

# Chapter Five

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

### Section I. General Provisions

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

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

3. General agencies, in particular, are important to our common vision, mission, and ministry. They provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences through services and ministries that are highly focused, flexible, and capable of rapid response. The general agencies of The United Methodist Church are the regularly established

councils, boards, commissions, committees, or other units with ongoing responsibilities that have been constituted by the General Conference. Not included are such commissions and committees as are created by the General Conference to fulfill a special function within the ensuing quadrennium, ecumenical groups on which The United Methodist Church is represented, or committees related to the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference.<sup>1</sup> The term general agency or agency, wherever it appears in the Book of Discipline in reference to a general agency, does not and is not meant to imply a master-servant or principal-agent relationship between such a body and the General Conference or any other unit of the denomination, or the denomination as a whole.

¶ 702. Amenability and Program Accountability—1. All the general agencies of The United Methodist Church that have been constituted by the General Conference are amenable to the General Conference, except as otherwise provided.

2. Between sessions of the General Conference, the following general agencies are accountable to the Connectional Table for those functions that are outlined in the 900 ¶¶: the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and the General Commission on Communication in matters pertaining to their program responsibilities.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Connectional Table shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of the general program-related agencies and connectional structures of the church as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

4. Questions and concerns about programs, projects, or decisions of a particular agency may be addressed to that agency, with copies to the Connectional Table. Agencies shall acknowledge receipt of requests for information within ten days and provide information requested within thirty days or as soon thereafter as it is available.

5. If any district, annual conference, or general agency initiates, joins, monitors, or terminates a boycott, the guidelines in the 2004 Book of Resolutions should be followed. The General Conference is the only body that can initiate, empower, or join a boycott in the name of The United Methodist Church.

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1 See Judicial Council Decision 139.

2 See Judicial Council Decisions 429, 496.

6. In all matters of accountability episcopal oversight as provided in ¶ 427 is assumed.

¶ 703. Definitions, Structures, and Titles—1. General Council—An organization created by the General Conference to perform defined responsibilities of review and oversight on behalf of the General Conference in relation to the other general agencies and to perform other assigned functions shall be designated as a general council. General councils are amenable and accountable to the General Conference and report to it. The General Council on Finance and Administration is a council.<sup>3</sup>

(Note: The Council of Bishops and Judicial Council are authorized by the Constitution and are not created by the General Conference.)

2. General Board—A continuing body of the Church created by the General Conference to carry out assigned functions of program, administration, and/or service shall be designated as a general board.

3. General Commission—An organization created by the General Conference for the fulfillment of a specific function for an indefinite period of time.

4. Study Committee—An organization created by the General Conference for a limited period of time for the purpose of making a study ordered by the General Conference. The Connectional Table shall provide for coordination with and among the study committees except where General Conference otherwise designates.

5. Program-Related General Agencies—The general boards and commissions that have program and/or advocacy functions shall be designated as program-related general agencies. These agencies are amenable to the General Conference, and between sessions of the General Conference are accountable to the Connectional Table for those functions outlined in the 900 ¶¶s: the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.<sup>4</sup> In all matters of accountability, episcopal oversight as provided in ¶ 427 is assumed.

6. Administrative General Agencies—The general boards and commissions that have primarily administrative and service functions shall be designated as administrative general agencies. These agencies are the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, The United Methodist Publishing House, and the General Commission on Archives and History and General Commission on Communica-

<sup>3</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 496.

<sup>4</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 496.

tion, the last two of which also carry program-related responsibilities for which they are accountable to the Connectional Table.

7. Each general agency, unless otherwise provided, shall adopt the following executive staff titles:

a) General Secretary—the chief staff officer of a general agency. Each general agency is entitled to only one general secretary, who is its chief administrative officer.

b) Deputy General Secretary—the chief staff officer assigned to oversight of a major programmatic or administrative unit(s), or with major programmatic or administrative responsibilities with a general agency.

c) Associate General Secretary—the associate staff officer of a general agency or the chief staff officer of a division or a department of a general agency.

d) Assistant General Secretary—the assistant staff officer of a general agency or the chief staff officer of a section or office of a general agency.

e) Treasurer—the staff financial officer of a general agency, entrusted with the receipt, care, and disbursement of agency funds. In some general agencies there may be associate and/or assistant treasurers. There are general agencies in which “treasurer” is not a staff title but is an officer elected from the voting membership of the agency.

8. Theme—A theme is a theological focus, missional emphasis, prophetic statement, or program catalyst for ministry. A theme enhances programs or ministries basic to the life of the Church and serves as a rallying point for constituents involved in those programs.

9. Missional Priority—A missional priority is a response to a critical need in God’s world that calls The United Methodist Church to a massive and sustained effort through primary attention and ordering or reordering of program and budget at every level of the Church, as adopted by the General Conference or in accord with ¶ 906.1. This need is evidenced by research or other supporting data, and the required response is beyond the capacity of any single general agency or annual conference. However, the ongoing priority of The United Methodist Church both in program and budget is to proclaim the good news that salvation comes through Jesus Christ.

10. Special Program—A special program is a quadrennial emphasis initiated by a general program-related agency in accordance with ¶ 905, approved by General Conference, and assigned to a general program-related agency. The program shall be designed in response to a distinct opportunity or need in God’s world that is evidenced by research or other supporting data and shall propose achievable goals within the quadrennium.

11. Program—A program is an ongoing or special activity designed and implemented to fulfill a basic disciplinary responsibility of a general agency accountable to the Connectional Table.

12. Association or Fellowship—Organizations not created by nor officially related to the General Conference and intended to provide professional relationships conducive to sharing professional techniques and information for groups within the denomination shall be designated as associations or fellowships.

