

Received by the deadline (received 8:16 pm, Thursday, February 27, 2025), in the proper format. Referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals per Standing Rule 70a.

Whereas the 2020/2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church removed Book of Discipline policies targeting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community and mandating discrimination throughout the denomination, and

Whereas the ministry of South Carolina Conference Connectional Ministries (represented by clergy and laity from across the conference, connecting local churches by offering ministry opportunities, training and resources that equip and empower reason were them to be effective in advocacy, discipleship, lay leadership and outreach) models the importance of having dedicated and empowered teams who focus on specific areas of ministry, such as the Advocacy Team, naming and overcoming injustice and providing conference-wide opportunities for growth, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Carolina Annual Conference calls on Bishop Leonard E. Fairley and the cabinet to facilitate creating a conference-level SC Inclusion Team for the purpose of:

1. Actively supporting the LGBTQ+ laity, clergy, and candidates for licensed/ordained ministry in the South Carolina Annual Conference with community-building, faith and leadership development, solidarity, and advocacy.
2. Centering and amplifying the voices and experiences of the LGBTQ+ community, especially those who have been marginalized by church and society, most notably, transgender and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) persons.
3. Monitoring Annual Conference committees and policies, as well as the status and needs of candidates and clergy under appointment to ensure justice and equity on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and self-expression, and to report findings to the Annual Conference.
4. Curating, creating, and sharing resources to equip local churches for:
 - a. relationship building and continuing education
 - b. meaningful ministry with and for LGBTQ+ church and community members
5. Collaborating with ministry-specific areas, particularly children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry in the desire to safely and most effectively be in ministry with and for LGBTQ+ people of all ages.

1. Intentional Diversity within the LGBTQ+ community making up at least ⅓ of the total Team
2. Intentional diversity of age across the following categories (under 25, 26-35, 36-65 and 65 and up).
3. Intentional diversity throughout all genders.
4. Intentional diversity throughout all races and ethnicities.
5. Representation from all four geographic areas of the state of South Carolina (Upstate, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Low Country).
6. Members with demonstrated commitment to the advancement of LGBTQ+ justice and inclusion

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2 Be it further resolved that the SC Inclusion Team shall be fully included in all future annual conference processes
3 related to ensuring an appropriate budget, representation on other committees, reporting to the annual conference,
4 and ongoing membership based on the above criteria.
5

6 This Team should remain and function for six years, at which time a review committee composed of equal
7 members of the SC Inclusion Team and members appointed by the Bishop or his designee will evaluate the
8 functionality of the Team and modify its mandate as necessary.
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10 Respectfully submitted by,

11 Rev. Dr. Christopher Greene, New Beginnings UMC, Boiling Springs/Spartanburg District
12 Janet Wilson, lay delegate, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
13 Rev. Meg Wilkes, Clemson UMC, Clemson/Anderson District
14 Rev. Tommy Wilkes, Clemson UMC, Clemson/Anderson District
15 Rev. Dr. Paul Wood, Jr., Retired, Lyttleton Street UMC, Hartsville District
16 Rev. Joel Jones, Retired, Washington St. UMC Columbia, Columbia District
17 Lynn Shirley, lay delegate, Washington St. UMC Columbia, Columbia District
18 Vicki McCartha, lay delegate, Inman UMC, Inman, Spartanburg District
19 Rev. Carol Rexroad Cannon, retired, Silver Hill Memorial, Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
20 Dr. Sam George, Surfside UMC, Myrtle Beach, Marion District
21 Rev. John Jordan, Pelion/Sharon Crossroads Charge, Orangeburg District
22 Rev. Shay Long, Mill Creek UMC, Columbia District
23 Diana Westerkam, Retired, Washington Street UMC, Columbia District
24 Debra Schooler, lay delegate, Washington St. United Methodist, Columbia District
25 Ben Schooler, lay delegate, Washington St. United Methodist, Columbia District
26 Carol Fowler, lay delegate, Washington St. United Methodist, Columbia District
27 Cody Lidge, lay delegate, Washington St. United Methodist, Columbia District
28 Marcia J. Lane, lay delegate, Washington St. United Methodist, Columbia District
29 Rev. Kathryn O. Hunter, Retired Clergy, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
30 Dave Fields, Eutaw Circuit, Orangeburg District
31 Rev. Molly Wilkes, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
32 Rev. James Ellis Griffeth, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
33 Ellen Davis, Lay delegate, Bethel UMC, Charleston District
34 Tommy Davis, Lay delegate, Bethel UMC, Charleston District
35 Allison Davidson, Lay delegate, Bethel UMC, Charleston District
36 Karen Roper, Lay delegate, Bethel UMC, Charleston District
37 Ed Roper, Lay delegate, Bethel UMC, Charleston District
38 Elizabeth Bragg, Lay delegate, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
39 Rev. Alston Lippert, Washington St. UMC – Columbia, Columbia District
40 Rev. Robert Cannon, Retired, Silver Hill UMC, Spartanburg District
41 Robin Griffeth, Woodland UMC, Rock Hill District
42 Rev Steven King, Retired, Bethel UMC, Spartanburg district
43 Rev. Arthur H. Holt, retired, Central UMC Spartanburg, Spartanburg District
44 Rev. Bryan Pigford, Cokesbury UMC, Charleston District
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RESOLUTION 2025-02

