiliated ~~autonomous~~-Methodist or united church, or of a Methodist church that has a concordat agreement with The United Methodist Church;. . . .

*(The remainder of the paragraph follows unamended)*

#### Amend ¶ 344.1c) as follows:

c) Elders, associate members, and those licensed for pastoral ministry in service under the General Board of Global Ministries may be appointed to the ministries listed in a) and b) above. They may be assigned to service either in annual conferences or central conferences, or with affiliated ~~autonomous Methodist~~ churches, ~~independent self-governing churches~~, churches resulting from the union of Methodist Churches and other communions, mission institutions, or in other denominational or ecumenical ministries. . . .

#### Amend ¶ 423 as follows:

**¶ 423. Conference of Methodist Bishops**—There may be a conference of Methodist bishops, composed of all the bishops elected by the jurisdictional and central conferences and one bishop or chief executive officer from each affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist or united church, which shall meet on call of the Council of Bishops after consul-

tation with other members of the conference of Methodist bishops. The travel and other necessary expense of bishops of affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist or united churches related to the meeting of the Conference of Methodist Bishops shall be paid on the same basis as that of bishops of The United Methodist Church.

**Amend ¶ 433 as follows:**

¶ 433. *Methodist Unity*—1. *World Methodist Council*—a) The United Methodist Church is a member of the World Methodist Council, its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been charter members of such body. The council is a significant channel for United Methodist relationships with other Methodist churches and with autonomous Methodist churches, affiliated ~~autonomous~~-Methodist churches, affiliated united churches formerly part of The United Methodist Church or its predecessor denominations, and other churches with a Wesleyan heritage.

b) Each affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist church and each affiliated united church that is a member of the World Methodist Council may choose to send delegates either to the General Conference as proposed in ¶ 570.2, .3 or to the World Methodist Council (receiving from the General Administration Fund the expense of travel and per diem allowances thereto). But no such church shall be entitled to send delegations at the expense of the General Administration Fund to both the World Methodist Council and the General Conference.

**Amend ¶ 560 as follows:**

¶ 560. *Authorization*—Annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions outside the United States that are not included in central conferences or in the territory of affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist or united churches and that, because of geographical, language, political, or other considerations, have common interests that can best be served thereby, may be organized into provisional central conferences as provided in ¶ 540.1.21.

....

Amend Section V title as follows:

**Section V. Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated ~~Autonomous~~ Methodist Churches, Affiliated United Churches, Covenanting Churches, Concordat Churches**

**Amend ¶ 570.2 as follows:**

*2. Affiliated ~~Autonomous~~-Methodist Churches*

a) A self-governing Methodist church in whose establishment The United Methodist Church or one of its constituent members (The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church or their predecessors) has assisted and which by mutual agreement has entered into a Covenant of Relationship (in effect from 1968 to

1984) or an Act of Covenanting (see ¶ 573) with The United Methodist Church.

b) Each affiliated ~~autonomous~~-Methodist church shall be entitled to two delegates, one clergy and one layperson, to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in accordance with ¶ 433.1b. They shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of delegates, including membership on committees, except the right to vote. Such a church having more than 70,000 full members shall be entitled to one additional delegate. At least one of the three delegates shall be a woman. The bishop or president of the affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist churches may be invited by the Council of Bishops to the General Conference.

**Amend ¶ 570.4a as follows:**

*4. Covenanting Churches*

a) An autonomous Methodist church, an affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist church, an affiliated united church, or another Christian church which has entered into a covenanting relationship with The United Methodist Church through an Act of Covenanting as described in ¶ 573.

**Amend ¶ 571 as follows:**

¶ 571. *Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated ~~Autonomous~~ Methodist Churches, and Affiliated United Churches*—1. Certificates of church membership given by clergy in one church shall be accepted by clergy in the other church.

....

3. A program of visitation may be mutually arranged by the Council of Bishops in cooperation with the equivalent leadership of the autonomous Methodist church, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist church, and/or affiliated united church.

....

**Amend ¶ 572, including its heading, as follows:**

Becoming An Autonomous Methodist, Affiliated ~~Autonomous~~-Methodist, or Affiliated United Church from Central Conferences

¶ 572. When conferences outside the United States that are parts of The United Methodist Church desire to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist, or affiliated united church, approval shall first be secured from the central conference involved and this decision be ratified by the annual conferences within the central conference by two-thirds majority of the aggregate votes cast by the annual conferences.

1. The conference shall prepare a historical record with reasons why affiliation and/or autonomy is requested and shall consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (¶ 2201) on proceedings for affiliation and/or autonomy.

2. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and the conferences involved shall mutually agree

on the confession of faith and the constitution of the new church. These shall be prepared with care and shall be approved by the conferences.

3. Preparation of its *Discipline* is the responsibility of the conference(s) desiring affiliation and/or autonomy.

4. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, when all disciplinary requirements for affiliated and/or autonomous relationship have been met, the General Conference through an enabling act shall approve of and grant permission for the conference(s) involved to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist, or affiliated united church.

5. Then the central conference involved shall meet, declare the present relationship between The United Methodist Church and the conference(s) involved dissolved, and reorganize as an autonomous Methodist, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist, or affiliated united church in accordance with the enabling act granted by the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall assist in this process and, when the plans are consummated, report to the Council of Bishops. The proclamation of affiliated and/or autonomous status shall then be signed by the president of the Council of Bishops and the secretary of the General Conference.

6. A plan of cooperation shall be developed in accordance with ¶ 571.4.

Amend ¶ 573.1 as follows:

¶ 573. 1. A covenanting relationship, whose elements were adopted by the 1992 General Conference in an action called an “Act of Covenanting Between Christian Churches and The United Methodist Church” may be established between autonomous Methodist churches, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist churches, affiliated united churches, or other Christian churches and The United Methodist Church.

Amend ¶ 1314.2.c) as follows:

c) Development of and sustaining cooperative relationships and mission partnerships that include sharing of opportunities and resources, networking and collaboration. This includes the maintaining and fulfilling of connectional relationships with annual conferences, missionary conferences, and central conferences; autonomous, affiliated ~~autonomous~~ Methodist, and united churches; and ecumenical church bodies.

#### **Rationale:**

The UMC values its worldwide connectional, missional relationships with non-UMC churches. To address inconsistent and confusing uses of “autonomous” in naming some of these relationships, this petition deletes “autonomous” from “Affiliated Methodist Churches” and

adds two other clarifying changes; related petition that deletes “Autonomous Methodist Church.”

#### **¶401.**

Petition Number: 20283-HS-¶401-G; Berggren, Ken - Calhoun, KY, USA.

### **Bishop's Peer Review 1**

Amend ¶ 401 by addition:

¶ 401. *Task*—The task of superintending in The United Methodist Church resides in the office of bishop and extends to the district superintendent, with each possessing distinct and collegial responsibilities. The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (see Part IV, Section I). From apostolic times, certain ordained persons have been entrusted with the particular tasks of superintending. The purpose of superintending is to equip the church in its disciple making ministry. Those who superintend carry primary responsibility for ordering the life of the church. It is their task to enable the gathered church to worship and to evangelize faithfully. It is also their task to facilitate the initiation of structures and strategies for the equipping of Christian people for service in the church and in the world in the name of Jesus Christ and to help extend the service in mission. It is their task, as well, to see that all matters, temporal and spiritual, are administered in a manner that acknowledges the ways and the insights of the world critically and with understanding while remaining cognizant of and faithful to the mandate of the church. The formal leadership in The United Methodist Church, located in these superintending offices, is an integral part of the system of an itinerant ministry and requires the approval of the whole church (¶ 16.5). This approval will be expressed in an annual vote of confidence by the bishops themselves. Each bishop will request to hold the office and then active bishops will vote. In years when bishops are elected, the votes shall be conducted after the last jurisdictional and central conference but before new bishops are consecrated. The process may be conducted electronically through email or other modes of instant communication without the physical presence of all bishops. The affirmation of three-fourths of active bishops will be required to retain the office of bishop.

#### **Rationale:**

Bishops affect the whole church not just the jurisdiction that elected them. This adds to bishop qualifications the support of the whole church expressed by their col-

leagues in an annual peer review. ¶16.5 allows the discontinuation of bishops for “inefficiency or unacceptability.” Active bishops as a committee can determine unacceptability.

#### ¶402.

Petition Number: 20284-HS-¶402; Delmore, Sean - Labanon, NH, USA.

#### Special Ministry, Not Separate Order

Amend ¶ 402 as follows:

*Special Ministry, Not Separate Order*—The offices of bishop and district superintendent exist in The United Methodist Church as particular ministries. Bishops are elected ~~and district superintendents are appointed~~ from the group of elders who are ordained to be ministers of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order and thereby participate in the ministry of Christ, in sharing a royal priesthood that has apostolic roots (1Peter 2-9; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 3:1-7). District superintendents are appointed from the group of clergy in full connection.

#### Rationale:

As district superintendents work “to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world” (¶ 419.1), deacons may, at times, have the needed gifts and skills to serve as district superintendents.

#### ¶402.

Petition Number: 20285-HS-¶402-G; Williams, Alice - Orlando, FL, USA.

#### Deacons Eligible for Bishop

Amend the *Book of Discipline* ¶ 402 as follows:

. . . Bishops are elected and district superintendents are appointed from the group of elders and deacons who are ordained to be ministers of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order and thereby participate in the ministry of Christ, . . .

#### Rationale:

Our intentional focus on mission and ministry would benefit from the vision and expertise of both elders and deacons to lead the diverse ministries and congregations of The UMC. We are blessed to have deacons who have the administrative, spiritual, and missional gifts and graces needed to

#### ¶403.

Petition Number: 20286-HS-¶403; Delmore, Sean - Labanon, NH, USA. 1 Similar Petition

#### The Role of Bishops and District Superintendents

Amend ¶ 403 as follows:

*The Roles of Bishops and District Superintendents*—Bishops and superintendents are ~~elders~~ clergy in full connection.

[Retain rest of the paragraph as written.]

#### Rationale:

As district superintendents work “to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world” (¶ 419.1), deacons may, at times, have the needed gifts and skills to serve as district superintendents.

#### ¶403.

Petition Number: 20287-HS-¶403-G; Williams, Alice - Orlando, FL, USA.

#### Deacons Eligible for Bishop and Superintendent

Amend the *Book of Discipline* ¶ 403 as follows:

Bishops and superintendents are elders or deacons in full connection.

1. Bishops are elected from the elders and deacons of the church and are set apart for a ministry of servant leadership, general oversight and supervision of the denomination they serve.

#### Rationale:

The role of deacon continues to evolve in sophistication and complexity and our denomination is blessed to have deacons who possess the leadership, administrative, spiritual, and missional gifts needed to lead The UMC as bishops and superintendents.

#### ¶403.

Petition Number: 20289-HS-¶403-G; Eckert, Jerry - Port Charlotte, FL, USA.

#### The Primary Task of Cabinets

Amend by Addition to ¶ 403:

¶ 403. *The Role of Bishops and Superintendents*— . . .  
3. Together the bishop and district superintendents consti-

tute the appointive cabinet. Above all else, their primary task after matching pastor and church is to help them both succeed together.

#### **Rationale:**

This primary task, helping pastors and churches to be effective, to succeed in their match (which is not always as good as they'd like) is easily forgotten in the storm of administrative paper and the siren call of ambition in the larger church. Do this and the church shall live!

#### **¶403.**

Petition Number: 20681-HS-¶403-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Episcopacy Regionalization—Implementation**

All the following legislative acts shall be effective if, when, and only if the enabling amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church proposed in an accompanying petition shall be certified by the Council of Bishops.

Amend ¶¶ 403, 404, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 413, 414, 415, 422, 440, 450, 512, 524, 548, 614, 619, 621, 805, 806, 808, 810, 818, 1806, 2501, 2702, and 2712 as indicated following:

¶ 403.1.c) A vision for the church. The role of bishop is to lead the whole church in claiming its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The bishop leads by discerning, inspiring, strategizing, equipping, implementing, and evaluating the fulfillment of the mission of the church. Working in partnership with the Council of Bishops, the cabinet and lay and clergy leadership of the annual conference, and the professing members of the church, the bishop urges the whole church to move toward the vision of sharing Christ with the world in fulfillment of our mission, faithful discipleship and “an even better way” of being Christ’s people in the world.

...

f) ... The bishop shares with other bishops the oversight of the whole church through the Council of Bishops

...

¶ 404. *Provisions for Episcopal Areas—*

1. In central conferences outside the United States, the number of active and residentially assigned bishops shall be determined by each central conference, ~~on the basis of missional potential, as approved by the General Conference on recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. Before recommending changes in the number of episcopal areas;~~

~~the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall:~~

a) ~~consider these criteria in the following order of priority:~~

~~(1) the number of charge conferences and the number of active clergy in episcopal[153] areas[154];~~

~~(2) the geographic size of episcopal areas, measured by the square miles / square km, and the numbers of time zones and nations;~~

~~(3) the structure of episcopal areas, measured by the number of annual conferences, and the overall church membership in all annual, provisional annual, missionary conferences, and missions in episcopal areas.~~

b) ~~conduct a further analysis of the context and missional potential of changes in episcopal areas.~~

2. In the jurisdictions, the number of active and residentially assigned bishops shall be determined by each jurisdictional conference, ~~on the following basis:~~

a) ~~Each jurisdiction having 300,000 church members or fewer shall be entitled to five bishops and each jurisdiction having more than 300,000 church members shall be entitled to one additional bishop for each additional 300,000 church members or major fraction thereof.~~

b) ~~If the number of church members in a jurisdiction shall have decreased by at least ten percent below the number of church members which had previously entitled the jurisdiction to its number of bishops, then the number of bishops to which it shall be entitled shall be determined on the basis of missional needs, as approved by the General Conference on the recommendation of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, provided however that said jurisdiction shall be entitled to no less than the number of bishops to which it would be entitled under subparagraph a) above. It shall be the responsibility of the affected jurisdiction, through its Committee on Episcopacy, to request consideration of its missional need for an exception, and in the absence of such a request, there shall be no obligation on the part of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy to consider such an exception nor to make any report on such an exception to General Conference. In no case shall there be any constraint on General Conference’s power to act in the absence of such a recommendation or to reject any recommendation that might be received.~~

¶ 406.3. *Special Assignments—*The Council of Bishops may, with consent of the bishop and the concurrence of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, assign one of its members for one year to some specific churchwide responsibility deemed of sufficient importance to the welfare of the total church. In this event, a bishop shall be released from the presidential responsibilities within the episcopal area for that term. Another

bishop or bishops, active or retired, ~~and not necessarily from the same jurisdiction or central conference~~, shall be named by the ~~Council of Bishops on recommendation of the~~ College of Bishops of the jurisdiction involved to assume presidential responsibilities during the interim. In the event that more than one retired bishop is assigned to fulfill presidential responsibilities in one episcopal area, the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction shall be responsible only for the difference between the pensions paid the retired bishops and the remuneration of one active bishop. This assignment may be renewed for a second year by a two-thirds vote of the Council of Bishops and majority vote of the jurisdictional or central committee on episcopacy, and the consent of the bishop and the College of Bishops involved. The bishop so assigned shall continue to receive regular salary and support.