¶ 704. Financial Accountability of General Agencies—All general agencies receiving general church funds (see ¶ 810.2) shall account for receipts and expenditures of funds in a format designed by the General Council on Finance and Administration. A quadrennial report of such accounting shall be included in the report of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Conference. The report will include, in fully descriptive form, the amount of remuneration, in cash, and in cash value of any in-kind benefits provided to all executive employees, clergy and lay, of all general agencies, where executives shall include at least those persons in positions described in ¶ 703.7. No information in the report will be considered to be confidential, and in keeping with the spirit of ¶ 702.4, all information therein will be made available upon request.

Annual reports shall be made available by the respective agencies upon the request of annual conferences and local church councils or boards. The annual reports prepared by the agencies shall include a listing of organizations, individuals, associations, fellowships, coalitions, consultants, programs, and entities not formally part of the Church, and the amount (expended annually) of monetary and in-kind contributions. The listing shall include, but not be limited to, office space, printing, staff assistance, purchases, travel expense, and other forms of financial assistance that have been granted to such entities.

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

The following provisions shall govern the nomination and election of the voting membership of those general Church bodies to which the jurisdictional conferences elect and central conferences nominate members.<sup>5</sup> All lay voting mem-

<sup>5</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 467.

bers of general agencies and the Connectional Table shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active in local churches unless otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. All provisions pertaining to the nomination and election of general agency and Connectional Table members shall take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the General Conference that enacts them. The secretary of the General Conference shall coordinate the processes pertaining to nominations and elections of general agency and Connectional Table members.

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; General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; General Commission on Communication; General Commission on Religion and Race; and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Jurisdictional conferences may decide that persons elected by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the jurisdictional nominating committee.

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

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

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

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

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

a) Each jurisdiction shall elect members of the general agencies and the Connectional Table as provided in ¶¶ 705.4, 705.5, and 906.1. Persons within any jurisdiction elected by the Women's Division to serve as members of the General Board of Global Ministries (¶ 1325) shall be counted in, and not be additional to, the total number of members allocated to each jurisdiction for purposes of determining proportional distribution, but Women's Division members are additional to the membership prescribed in ¶ 1311.1. The secretary of the General Conference shall offer to each jurisdiction a suggested fair and equitable allocation of members to the annual and missionary conferences within each jurisdiction; however, each jurisdiction shall determine for itself how members will be allocated among the annual and missionary conferences of the jurisdiction.

b) Each general agency shall elect at least one, but not more than three, member(s) with vote and voice from among the member churches of the Commission on Pan Methodist Cooperation and Union. In addition, it is recommended that each general agency elect at least one member without vote from

<sup>6</sup> See Judicial Council Decisions 520, 538.

among the other member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ. These members would be in addition to those otherwise specified in ¶ 705.3a above. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall assist general agencies in their compliance with this provision.

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

d) It is recommended that the membership of each of the general agencies seeks to be inclusive based on gender, racial and ethnic persons, age, persons with disabilities, and size of church. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian American, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that a jurisdiction's membership on each general agency be at least 30 percent racial and ethnic persons and incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶¶ 1105, 1311). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.

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

4. General Program Board Membership—*a)* Each general program board shall have the number of members specified in ¶¶ 1006, 1105, 1311, and 1407.

*b)* Jurisdictional Membership—Each jurisdiction shall elect the number of persons listed in the specific legislation for membership on each of the four general program boards. In the jurisdictional nominating process for membership on those boards, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, people with disabilities, and persons from small membership churches. In order to ensure adequate representation of racial and ethnic persons (Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders), it is recommended that at least 30 percent of a jurisdiction's membership on each general program board be racial and ethnic persons. It is further recommended that the jurisdiction membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen (except as provided in ¶¶ 1104.1, 1311.2; see also ¶¶ 1311.6, 1407). The episcopal members shall not be counted in the computation of the clergy membership.<sup>7</sup>

7 See Judicial Council Decisions 451, 467.

c) Central Conference Membership—The total central conference membership, including central conference bishops, in general Church bodies shall be allocated as follows: two members on the General Commission on Religion and Race; at least one from each region (Philippines, Europe, Africa); three each on the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communication, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and The United Methodist Publishing House; four each on the General Council on Finance and Administration and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; seven each (one from each Central Conference) on the Connectional Table, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Board of Discipleship; and fifteen on the General Board of Global Ministries. It is recommended that the central conference membership on each program board incorporate one-third clergy, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen. The central conference membership shall be elected by the Council of Bishops.

d) Episcopal Membership—The episcopal membership of the general program boards shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference (see exception, ¶ 1311.6). At least one of the episcopal members of each general agency, with the exception of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, shall be a central conference bishop and, in the case of the General Board of Global Ministries, three central conference bishops (one from each region: Africa, Europe, Philippines).

e) Additional Membership—(1) Additional members shall be elected by each general program board in order to bring into the board persons with special knowledge or background that will aid in the work of the agency, to consider differing theological perspectives, and to perfect the representation of racial and ethnic persons, youth (¶ 710.3), young adults (¶ 710.3), older adults, women and men, people with disabilities, and persons from small-membership churches. After the election of central conference members as provided in ¶ 705.4c, the remaining number of additional members shall be allocated by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that membership of each board reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, excluding episcopal members. In the determination of proportionate allocation, minor fractions shall be rounded down and major fractions rounded up to the nearest integer, and there shall be no minimum number of additional members assigned to any jurisdiction. Insofar as possible, the nominating committee shall select from the jurisdictional nominating pool for the election of persons to fill the additional

membership positions from their jurisdictions insuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (§ 705.4b). Each general program board shall elect additional members as specified in general program board membership paragraphs. Insofar as possible, no more than one person shall be elected from each episcopal area. It is recommended that such additional membership shall maintain the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, and one-third clergy balance.<sup>8</sup>

(2) Consultation Membership—It is recommended that each general program board elect at least one member without vote from among the member churches of Churches Uniting in Christ, other than The United Methodist Church, as an additional member. These members shall be in addition to, and not instead of, other members as provided herein.