Received by the deadline (received 3:46 pm, Friday, February 28, 2025), in the proper format, initiated by a Conference board, council, commission or committee. Per Standing Rule 70a, this is properly before the Conference without the necessity of referral.

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Resolution on Our Responsibility for Personal Health

As stewards of God's creation, and inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we recognize our duty to care for our own health as an integral part of honoring God. We understand that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and that we are called to live in a way that reflects God's love and care for us.

Resolution:

1. Honor Our Bodies: We commit to treating our bodies with respect and care, acknowledging that they are sacred and entrusted to us by God. This includes eating nutritious food, engaging in regular physical activity, and getting adequate rest.
2. Seek Balance: We strive to maintain a balanced lifestyle that nurtures our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. Recognizing that stress and neglect can harm our health, we will make time for prayer, reflection, and activities that promote inner peace.
3. Pursue Wholeness: We understand that true health encompasses more than just the absence of illness. We aim to foster a sense of wholeness by cultivating healthy relationships, practicing forgiveness, and extending compassion to others as Jesus taught us (Matthew 5:44).
4. Educate Ourselves: We commit to staying informed about health practices and medical advice, seeking knowledge that empowers us to make wise decisions about our well-being. We will be proactive in seeking medical care when necessary and follow the guidance of healthcare professionals.
5. Support Each Other: We recognize that caring for our health is a communal effort. We pledge to support and encourage one another in making healthy choices, offering help and accountability when needed.
6. Trust in God's Providence: While we take active steps to care for our health, we also trust in God's providence and guidance. We acknowledge that ultimate healing and wholeness come from God, and we will remain faithful in our journey toward better health.

In all these commitments, we seek to glorify God through our actions and to reflect the love and care that Jesus showed during His time on earth.

Submitted by the Church and Society Work Area of Connectional Ministries

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RESOLUTION 2025-03

Received by the deadline (received 3:46 pm, Friday, February 28, 2025), in the proper format, initiated by a Conference board, council, commission or committee. Per Standing Rule 70a, this is properly before the Conference without the necessity of referral.

Resolution Upholding the Dignity of All Mothers

Whereas, between 2018 and 2019, there was a 10% increase in pregnancy-related deaths, and discrimination was credited to a 56% portion of these deaths;

Whereas, Black women are 67% more likely to die during childbirth or from pregnancy-related complications compared to their counterparts;

Therefore, be it resolved, that we commit to addressing these alarming disparities in health, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Scriptural Foundation:

- Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31).
- He showed compassion and care for the marginalized and oppressed (Matthew 25:35-40).
- Jesus emphasized the value and dignity of every individual, regardless of their background (Galatians 3:28).