¶ 407. *Vacancy in the Office of Bishop*—A vacancy in the office of bishop may occur due to death, retirement (¶ 408.1, .2, .3), resignation (¶ 408.4), judicial procedure (¶ 2712), leave of absence (¶ 410.1), or medical leave (¶ 410.4). In case assignment of a bishop to presidential supervision of an episcopal area is terminated by any of the above causes, the vacancy shall be filled by the ~~Council of Bishops on nomination of the active bishops of the~~ College of Bishops of the jurisdiction or central conference concerned...

¶ 408.1.d) If, however, the retired bishop accepts any one of the following assignments of churchwide responsibility, the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops, shall set a level of compensation not to exceed a maximum determined by the General Conference on recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration with the compensation costs borne by the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction where the bishop has membership in the College of Bishops: (1) assignment of a special nature with direct relationship and accountability to the Council of Bishops, or (2) assignment to a general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education. Assignment of retired bishops to United Methodist Church-related institutions of higher education must be at the initiative of the institutions, with service not to exceed the mandatory retirement ages of the institutions.

If a bishop is assigned to a general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education, that agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education will pay 50 percent of the compensation established by GCFA for the position. The general agency or United Methodist Church-related institution of higher education shall further assume all responsibility for the bishop's operational and travel expenses related to the assignment.

Compensation for any special assignment shall cease after the bishop has reached the mandatory age of retirement for all ordained ministers (¶ 358.1) or completes the assignment, whichever comes first, except that retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops as executive secretary and ecumenical officer may continue to be compensated for such special assignment(s) throughout the terms of office. ~~No assignment to a jurisdiction, central conference, annual conference, or non-United Methodist agency shall qualify for additional compensation from the Episcopal Fund under the provisions of this paragraph.~~ The status of a retired bishop on special assignment shall, for purposes of housing and other benefits, be that of a retired bishop.

...

¶ 408.2.b) *Vocational Retirement*—A bishop who has served at least eight years in the episcopacy may seek retirement for vocational reasons and may be so retired by the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy on recommendation by the involved College of Bishops. Such bishops shall receive their pensions as provided in ¶ 408.2 (a). If the employing entity provides or makes health insurance available to employees, then the bishop who retires under this provision will be insured under that program, whether or not the bishop is required to pay the premium for that coverage, and the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction will assume no future obligation to provide health insurance for the bishop or the bishop's family. . . .

...

¶ 408.3.b) A bishop, for health reasons, may be retired between sessions of the jurisdictional or central conference by a two-thirds vote of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy upon the recommendation of one third of the membership of the involved College of Bishops. The affected bishop, upon request, shall be entitled to a review of his or her health condition by a professional diagnostic team prior to action by the involved College of Bishops. Notification of action to retire shall be given by the chairperson and secretary of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy to the secretary of the Council College of Bishops and the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund jurisdiction. Appeal from this action may be made to the Judicial Council with the notice provisions being applicable as set forth in ¶ 2716. Upon such retirement, the bishop shall receive a pension to the extent permitted under the Clergy Retirement Security Program or the Global Episcopal Pension Program (or, in either case, any successor bishop pension or retirement plan or program), as either may apply.

¶ 409.1. . . . However, when a retired bishop is appointed by ~~the Council~~ a College of Bishops to a vacant

episcopal area or parts of an area under the provisions of ¶¶ 409.3, 410.1, or 410.3, that bishop may function as a bishop in the effective relationship.

¶ 410. *Leaves*—1. *Leave of Absence*—A bishop may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the Council College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund as provided by the jurisdiction.

...

3. *Sabbatical Leave*—A bishop who has served for at least two quadrennia may be granted a sabbatical leave of not more than one year for a program of study or renewal in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. During the period for which the sabbatical leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from the presidential responsibilities within the episcopal area, and another bishop or bishops shall be designated by the Council College of Bishops to assume the presidential duties. The bishop shall receive one-half salary and, where applicable, housing allowance for the period of the leave.

4. *Medical Leave*—Bishops who by reason of impaired health are temporarily unable to perform full work may be granted a leave of absence for a justifiable reason for not more than six months in consultation with the area committee on episcopacy and with the approval of the College of Bishops, and the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops. During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the Council College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund as provided by the jurisdiction. If after the six-month time period is over the bishop is still unable to perform full work due to impaired health, disability benefits through the benefit program provided to the bishop should be applied for.

¶ 413.3.d(iii) All costs associated with actions taken pursuant to paragraph (ii), above, will be paid by the Epis-

copal Fund jurisdiction or central conference wherein the bishop has membership in the College of Bishops.

¶ 414.8. To promote and support the evangelistic witness of the ~~whole~~ church.

¶ 415.6. To consecrate bishops, to ordain elders and deacons, to consecrate diaconal ministers, to commission deaconesses, home missionaries and missionaries, and to see that the names of the persons commissioned and consecrated are entered on the journals of the conference and that proper credentials are furnished to these persons. ~~As these services are acts of the whole Church,~~ † Text and rubrics shall be used in the form approved by the General Conference.

¶ 422. *Council of Bishops*—1. Bishops, ~~although elected by jurisdictional or central conferences,~~ are elected general superintendents of the ~~whole~~ church.

...

4. ~~The Council of Bishops may assign one of its members to visit another episcopal area or Methodist-related church. When so assigned, the bishop shall be recognized as the accredited representative of the Council of Bishops, and when requested by the resident bishop or president in that area or Church, may exercise therein the functions of episcopacy.~~

¶ 440. *Funding*—Funding for the ecumenical and interreligious ministries of the church shall be provided by the Council of Bishops in one or more clearly identified line items in the Episcopal General Administration Fund budget request to General Conference.

¶ 450. *Funding*—In collaboration with the Council of Bishops, the Committee on Faith and Order shall propose its budget as part of the Episcopal General Administration Fund, to be approved by General Conference.

Delete ¶ 512 in its entirety.

Delete ¶ 524.3.f) in its entirety.

¶ 548. *Bishops in Retired Relation*—1. An ordained minister who has served a term or part of a term as a bishop in a central conference where term episcopacy has prevailed shall, upon retirement from the effective relation in the ministry, be paid an allowance from the General Episcopal Administration Fund in such sum as the General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine for the years during which the ordained minister served as a bishop.

~~¶(614.1.b) The council shall report to the annual conference at each session the Episcopal Fund apportionment to the annual conference under the methodology approved by the General Conference and shall include in its recommended clergy support budget the amount determined by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration as necessary to meet this apportionment.~~

¶ 619.1.a)(5) The conference treasurer shall remit

each month to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration the amounts received during the month for the General Administration Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~; the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Black College Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, World Service Special Gifts, Advance Special Gifts, general church special Sunday offerings (§ 262), special churchwide appeals (§ 819), and all other general causes not otherwise directed.

§ 621. *Apportionment Distribution*—Each annual conference shall determine what plan and method shall be used in distributing the apportionments to its several districts and charges for the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ support of the bishops of the jurisdiction (§ 817.1), for the support of district superintendents and conference claimants, and for the Equitable Compensation Fund (§ 625).

§ 805.6. *Financial Support*—a) Financial support from general church funds for the work of the council shall be from the following sources: (1) an on-ratio allocation from the General Administration Fund, in an amount determined by the General Conference; (2) fixed charges against the World Service Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, and such other general funds as the General Conference may authorize, on recommendation of the council. Fixed charges shall be in proportion to the funds' receipts.

§ 806.1.a) The council shall make recommendations to the General Conference as to the amount and distribution of the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ and General Administration Fund, and, in consultation with the Connectional Table, other apportioned general funds.

§ 808. *Conference Payments of Apportioned Funds*—1. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall, not less than ninety days prior to the session of each annual conference or as soon thereafter as practical, transmit to the presiding bishop thereof, to the president of the conference council on finance and administration, and to the conference treasurer a statement of the apportionments to the conference for the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, ~~the Episcopal Fund~~, the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, the Africa University Fund, and such other funds as may have been apportioned by the General Conference.

§ 810. *Definition of General Funds*—1. The terms *general fund(s)* and *general church fund(s)*, wherever they appear in the *Book of Discipline*, refer to: the World Service Fund; the General Administration Fund; ~~the Episcopal Fund~~; the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund; the Ministerial Education Fund; the Black College Fund; the Africa University Fund; World Service Special Gifts; general Advance Special Gifts; the World Communion

Fund; the Human Relations Day Fund; the United Methodist Student Day Fund; the UMCOR Sunday Fund<sup>16</sup>; Peace with Justice Sunday Fund; Native American Ministries Sunday Fund; the Youth Service Fund; and such other funds as may have been established by the General Conference and have been specifically authorized by the General Conference to be raised on a churchwide basis.

Delete § 818, including its title, in its entirety.

§ 1806.12. It shall be the central agency marketing throughout the church the following general church funds: World Service Fund (§ 812.1), Africa University Fund (§ 806.2), Black College Fund (§ 815), ~~Episcopal Fund~~ ~~(§ 818.1)~~; General Administration Fund (§ 813), Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (§ 819), Ministerial Education Fund (§ 816), Human Relations Day (§§ 824.1 and 263.1), UMCOR Sunday (§§ 821, 824.2, and 263.2), Native American Ministries Sunday (§§ 824.6 and 263.6), Peace with Justice Sunday (§§ 824.5 and 263.5), World Communion Sunday (§§ 824.4 and 263.3), United Methodist Student Day (§§ 824.3 and 263.4), the Advance for Christ and His Church (§§ 822 and 823), World Service Special Gifts (§ 820), Christian Education Sunday (§ 265.1), Golden Cross Sunday (§ 265.2), Rural Life Sunday (§ 265.3), Disability Awareness Sunday (§ 265.4), Youth Service Fund (§ 1208), and all other general church funds approved by the General Conference, as well as any emergency appeals authorized by the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration (§ 819).

§ 2712.6. A bishop suspended from office shall have claim on the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ episcopal support program established by the jurisdictional or central conference for salary, dwelling, pension, and other related benefits. A bishop removed from office shall have no claim upon the ~~Episcopal Fund~~ jurisdictional or central conference episcopal support program, except as specifically provided by that conference, for salary, dwelling, pension and other related benefits from the date of such removal.

#### **Rationale:**

The episcopacy has functioned at least as regionally as it has globally since the creation of the jurisdictional system. No bishop has ever been transferred between jurisdictions after election. Moreover, regional theological differences make this step imperative if the church is to have any chance at organic unity.

#### **¶403.2.**

Petition Number: 20288-HS-¶403.2; Delmore, Sean - Labanon, NH, USA.



## District Superintendents' Role

Amend ¶ 403.2 as follows:

2. District superintendents are ~~elders~~ clergy in full connection appointed by the bishop to the cabinet as an extension of the superintending role of the bishop within the annual conference through the same disciplines and in accordance with their responsibilities designated in the *Book of Discipline* under the supervision of the resident bishop.

### Rationale:

As district superintendents work “to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world” (¶ 419.1), deacons may, at times, have the needed gifts and skills to serve as district superintendents.

### ¶404.

Petition Number: 20290-HS-¶404-\$-G; Kilpatrick, Joe Wesley - Tucker, GA, USA. 1 Similar Petition

### Financial Stewardship and Justice in the Allocation of Bishops

Amend ¶ 404 by deletion of all the current text and substitution of the following:

¶ 404. Provisions for Episcopal Areas—

1) Withstanding all other paragraphs, there shall be sixty-six (66) episcopal areas. Changes in the number allocated to a jurisdiction or central conference shall be effective September 1 if there is a reduction of areas and effective December 31 where there is an increase in areas.

2) For missional purposes, thirteen (13) episcopal areas will be allocated to selected central conferences as follows: to the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference, one (1) area, to the Germany Central Conference, one (1) area, to the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference, two (2) areas, to the Philippines Central Conference, three (3) areas, and to the current Africa Central Conference, six (6) episcopal areas, which will be four (4) for South Africa Central and two (2) for East Africa Central if there is a division of the current Africa Central Conference.

3.a) The USA Jurisdictions, the Congo Central Conference, and the West Africa Central Conference are herein allocated the fifty-three (53) remaining episcopal areas. The allocation is to be determined on the uniform basis of proportionality computed on the total combined clergy and lay membership therein, applying the membership numbers used to allocate delegates to the General Conference. To achieve the targeted whole number of bish-

ops, the largest of the fractions remaining after an initial rounding may also be rounded.

3.b) There shall be no election of bishops within a jurisdiction or central conference that currently has more than the number calculated herein serving in an active role, defined as those elected for life who are below the retirement age. When the number of active bishops falls below the number calculated herein, then the resulting vacancy shall be filled. However, the number of episcopal areas may temporality exceed the allocated total of fifty-three (53), and the grand total of sixty-six (66), when necessary to respect a commitment to a lifetime election of a bishop in an active role.

September 18, 2019

Joe Wesley Kilpatrick

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### Financial Implications:

Using the cost of active bishops published by GCFA in Report No. 5 from 2016 ADCA, page 618, we can compute the following savings.

Reduction in costs of 15 USA bishops:

15 fewer bishops at a cost of \$329,750 each, equals a reduction of	\$4,946,250
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Increase in costs of 15 additional African Bishops:

15 more bishops (five already scheduled by previous General Conference)	
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At costs of \$232,500 each, equals an increased cost of	\$3,487,500
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Net savings per year of	\$1,458,500
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Additional savings are likely to occur at the Episcopal level in the reduction of 15 bishops in the USA, because there may be a corresponding reduction in Conference staff and related costs not covered by the numbers presented in GCFA Report No. 5. If such costs are about \$175,000 per year, as some have suggested, then an additional savings of \$2,625,000 would be achieved.