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

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

b) Episcopal and additional members, if any, of the general agencies listed in § 705.5a shall be nominated and elected by the procedures specified in the paragraphs listed in §§ 705.1b, 705.1d, and 705.4e. The agencies shall consider

<sup>8</sup> See Judicial Council Decisions 377, 446, 520, 601.

names forwarded to them by the Connectional Table as having been nominated by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States or in the central conferences, but not elected by these conferences to general agency membership. Additional names may be considered in order to perfect the representation as provided in ¶ 705.4e.

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

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

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

¶ 707. Meetings—1. In those years in which the General Conference holds its regular session, all general program agencies shall meet, organize, and conduct such business as may properly come before the agency not later than ninety days after the close of the jurisdictional conferences. Each organizational meeting shall be convened by a bishop designated by the president of the Council of Bishops.

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

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

¶ 708. Organization—1. Each program board shall elect a president and one or more vice presidents from the voting membership of the board, and a secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as it deems appropriate, giving consideration to inclusiveness (¶¶ 124, 139), provided that all officers shall be members of The United Methodist Church.

2. Each program board shall elect chairpersons for its divisions, departments, or other subunits from the voting membership of the board. The divisions, departments, or other subunits shall elect a vice chairperson, a secretary, and such other officers as it deems appropriate.

3. Terms of officers of boards, divisions, and departments, or other subunits shall be for the quadrennium or until their successors are elected.

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

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

¶ 709. Divisions and Subunits—The membership of each program board shall be divided among the divisions or other subunits of the board in such number as the board determines.

¶ 710. Membership Qualifications—1. Members of all general agencies shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church except as provided in ¶ 705.3i.

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

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

zational board meetings seventeen to twenty-eight years of age. All older-adult representatives (§ 705.1.b(6)) shall be at the time of organizational board meetings at least sixty-five years of age.

4. A voting member of a general agency shall be eligible for membership on that agency for no more than two consecutive four-year terms. The four-year term shall begin at the first organizational meeting of that agency following General Conference. Service of more than one year in fulfilling an unexpired or vacated position shall be considered as a full four-year term. To provide a continuing membership on these agencies, it is recommended that each nominating and electing body give special attention to continuing and effective membership on these agencies. If a general agency is merged with another agency, the years served by members prior to the merger shall be counted as part of the maximum specified above.<sup>9</sup>

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

5. No person shall serve at the same time on more than one general agency or any part thereof, except where the Discipline specifically provides for such inter-agency representation; provided, however, that if this limitation would deprive a jurisdiction of its full episcopal representation on an agency, it may be suspended to the extent necessary to permit such representation.<sup>10</sup> (See § 906.1a.)

6. A voting member of a general agency, by virtue of such membership, shall become an ex officio (voting) member of the corresponding agency or its equivalent structure, if any, in the annual conference in accordance with the provisions of § 610.6; unless such membership would conflict with § 612.2c(2). Elected members of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry may serve as ex officio members on both corresponding boards of their annual conference: the board of ordained ministry and the board of higher education. They shall be voting members, however, only on the conference board of higher education unless nominated by their resident bishop to be a voting member of the conference board of ordained ministry pursuant to § 635.1a.

7. No person who receives compensation for services rendered or commissions of any kind from an agency shall be eligible for voting membership on that agency.<sup>11</sup>

8. No elected member, officer, or other employee shall vote on or take part in deliberations on significant matters directly or indirectly affecting his or her

<sup>9</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 495.

<sup>10</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 224.

<sup>11</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 139.

business, income, or employment, or the business, income, or employment of a member of his or her immediate family.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Who has become incapacitated so as to be unable to perform official duties.
2. Who is guilty of immoral conduct or breach of trust.
3. Who for any reason is unable to or who fails to perform the duties of the office or for other misconduct that any council, board, committee, or commission may deem sufficient to warrant such dismissal and removal.

In the event that any member, officer, or employee of such council, board, committee, or commission, elected, authorized, or provided for by the General Conference, is found guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude by any federal, state, or county court or pleads guilty thereto, then the council, board, committee, or commission of which that person is a member, officer, or employee

shall be and is hereby authorized to remove such member, officer, or employee so convicted; and the place so vacated shall be filled as provided in the Discipline.

¶ 712. Vacancies—Unless otherwise specified, vacancies on general agencies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled as follows: an episcopal vacancy shall be filled by the Council of Bishops; a vacancy in the jurisdictional or central conference membership shall be filled by the corresponding College of Bishops (the replacement must be a member of the same annual conference of the person being replaced), with notice of the vacancy sent by the agency to the secretary of the Council of Bishops; a vacancy in the additional membership shall be filled by the agency itself. When the vacancy has been filled, the secretary of the agency will immediately notify the new member's annual conference secretary.

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

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

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

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

12 See Judicial Council Decisions 499, 567.

13 See Judicial Council Decisions 567, 858.

the General Council on Finance and Administration upon recommendation of the Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices.

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

a) Each general agency shall sponsor or participate in a group health care plan that covers the agency's full-time clergy and full-time lay employees in the United States. For the purpose of this paragraph, group health care plan shall mean a health insurance plan, group health care plan, or multiple-employer health care plan that provides benefits for major medical and hospitalization expenses. The sponsoring general agency may determine additional eligibility for the group health care plan in its discretion. In addition, general agencies shall develop and maintain health and wellness programs for their full-time clergy and full-time lay employees. Moreover, each general agency shall annually submit its health plan data, de-identified as necessary, including, but not limited to, financial soundness, claims experience and other cost drivers, plan designs and coverage, and eligibility criteria to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

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

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

d) On or before December 31, 2010, each general agency must create a plan to address the funding requirements of its projected future medical liabilities for the population covered by its employer retiree health care plan. On or before

December 31, 2008, each general agency shall document in writing its policy regarding the portability of retiree health care eligibility, coverage, cost-sharing, and benefits and communicate the policy to its clergy and lay employees and incoming clergy and lay employees from annual conferences or other general agencies. For the purpose of this paragraph, portability encompasses credit given for service outside the general agency within the denomination to clergy and lay employees toward (i) eligibility for health care coverage in retirement and (ii) accrual of employer subsidies toward or employer cost-sharing of the cost of health care coverage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 426.