Resolution:

1. Love and Compassion: We will work to ensure that all mothers, regardless of their race or ethnicity, receive compassionate and equitable healthcare. We commit to advocating for policies that eliminate disparities and promote the well-being of all women.
2. Dismantling Discrimination: Inspired by Jesus' example of standing against injustice, we will actively work to dismantle systemic racism and discrimination within the healthcare system. This includes supporting training and education.
3. Community Support: We will create and support community programs that provide education, resources, and support to expectant and new mothers, particularly those in marginalized communities. These programs will emphasize the importance of prenatal care, mental health, and postpartum support.
4. Advocacy and Policy Change: We will advocate for policies that ensure access to quality healthcare for all mothers, including expanding medical coverage, increasing funding for maternal health programs, and supporting legislation that addresses racial disparities in healthcare.
5. Empowering Women: Following Jesus' example of uplifting and empowering others, we will work to empower women with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health. This includes providing access to information on maternal health, family planning, and reproductive rights.

Be it further resolved, that we will continuously strive to uphold the dignity and value of all mothers, seeking to create a society where every mother has the opportunity to experience a healthy and safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Submitted by the Church and Society Work Area of Connectional Ministries

RESOLUTION 2025-04

Received by the deadline (received 3:46 pm, Friday, February 28, 2025), in the proper format, initiated by a Conference board, council, commission or committee. Per Standing Rule 70a, this is properly before the Conference without the necessity of referral.

Resolution: Supporting South Carolinians Living with Dementia

Whereas, as reported in 2023, over 125,000 residents of South Carolina are living with dementia; and

Whereas, dementia is projected to increase by more than 50% between 2020 and 2050; and

Whereas, Jesus taught us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and to show compassion and care for those who are vulnerable and in need;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the people of South Carolina, commit to supporting our neighbors who are living with dementia through the following actions:

1. Education and Awareness: Promote understanding of dementia through community education programs, ensuring that all citizens are informed about the condition and how to support those affected by it.

2. Compassionate Care: Advocate for increased funding and resources for dementia care facilities, ensuring they provide compassionate, high-quality care to those in need.
3. Support for Families: Establish support groups and resources for families and caregivers of individuals living with dementia, providing them with the emotional and practical assistance they require.
4. Community Involvement: Encourage community members to volunteer their time and skills to support those with dementia, fostering a sense of belonging and care within our communities.
5. Faith and Spiritual Support: Offer spiritual support and guidance through our churches and faith communities, providing a source of strength and hope for individuals and families impacted by dementia.

Be it further resolved, that we will work together, drawing inspiration from the teachings of Jesus, to create a compassionate and supportive environment for all South Carolinians, especially those living with dementia and their loved ones.

Submitted by the Church and Society Work Area of Connectional Ministries

RESOLUTION 2025-05

Initially received by the deadline (received 8:16 pm, Friday, February 28, 2025), and returned to the initiator for corrections. Resubmitted and received by the deadline (received, 3:55 pm, Monday, March 10, 2025) in the proper format, initiated by a Conference board, council, commission or committee. Per Standing Rule 70a, this is properly before the Conference without the necessity of referral.

South Carolina United Methodist Resolution to Recommit to Collegiate Ministry as a Priority of the Church

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has already adopted in 2016 and revised/readopted in 2024 into *The Book of Resolution #4210* "Collegiate Ministry as a Priority of the Church" which establishes that "every annual conference shall make collegiate ministry a priority;" and

Whereas, collegiate ministry which fully includes campus ministries (Wesley Foundations and the like), college/university chaplains, and local church initiatives focused specifically on college students; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Annual Conference currently hosts the Wesley Foundations/Fellowships of Charleston, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, Frances Marion, Furman, Greenwood, Methodist Student Network (Columbia), Orangeburg, Spartanburg, and Winthrop which in total minister to more than 18 colleges/universities and totals a mission field of more than 159,000 in-state, out-of-state, and international students; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Annual Conference in 2024 had approximately 5% of Deacons, 5% of Elders, and 3% of Licensed Pastors under the age of 35 (Lewis Center) and yet "collegiate ministries help all students hear God's call to serve and lead in the church and world, including both lay vocations and ordained ministry in the Church" (*Book of Resolutions #4210*); and

Whereas, "nearly half of all young people raised in Christian families walk away from their faith when they graduate from high school" (Fuller Youth Institute); and

Whereas, the South Carolina Annual Conference's Budget is able to provide for the annual statewide retreat and salaries but no programmatic money to support these ministries to students;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the South Carolina Annual Conference recommit to collegiate ministry as a priority of the Church. To such end, we suggest the following:

1 We encourage congregations to prayerfully consider how they each may be uniquely equipped to support their
2 nearest United Methodist collegiate ministry in their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

3
4 We encourage local churches to make every effort to connect their graduating seniors in high school with the
5 appropriate campus ministry when the student chooses which college/university (both two and four year) they will
6 attend in order to maintain connection during a very transitional season and to ensure the student is aware of the
7 ministry.