The 53 areas allocated by proportionality are: North Central 5, Northeastern 5, South Central 8, Southeastern 12, Western 1, Congo Central 14, West Africa 8.

### Rationale:

Proportional reallocation, shifts fifteen (15) bishops to Africa, focuses top leadership on the greatest gender inequality, child mortality, poverty, bad government, and bad infrastructure. A missional allocation, from twelve (12) to thirteen (13) bishops, is made to smaller central conferences. Larger ones are treated as equals, share and share alike

**¶404.**

Petition Number: 20291-HS-¶404; Holley, Del - Knoxville, TN, USA for Jurisdictional Study Committee.

**Jurisdictional Study Committee Petition #1—  
Number of Bishops in Jurisdictions**

Amend ¶ 404 by the following additions and deletions:

¶ 404. *Provisions for Episcopal Areas*

1. In central conferences, the number of bishops shall be determined on the basis of missional potential, as approved by the General Conference on recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. Before recommending changes in the number of episcopal areas, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall:

*a)* consider these criteria in the following order of priority:

(1) the number of charge conferences and the number of active clergy in the episcopal areas;

(2) the geographic size of episcopal areas, measured by the square miles/square km, and the numbers of time zones and nations;

(3) the structure of episcopal areas, measured by the number of annual conferences, and the overall church membership in all annual, provisional annual, missionary conferences, and missions in episcopal areas.

*b)* conduct a further analysis of the context and missional potential of changes in episcopal areas.

2. In the jurisdictions, the number of bishops shall be determined on the following basis:

~~*a)* Each jurisdiction having 300,000 church members or fewer shall be entitled to five bishops, and each jurisdiction having more than 300,000 church members shall be entitled to one additional bishop for each additional 300,000 church members or major fraction thereof.~~

~~*b)* If the number of church members in a jurisdiction shall have decreased by at least 10 percent below the number of church members which had previously entitled the jurisdiction to its number of bishops, then the A jurisdiction, through its jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, may request additional bishops exceeding the number provided in subparagraph a) above; provided, however, that the salary and expenses of such additional bishops, calculated pursuant to the provisions of ¶ 818 (The Episcopal Fund), shall be apportioned to the annual conferences of such jurisdiction. The number of additional bishops to which it shall be entitled shall be determined on the basis of missional needs and financial ability of the annual conferences of the jurisdiction to support such additional bishops, as approved by the Gen-~~

eral Conference on the recommendation of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, provided however that said jurisdiction shall be entitled to no less than the number of bishops to which it would be entitled under subparagraph *a)* above. It shall be the responsibility of the affected jurisdiction, through its committee on episcopacy, to request consideration of its missional need for ~~an exception~~ additional bishops, and in the absence of such a request, there shall be no obligation on the part of the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy to consider such ~~an exception~~ additional bishops nor to make any report ~~or recommendation~~ on such an exception additional bishops to General Conference. In no case shall there be any constraint on General Conference's power to act in the absence of such a recommendation or to reject any recommendation that might be received. Further, the provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed to limit the authority of the jurisdictional conferences to determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas (¶ 40) or of the Colleges of Bishops to arrange the plan of episcopal supervision (¶ 48).

~~*c)* If a jurisdiction, as a result of the provisions of this paragraph, shall have the number of bishops to which it had previously been entitled reduced, then the reduction in the number of bishops to which it is entitled shall be effective as of September 1 of the calendar year in which said reduction has been determined by the General Conference. When a jurisdiction requests a change in the number of bishops for the jurisdiction, the Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, in consultation with the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy for the affected jurisdiction, shall develop a time line for implementation of the new number of bishops. The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy shall recommend the time line, developed after such consultation, to the General Conference for approval.~~

**Rationale:**

See Jurisdictional Study Committee report for full rationale—This petition proposes amendments to ¶ 404 that will eliminate the mathematical formula for calculating the number of active bishops for each jurisdiction, establish a minimum number of active bishops for each jurisdiction, and establish a process by which jurisdictions may request additional

**¶404.**

Petition Number: 20292-HS-¶404-G; Byerman, Mary - Tampa, FL, USA.

## More Even and Affordable Distribution of Bishops

Amend ¶ 404.2 as follows:

¶ 404. *Provisions for Episcopal Areas*—

1. In central conferences, the number of bishops . . .
2. In the jurisdictions, the number of bishops shall be

determined on the following basis:

a) Each jurisdiction having 300,000 church members or fewer shall be entitled to ~~five~~ four bishops and each jurisdiction having more than 300,000 church members shall be entitled to one additional bishop for each additional 300,000 church members or major fraction thereof.

This shall be effective September 1, 2020.

### Rationale:

It is becoming widely recognized that our current number of U.S. bishops is not sustainable and that we must take significant steps to put our Episcopal Fund on stronger financial footing. This addresses such concerns while spreading the reduction evenly across all jurisdictions. It also make the formula fairer.

### ¶404.

Petition Number: 20293-HS-¶404-G; Fuller, Dan - Chenango Falls, NY, USA.

### Minimum Basis for US Bishops

Amend ¶ 404.2a by ADDING language as follows:

¶ 404. *Provisions for Episcopal Areas*—

1. In central conferences, the number of bishops . . .
2. In the jurisdictions, the number of bishops shall be

determined on the following basis:

a) Each jurisdiction having 300,000 church members or fewer shall be entitled to five bishops and each jurisdiction having more than 300,000 church members shall be entitled to one additional bishop for each additional 300,000 church members or major fraction thereof. Furthermore, each annual conference in the jurisdictions with fewer than 60,000 professing church members shall share a bishop with another annual conference in its jurisdiction, even if this necessitates the total number of bishops in that jurisdiction being fewer than the number produced by the previous formula. The jurisdictional conference shall be responsible for determining the details of adjustments to the number, names, and boundaries of its annual conferences and episcopal areas, within the limits of this paragraph and other relevant provisions of the *Discipline*. It is recommended that any savings resulting from reductions in the number of jurisdictional bishops as a result of these provisions be used to provide funding for bishops in

the central conferences. (Effective at the close of the 2020 General Conference.)

### Rationale:

This would address the wide disparities in the number of church members served by a single jurisdictional bishop (ranging from less than 30,000 to over 350,000). It would also bring some much-needed financial sustainability, by ensuring a minimum support base for each U.S. episcopal area to afford its own bishop.

### ¶405.

Petition Number: 20294-HS-¶405-G; Eckert, Jerry - Port Charlotte, FL, USA.

### Developing Criteria for Electing a Bishop

*Amend by* Addition to ¶ 405 as a new .1 and change the numbering accordingly:

¶ 405. *Criteria for, Election of, and Consecration of Bishops*—1. *Criteria*—Prior to any nominations for episcopacy, the episcopacy committees of the central and jurisdictional conferences shall list the specific powers of bishops provided in the *Book of Discipline* so that all nominees will have a chance to see the boundaries of the power of the episcopacy and those electing them will see the gifts and graces of the nominees in light of those limits. Further, the episcopacy committees shall identify other gifts and graces they seek for bishops-elect to conduct ministry in their particular jurisdiction or central conference.

### Rationale:

Jurisdictions must define their expectations of what a bishop does and the limits of the bishops' authority. We must be sure the limits on bishops are clear to minimize power abuse. Such a list helps bishops by putting a job description together from the *Discipline* and from the needs

### ¶406.

Petition Number: 20679-HS-¶406-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

### Limited Tenure for Bishops and Relationship of Retired Bishops—Implementation

Insert new ¶ 406 and amend existing ¶ 409 as indicated. Renumber all paragraphs as appropriate.

¶ 406. *Term of Office*—Bishops elected by the jurisdictions and central conferences shall have a term of office of eight years, and a bishop may be reelected for one additional eight-year term. If a bishop is elected as

provided in ¶ 407 because of an unanticipated vacancy in the office, then the bishop's term and limits thereto will be as follows, where for this purpose the quadrennium begins on 01 September of the year in which General Conference is held:

1. If at least twenty-four months remain in the quadrennium at the time of election, then the bishop's term of office shall be four years plus the amount of time served in the quadrennium of election.

2. If less time than twenty-four months remains in the quadrennium at the time of election, then the bishop's term of office shall be eight years plus the amount of time served in the quadrennium of election.

3. In the case of a bishop subject either to §1. or 2., the bishop shall be eligible for election to one additional eight-year term. However, no elder who has served at least fourteen years as a bishop shall be eligible for reelection as a bishop.

¶ 409. *Status of Retired Bishops*—A retired bishop is a bishop of the Church in every respect and continues to function as a member of the Council of Bishops in accordance with the Constitution and other provisions of the Discipline. Retired bishops shall become members of an annual conference of their choosing with the consent of the presiding bishop.

1. Retired bishops may participate in the Council of Bishops and its committees, but without vote. They may preside over sessions of an annual conference, provisional annual conference, or mission if requested to do so by the bishop assigned to that conference, or in the event of that bishop's incapacity, by the president of the College of Bishops to which the conference is related. Retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops may serve as the executive secretary and the ecumenical officer of the council. In emergency situations, where the resident bishop is unable to preside, the College of Bishops shall assign an effective or retired bishop to preside over the sessions of the annual conference (¶ 48). They may not make appointments or preside at the jurisdiction or central conference. However, when a retired bishop is appointed by the Council of Bishops to a vacant episcopal area or parts of an area under the provisions of ¶¶ 409.3, 410.1, or 410.3, that bishop may function as a residential bishop in the effective relationship.

These implementing changes will be effective if and when the Council of Bishops certifies the enactment of the enabling changes in the Constitution provided in another petition.

#### **Rationale:**

Life tenure is inconsistent with realities of human development and interaction. Accountability to the church

and changes for bishops demand election be for limited terms. Moreover, membership of retired bishops should revert to the annual conference. And all bishops of the church should have the same term of office.

#### **¶408.**

Petition Number: 20295-HS-¶408-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

### **Bishops Involuntary Retirement**

Amend ¶ 408.3.a) as indicated following:

¶ 408.3. *Involuntary Retirement*—a) A bishop may be placed in the retired relation regardless of age by a two-thirds vote of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy if, after not less than a thirty-day notice in writing is given to the affected bishop and hearing held, such relationship is found determined by, and only by, said committee to be in the best interests of the bishop and/or the church. This action may or may not be taken because of the performance of the bishop, and the reason for the action must be clearly stated in the report of the committee. The provisions of ¶ 361.2 for fair process in administrative hearings shall apply to this administrative process. Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the jurisdictional conference administrative review committee (¶ 539). The action of the committee on episcopacy is dispositive, and the portion of the report of the committee on episcopacy to the jurisdictional or central conference dealing with this action is for information only as is any notice provided to a conference administrative review committee.

#### **Rationale:**

This makes clear that the authority for determining what is in the best interests of the church and/or the bishop in decisions on involuntary episcopal retirement rests with and only with the committee on episcopacy. Such a committee should not be subject to second-guessing on this point.

#### **¶408.**

Petition Number: 20296-HS-¶408-G; Choi, Tom - Honolulu, HI, USA.

### **Mandatory Retirement for Bishops**

Amend ¶ 408. *Termination of Office*—An elder who is serving as a bishop up to the time of retirement shall have the status of a retired bishop.

~~1. *Mandatory Retirement*—a) A bishop shall be retired on September 1 next following the regular session of the jurisdictional conference if the bishop's sixty-eighth birthday has been reached on or before July 1. Mandatory retirement for bishops is age seventy-two. An episcopal candidate or a continuing active bishop shall be no older than age sixty-eight on or before September 1 in the year in which the jurisdictional conference is held. The date of retirement for a bishop shall be September 1 in the year a jurisdictional conference is held. This change becomes effective at the close of the 2020 General Conference.~~

**Rationale:**

This legislation provides better consistency with retirement rules for all elders (§ 357.1), including bishops, basing retirement on the age of the bishop instead of the bishop's birthday.

**¶408.3.**

Petition Number: 20297-HS-¶408.3; Lambrecht, Thomas - Spring, TX, USA.

**Council of Bishops Accountability #1**

Amend by addition of a new ¶ 408.3.c:

By a majority vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in the retired relation with or without their consent and irrespective of their age if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not vote on this matter. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (¶ 422.5). Written notice also shall be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (¶ 422.6).

**Rationale:**

Additions to §§ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to § 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of fair process and enables greater consistency and uniformity.

**¶408.3c.**

Petition Number: 20666-HS-¶408.3c; Zilhaver, Robert - Uniontown, PA, USA.

**Composite Petition for Council of Bishops to Have Administrative Accountability Authority**

Add following new subparagraphs to the *Book of Discipline*:

¶ 408.3 c) By a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in the retired relation with or without their consent and irrespective of their age if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (¶ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (¶ 422.6).

¶ 410.5 *Involuntary Leave of Absence*—a) By a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in an involuntary leave status if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (¶ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (¶ 422.6).

b) Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved annually by the Council of Bishops after review and recommendation of the council relations committee.

c) During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the executive committee of the College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund.

¶ 422.5. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership a council relations committee of at least three persons to hear requests for involuntary leave of absence, involuntary retirement, or other such matters as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops.

a) When there is a recommendation for an involuntary status change or other matter to be referred to the council relations committee, the council relations committee shall conduct an administrative hearing following the provisions of fair process. The Council of Bishops shall designate the person to present the recommendation to the committee. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to address the recommendation in person, in writing, and with the assistance of a clergyperson in full connection, 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 Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee.

b) *Fair Process Hearings*—As a part of the holy covenant that exists within the membership and organization of The United Methodist Church, the following procedures are presented for the protection of the rights of individuals and for the protection of the church in administrative hearings. The process set forth in this paragraph shall be followed whenever the council relations committee meets to process an administrative request by the Council of Bishops.

1) In any administrative proceeding the representative of the Council of Bishops and the respondent (the person against whom involuntary action is directed) shall have a right to be heard before any final action is taken.

2) Notice of any hearing shall advise the respondent of the reason for the proposed procedures with sufficient detail to allow the respondent to prepare a response. Notice shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the hearing.

3) The respondent shall have a right to be accompanied to any hearing by a clergyperson in full connections, in accordance with the appropriate disciplinary provisions. The clergyperson accompanying the respondent shall have the right to voice.

4) In any administrative hearing, under no circumstances shall one party, in the absence of the other party, discuss substantive issues with members of the pending hearing body. Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body.