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

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

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

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

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

agencies, conferences, and other bodies of the Church requires communication, including written documentation, in which each party reveals plans and intents in such a way as to assure dialogue and mutual awareness, even if not agreement.<sup>15</sup>

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

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

2. Unless otherwise specified in the Discipline for a specific purpose, the term quadrennium shall be deemed to be the four-year period beginning January 1 following the adjournment of the regular session of the General Conference.<sup>16</sup>

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

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

15 See Judicial Council Decision 518.

16 See Judicial Council Decision 559.

17 See Judicial Council Decisions 751, 869.

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

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

¶ 723. Church Founding Date—The United Methodist Church (¶ 140) has become the successor to all rights, powers, and privileges of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. The two churches, from their beginnings, have had a close relationship.

The Methodist Church, the first of the two churches to organize, dates from the Christmas Conference of 1784. Therefore, The United Methodist Church recognizes as its founding date the year 1784.

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

## **Section II. General Council on Finance and Administration**

¶ 801. The work of the Church requires the support of our people. Participation through service and gifts is a Christian duty, a means of grace, and an expression of our love to God. In order that all members of The United Methodist Church may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad and that the work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan has been duly approved and adopted.

¶ 802. Name—There shall be a General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church, hereinafter called the council.

¶ 803. Incorporation—The council shall be incorporated in such state or states as the council shall determine. This corporation shall be the successor corporation and organization to the Council on World Service and Finance (including the Council on World Service and Finance of The United Methodist Church, an Illinois corporation; the World Service Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, an Illinois corporation; the General Council of Administration of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, an Ohio corporation; the Board of

Administration, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, an Ohio corporation) and the Board of Trustees.

This corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal be the successor in trust of: The Board of Trustees of The United Methodist Church; The Board of Trustees of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of The Evangelical Church, an unincorporated body; The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, incorporated under the laws of Ohio; The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, incorporated under the laws of Tennessee; and The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Protestant Church, incorporated under the laws of Maryland; and so far as may be legal, as such successor in trust, it is authorized to receive from any of its said predecessor corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character—real, personal, or mixed—held by them or any one of them, or to merge into itself any one or more of its said predecessor corporations. Any such trusts and funds coming to it as successor corporation, either by transfer or by merger, shall be administered in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said predecessor corporations or unincorporated body.

¶ 804. Amenability—The council shall report to and be amenable to the General Conference, and it shall cooperate with the Connectional Table in the compilation of budgets for program agencies participating in World Service Funds, as defined in ¶ 806.1.

¶ 805. Organization—1. Membership—a) The voting members of the council shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference and shall consist of forty persons nominated as follows:

(1) four bishops including one from a central conference, nominated by the Council of Bishops;

(2) thirty persons from the jurisdictions, nominated by the College of Bishops in each jurisdiction based upon an allocation by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure that membership of the council reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership, at least one of whom should be a youth between the ages of twelve and seventeen, and at least one of whom should be a young adult not over twenty-eight years of age at the time of election;

(3) six members at large, one member from Africa, one from Europe, one from the Philippines, and most of whom shall be elected for special skills. After

the above-mentioned election of central conference members, the remaining members at large shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops based upon an allocation by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure, to the extent possible, that membership of the Council reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership insuring diversity as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline (§ 705.4b). This petition shall become effective upon passage by the General Conference members.

b) It is recommended that attention be given to ensuring adequate representation of racial and ethnic groups, with at least two of the at-large members to be racial and ethnic persons. It is further recommended that in the membership from each of the jurisdictions and the at-large members, one-third be clergy in full connection, one-third be laymen, and one-third be laywomen.<sup>18</sup>

c) The general secretaries who serve as the chief executive officers of the general agencies and the publisher of The United Methodist Church may sit with the council and shall have the right to the floor without the privilege of voting.

d) The voting members, including bishops, shall not be eligible for membership on, or employment by, any other general agency of The United Methodist Church (§ 701.2), except where the Book of Discipline specifically provides for such interagency representation. Members shall also be guided by such conflict-of-interest policies and provisions as may from time to time be adopted by the General Conference or by the council itself.

e) Members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

f) Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conference shall be filled by the council on nomination of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction concerned (see § 712) if the vacancy is among members chosen to represent a jurisdiction, or, in the event of a vacancy among the episcopal, central conference, or at-large members, on nomination of the Council of Bishops.

2. Meetings—The council shall meet at least annually and at such other times as are necessary on call of the president or on written request of one-fifth of the members. Twenty-one voting members shall constitute a quorum.

3. Officers—The officers of the council shall be a president, a vice president, a recording secretary, and a general secretary, who shall also be the treasurer of the council, all of whom shall be elected by the council (see § 5). They shall serve until the adjournment of the next succeeding quadrennial session of the General Conference after their election and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The president, vice president, and recording secretary shall be elected from the membership of the council. The general secretary shall sit with the council and its executive committee at all sessions and shall have the right to the floor without the privilege of voting.

18 See Judicial Council Decision 594.

4. Committees—*a) Executive Committee*—There shall be an executive committee of the council, consisting of the episcopal members, the officers of the council, chairpersons of the committees on services as defined in the council by-laws, and up to three members at large to assure that, in addition to the episcopal members, there is at least one member from each jurisdiction and there is racial and ethnic participation. The executive committee shall meet on call of the president or of a majority of the membership and shall act for the council and exercise its powers in the interim between the meetings of the council, but it shall not take any action contrary to or in conflict with any action or policy of the council. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the executive committee shall be sent from the central office to each member of the council as soon after the meeting as practicable.