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9 We encourage the South Carolina Annual Conference to continue to support campus ministry financially in its
10 budget to the best of its abilities.

11
12 We encourage the District Superintendents to find any appropriate opportunities at clergy and laity gathering of
13 their choosing to give witness to and advocate for campus ministry.

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15 We encourage the campus ministries of the South Carolina Annual Conference to further advise their respective
16 Districts on how connection can continue to be cultivated between the Conference and the campuses of South
17 Carolina.

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19 We encourage the Bishop of the South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference to continue in his advocacy to
20 support the ministries for young people and to further challenge this body of The United Methodist Church to be a
21 church reaching out to serve those that will be here long after we all pass from this side of life.

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23 **Submitted By:**

24 The South Carolina Conference Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry and

25 Rev. Narcie Jeter, Chair of the Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries

26 Rev. John Sterling Poole, Director of Charleston Wesley Foundation

27 Rev. Steve Simoneux, Director of Clemson Wesley Foundation

28 Rev. Jad Taylor, Director of Methodist Student Network

29 Rev. Emily L. Kirby, Director of Coastal Wesley Foundation

30 Lou Jordan, Director of Francis Marion Wesley Foundation

31 Rev. Shirley Gordon, Director of Orangeburg Wesley Foundation

32 Rev. Edward McCutcheon, Director of Furman Wesley Fellowship

33 Rev. Megan Gray, Pastor of Saint Paul UMC

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference

To be canvassed for ratification by the Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

The following proposed amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church were approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference and must now be voted upon by the members of the annual conferences. ¶160, Article 1, of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline states, "Amendments to the Constitution shall be made upon a two-thirds majority of the General Conference present and voting and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, except in the case of the first and second Restrictive Rules, which shall require a three-fourths majority of all the members of the annual conferences present and voting. The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority." Meaning that each amendment must pass with an aggregate 2/3 approval from all voting members as canvassed by the Council of Bishops.

The proposed changes are indicated by strike-through for deletions and underscore for additions. Constitutional Amendments may be debated, but not amended. The proposed constitutional amendments are based on the action(s) of the General Conference, and changes by annual conferences will alter the decisions of the General Conference, which is out of order and a violation of the process. For this reason line numbers have not been added to the Proposed Constitutional Amendments. Lay members (blue badges) and Clergy Members in full connection (white badges) may vote on Constitutional Amendments (¶1602). Alternate Lay members, Local pastors, Provisional and Associate Clergy members may not vote on Constitutional Amendments.

RATIFICATION BALLOT #1

Ratification
Ballot #1

Calendar Item 22	Approved 586-164	April 25, 2024
Committee Item ST29	Approved 29-0	April 22, 2024
Petition 21039		

[Editorial Note: Numbering of paragraphs will be subject to the final editing of The Book of Discipline 2020/2024. The proposed changes in this calendar item are included for internal reference. Due to the length and complexity of this calendar item, the text and formatting from the Daily Christian Advocate is being used for context.]

AMEND ¶¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:

¶ ~~10~~ 9. ~~Article III~~ Article II. - There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional ~~central~~ regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

¶ ~~9~~ 10. ~~Article II~~ Article III. - There shall ~~may~~ be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are

hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

(NEW - Renumber subsequent paragraphs) ¶ **13. *Article VI.***— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ **15. *Article III.*** – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, ~~jurisdictional~~, and ~~central~~ regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and

further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ **16. Article IV.-** The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by ~~central~~ regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

¶ 23. *Article I.*-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 24. *Article II.* - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 25. *Article III.* - The ~~General Conferences~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ 26. *Article IV.* - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ 27. *Article V.* - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Section V. ~~Central~~ Regional Conferences

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America with such powers, duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

~~The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.~~

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ **29. Article II.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ **30. Article III.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective ~~central~~ regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

¶ **31. Article IV.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2 . In regional conferences without jurisdictions, ~~To~~ to elect the bishops for the respective ~~central~~ regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to

their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such ~~central~~ regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 ~~within their respective areas~~.