5) The respondent shall have access, at least seven days prior to the hearing all records relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the administrative process.

6) In the event that a respondent fails to appear for supervisory interviews, refuses mail, refuses to communicate personally with the bishop, or otherwise fails to respond to supervisory requests or requests from official administrative committees, such actions or inactions shall not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay any church processes, and such processes may continue without the participation of such individual.

7) Prior to the start of the administrative hearing by the council relations committee, the bishop may choose to have a trial. This choice must be made in writing and submitted to the chair of the council relations committee prior to the start of the administrative hearing. The procedures are provided for in ¶¶ 2707-2712.

8) Appeal may be made under the provisions of ¶¶ 2718.3 and 2718.4

¶ 422.6. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership an administrative review committee of at least three persons who are not members of the executive committee or the council relations committee. Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures

for any involuntary action recommended by the council relations committee are properly followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change of status of the bishop shall be reviewed by the administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the Council of Bishops prior to any action by the Council of Bishops. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (¶ 422.5) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action.

#### **Rationale:**

This composite petition addresses the principle of legality raised in JD 1366 by restoring language and procedures used prior to *1996 Discipline* to provide a constitutional administrative process for Council. This language was found to meet the principle of legality in Judicial Council Decision 351 and ¶ 20

#### **¶409.**

Petition Number: 20299-HS-¶409-G; Williams, Alice - Orlando, FL, USA.

#### **Retired Bishops Expenses While Participating in Council of Bishops**

Amend the *Book of Discipline* ¶ 409 as follows:

A retired bishop is a bishop of the church in every respect and continues to function as a member of the Council of Bishops at their own expense in accordance with the Constitution and other provisions of the *Discipline*. If a retired bishop is asked to engage in work (ex. committee, conference, project, etc.) a contract will be issued for said work to include provision for compensation of expenses incurred.

#### **Rationale:**

Retired bishops are invited to lend their thought partnership and wisdom to the work of the COB. In an effort to limit costs incurred by the denomination, retired bishops who choose to engage in COB meetings should pay their own expenses unless contracted for specific work efforts.

#### **¶410.**

Petition Number: 20298-HS-¶410; Lambrecht, Thomas - Spring, TX, USA.

## Council of Bishops Accountability #2

Amend by addition of a new ¶ 410.5:

¶ 410.5. *Involuntary Leave of Absence*—a) By a majority vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in an involuntary leave status if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary leave of absence procedure (¶ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (¶ 422.6).

b) Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved annually by the Council of Bishops after review and recommendation of the council relations committee.

c) During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits may be continued through the Episcopal Fund for a maximum of six months.

### Rationale:

Additions to ¶¶ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to ¶ 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of fair process and enables greater consistency and uniformity.

### ¶413.

Petition Number: 20300-HS-¶413; Smith, Jeremy - Seattle, WA, USA. 1 Similar Petition

### ALL BELONG: Restoring Integrity to Episcopal Just Resolution Processes

Amend ¶ 413.3 as follows:

¶ 413.3.c.

c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 362.1b, c.) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. ~~No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved,~~

a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement. ~~Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint.~~

¶ 413.3.d.i,

(d) (i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (¶ 413.3) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint as ~~having no basis in law or fact~~, with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, copies of which shall be placed in the bishop's file and shared with the complainant, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to ¶ 413.3e, or refer the matter to counsel for the church pursuant to ¶ 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.

### Rationale:

Because all belong in the body of Christ, this petition removes the preferential power given to those who file complaints. Striking this language restores the confidentiality of the complaint process and affirms the integrity of the process agreed upon by the parties involved.

### ¶413.

Petition Number: 20301-HS-¶413-G; Lopez, Joseph - Seattle, WA, USA. 2 Similar Petitions

### Remove Traditional Plan Language

Amend ¶ 413.

3. c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 362.1b, c.) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. ~~No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort~~

shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement. ~~Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint.~~

d) i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (§ 413.3) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint ~~as having no basis in law or fact~~, with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, ~~copies a copy~~ of which shall be placed in the bishop's file ~~and shared with the complainant~~, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to § 413.3e, or refer the matter to counsel for the church pursuant to § 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.

#### ¶414.

Petition Number: 20302-HS-¶414-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

#### **Open Meetings of Committees Formed by the Council of Bishops**

Following existing § 414.11 insert a new § 414.12 as follows:

¶ 414.12 The Council of Bishops may at its own discretion meet in closed session, however, in the spirit of openness repeatedly affirmed by the General Conference, unless urgently indicated by the nature of the business at hand, sessions shall be open. This provision permitting unlimited discretion for the closing of meetings of the Council of Bishops shall not apply to meetings of committees formed by or for the Council of Bishops that include members or participants who are not bishops. The meetings of such bodies shall be controlled by the open meetings provisions of § 722.

#### **Rationale:**

In the spirit of openness repeatedly affirmed by the General Conference, meetings of committees formed by

or for the Council of Bishops, such as the Commission on a Way Forward, that include members other than bishops should be subject to the open meetings provisions already enacted by the General Conference.

#### ¶414.6.

Petition Number: 20303-HS-¶414.6; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

#### **Amend 414.6 to Give Further Expression to the Ecumenical and Interreligious Responsibilities of United Methodist Bishops**

##### **Amend § 414.6 as follows:**

6. To provide liaison and leadership in the quest for Christian unity in ministry, mission, and structure and in the search for strengthened relationships with other living faith communities. Bishops are to model a spirit of ecumenical and interreligious cooperation and lead their areas in establishing relationships of peace, reconciliation, and understanding across lines of denominational and religious differences.

#### **Rationale:**

The bishops of The UMC are the primary liaisons between The UMC and other Christian communions (§ 431.2) as well as bodies of other religious traditions. This role should be given further theological elaboration in defining the responsibilities of a bishop.

#### ¶415.6.

Petition Number: 20304-HS-¶415.6-G; Dotson, Junius - Nashville, TN, USA. 8 Similar Petitions

#### **Next Generation UMC #11— Amend Episcopal Responsibilities**

[Also submitted as:

All Belong: Restore Conciliar Authority]

Amend § 415.6 as follows:

6. To consecrate bishops; to ordain elders and deacons; to commission deaconesses, home missionaries, and missionaries; and to see that the names of the persons commissioned and consecrated are entered on the journals of the conference and that proper credentials are furnished to these persons. ~~Bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed practicing homosexuals, even if they have been duly elected by the jurisdictional or central conference. Bishops are prohibited from commissioning those on the deacon or elder track if the Board of Ordained Ministry has determined the individual is a~~



~~self-avowed practicing homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. Bishops are prohibited from ordaining deacons or elders if the Board of Ordained Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed practicing homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference.~~

As these services are acts of the whole church, text and rubrics shall be used in the form approved by the General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

¶ 33 empowers annual conference clergy members to determine who is qualified for ordination. The power to elect bishops is reserved to members of the jurisdictional and central conferences. These rights should not be nullified by withholding acts of consecration, ordination, or commissioning from those judged as qualified for those

#### **¶415.6.**

Petition Number: 20305-HS-¶415.6-G; Thaarup, Jorgen - Copenhagen, Denmark.

#### **Follow Civil Laws and Ecumenical Context of the Country**

Action proposed: Amend ¶ No. 415. 6:

¶ 415. 6. To consecrate bishops; to ordain elders and deacons; to commission deaconesses, home missionaries, and missionaries; and to see that the names of the persons commissioned and consecrated are entered on the journals of the conference and that proper credentials are furnished to these persons. In countries where the ecumenical context does not accept practicing homosexual clergies, B-bishops are prohibited from consecrating bishops who are self-avowed homosexuals, even if they have been duly elected by the jurisdictional or central conference. In countries where the ecumenical context does not accept practicing homosexual clergies, B-bishops are prohibited from commissioning those on the deacon or elder track if the Board of Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference. In countries where the ecumenical

context does not accept practicing homosexual clergies, B bishops are prohibited from ordaining deacons or elders if the Board of Ministry has determined the individual is a self-avowed homosexual or has failed to certify it carried out the disciplinarily mandated examination, even if the individual has been recommended by the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the clergy session of the annual conference.

#### **Rationale:**

The UMC should follow the position of other mainline protestant denominations that we have ecumenical agreements with in the context of the countries and cultures of the church

#### **¶416.5.**

Petition Number: 20306-HS-¶416.5-G; Bergquist, Greg - Nashville, TN, USA for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

#### **Remove Course of Study Record from Procedures for Conference Transfers**

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.

#### **¶416.7.**

Petition Number: 20716-HS-¶416.7-G; Horton, David - Houston, TX, USA.

#### **Local Discernment of Marriage and Wedding Services**

Add new subparagraphs after ¶ 416.7:

8. The bishop shall not penalize any clergy for performing, or refraining from performing, a same-sex marriage service.

9. The bishop shall neither require any local church to hold or prohibit a local church from holding a same-sex marriage service on property owned by a local church.

**Rationale:**

Allows local churches to host same-sex wedding services on church property. Grants all clergy the freedom to exercise their conscience when invited to preside at any wedding service, regardless of sexuality.

**¶417.**

Petition Number: 20307-HS-¶417-G; Delmore, Sean - Labanon, NH, USA. 1 Similar Petition

### **Selection and Assignment of District Superintendents**

Amend ¶ 417 as follows:

¶ 417. *Selection and Assignment*—Inasmuch as the district superintendency is an extension of the general superintendency, the bishop shall appoint ~~elders~~ clergy members in full connection to serve as district superintendents.

[Retain rest of the paragraph as written]

**Rationale:**

The district superintendent is “chief missional strategist of the district . . . ,” working “to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world” (¶ 246.5). As those who help bridge the church’s mission into the world, deacons, too, could offer their gifts

**¶418.**

Petition Number: 20308-HS-¶418-G; Crump, Nita - Macon, GA, USA.

### **Extension of District Superintendent Years of Service**

Amend ¶ 418 as follows:

¶ 418. *Limitations on Years of Service*—The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to eight years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and district committee on superintendency. During the period 2020–2024, in order to provide stability in leadership, a district superintendent may, at the discretion of the bishop and in consultation with the cabinet and district committee on superintendency, serve longer than eight years consecutively.

No superintendent shall serve for more than eight years in any consecutive eleven years, except during the period of 2020–2024. No elder shall serve as district superintendent more than fourteen years. In addition, con-

sideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in ¶ 401.

**Rationale:**

Having the option to extend the tenure of district superintendents will provide continuity of leadership during a period of transition.

**¶418.**

Petition Number: 20309-HS-¶418-G; Delmore, Sean - Labanon, NH, USA.

### **Limitations of Years of Service**

Amend ¶ 418 as follows:

*Limitations on Years of Service*—The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to eight years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and the district committee on superintendency.

No superintendent shall serve for more than eight years in any consecutive eleven years. No ~~elder~~ one shall serve as district superintendent more than fourteen years.

[Retain rest of the paragraph as written]

**Rationale:**

As district superintendents work “to develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world” (¶ 419.1), deacons may, at times, have the needed gifts and skills to serve as district superintendents.

**¶419.1.**

Petition Number: 20310-HS-¶419.1; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

### **Amend 419.1 for Clarity and to Give Further Expression to the Ecumenical and Interreligious Responsibilities of District Superintendents**

**Amend ¶ 419.1 as follows:**

1. The church expects, as part of the superintendent ministry, that the district superintendent will be the chief missional strategist of the district. ~~and~~ The district superintendent will be committed to living out the values of the church, including a mandate of inclusiveness, and modeling, teaching, and promoting generous Christian giving. The district superintendent will provide leadership in the quest for cooperating to develop Christian unity and in developing ecumenical, interreligious, multicultural, multi-

racial, and cooperative ministries, ~~and working~~ Working with persons across the church, ~~the district superintendent~~ will develop programs of ministry and mission that extend the witness of Christ into the world.

**Rationale:**

The paragraph as a whole is incoherent and needs editing. Furthermore, district superintendents of The UMC are an extension of the general superintending office of the bishop (§ 417). As such, the ecumenical and interreligious role and responsibilities of United Methodist bishops should be given explicit extension into the responsibilities

**¶419.12.**

Petition Number: 20717-HS-¶419.12-G; Horton, David - Houston, TX, USA.

**Local Discernment of Marriage and Wedding Services**

Add new subparagraphs after ¶ 419.12:

13. The superintendent shall not penalize any clergy for performing, or refraining from performing, a same-sex marriage service.

14. The superintendent shall neither require any local church to hold or prohibit a local church from holding a same-sex marriage service on property owned by a local church.

**Rationale:**

Allows local churches to host same-sex wedding services on church property. Grants all clergy the freedom to exercise their conscience when invited to preside at any wedding service, regardless of sexuality.

**¶422.**

Petition Number: 20312-HS-¶422; Lambrecht, Thomas - Spring, TX, USA.

**Council of Bishops Accountability Process #3**

Amend by addition to ¶ 422:

¶ 422.2. The Council of Bishops is thus the collegial and corporate expression of episcopal leadership in the church and through the church into the world. The church expects the Council of Bishops to speak to the church and from the church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships. The Council of Bishops is also a body in which its individual members are held accountable for their work, both

as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ 422.5. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership a council relations committee of at least three persons to hear requests for involuntary leave of absence or involuntary retirement, as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops or any seven active bishops. Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not have voted on the referral of requests for involuntary leave of absence or involuntary retirement.

a) When a recommendation for an involuntary status change is referred to the council relations committee, the council relations committee shall conduct an administrative hearing following the provisions of fair process. The Council of Bishops shall designate the person to present the recommendation to the committee. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to address the recommendation in person, in writing, and with the assistance of a clergyperson in full connection, who shall have voice. Once the committee has heard the person designated to represent the recommendation, the respondent, and others as determined by the chairperson of the committee, it shall report its decision to the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee. Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not vote on the matter of affirming or reversing the decision. The Council of Bishops shall refer to the council relations committee any bishop who is unwilling to certify that he or she is willing to uphold, enforce, and maintain the *Book of Discipline* in its entirety (as it applies to bishops), including but not limited to standards on marriage and sexuality and the ordination and appointment of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. The Council of Bishops shall require such certification in writing from all active bishops within thirty (30) days of the adjournment of General Conference each quadrennium. The Council of Bishops shall also require such certification of any new bishop within sixty (60) days of their election. When the council relations committee reaches a positive finding of fact that the bishop has not so certified, the council relations committee shall recommend either involuntary leave or involuntary retirement to the Council of Bishops after conducting a fair process hearing.

b) Fair Process Hearings—As a part of the holy covenant that exists within the membership and organization of The United Methodist Church, the following procedures are presented for the protection of the rights of individuals and for the protection of the church in administrative hearings. The process set forth in this paragraph shall be followed whenever the council relations committee

meets to process an administrative request by the Council of Bishops.