*b) Committee on Audit and Review*—The executive committee of the council shall appoint a Committee on Audit and Review, no members of which shall be officers or members of the executive committee of the council, and at least half of whom shall not be members of the council, whose duty it shall be to review audits of all treasuries receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) in accordance with all established auditing standards, including the funds of the council, related policies with financial implications, and the utilization of financial assets in achieving the stated mission of the entity as defined by the General Conference, the governing board, and donor designations. Not included are the audits of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and The United Methodist Publishing House. In any matter of possible or potential financial impropriety reported to the committee by the auditors, the committee chair shall immediately inform the president and general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration and the president and general secretary of the applicable agency. The committee shall report its findings to the annual meeting of the council.

*c) Committee on Official Forms and Records*—The council shall maintain and supervise under the direction of its general secretary a Committee on Official Forms and Records, which shall have the duty of preparing and editing all official statistical forms, record forms, and record books for use in the Church. Through these forms, the council shall collect statistical and financial information from all annual conferences of The United Methodist Church. The committee shall consist of one bishop elected by the Council of Bishops and nine persons elected by the General Council on Finance and Administration, as follows: five members of the council, one conference secretary, one conference treasurer, one conference statistician, and one district superintendent. At least one member shall represent the central conferences. The members shall be from the qualifying area or serving in the qualifying position at the time of their election. The following persons shall

be consultants to this committee *ex officio*, without vote: two staff representatives of the council, a representative of The United Methodist Publishing House, and representatives of other general agencies when their programs are directly involved. All official record forms, record books, and certificates designed by the committee for use in The United Methodist Church and available for sale shall be printed and published through The United Methodist Publishing House.

d) **Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices**—The council shall organize a committee consisting of three representatives from the General Council on Finance and Administration, one of whom shall serve as chairperson, and one representative of each of the following agencies: the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the General Commission on Communication, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Each of the aforementioned representatives shall be selected by the council, board, or commission represented from its membership. The committee shall have duties and responsibilities as defined in ¶ 807.13b.

e) **Committee on Legal Responsibilities**—The council shall organize a committee composed of six persons, three of whom shall be members of the council. The committee shall be amenable to the council and shall make recommendations to the council regarding the fulfillment of the responsibilities defined in ¶ 807.9.

f) **Other Committees**—The council shall elect or appoint such other committees and task forces as needed for the performance of its duties.

5. **Staff**—The council shall elect a general secretary as provided in § 3 above. On nomination of the general secretary, the council may elect deputy and/or associate general secretaries, who shall work under the direction of the general secretary. The general secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the council.

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.

b) The council shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference budgets of estimated income and expense for the four years of the ensuing quadrennium. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal

year, the council shall approve a budget for its operation for the following year. In the event of unanticipated circumstances, the council may, by a two-thirds vote, amend a budget it had previously approved for its own operation.

c) The council shall report to each quadrennial session of the General Conference the amounts of its actual income and expenditures for the four preceding years.

¶ 806. Fiscal Responsibilities—All monies contributed by a local church to any of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1, and such other funds as may have been authorized by the General Conference shall be held in trust by the council and distributed only in support of the ministries of the respective funds. The council shall be accountable to The United Methodist Church through the General Conference in all matters relating to the receiving, disbursing, and reporting of such funds, and agencies receiving such funds shall be fiscally accountable to the council. In the exercise of its fiscal accountability role, the council shall have the authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:

1. It shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference, for its action and determination, budgets of expense for each of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in

¶ 810.1, and such other general funds as the General Conference may establish. It shall also make recommendations regarding all other funding considerations to come before General Conference. Actual receipts for each fund for the quadrennium then ending shall be the basis for all budgeting procedures and comparisons for the coming quadrennium.

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.

b) In the case of the World Service Fund, the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table shall proceed in the following manner in developing budget recommendations as they relate to allocations to the general program agencies of the Church:

(1) The Connectional Table shall, in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, develop recommendations to the General Council on Finance and Administration on needs of the general program agencies for the programs, missional priorities, and special programs.

(2) The General Council on Finance and Administration shall then establish the estimated amount available for distribution from the World Service Fund among the general program agencies.

(3) The Connectional Table in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, will review both the program priorities and the estimated amount available to the general program agencies, and then establish the amounts to be distributed to those agencies from the annual World Service allocation.

(4) Only when the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table agree on the allocations to the several general program agencies and on the total sum of the World Service Fund budget will these allocations and total sum be included in the World Service budget to be recommended to the General Conference by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

c) In the case of the Ministerial Education Fund, Black College Fund, Africa University Fund, and Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table shall proceed in the following manner to develop funding level recommendations.

(1) The Connectional Table shall, in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, develop funding level recommendations to the General Council on Finance and Administration for these funds.

(2) The General Council on Finance and Administration shall then establish the estimated amount available for distribution through those funds.

(3) The Connectional Table, in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, will review both the funding priorities and the estimated amount available to the funds and then establish the amounts to be distributed to each.

(4) Only when the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table agree on the funding levels for each fund will these be recommended to the General Conference by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

d) It shall recommend the formulas by which all apportionments to the annual conferences shall be determined, subject to the approval of the General Conference.

e) Before the beginning of each year, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall estimate and communicate to the Connectional Table the sum available at that time from World Service contingency funds to meet requests for additional funding from the general program agencies. The Connectional Table shall be authorized to approve allocations to the general program agencies for additional program funding up to the limit so established.

No money shall be allocated by the Connectional Table from this source for general administrative costs, fixed charges, or capital outlay without approval by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

f) The Connectional Table shall receive from the General Council on Finance and Administration copies of the proposed annual budgets of the general program agencies, in order that it may review such budgets in relation to the program proposals made by those agencies in their quadrennial budget requests.

2. It shall receive and disburse in accordance with budgets and/or directives approved by the General Conference all funds raised throughout the Church for any of the general funds of the Church, as listed or defined in ¶ 810.1, and for any other fund or funds, as directed by the proper authority.