5. To ~~make such~~ legislate and make rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including ~~such~~ changes and adaptations of the ~~General Discipline~~ as follows, as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.

b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.

d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second

Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.

e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the ~~central~~ regional conference *Discipline* enacted by the ~~central~~ regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

~~To~~A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of ~~that central~~ the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

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

consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the ~~central~~ regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ **33. Article II.**-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy

and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective regional-jurisdictional or central conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ **34. Article III.**-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to

the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional and jurisdictional or central conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences as well as jurisdictional conference if its

regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

[DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber all subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]

~~¶ 38. *Article II.*—The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into central regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.~~

~~¶ 39. *Article III.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved.~~

¶ 40 *Article IV.*— The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions. ~~jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences.~~ The authority of regional and jurisdictional and central

conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ 46. *Article II.*-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, ~~jurisdictional and central conferences~~ and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by ~~the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central~~ regional conference ~~for those elected by such central conference,~~ provided that episcopal elections in ~~central regional~~ conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of ~~the central~~ such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 48. *Article IV.*-The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, 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.

¶ 49. *Article V.*-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in ~~the jurisdictional or central conferences~~ their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless

that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. 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~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ 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 of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bBishops elected by a

~~central~~ regional conference without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the ~~central~~ regional conference electing ~~him~~ them shall have determined.

The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, ~~jurisdictional conference~~ shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to ~~the~~ its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, ~~at conference if a region has jurisdictions,~~ its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~ respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional ~~jurisdictional and central~~ conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~

conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, ~~or regional, or jurisdictional or central~~ conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or a central~~ conference.

...

¶ **61. Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

[If ratified, the paragraphs would read as follows:]

¶ **9. Article II.** - There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

¶ 10. *Article III.* - There may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

¶ 13. *Article VI.*— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ 15. *Article III.* – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General and regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference

shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. *Article IV.*- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

. . .

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church.

. . .

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences without jurisdictions.

. . .

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

. . .

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

¶ 23. *Article I.*-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 24. *Article II.* - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 25. *Article III.* - The regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ 26. *Article IV.* - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ 27. *Article V.* - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Section V. Regional Conferences

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ 29. *Article II.*— The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ 30. *Article III.*— The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference.

¶ 31. *Article IV.*— The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2 . In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 .

5. To legislate rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including changes and adaptations of the general *Discipline* as follows, while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

- a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.
- b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.
- c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.
- d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.
- e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional *Discipline* enacted by the regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

¶ **32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one

young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ **33. Article II.**-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective regional conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and

conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ 34. *Article III.*-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the regional conference. The additional delegates to the regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall

be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**—The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ **40 Article II.**— The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction,

if a regional conference has jurisdictions. The authority of regional and jurisdictional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ **46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by each regional conference, provided that episcopal elections in regional conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ **48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, 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.

¶ **49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented.

(3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. 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 regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ **50. *Article VI.*** - Bishops elected by the jurisdictions shall have life tenure. Bishops elected by a regional conference without jurisdictions shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing them shall have determined.

The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a region has jurisdictions, its findings for

such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power.

The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, regional, or jurisdictional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

¶ **61. Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

RATIFICATION BALLOT #2

Ratification Ballot #2	Calendar Item 240 Committee Item GA11 Petition 20240	Approved 607-67 Approved 48-2	May 3, 2024 April 26, 2024
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¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

RATIFICATION BALLOT #3

Ratification Ballot #3	Calendar Item 550	Approved 621-59	May 3, 2024
	Committee Item IC50	Approved 25-1	April 27, 2024
	Petition 20332		

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims ~~the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.~~⁷

7. Amended 2000

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

7. Amended 2000

RATIFICATION BALLOT #4

Ratification Ballot #4	Calendar Item 555	Approved 547-99	May 2, 2024
	Committee Item OM153	Approved 39-4	April 27, 2024
	Petition 20070		

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from ⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their

educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an ~~M. Div.~~ Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. ⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from ⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. ⁷⁵

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

[Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to Regionalization be ratified.]