1) In any administrative proceeding the representative of the Council of Bishops and the respondent (the person against whom involuntary action is directed) shall have a right to be heard before any final action is taken.

2) Notice of any hearing shall advise the respondent of the reason for the proposed procedures with sufficient detail to allow the respondent to prepare a response. Notice shall be given not less than twenty (20) days prior to the hearing.

3) The respondent shall have a right to be accompanied to any hearing by a clergyperson in full connection, in accordance with the appropriate disciplinary provisions. The clergyperson accompanying the respondent shall have the right to voice.

4) In any administrative hearing, under no circumstances shall one party, in the absence of the other party, discuss substantive issues with members of the pending hearing body. Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body.

5) The respondent shall have access, at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to all records relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the administrative process.

6) In the event that a respondent fails to appear for supervisory interviews, refuses mail, refuses to communicate personally with the bishop, or otherwise fails to respond to supervisory requests or requests from official administrative committees, such actions or inactions shall not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay any church processes, and such processes may continue without the participation of such individual. Members of the council relations committee and administrative review committee shall not vote on the matter of affirming or reversing the decision.

¶ 422.6. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership an administrative review committee of at least three persons who are not members of the executive committee or the council relations committee. Members of the administrative review committee shall not vote on any referrals to the council relations committee for involuntary leave or involuntary retirement or any actions of the Council of Bishops related to any matter that will come before the administrative review committee. Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for any involuntary action recommended by the council relations committee are properly followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change of status of the bishop shall be reviewed by the administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the Council of Bishops prior to any action by the Council

of Bishops. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (¶ 422.5) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action.

¶ 422.7. At the end of the process, a bishop may appeal the decision of the conference relations committee, the administrative review committee, and the Council of Bishops on questions of procedure in an administrative process to the Judicial Council according to the stipulations listed in ¶ 2718.4.

#### **Rationale:**

Additions to ¶¶ 408, 410, and 422 go together and create a process by which the Council of Bishops may hold one another accountable, based on the constitutional amendment to ¶ 50 that was ratified in 2017. This proposal includes assurances of fair process and enables greater consistency and uniformity.

#### **¶422.5.**

Petition Number: 20313-HS-¶422.5; Wilson, John - Pittsburgh, PA, USA for Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

#### **Addressing the Principle of Legality: Bishops**

Add new ¶ 422.5.b.(vii) Prior to the start of the administrative hearing by the council relations committee, the bishop may choose to have a trial. This choice must be made in writing and submitted to the chair of the council relations committee prior to the start of the administrative hearing. The procedures are provided for in ¶¶ 2707–2712.

#### **Rationale:**

This legislation addresses the principle of legality raised in JD 1366 by restoring language and procedures used prior to 1996 *Discipline*. This language was found to meet the principle of legality in Judicial Council Decision 351 and ¶ 20 of the Constitution.

#### **¶423.1.**

Petition Number: 20311-HS-¶423.1-G; Jones, Scott - Houston, TX, USA.

#### **New Form of Unity #5**

Amend ¶ 423.1 by adding subparagraph 423.1 *Conference of Methodist Bishops*

1. If any self-governing Methodist Church is formed by the departure of one or more annual conferences in the United States, the Council of Bishops will seek regular meetings with the bishops of any such new churches.

**Rationale:**

The New Form of Unity preserves as much unity as possible while allowing for new expressions of Methodism to live faithfully with different views on human sexuality. The bishops from all of the new expressions should show visible unity and plan for common mission.

**¶424.3.**

Petition Number: 20314-HS-¶424.3-G; Eckert, Jerry - Port Charlotte, FL, USA.

**Changing Accountability of Superintendents**

*Amend by Deletion of ¶ 424.3 and renumber:*

~~¶ 424.3. The cabinet is thus also the body in which individual district superintendents are held accountable for their work, both for the conference and district responsibilities.~~

**Rationale:**

Cabinets short-circuit complaints against their members by handling them under this paragraph. Superintendents have to face their peers just like any other elder and not by the group that picks its own successors.

**¶425.**

Petition Number: 20709-HS-¶425-G; Horton, David - Houston, TX, USA.

**Local Discernment of Clergy Candidates**

Amend ¶ 425:

2. Appointment-making across conference lines shall be encouraged as a way of creating mobility and open itineracy. The jurisdictional committee on ordained ministry will cooperate with bishops and cabinets in providing information on supply and demand within the jurisdiction. Elders who are practicing homosexual persons and in good standing may be appointed across annual conference lines and within the jurisdiction when the residing bishop cannot locate an appointment within their annual conference, for reasons of the safety and well-being of the elder.

**Rationale:**

Allows annual conferences to decide how sexuality applies to the standards of holy living in clergy candi-

dates. Protects practicing gay clergy who cannot be appointed within their annual conference because of a lack of safe appointments.

**¶425.1.**

Petition Number: 20315-HS-¶425.1-G; Lopez, Joseph - Seattle, WA, USA.

**Building a Fully Inclusive Church**

Amend ¶ 425.1

*Responsibility*—1. Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the episcopal area of which the annual conference is a part. Appointments are to be made with consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace of those appointed, to the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of congregations and institutions, and with faithfulness to the commitment to an open itineracy. Open itineracy means appointments are made without regard to race, ethnicity-origin, gender, color, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or age, except for the provisions of mandatory retirement. Annual conferences shall, in their training of staff-parish relations committees, emphasize the open nature of itineracy and prepare congregations to receive the gifts and graces of appointed clergy without regard to race, ethnicity-origin, gender, color, disability, marital status, economic condition, sexual orientation, or age. The concept of itineracy is important, and sensitive attention should be given in appointing clergy with physical challenges to responsibilities and duties that meet their gifts and graces. Through appointment-making, the connectional nature of the United Methodist system is made visible.

**¶431.**

Petition Number: 20317-HS-¶431-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.

**Plain Grace Plan #2—Full Communion Agreement for Full Communion Expressions**

**ADD NEW ¶ 431A to the Discipline as follows:**

1. Basis—Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church, the Plain Grace Plan is adopted. It is the intent of the Plain Grace Plan to multiply new Wesleyan expressions consistent with the common core of The United Methodist Church and to allow the diverse members of The United Methodist Church to be able to live into their preferred expression of Methodism while offering grace to all of God's children. It is

the further intent of the Plain Grace Plan to create a Full Communion Relationship with such newly created Wesleyan expressions. The Plain Grace Plan consists of the following paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline*: ¶¶ 248A, 431A-F, 673-680, 725, 1510, and 2553-2555.

2. Effective upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall enter into a Full Communion Agreement with each Full Communion Expression recognized as such under the provisions of ¶ 431E. The Full Communion Agreement shall recognize that a relationship exists between The United Methodist Church and each Full Communion Expression and shall expressly include the following requirements: (1) recognize The United Methodist Church and the Full Communion Expression as constituent members of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the body of Christ, as described in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the church's historic creeds; (2) recognize the authenticity of each other's sacraments and welcome one another to partake in the Eucharist; (3) affirm the authenticity of each church's Christian ministry, and (4) recognize the validity of each other's offices of ministry. By recognizing the validity of each other's offices of ministry, neither The United Methodist Church nor the Full Communion Expression shall be required to automatically accept transfer of any clergy or bishop; The United Methodist Church and Full Communion Expression shall maintain the absolute right to determine qualifications for transfer of clergy and bishops. In addition, the Full Communion Agreement shall mutually bind The United Methodist Church and the Full Communion Expression to recognize and enforce the Gracious Affiliation Agreements and Gracious Reaffiliation Agreements entered into pursuant to ¶ 678, 679, and 680 of the *Book of Discipline*. No additional provisions may be provided for in the Full Communion Agreement. The Full Communion Agreement shall bind The United Methodist Church and the Full Communion Expression through December 31, 2028, at which time it shall expire unless extended by mutual agreement of The United Methodist Church and the Full Communion Expression. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Discipline* that are not in the Constitution. This paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire at the adjournment of General Conference for 2028.

#### **Rationale:**

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions, which consists of the twenty (20) total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Disci-*

*pline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶¶ 248A, 431A-F, 673-680, 725, 1510, and 2553-2555. This paragraph outlines the requirements of a

#### **¶431.**

Petition Number: 20318-HS-¶431-!-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.

### **Plain Grace Plan #3—Intent to Become a Full Communion Expression**

#### **ADD NEW ¶ 431B to the *Discipline* as follows:**

1. On or before Friday, May 29, 2021, an entity may submit a petition of Intent seeking to become a Full Communion Expression by submitting a petition of intent to the Council of Bishops. The petition of intent shall be signed by at least fifty (50) ordained clergy or one bishop of The United Methodist Church. The petition of intent shall not be required to conform to any particular form but it shall establish that the proposed New Expression, if formed, shall meet the following minimum qualifications required of a Full Communion Expression:

a) Adopt a common core of beliefs, set forth in the New Expression's *Book of Discipline*, that shall include the following: the Apostles' Creed, the Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith, the General Rules, the Wesley hymns and a connectional way of life that includes superintendency, itineracy, and conferencing. However, superintendency, itineracy, and conferencing shall not be required to comply with the standards set forth in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; a New Expression shall have the right to modify each of those Wesleyan systems by adoption of its own standards.

b) Enter into a Full Communion Agreement with The United Methodist Church that includes the requirements for full communion established by ¶ 431A, with such agreement to be in full force and effect until December 31, 2028.

c) Enter into a Gracious Affiliation Agreement that shall govern missional support, pension support, and asset valuation and disposition by requiring The United Methodist Church and the Full Communion Expression to use the processes and procedures set forth in ¶¶ 431F, 1510, 2554, and 2555 with such agreement to be in full force and effect until December 31, 2030.

d) Enter into a Dispute Resolution Agreement that requires mediation and binding arbitration concerning all disputes over the arbitrability, meaning, or application of the Gracious Affiliation Agreement or any Gracious Reaffiliation Agreement with such agreement to be in full force and effect until December 31, 2030.

No additional requirements shall be required in any petition of intent.

2. The petition of intent shall be submitted to the executive secretary of the Council of Bishops either in person, by mail, or by electronic means and shall be received no later than May 29, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. local time at the executive secretary's resident office. Unless within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petition by the executive secretary, the Council of Bishops determines and states, in writing, based solely upon the face of the petition of intent, that the petition is deficient by its failure to meet one or more of the forgoing requirements then the petition shall be deemed approved. No proposed New Expression shall be barred from filing additional timely petitions of intent based upon the fact that an earlier petition was denied as deficient. Any application timely submitted and not acted upon by the Council of Bishops by June 30, 2021, shall be deemed approved. An entity meeting the qualification requirements becomes a "Qualified New Expression."

3. No later than June 30, 2021, the Council of Bishops through its duly authorized representative shall execute, on behalf of The United Methodist Church, the standardized Full Communion Agreement, Gracious Affiliation Agreement, and Dispute Resolution Agreement prepared pursuant to ¶ 431C and tender said agreements to each Qualified New Expression for the purpose of allowing the Qualified New Expression to enter into the agreements after authorization is received from its organizing conference. No such agreement shall be effective unless and until a Qualified New Expression is recognized as a Full Communion Expression pursuant to ¶ 431E.

4. All provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire December 31, 2028. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* except the provisions of the Constitution.

#### **Rationale:**

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions which consists of the 20 total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Discipline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶248A, ¶¶431A-F, ¶¶673-680, 725, 1510 and ¶¶2553-2555. This paragraph first establishes the requirements for a petition

#### **¶431.**

Petition Number: 20319-HS-¶431-\$-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.

## **Plain Grace Plan #4—Agreements between The United Methodist Church and Full Communion Expression**

**ADD NEW ¶ 431C to the *Discipline* as follows:**

1. *Full Communion Agreement*—The General Council on Finance and Administration is hereby authorized to prepare a standardized form Full Communion Agreement consistent with the terms of ¶ 431A for use by The United Methodist Church and New Expressions. The standardized form shall be completed and submitted to the Council of Bishops no later than May 1, 2021. A duly authorized representative of the Council of Bishops is hereby authorized to execute such form agreements on behalf of The United Methodist Church. The Full Communion Agreement shall be in effect until December 31, 2028.

2. *Gracious Affiliation and Gracious Reaffiliation Agreements*

a) The General Council on Finance and Administration is hereby authorized and directed to prepare a standard form Gracious Affiliation Agreement incorporating the processes and procedures set forth in ¶¶ 431F, 1510, 2554, and 2555 for use by The United Methodist Church and a Full Communion Expression. The standardized form shall be completed and submitted to the Council of Bishops no later than May 1, 2021. A duly authorized representative of the Council of Bishops is hereby authorized to execute such form agreements on behalf of The United Methodist Church. The standardized form also shall be publicly available and disseminated to the Conference Board of Trustees for each annual conference. The Gracious Affiliation Agreement shall be in effect until December 31, 2030.

3. *Dispute Resolution Agreement*

The General Council on Finance and Administration is hereby directed and authorized to prepare a standard form Dispute Resolution Agreement that incorporate the processes and procedures set forth in ¶¶ 431F, 1510, 2554, and 2555 for use by The United Methodist Church and Full Communion Expressions no later than May 30, 2021. The terms of the agreement shall require use of the processes established by the Dispute Resolution Agreement in any dispute involving (a) The United Methodist Church and one or more Full Communion Expressions and (b) any dispute between Full Communion Expressions. The terms of the Dispute Resolution Agreement shall require the entities involved in any dispute to share equally the costs and expenses of any mediator or arbitrator. A duly authorized representative of the Council of Bishops is hereby authorized to execute such form agreements on behalf of The United Methodist Church. The Dispute Resolution Agreement shall be in effect until December 31, 2032.

4. Unless noted otherwise, all provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire December 31, 2028. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* except the provisions of the Constitution.

**Rationale:**

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions, which consists of the twenty (20) total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Discipline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶ 248A, ¶¶ 431A-F, ¶¶ 673–680, 725, 1510 and ¶¶ 2553-2555. This paragraph authorizes and

**¶431.**

Petition Number: 20320-HS-¶431-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.