3. Accounting and Reporting—It shall require all agencies receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) to follow uniform accounting classifications and procedures for reporting. It shall include in its quadrennial report to the General Conference a fiscal report for each such agency receiving general Church funds.

4. General Agency Budget Review—It shall require annually one month in advance of its annual meeting, or as is deemed necessary, and in such form as the council may require, statements of proposed budgets of all treasuries or agencies receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2). It shall review the budget of each agency receiving general Church funds in accordance with guidelines that it shall establish and communicate to the agencies, including the relationship between administration, service, and promotion. In the interest of sound fiscal management, the council will ensure that expenditures of agencies receiving general Church funds do not exceed receipts and available reserves, and this within a budget approved by the council.

5. General Agency Audits—It shall require an annual audit of all treasuries receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2), following such auditing procedures as it may specify. It shall select the auditing firm for these annual audits based on a recommendation by the Committee on Audit and Review.

6. Internal Audit Functions—It shall establish and conduct the internal auditing functions for all agencies receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2).

7. It shall establish policy governing the functions of banking, payroll, accounting, budget control, and internal auditing for all agencies receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2). The council may, upon mutual consent of the agencies involved, perform the functions of banking, check preparation, and payroll on behalf of an agency in order to maximize efficiency of operation.

8. It shall review for approval plans for financing all international or national conferences and convocations to be held under the auspices of any general agency receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2).

9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group,

or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church “not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends” (§ 161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures.<sup>19</sup> It shall not limit the Church’s ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.

10. In keeping with the Church’s historic stand on total abstinence, the council shall seek to ensure that no apportioned general funds are expended for the use of alcoholic beverages.

11. It shall develop general investment policies and guidelines for all agencies receiving general Church funds (see § 810.2), following consultation with those agencies. The council, in its oversight capacity, shall review those agencies’ compliance with the general investment policies and guidelines. Upon their review, the council may recommend that an agency take certain actions to conform with these policies and guidelines. These guidelines are recommended for all Church organizations. If requested by an agency, the council shall provide consultation and assistance on the development of specific investment policies and the selection of investment counselors and managers. The council shall review, on at least an annual basis, the performance of all invested funds of all agencies receiving general Church funds. The council shall have complete authority to manage any portfolio of less than \$5,000,000 and may, upon request by the agency, manage larger portfolios. The council and general agencies are encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (§§ 160-166).

12. The Committee on Audit and Review (§ 805.4b), on behalf of the council, shall monitor the compliance of agencies receiving general Church funds (see § 810.2) with the fiscal accountability policies and practices set forth in § 806, the personnel policies and procedures set forth in § 807.13, and the general policies set forth in §§ 811.1-3, .6, 818, and with recommendations made by the independent and/or internal auditors under § 805.4b, with respect to matters of possible or potential financial impropriety or violation of policies and procedures. The council shall have authority to implement actions which it may approve based on recommendations from the committee.

a) If the committee finds that there are violations of such policies, practices, or recommendations, it shall first notify the president and general secretary of the agency involved and the president and general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration of its findings, in writing. It shall also request from the agency, within a specified timeline, a written response to the commit-

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19 See Judicial Council Decisions 491, 597.

tee's findings, with the written response to include additional information and/or proposed corrective action.

b) After receiving the agency's response, the committee may take one or more of the following actions:

(1) It may determine that the response and any additional information supplied by the agency is sufficient to explain the issue or situation that occasioned the initial finding, and that no further action is needed.

(2) It may determine that the corrective action proposed by the agency is sufficiently responsive to the issue or situation, and that, when implemented, no further action will be needed.

(3) It may determine that the agency's response is insufficient to address the issue or situation. In that case, it may recommend to the agency, for the agency's consideration, the type of corrective actions that it believes necessary to address the issue or situation adequately, along with a timeline for reporting corrective action taken.

(4) It may prepare an informational report on the matter for those members of the council who have been assigned responsibility for reviewing the annual budget of the agency.

c) It may recommend to the General Council on Finance and Administration for its action, with notice of the recommendation given to the president and general secretary of the agency involved, one or more of the following steps:

(1) Continuing monitoring by the council's internal audit department, at the expense of the agency involved, until the committee finds that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

(2) Withholding of an appropriate amount of funding from general fund receipts that would otherwise be payable to the agency, until the council, on recommendation of the committee, finds that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

(3) Reporting of any unresolved issues to the next session of the General Conference, along with recommendations for General Conference action.

¶ 807. Other Fiscal Responsibilities—The council shall have the following additional fiscal responsibilities:

1. To receive, collect, and hold in trust for the benefit of The United Methodist Church, its general funds, or its general agencies any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to The United Methodist Church as such or to any general fund or agency of The United Methodist Church for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purposes, and to administer the same and the income there from in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator.

2. To take such action, in cooperation with the Board of Discipleship, as is necessary to encourage United Methodists to provide for their continued participation in World Service, in one or more of the World Service agencies, or in other general Church benevolence funds or interests, through current and planned giving, including wills and trusts.

3. When the use to be made of any such donation, bequest, or devise is not otherwise designated, the same shall be added to and become a part of the "Permanent Fund" of The United Methodist Church. This fund shall be held and administered by the council, as the General Conference shall direct.

4. Where annual conferences, individually or in groups, have established United Methodist foundations, the council may provide staff leadership on request to advise in matters of financial management, to the end that foundation assets shall be wisely managed on behalf of the Church.

5. To make recommendations to the General Conference, in consultation with the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops, regarding any offerings to be received in connection with special days observed on a churchwide basis. These recommendations shall include the number and timing of such special days with offerings, the amount, if any, to be established as a goal for each such offering, the causes to be benefited by each, the method by which the receipts on each such offering shall be distributed among the causes benefiting from it, and the method by which such receipts shall be remitted and reported by local churches. All such recommendations are subject to the approval of the General Conference.