**Plain Grace Plan #5—Qualified New Expression Organizing Conference**

**ADD NEW ¶ 431D to the *Discipline* as follows:**

1. Between the period from May 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, each Qualified New Expression may hold an organizing conference for the purpose of establishing a new expression of Methodism. Each representative elected by a Qualified New Expression's caucus at an annual conference shall be conclusively deemed qualified to serve as a representative at a New Expression's organizing conference and shall be seated as a voting representative of the organizing conference. A person elected to serve as annual conference representative may serve as a representative solely in the organizing conference for the Qualified New Expression for which that person was elected.

2. Each Qualified New Expression may seat additional at-large representatives with such Qualified New Expression being solely responsible for determining any qualifications for, and the number of, at-large representatives at the organizing conference. A Qualified New Expression may select at-large representatives that are greater in number than the representatives elected by annual conferences of The United Methodist Church. A Qualified New Expression may select as an at-large representative for the organizing conference a delegate to an annual conference who was not elected as a representative of the annual conference.

3. Qualified New Expressions shall make decisions using democratic processes but are free to establish their

own internal rules of order for the organizing conference. In order to facilitate organizing conferences' use of democratic processes, such conferences may employ technological alternatives to in-person conferences, including, but not limited to, multiple geographic sites (including remote sites participating via simulcast). Organizing conferences may employ electronic voting (including remote electronic voting). Such voting methods and procedures are solely the responsibility of the Qualified New Expressions.

4. Each organizing conference shall be free to establish its *Book of Discipline* by majority vote of the annual conference representatives and the at-large representatives voting as a single house. A Qualified New Expression shall have the right to choose whether to have a constitution and, if adopted, the provisions of such constitution. Each Qualified New Expression shall have the right to establish its doctrinal statements, set its own standards for church membership, ordination, superintendency, and all other matters of polity and doctrine. Notwithstanding anything in this subparagraph, a Qualified New Expression that fails to adopt provisions sufficient to fulfill the intentions listed in ¶ 431B before June 30, 2022, shall cease to be a Qualified New Expression and shall not be entitled to the benefits of status as a Full Communion Expression nor to employ the procedures available to Full Communion Expressions. A Gracious Affiliation Agreement may not be employed by a local church seeking to join an expression of Methodism that is not a Full Communion Expression.

5. All provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire December 31, 2022. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* except the provisions of the Constitution.

**Rationale:**

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions, which consists of the 20 total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Discipline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶ 248A, ¶¶431A-F, ¶¶673–680, 725, 1510 and ¶¶2553-2555. This paragraph sets limited requirements for an organizing

**¶431.**

Petition Number: 20321-HS-¶431-!-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.



### Plain Grace Plan #6— Full Communion Expression

#### ADD NEW ¶ 431E to the *Discipline* as follows:

No later than August 1, 2022, each Qualified New Expression desiring to become a Full Communion Expression shall lodge its *Book of Discipline* establishing its adoption of the common core, an executed Full Communion Agreement, an executed Gracious Affiliation Agreement, and an executed Dispute Resolution Agreement with the executive secretary of the Council of Bishops. The *Book of Discipline* so lodged shall be in writing and in a PDF form that may be posted directly on the Internet. No later than August 15, 2022, the Council of Bishops shall verify that the New Expression's *Book of Discipline* adopts the common core and that the Full Communion Agreement, Gracious Affiliation Agreement, and Dispute Resolution Agreement have been executed; the Council of Bishops is free to establish their own internal procedure to verify such compliance. After such verification, the Council of Bishops shall notify such Qualified New Expression that it is a Full Communion Expression not later than August 22, 2022. The Council of Bishops shall arrange to have a copy of each Full Communion Expression's *Book of Discipline* posted online and available to the general public for review and download no later than August 22, 2022. All provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire December 31, 2028. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* except the provisions of the Constitution.

#### Rationale:

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions which consists of the 20 total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Discipline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶ 248A, ¶¶ 431A-F, ¶¶ 673–680, 725, 1510 and ¶¶ 2553–2555. This paragraph establishes a simple procedure to

#### ¶431

Petition Number: 20322-HS-¶431-\$-G; Holbrook, Frank - Martin, TN, USA.

### Plain Grace Plan #7—Gross and Net Missional Shares and Missional Resource Allocation Formula

#### ADD NEW ¶ 431F to the *Discipline* as follows:

1. Beginning on July 1, 2023, and continuing on each

July 1 through 2027, each Full Communion Expression shall submit and certify its total professing membership as of May 1 to the General Council of Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church. For each Full Communion Expression, the General Council of Finance and Administration shall calculate a gross missional share by dividing the Full Communion Expression's total professing membership by the sum of The United Methodist Church's total professing membership plus all Full Communion Expression's professing membership as of May 1 of the current calendar year. The gross missional share shall be a percentage calculated to four decimal places. Each Full Communion Expression's gross missional share shall be calculated separately for each year through 2028. The gross missional shares calculated for 2027 shall be used for Fiscal Year 2028 and for calculations made under ¶ 2554. If a Full Communion Expression fails to provide its total professing membership as of May 1 of any calendar year on or before July 1 of that year, the General Council of Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church shall make a good faith estimate of total professing membership for that Full Communion Expression and such estimate shall be used for all calculations for the applicable period.

2. Through the close of The United Methodist Church's fiscal year 2028, each Full Communion Expression shall commit to pay, each fiscal year, their gross missional share of the following budgeted line items of The United Methodist Church: *a)* that portion of the World Service Fund used to support central conferences, said proportion being calculated by General Council on Finance and Administration but expressly excluding all budgeted amounts for those boards, commissions, and institutions identified in subparagraph 3 of this paragraph; *b)* that portion of the Episcopal Fund representing salaries, housing, and office expenses to support bishops in central conferences, said portion being calculated by General Council on Finance and Administration; *c)* the Black College Fund; *d)* the Africa University Fund; *e)* General Commission on Archives and History; and *f)* the General Administrative Fund.

3. Through the close of The United Methodist Church's fiscal year 2024, each Full Communion Expression shall commit to pay, each fiscal year, their gross missional share of the following budgeted line items of The United Methodist Church: *a)* the General Board of Church and Society; *b)* the General Board of Discipleship; *c)* the General Board of Global Ministries; *d)* the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; *e)* the General Commission on Communication; *f)* United Methodist Women; *g)* the General Commission on Religion and Race; *h)* the General Commission on the Status and Role of Wom-

en; and *i*) the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

4. On July 15 of each calendar year through 2028, the General Council of Finance and Administration shall provide each Full Communion Expression with its gross missional share percentage and an invoice for the total amount of each budgeted line item as required under this paragraph. Said invoice amount is referred to herein as the missional invoice amount and shall be payable in full by the Full Communion Expression by close of The United Methodist Church's fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2024 and for each fiscal year through 2028, each Full Communion Expression shall pay an amount equal to one half of its prior fiscal year's missional invoice amount on or before July 1 of the fiscal year; such amount shall be credited as a payment on its current year missional invoice amount.

5. The phrase "net missional share" shall be an amount equal to an Full Communion's Expression's missional invoice amount multiplied by the actual percentage of budgeted items paid by professing members of The United Methodist Church for a fiscal year. Each Full Communion Expression's net missional share shall be calculated for each fiscal year through 2028.

6. All provisions of this paragraph shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the General Conference for 2020 and shall expire December 31, 2028. The provisions of this paragraph shall take precedence over, and shall not be limited by, any other provisions of the *Book of Discipline* except the provisions of the Constitution.

#### Rationale:

This is one paragraph of the Plain Grace Plan for multiplication of expressions which consists of the 20 total paragraphs to be added to the *Book of Discipline*. The twenty paragraphs are ¶ 248A, ¶¶ 431A-F, ¶¶ 673–680, 725, 1510, and ¶¶ 2553–2555. This paragraph creates two categories of missional

#### ¶431.

Petition Number: 20658-HS-¶431; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

#### Update Name of the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships

Amend ¶ 431.3 as follows:

3. The ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships shall consult with the Council of Bishops in establishing the guidelines for the adminis-

tration of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (see ¶ 814).

Amend ¶ 437 as follows:

¶ 437. In pursuit of its responsibilities and in order to deepen and expand the ecumenical and interreligious ministries of The United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops shall receive the input and support of the ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships (ACEIR).

Amend ¶ 438 as follows:

¶ 438. *Membership*—Members of the ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR shall be elected by the Council of Bishops as follows:

1. The ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR shall be composed of two episcopal members as determined by the Council of Bishops, including the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops. One of the episcopal members shall be from a central conference.

2. One person from each jurisdiction, one person from the central conferences in Africa, one person from the central conferences in Europe, and one person from the central conference in the Philippines. The bishop who is not the ecumenical officer shall be counted as one of these eight persons. Each jurisdictional or central conference will nominate two candidates, and the Council of Bishops will elect members from this pool of nominees.

3. It is recommended that the Council of Bishops ensure that the United Methodist membership persons be inclusive of ethnic representation, youth, young adults, and women, with a minimum of five laity.

4. Two members with voice and vote from our Full Communion Ecumenical Partners

5. The chairperson and secretary of the Council of Bishops Leadership Team on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, or its successor group, shall be nonvoting members of the ~~OCUIR Steering Committee~~ ACEIR.

Amend ¶ 439 as follows:

¶ 439. *Staff*—1. There shall be an ecumenical staff officer of The United Methodist Church to be selected by the Council of Bishops. The work of the ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR shall be facilitated by the ecumenical staff officer who shall be in charge of the day-to-day work of the ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR. The ecumenical staff officer shall be the ~~OCUIR's~~ ACEIR's principal administrative and executive officer.

2. Additional staff shall be selected in number and responsibility as determined by the Council of Bishops.

3. The ecumenical staff officer shall report to the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops. All other staff members shall report to and serve at the pleasure of the ecumenical staff officer.

4. The staff of the ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR shall be positioned in locations to be determined by the Council of Bishops.

Amend ¶ 441 as follows:

¶ 441. *Responsibilities and Powers*—Responsibilities and powers of the ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR shall be as assigned by the Council of Bishops.

Amend ¶ 442.1 as follows (ONLY IF THE OTHER PETITION AMENDING ¶ 442 IS NOT ADOPTED. This other petition removes OCUIR from the paragraph, which would make the below amendments unnecessary):

¶ 442. *Full Communion with Other Churches*

1. To fulfill the vision of full communion between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, there shall be a Joint Commission on ELCA/UMC Full Communion. The commission shall serve the following functions:

- a) Coordinate the implementation of action taken by the two churches to achieve full communion.
- b) Assist joint planning for mission.
- c) Facilitate consultation and common decision-making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future.
- d) Report regularly and appropriately to each church.

The United Methodist membership of this commission shall be the ~~ecumenical~~ ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops and one lay and one clergy member of ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR elected by ~~OCUIR~~ ACEIR.

Amend ¶ 447.1 as follows:

1. Nominations to the CFO shall be made by the CFO Executive Committee, in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships and sent to the Council of Bishops and to the entire Committee on Faith and Order for their review.

Amend ¶ 571.4 as follows:

4. The Council of Bishops, in consultation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships, shall work out plans of cooperation with these churches. The General Board of Global Ministries shall serve as the agent of The United Methodist Church for a continuing dialogue looking to the establishment of mission priorities with special reference to matters of personnel and finance.

Amend ¶ 642.2 as follows:

2. It is recommended that this annual conference structure be composed of two United Methodists from each district (complying with ¶ 610.5), one of whom shall be district coordinator for Christian unity and interreligious relationships and shall serve as liaison with local church ministry areas on Christian unity and interreligious relationships. Additional members may include per-

sons from The United Methodist Church or other member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ as directed by the conference to ensure ecumenical expertise and interchange with other agencies. Laypersons from The United Methodist Church shall be professing members of local churches. *Ex officio* members of the annual conference structure for Christian unity and interreligious relationships shall include the conference ecumenical officer(s), if elected, and any United Methodists residing within the conference bounds who are members of the following: ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships, the governing board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Methodist Council, the United Methodist delegation to the most recent World Council of Churches Assembly, and the United Methodist delegation to the most recent plenary meeting of Churches Uniting in Christ.

Amend ¶ 705.1 as follows:

1. *Nominations by Conferences*—a) Each annual and missionary conference in the United States, upon recommendation from a committee composed of the bishop and the General and jurisdictional conference delegation, and having allowed opportunity for nominations from the floor, shall elect persons to be submitted to a jurisdictional pool. The jurisdictional nominating committee shall select persons for election to the following general church bodies: Connectional Table; General Board of Church and Society; General Board of Discipleship; General Board of Global Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; The United Methodist Publishing House; ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships; General Commission on Communication; General Commission on Religion and Race; and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Jurisdictional conferences may decide that persons elected by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the jurisdictional nominating committee.

Amend ¶ 705.5 as follows:

5. *Other General Agencies*—a) Each jurisdictional conference shall elect members from the jurisdictional pool nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States (¶ 705.1) in accordance with the specific membership provisions of those agencies as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*: General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (¶ 1502.1a), The United Methodist Publishing House (¶ 1602), ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecu-

menical and Interreligious Relationships (§ 437), General Commission on Communication (§ 1807), General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (§ 2104), and General Commission on Religion and Race (§ 2003). With the exception of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1) and The United Methodist Publishing House (§ 1602.1) the number of additional members to be elected shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that membership of each agency reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible, the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in the *Book of Discipline* (§ 705.4b).

Amend § 2201.3 as follows:

3. Other paragraphs of the *Discipline* notwithstanding, members may serve for three (3) four-year terms and may serve on one other general agency. The standing committee shall be composed of one bishop from each jurisdiction and from each central conference named by the Council of Bishops; one ordained minister and one layperson from each jurisdiction and from each central conference who are delegates to the General Conference and named by the Council of Bishops; central conferences with more than three episcopal areas shall elect additional members, lay or clergy, up to the total number of episcopal areas in the central conference; one bishop, one ordained minister, and one layperson who are members of the General Board of Global Ministries and named by the General Board of Global Ministries. The central conference bishop assigned to the ~~Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships~~ Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships shall also be a member of this committee. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, lay, clergy, youth, and young adults. The chairperson of the committee shall be a central conference bishop and shall also serve as a member of the Connectional Table. (This legislation will take effect immediately upon action by General Conference for the membership of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters for 2021-2024.)

**Rationale:**

The ecumenical work of The UMC is no longer carried out by an independent “office” but is housed under the

Council of Bishops. The names “OCUIR” and “OCUIR Steering Committee” do not reflect this change and should be updated to reflect the advisory role of this body to the ecumenical

**¶431.4.**

Petition Number: 20316-HS-¶431.4-G; Lopez, Joseph - Seattle, WA, USA.

**Building a Fully Inclusive Church**

Amend § 431.4

4. The United Methodist representatives to ecumenical organizations in the following paragraphs shall be selected by the Council of Bishops. Such representatives shall be inclusive in terms of gender, race and ethnicity, age, persons with disabilities, sexual orientation, economic condition, and region. Representatives shall reflect consideration of balances required both by The United Methodist Church and the respective ecumenical organization. Consideration shall be given to persons named to jurisdictional and central conference pools (see § 705.1.b, c). When proxies are needed to substitute for United Methodist representatives to a specific ecumenical organization, the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops is authorized to name such proxies. Consideration shall be given to United Methodists residing in the area of the ecumenical organization’s meeting, and to the inclusivity of the delegation. The names of proxies shall be reported at the next meeting of the Council of Bishops. Representatives and proxies from The United Methodist Church to various working groups of any of the ecumenical organizations in the following paragraphs shall be named by the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops.

**Rationale:**

This petition seeks to create continuity through the *Book of Discipline* in the spirit of § 4 Article IV of the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. Given the recent response to the General Conference, this petition includes sexual orientation. May we continue to build a church that

**¶434.2.**

Petition Number: 20323-HS-¶434.2; Haley, Robert - Montvale, NJ, USA.

**Oversight of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA**

Add new subparagraph after § 434.2a

¶ 434.2a

2. *National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations*—a) *The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.*—The United Methodist Church is a member of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been charter members of such body.

Statements by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) reflect upon The United Methodist Church (UMC). However, the Book of Resolutions states that only the General Conference is competent to speak or act in the name of The UMC. It is therefore the position of The UMC that the NCC shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate or appointee for public office. Public office shall be deemed to include but not limited to the following: local, state, and federal office; judges for any court; local state and federal cabinet positions; cabinet-level positions; planning boards; advisory boards; law enforcement offices. Failure of the NCC to voluntarily adhere to the above may be deemed as cause for The UMC to terminate its membership in the NCC. The UMC General Board of Church and Society shall annually, in the month of January, notify the NCC in writing, of the above position.

#### **Rationale:**

The *Book of Resolutions* states, "Only the General Conference is competent to speak or act in the name of The United Methodist Church." Yet, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) issues public statements, claiming to represent The UMC. Oversight of the NCC

#### **¶442.**

Petition Number: 20324-HS-¶442; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

### **Amend Paragraph 442 to Reflect a Fuller Range of Our Full Communion Partnerships**

**Amend ¶ 442 as follows:**

¶ 442. *Full Communion With Other Churches*

1. To fulfill the vision goal of full communion visible unity and partnership in mission between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America its full communion partner churches, there shall may be a Joint Commission on ELCA/UMC Full Communion Coordinating Committee established for

every full communion relationship, as stipulated in the relevant resolutions establishing such a relationship. The ~~commission~~ Each coordinating committee shall serve the following functions:

a) Coordinate the implementation of action taken by the ~~two~~ churches to achieve full communion.

b) Assist joint planning for mission.

c) Facilitate consultation and common decision making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future.

d) As requested, to produce resources to facilitate joint study, prayer, and worship among the churches.

d) e) Report regularly and appropriately to each church.

The United Methodist membership of ~~this commission~~ such committees shall be the ecumenical ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops or a designated proxy, and one layperson and one clergy person member of OCUIR elected by OCUIR as named by the Council of Bishops.

2. In such cases where The United Methodist Church has overlapping full communion agreements between two or more distinct partner churches, the various coordinating committees may combine the work of the several committees into one multilateral coordinating committee, upon approval of the Council of Bishops and the appropriate bodies within the partner churches.

3. Any coordinating committee may recommend to the Council of Bishops and appropriate bodies within the partner churches the suspension of further meetings of the committee at such a time that it deems the animating goals of the committee to have been accomplished. The Council of Bishops and appropriate body within any partner church may reconvene any such coordinating committee as may be fitting to further the unity and joint mission of the churches.

2: 4. The Council of Bishops shall receive reports of the ongoing partnership of The UMC in the central conferences that are in full communion with ~~Lutheran Churches and other denominations~~ churches in order to learn from each other how to "provide leadership toward the goal of understanding, reconciliation, and unity within the church—The United Methodist Church and the church universal" (¶ 403.1e).

#### **Rationale:**

This petition brings UMC terminology into harmony with language being used by ecumenical partners. Furthermore, it introduces flexibility in the convening of such coordinating committees and opens up the possibility of reducing the number of general church committees

through temporary suspension of meetings or by combining several committees into one.

## ¶570.

Petition Number: 20645-HS-¶570-G; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops. Kemper, Thomas - Atlanta, GA, USA for General Board of Global Ministries.

### **Delete "Autonomous Methodist Church" Category and Replace with More Precise Terms**

#### **Amend 'Section V' heading as follows:**

**Section V. ~~Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated United Churches, Covenanting Churches, Concordat Churches~~**

**Delete ¶ 570.1, renumber subsequent subparagraphs:**

#### *1. ~~Autonomous Methodist Churches~~*

*a) ~~A self-governing church of the Wesleyan tradition and which may or may not have entered into the Act of Covenanting with The United Methodist Church.~~*

*b) ~~Autonomous Methodist churches are not entitled to send delegates to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.~~*

#### **Amend ¶ 570.4 as follows:**

##### *4. ~~Covenanting Churches~~*

*a) ~~An autonomous Methodist church, Aan affiliated autonomous Methodist church, an affiliated united church, other Methodist or Wesleyan church, or another Christian church which has entered into a covenanting relationship with The United Methodist Church through an Act of Covenanting as described in ¶ 573.~~*

*b) ~~The Act of Covenanting does not warrant that the covenanting churches shall be entitled to delegates at the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, or at the equivalent body of the covenant partner.~~*

#### **Amend ¶ 571 as follows:**

*¶ 571. ~~Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Churches, and Affiliated United Churches, and member churches of the World Methodist Council—1. Certificates of church membership given by clergy in one church shall be accepted by clergy in the other church.~~*

*2. When the requirements of such a Methodist church for its ordained ministry are comparable to those of The United Methodist Church, clergy may be transferred between its properly constituted ministerial bodies and the annual and provisional annual conferences of The Unit-*

*ed Methodist Church and their ordination(s) recognized as valid, with the approval and consent of the bishops or other appointive authorities involved in compliance with ¶ 347.*

*3. A program of visitation may be mutually arranged by the Council of Bishops in cooperation with the equivalent leadership of the ~~autonomous Methodist church, affiliated autonomous Methodist church, and/or affiliated united church, and/or World Methodist Council member church.~~*

*4. The Council of Bishops, in consultation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, shall work out plans of cooperation with these churches. The General Board of Global Ministries shall serve as the agent of The United Methodist Church for a continuing dialogue looking to the establishment of mission priorities with special reference to matters of personnel and finance.*

#### **Amend ¶ 572, including its heading, as follows:**

*Becoming An ~~Autonomous Methodist, Affiliated Autonomous Methodist, or Affiliated United Church, or self-governing church~~ from Central Conferences*

*¶ 572. When conferences outside the United States that are parts of The United Methodist Church desire to become an ~~autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or affiliated united church, or self-governing church~~, approval shall first be secured from the central conference involved and this decision be ratified by the annual conferences within the central conference by two-thirds majority of the aggregate votes cast by the annual conferences.*

*1. The conference shall prepare a historical record with reasons why affiliation and/or autonomy self-governance is requested and shall consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (¶ 2201) on proceedings for affiliation and/or autonomy.*

*2. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and the conferences involved shall mutually agree on the confession of faith and the constitution of the new church. These shall be prepared with care and shall be approved by the conferences.*

*3. Preparation of its *Discipline* is the responsibility of the conference(s) desiring affiliation and/or autonomy self-governance.*

*4. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, when all disciplinary requirements for affiliated and/or autonomous self-governing relationship have been met, the General Conference through an enabling act shall approve of and grant permission for the conference(s) involved to become an*

~~autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or-affiliated united church, or self-governing church.~~

5. Then the central conference involved shall meet, declare the present relationship between The United Methodist Church and the conference(s) involved dissolved, and reorganize as an ~~autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or-affiliated united church,~~ or self-governing church in accordance with the enabling act granted by the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall assist in this process and, when the plans are consummated, report to the Council of Bishops. The proclamation of affiliated and/or ~~autonomous self-governing~~ status shall then be signed by the president of the Council of Bishops and the secretary of the General Conference.

6. A plan of cooperation shall be developed in accordance with ¶ 571.4.

**Amend ¶ 573.1 as follows:**

¶ 573. 1. A covenanting relationship, whose elements were adopted by the 1992 General Conference in an action called an “Act of Covenanting Between Christian Churches and The United Methodist Church” may be established between ~~autonomous Methodist churches,~~ affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, affiliated united churches, other Methodist or Wesleyan churches, or other Christian churches and The United Methodist Church.

**Rationale:**

The UMC values its worldwide connectional relationships in mission with non-UMC churches. Various and inconsistent uses of “autonomous” in naming some of these relationships, is confusing. To eliminate the confusion, this petition deletes the category “Autonomous Methodist Church;” related petition “Affiliated United Methodist Church” deletes “autonomous.”

**¶637.3.**

Petition Number: 20325-HS-¶637.3-G; Eckert, Jerry - Port Charlotte, FL, USA.

**Accountability of Bishops**

*Amend by addition* to ¶ 637.3 the following:

¶637.3. *h)* To evaluate the ministry of the bishop annually, the Conference Episcopacy Committee shall provide a format through which every member of the annual conference may offer his or her perceptions of the work of the bishop. The means of evaluating the effectiveness of the bishop shall be based on what is being used by the annual conference for the evaluation of its pastors (¶ 635.2q).

**Rationale:**

Evaluation tools have improved considerably since the early days when the concept was introduced into the *Discipline*. It is time for cabinet members to face the same kind of evaluation that the pastors face. Bishops are elders and are not above comparable evaluation.

**¶1405.**

Petition Number: 20326-HS-¶1405-G; Bergquist, Greg - Nashville, TN, USA for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

**Update GBHEM Objectives**

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:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. To serve as stewards for the intellectual life of the church.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

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

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

### ¶1406.

Petition Number: 20327-HS-¶1406-G; Bergquist, Greg - Nashville, TN, USA for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

#### Update GBHEM Responsibilities

Delete current ¶ 1406 and replace with the following text

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

1. 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.

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

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

4. 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.

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

6. 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.

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

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

9. 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.

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

11. 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.

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

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

14. 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.

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

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

### ¶1414.2.

Petition Number: 20328-HS-¶1414.2-G; Fuller, Dan - Chenango Falls, NY, USA.

#### Reform University Senate Membership

AMEND ¶ 1414.2 by DELETING the entire section and ADDING the following new paragraph in its place:

**1414.2.** The senate shall be composed of fifteen voting members who, at the time of their election, shall be members of The United Methodist Church, shall have actively engaged in the work of education, and who, in the judgment of the General Conference, are by reason of professional background or education qualified for the work of evaluating educational institutions. Election is for the quadrennium, except in cases where conflict of interest arises as a result of change in employment. For the fifteen positions, three shall be nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, six shall be nominated by the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church, three shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops, and three shall be nominated by the Legislative Committee of the General Conference that deals with Higher Education. Of the persons nominated by each of the groups above, one-third shall be chief-executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions and at least one-third shall be persons who are not professionally affiliated with a United Meth-



odist-related educational institution. Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic persons, and representatives from the United Methodist-related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries are among those nominated. At the General Conference at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor. There shall be no limit on the number of nominations that can be made from the floor. The members shall be elected by the General Conference and the fifteen nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, with any replacement members made necessary by death or resignation being elected by the University Senate from the remaining nominees. The general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the associate general secretaries of the Divisions of Higher Education and Ordained Ministry of that board shall serve as ex officio members of the senate, with voice but without vote. There shall be one staff representative on the senate from the General Board of Global Ministries, with voice but without vote, named by the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. The senate, at its originating meeting each quadrennium, shall elect as its president a member not professionally affiliated with a United Methodist-related educational institution.

This process shall become effective immediately upon passage and shall be used to elect a new University Senate prior to the close of the 2020 General Conference. If the specified numbers of nominees are not provided to the 2020 General Conference from each respective nominating group, then they shall be filled with nominations from the floor.

#### **Rationale:**

Nearly half of University Senate voting members are chief executives of United Methodist-related educational institutions, with others occupying prominent positions in such schools. This presents conflicts of interest, hindering the Senate's capacity for objectively evaluating these institutions. This petition would also make the Senate more representative of the General Conference.

#### **¶1422.**

Petition Number: 20329-HS-¶1422-G; Hardt, Philip - Glendale, NY, USA. 1 Similar Petition

#### **Christian Focus of UMC Seminaries**

Amend ¶ 1422.3 by adding a new subsection c and relettering the subsequent subsections accordingly:

- ¶ 1422. *Goals*—1. . . .  
2. . . .

3. *Schools of Theology of The United Methodist Church Located in the U.S.A.*—a) Schools of theology of The United Methodist Church located in the U.S.A. exist to serve The United Methodist Church, primarily in the United States, but with concern for the witness of the church around the world. In addition to their commitment to United Methodism, they also serve students of other denominations in witness to United Methodism's ecumenical relationships. . . .

b) . . .

c) As Christian institutions serving the ecumenical body of Christ in general and The United Methodist Church in particular, these schools of theology shall not shall offer any course work, degree program, or formal certificate explicitly designed for the exclusive purpose of training religious leaders of non-Christian faith communities, if they are to remain eligible to receive financial support for their current operating expenses through the Ministerial Education Fund. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall monitor compliance with this provision.

e-d) . . .

d e) . . .

#### **Rationale:**

We seek good relations with our non-Christian neighbors. But it is counterproductive, and poor stewardship of our limited resources, when our own seminaries, which we fund, actively promote the spread of religions that reject the gospel. Church institutions should be undivided in loyalty to Christ and his mission for us.

#### **¶1422.**

Petition Number: 20331-HS-¶1422-G; LaSalle, Ann - Ocean Springs, MS, USA.