6. To establish general policy governing the ownership, sale, rental, renovation, or purchase of property by a general agency in the United States. The council shall consider the plans of any general agency proposing to acquire or sell real estate or erect a building or enter into a lease in the continental United States and determine whether the proposed action is in the best interest of The United Methodist Church. On the basis of that determination it shall approve or disapprove all such proposed actions. In the case of such proposed action by a general program agency, it shall solicit and consider the recommendation of the Connectional Table. If either the General Council on Finance and Administration or the Connectional Table disapproves, the agency shall delay the project until it can be considered by the next General Conference. Nothing in the foregoing shall include the operational requirements of The United Methodist Publishing House or the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

7. To act in concert with the Connectional Table to establish a procedure for making a quadrennial review, initiating proposals and/or responding to proposals by the general agencies regarding the location of headquarters and staff and reporting the same to the General Conference.

8. To exercise on behalf of the General Conference a property reporting function by receiving reports annually from general agencies of the Church concerning property titles, values, debts, general maintenance, lease or rental costs, space usage, and such other information as the council may deem relevant. The council may consult and advise with the general agencies concerning any property problems that may arise. A summary of the property data shall be reported to each quadrennial General Conference. This provision shall apply to headquarters buildings but not to properties that are part of the program responsibilities of the General Board of Global Ministries or to any of the properties of The United Methodist Publishing House. Titles to historic sites and heritage landmarks, and such historical properties as may be acquired in the future, shall be held by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

9. To take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the denomination; to maintain a file of legal briefs related to cases involving the denominational interests of The United Methodist Church, and to make provisions for legal counsel where necessary to protect the interests and rights of the denomination. The council shall recommend to each general agency and unit thereof and to each annual conference council on finance and administration a uniform procedure to be followed by the aforesaid agencies and, where applicable, local churches, relative to the certification and payment of ordained ministers' housing allowances in accordance with provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States. The council shall have the authority to pursue policies and procedures necessary to preserve the tax-exempt status of the denomination and its affiliated organizations.<sup>20</sup>

10. To supervise the use of the official United Methodist insignia and preserve the integrity of its design, in cooperation with the General Commission on Communication. It shall maintain appropriate registration to protect the insignia on behalf of the denomination. The insignia may be used by any official United Methodist agency, including local churches, to identify United Methodist work, programs, and materials. In order to preserve the integrity of its design, the insignia should not be altered or modified by those official United Methodist organizations that use it. Any commercial use of the design must be explicitly authorized in writing by an appropriate officer of the General Council on Finance and Administration.<sup>21</sup>

11. To supervise the use of the name "United Methodist" and maintain the appropriate registrations of this name on behalf of the denomination.

12. To provide direction and coordination in the design and implementation of operating systems in order to maximize the efficiency of operating personnel,

20 See Judicial Council Decision 458.

21 See Judicial Council Decision 828.

equipment, and resources between and within agencies. During the quadrennium, these agencies shall study their respective responsibilities, programs, and internal operations and institute such improvements and economies in their work as they find to be feasible and practicable. They shall cooperate with the council in working out, in advance of these studies, the general areas to be included and methods of carrying out this objective. They shall report their accomplishments in improvements and economies to the council before the close of the third fiscal year of each quadrennium, at a time determined by the council, which shall prepare from this information a combined report for the General Conference.

13. a) The council shall: (1) require each general agency as listed in ¶ 805.4d, including itself, to follow uniform policies and practices in the employment and remuneration of personnel, recognizing differences in local employment conditions (these policies and practices shall be consistent with the Social Principles and resolutions of The United Methodist Church); and (2) be authorized to gather from all general agencies, at such intervals and in such format as it may determine, information regarding salary remuneration and pay equity and the number of agency employees and staff. Information related to the remuneration of specific employees may be released only by the employing agency or employee.

b) The Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices (¶ 805.4d) shall: (1) prepare quadrennially, review annually, and recommend to the council an appropriate salary schedule, based upon responsibilities, for personnel of the councils, boards, and commissions represented on the committee; (2) develop and recommend to the council a schedule of benefits for an employee benefit program for personnel of agencies represented on the committee and any changes required thereto from time to time; (3) receive from agencies and institutions receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) statements regarding their compliance with the policy stated in ¶ 811.1; and (4) receive from all general agencies information necessary to evaluate pay equity. Based on these statements, and in consultation with and upon the advice of the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the committee shall prepare for the General Council on Finance and Administration reports and recommendations deemed appropriate by the committee.

In the event it is determined by the council that an agency or institution receiving general Church funds is not in compliance with the equal employment opportunity policies and the salary and employee benefit schedules established by the committee, the council shall notify in writing the agency so named and suspend, after a three-month period of grace, an appropriate amount of future funding until the agency or institution complies.

14. To maintain a consultative service to assist general agencies in planning and making arrangements for national meetings, conferences, and convocations.

15. To maintain an accurate record of the mail addresses of all bishops; ordained and consecrated ministers in effective relation; local pastors, including retired ordained ministers serving charges; charges, local churches, parishes, fellowships, and new church starts; and such lists of general, jurisdictional, and conference boards, commissions, and committees, and officers of same, and of such other officers as the council may determine necessary. No one other than authorized bodies or officers of the Church shall be permitted to use these records.

16. To collect, prepare and analyze the important statistics relating to The United Methodist Church for the General Minutes or such other publications and releases as may be approved by the council. It shall provide for the distribution of statistical information to annual conferences, the general planning and research agencies of the Church, and other interested parties. The council may establish an appropriate schedule of fees and charges to defray the cost of such information distribution services.

17. To assist and advise the jurisdictions, annual conferences, districts, and local churches in all matters relating to the work of the council. These matters shall include, but shall not be limited to, business administration, investment and property management, information technology, and auditing. Matters related to resourcing the development and implementation of financial programs within the local church committee on finance shall be the responsibility of the General Board of Discipleship. The council may perform certain functions for the jurisdictions, annual conferences, districts, or local churches if the particular organization so elects and a suitable plan of operation can be determined.