#### **Regional Flexibility in Theological Education**

AMEND ¶ 1422 by ADDING a new subsection #6 as follows:

6. Other disciplinary provisions notwithstanding, any annual conference shall be allowed, on a provisional basis, to approve additional graduate theological seminaries to those listed by the University Senate according to the following rules:

(a) The seminary must be located within 300 miles of at least one congregation of the annual conference, must be accredited by the appropriate educational body (in the United States, the Association of Theological Schools), must have at least one United Methodist faculty member, and must provide opportunities for United Methodist students to take and receive credit for all courses in graduate

theological studies required of United Methodist candidates for commissioning and ordination (§ 324).

(b) The vote by the annual conference shall be debatable and should include consideration of the school's compatibility with our church's Doctrinal Standards and Social Principles.

(c) The vote shall be preceded by opportunity given to a representatives of the school to make a presentation and to answer questions from members of the annual conference.

(d) If a school is thus approved by the annual conference, the school shall be a valid option for clergy candidates in that annual conference for five years, unless this approval is extended by subsequent action of either the annual conference or the University Senate. For purposes of church law, all appropriate provisions in the *Discipline* applying only to schools of theology approved by the University Senate shall, within the approving annual conference, also apply to the school thus approved.

(e) If a school is thus approved by the annual conference, then the bishop, cabinet, and conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall have a responsibility to work in consultation with the school to ensure that United Methodist students are provided with sufficient opportunities for support in preparing for ministry in The United Methodist Church.

#### Rationale:

The University Senate has made unhelpful decisions in unduly restricting which seminaries our clergy may attend. This has hurt our ability to recruit as many highly gifted new ministers as we need. This petition allows much-needed flexibility, within proper safeguards, for UMC leaders who best know their local contexts.

#### ¶1422.3.

Petition Number: 20330-HS-¶1422.3-\$-G; Land, Robert - Amboy, IN, USA.

#### Christian Faculty

Amend ¶ 1422.3 by adding a new subsection *c* and relettering the subsequent subsections accordingly:

¶ 1422. *Goals*—1. . . .

2. . . .

3. *Schools of Theology of The United Methodist Church Located in the U.S.A.*—a) . . . b) . . .

c) After January 1, 2022, all persons newly hired for full-time faculty at these schools of theology that are not part of a wider university shall be required, as a condition of being offered the position, to affirm that they are committed Christians who are part of a local trinitarian Christian church, and that after beginning employment

at the school they would remain committed to the historic Christian faith and to being part of a local trinitarian Christian church. If a United Methodist school of theology believes it is important for its institutional mission to be granted an exception for a particular faculty position, then the school may petition the University Senate to be granted an exception. The University Senate shall respond to such requests within a reasonably prompt time period and shall not grant any such requests if it would result in more than 20 percent of the school's full-time faculty being individuals hired under this exception provision.

τ d) . . .

d e) . . .

#### Rationale:

It is important for our seminaries to have clear identities as unapologetically Christian institutions, providing a spiritually supportive Christian environment for students. The late activation date would prevent this from affecting any current faculty, or any search processes that have already started.

#### ¶2500.

Petition Number: 20702-HS-¶2500-!-G; Dotson, Junius - Nashville, TN, USA.

#### Next Generation UMC #16—Grants for New Expressions of Methodism

Add a new ¶ 2556 as follows:

¶ 2556. *Grants for New Denominational Expressions of Methodism*

The General Conference shall establish in its 2021-2024 budget an amount to be used for grants that may be provided to new denominational expressions of Methodism that remain in ecumenical or covenantal relationship with The United Methodist Church. These grants reflect and honor a history of shared participation and support in mission and will help with transition costs. The total amount of funds available for such grants shall be determined by the General Conference. Factors considered in determining this amount should include but not be limited to:

- the number of churches in each New Denominational Expression of Methodism
- the number of professing members of those churches
- the amounts remitted to their respective annual conference for payment of general apportioned funds in jurisdictional conferences, or the General Administration and Episcopal Fund in central conferences by those churches in the most recent completed fiscal year.

No monies used for this purpose shall be paid from donor restricted funds or funds subject to a trust. No monies used for this purpose shall be paid from reserves designated or allocated for the funding of pension plans or retiree medical benefits, nor should such payments compromise the ability to fulfill such obligations. Care shall be taken to ensure that the use of all funds shall be consistent with the intent of the donor. The allocation of such grant funds is to be overseen by the Council of Bishops as part of an ecumenical agreement, with advice from a professional mediator, and administrative support and counsel from the

General Council on Finance and Administration and other agencies that can assist this process.

**Rationale:**

Resources should be offered to New Denominational Expressions of Methodism that continue in ecumenical relationships. This creates a framework for further discernment within a determined pool of funds for all new expressions. The Council of Bishops should offer oversight and receive guidance and input from a wide range of sources.

## Proposed Non-Disciplinary Legislation

### Petition 20642.

Petition Number: 20642-HS-NonDis-; Holley, Del - Knoxville, TN, USA for Jurisdictional Study Committee.

#### **Jurisdictional Study Commission Petition #5-Number of Active Bishops in Jurisdictions**

Based on the report and recommendations of the Jurisdictional Study Committee and the need to allow time for Jurisdictional Committees on Episcopacy and Colleges of Bishops to engage in the assessment of missional needs and financial capacity of each jurisdiction that will be part of the determination of the number of active bishops in the jurisdictions authorized by the 2024 General Conference, the number of active bishops authorized for assignment in each jurisdiction during the 2021-24 quadrennium shall be the same number as authorized by action of the General Conference for the 2017-20 quadrennium; provided, however, that this legislation is not intended to limit the authority of any jurisdiction or its College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision, organize its annual conferences and episcopal areas, or assign its active bishops in a manner that allows the jurisdiction to function with a number of bishops fewer than that authorized by this legislation, if the jurisdiction so chooses. This legislation shall not be construed in any way to limit the constitutional authority of the jurisdictional conferences (§ 40) or the Colleges of Bishops (§ 48). This legislation shall be effective immediately upon the close of the 2020 General Conference.

#### **Rationale:**

See Jurisdictional Study Committee report for full rationale—This non-Disciplinary petition proposes setting

the number of active bishops in each jurisdiction for the 2021-24 quadrennium at the same number authorized by action of the 2016 General Conference in order to allow jurisdictional committees on episcopacy and Colleges of Bishops to engage

### Petition 20721.

Petition Number: 20721-HS-NonDis; Danker, Ryan - Arlington, VA, USA.

#### **Equally Valuing Lay Seminary Professors**

The General Conference directs the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to equally value both clergy and lay seminary faculty at regular rank who are members of The United Methodist Church, or other historic Wesleyan denominations, in the allocation of Ministerial Education Funds (MEF). No differentiation in funding through the MEF to the thirteen (13) official seminaries of the church is to be based on the clergy or lay status of regular rank Methodist seminary faculty.

#### **Rationale:**

A portion of MEF funding administered by the GBHEM is currently based on the clergy or lay status of seminary faculty members, allotting more for clergy faculty members than for lay. Valuing clergy faculty above lay faculty devalues the work of lay seminary faculty and their ministry in the church.

## Proposed Resolutions

### R2046.

Petition Number: 20530-HS-R2046-G; Bergquist, Greg - Nashville, TN, USA for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

#### Sexual Ethics as Integral Part of Formation for Ministerial Leadership

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 that 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; lifelong 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 (2008 Book of Resolutions, 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.

### R3125.

Petition Number: 20580-HS-R3125; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

#### **Revise and Readopt Resolution 3125, "Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoah)"**

##### **Revise and readopt Resolution 3125 as follows:**

In recent years, Jewish communities have honored the custom of remembering the Holocaust (*Shoah*) on 27 Nisan of the Jewish calendar. This observance has become a powerful means of educating people about this heinous crime against humanity and sensitizing them to present and potential violence rooted in racial hatred.

WHEREAS, "In the twentieth century there is particular shame in the failure of most of the church to challenge the policies of governments that were responsible for the unspeakable atrocities of the Holocaust" ("Building New Bridges in Hope," *Book of Resolutions 2008*); and

WHEREAS, the same document observes, "[t]he Christian Church has a profound obligation to correct historical and theological teachings that have led to false and pejorative perceptions of Judaism and contributed to persecution and hatred of Jews";

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the General Conference calls The United Methodist Church to contrition and repentance of its complicity in "the long history of persecution of the Jewish people" and asks the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships Council of Bishops, the General Board of Church and Society, and conference level ecumenical and interreligious ministries to give special programmatic emphasis to Holocaust awareness and to prepare resources for use in local churches,

annual conferences, and their Conference Commissions on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns or equivalent structures to enable them our churches to become more aware of the Holocaust and its impact, and

*Be it further resolved*, as a sign of our contrition and our solidarity with the Jewish community, the General Conference urges the observance of *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Memorial Day each spring (The date of *Yom HaShoah* may be calculated for each year by using a Hebrew date converter.) in United Methodist local churches and urges the Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships Council of Bishops, in cooperation with other agencies of The United Methodist Church, in a time of increasing anti-Semitism, to work within the structure of our own church to find ways to support the work against anti-Semitism in the world today and to prepare resources for local churches to use in observing *Yom HaShoah*.

We continue to pray for God's grace to speak in Jesus' name against bigotry, hatred, genocide, or other crimes against humanity whenever and wherever they are perpetrated.

##### **Rationale:**

With ongoing global tensions and increases in hate crimes against religious minorities, it is important for The UMC to continue to express its solidarity with the Jewish community among other communities. Officially recognizing the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day is one small expression of this solidarity.

### R4031.

Petition Number: 20578-HS-R4031-G; Bergquist, Greg - Nashville, TN, USA for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

#### **Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development**

Renew Resolution 4031 as amended:

**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 Meth-

odist 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*

## **R9999.**

Petition Number: 20644-HS-R9999-G; Carter, Kenneth - Washington, DC, USA for Council of Bishops.

### **Resolution to Affirm and Implement a Full Communion Relationship with The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and The United Methodist Church**

#### **Adopt Resolution as follows:**

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ calls us to unity so that the world may believe; and

WHEREAS, The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church share a common heritage of faith, ecclesiological parentage, and a commitment to mission; and

WHEREAS, “A Gift to the World: Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness,” the report of The UMC-TEC bilateral dialogue, affirms that there are no church dividing doctrinal issues between our churches and outlines a pattern for the mutual recognition and interchangeability of ordained ministry;

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that upon parallel action by The Episcopal Church, The United Methodist Church hereby adopts the recommendations of “A Gift to the World” as our churches:

1) recognize one another as members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church in which the gospel is rightly preached and taught; and that the basic teaching of each respective church, being grounded in the Scriptures, confessed in the church's historic creeds, and attested in the authoritative historic documents and formularies of our churches, is consonant with the gospel and is sufficiently compatible;

2) recognize the authenticity of each other's baptism and Eucharist, and extend sacramental hospitality to one another's members;

3) recognize the authenticity of our respective ministries, including:

- the ministry bestowed upon all lay members of our churches by baptism;

- each other's ordination of persons to priest/elder and deacon;

- each other's polity and ministries of oversight in the ordained (Episcopal) and consecrated (United Methodist) office of bishop;

4) embody our conviction that our ministries of bishops are fully valid and authentic, and broaden and deepen our ecumenical partnerships, by sharing in the apostolic charisms and mutual adaptations of our respective episcopacies in the following manner:

- The United Methodist Church pledges that, effective January 1 in the year following the ratification of such an agreement by both churches, consecrations of United Methodist bishops will include at least three bishops drawn from common full-communication partners with The Episcopal Church. One of these three shall be a bishop in The Episcopal Church. These bishops will be present and participate in the laying on of hands;

- The Episcopal Church pledges that, effective January 1 in the year following the ratification of such an agreement by both churches, ordinations and consecrations of Episcopal bishops will include at least three bishops drawn from common full-communication partners with The United Methodist Church and with at least one United Methodist bishop present. These bishops will be present and participate in the laying on of hands.

5) recognize the full interchangeability and reciprocity of all ordained Methodist elders in full-connection with all ordained priests in The Episcopal Church, and all ordained Methodist deacons in full-connection with all ordained deacons in The Episcopal Church, subject always to canonically or constitutionally approved invitation;

6) authorize the establishment of a joint commission fully accountable to the decision-making bodies of the two churches to:

- coordinate the implementation of these resolutions;
- assist joint planning for mission;
- facilitate consultation and common decision-making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future; and
- report regularly and appropriately to each church;

7) direct this joint commission to:

- plan an appropriate liturgy to celebrate the full-communication inaugurated by this agreement, consonant with the spirit described in paragraph 10 of “A Gift to the World”;
- work with the appropriate boards, committees, commissions, and staff of the two churches concerning such ecumenical, doctrinal, pastoral, and liturgical matters as may arise, always subject to approval by the appropriate decision-making bodies of the two churches;

- formulate joint educational materials and encourage continuing education opportunities for lay and clergy leaders regarding full-communication; and

- explore the possibility and appropriateness of joining the work of the several joint commissions/coordinating committees that currently exist between our churches and our common full-communication partners;

8) agree to cultivate and maintain active partnership and consultation with one another in the promotion of unity with other churches and closer relations with other faith traditions. Ecumenical and interreligious agreements entered into by one church represented in this agreement with another church or religious group shall not be understood to impose or imply any formal relationship with the other.

FURTHERMORE,

WHEREAS, the purpose of this full-communication agreement is to foster public witness to the unity of our churches through concrete actions of joint mission, ministry, worship and service; and

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church and The Episcopal Church have distinct geographical presence and jurisdiction worldwide; and

WHEREAS, each of our churches is a member of a global communion with churches or judicatories that have autonomy and jurisdiction in their own geographically defined areas; and

WHEREAS, neither church claims jurisdiction to act outside the geographical boundaries of its several judicatories;

*Be it further resolved*, that the practical application of this full-communication agreement applies solely in areas where judicatory bodies of our two churches overlap; and

*Be it further resolved*, that The United Methodist Church encourages central conferences whose areas do not overlap with The Episcopal Church to pursue dialogue and ecumenical partnership with those member bodies of the Anglican Communion present in their area.

#### **Rationale:**

This resolution is the fruit of decades of dialogue and reflects the unique history of this relationship. “A Gift to the World,” the report from the dialogue committee, is included as ‘ADDENDUM B’ in The Council of Bishops’ Leadership in Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries Quadrennial Report printed in the