18. To provide guidance and consultation in the area of local church business administration, including establishment of professional standards, a training program, certification of church business administrators and associate church business administrators; and to provide assistance to the United Methodist Association of Church Business Administrators.

19. To provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of training and certification programs, and to provide assistance to the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries.

20. To provide guidance and consultation to the National Association of Commissions on Equitable Compensation of The United Methodist Church. The association shall provide guidance and counsel to annual conference commissions on equitable compensation in their areas of responsibility (§ 625) by means of consultations, workshops, development of educational materials and informa-

tional resources, and other appropriate means. The council may provide such staff and in-kind services to the association as it deems appropriate.

21. To provide guidance and consultation and to encourage general agency participation in the United Methodist Information Technology Association. The council may provide such staff and in-kind services to the association as it deems appropriate.

22. To institute, manage, and maintain an insurance program available, where approved by regulatory agencies, to all United Methodist local churches in the United States and, where acceptable on an underwriting basis, to all United Methodist annual conferences, agencies, and institutions in the United States .

23. To designate a staff member who, in cooperation with the general secretary, will fulfill such responsibilities as may be needed to assist the Commission on the General Conference with preparation for sessions of the General Conference. In fulfilling this role, the staff member will function as the commission's business manager and shall be related operationally to the Commission.

¶ 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.

2. The treasurer shall keep an account of all amounts remitted by the conference treasurers and from other sources intended for the funds listed in ¶ 810.1 and any other fund so directed by the proper authority, and shall disburse the same as authorized by the General Conference and directed by the council. A separate account shall be kept of each such fund, and none of them shall be drawn on for the benefit of another fund.

3. If more than the amount approved by the General Conference for a fund total, or for a line item within a fund total, is received in any given year, the excess funds shall be held in trust by the council in an apportionment stabilization fund. All monies placed in such a fund shall be considered as fund balances restricted by the General Conference to the fund(s) or line item(s) in which the surplus occurred. They shall be held by the council until such time as shortfalls in such receipts occur during the same quadrennium, at which time they shall be released to compensate for the shortfalls. If undistributed funds remain in an ap-

portionment stabilization fund at the end of the quadrennium, the council shall recommend, for action by the next General Conference, the disposition of any remaining fund balances, provided that those recommendations shall be consistent with the purposes for which the funds were raised.

¶ 809. Annual Reports by the General Treasurer to the Annual Conferences of All General Church Expenditures—The treasurer shall report annually to the council and to the respective conference councils as to all amounts received and disbursed during the year. The treasurer shall also make to each quadrennial session of the General Conference a full report of the financial transactions of the council for the previous four fiscal years. The treasurer shall be bonded for such an amount as may be determined by the council. The books of the treasurer shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the General Council on Finance and Administration upon recommendation by the Committee on Audit and Review (¶ 805.4b).

### General Funds

¶ 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 One Great Hour of Sharing Fund; 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. They are restricted assets and are not funds of local churches, annual or jurisdictional conferences, or other units of the denomination. Such general funds are to be disbursed for the purpose or purposes set forth in ¶¶ 812-823 and budgets or similar directives adopted for the respective funds by the General Conference. The General Council on Finance and Administration, in the fulfillment of its fiscal responsibilities pursuant to ¶ 806, shall only have authority to disburse monies contributed to any of these funds in a manner specifically authorized by the Book of Discipline or for a purpose set forth in the budget or directives adopted by the preceding General Conference for that particular fund.

2. The terms agency(ies) receiving general Church funds and treasury(ies) receiving general Church funds, as used in ¶¶ 701-823 of the Book of Discipline, refer to agencies whose operational or administrative budgets are directly

supported, in whole or in part, by allocations from one or more general Church funds. For the purposes of ¶¶ 701-823, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and The United Methodist Publishing House shall be deemed not to be agencies or treasuries whose operational or administrative budgets are directly supported, in whole or in part, by allocations from one or more general Church funds.

¶ 811. General Policies—1. The General Council on Finance and Administration is authorized to withhold approval of a portion or all of the budget of any agency or any Church-related institution receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) until such agency or Church-related institution certifies to the council in writing that it has established and complied with a policy of: (a) recruiting, employing, utilizing, recompensing, and promoting professional staff and other personnel without regard to race, color, age, or sex; (b) fulfilling its duties and responsibilities in a manner that does not involve segregation or discrimination on the basis of race, age, or sex; and (c) insofar as possible, purchasing goods and services from vendors who are in compliance with such policies as are described in sections (a) and (b) of this paragraph. In the fulfillment of this directive, the council shall take the following steps to ensure that concerns of the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women are represented: (1) consult with the two commissions in the development of a certification form to be submitted to the council by agencies and institutions receiving general Church funds; (2) share copies of such certifications with the two commissions; (3) receive and consider recommendations from either of the two commissions regarding possible noncompliance with these policies by agencies and institutions receiving general Church funds; and (4) when recommendations for withholding funds are received from one or the two commissions, consult further with them in order to jointly determine final resolution.

2. It may withhold approval of any item or items in the budget or budgets receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) that in its judgment represent unnecessary duplication of administrative function; in cooperation with and on recommendation of the Connectional Table, it may withhold approval of any such item that represents unnecessary duplication of program within an agency or between two or more agencies. If the council finds that there is such duplication in existing activities, it shall promptly direct the attention of the agencies involved to the situation and shall cooperate with them in correcting the same, and it may decline to supply from general fund receipts money to continue activities that have been held to duplicate each other unnecessarily or plainly violate the principle of correlation as applied to the total benevolence program of the Church.

3. An agency of The United Methodist Church receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) proposing to borrow funds for a period in excess of twelve months or in an amount in excess of 25 percent of its annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars, whichever amount is smaller, whether for building or current expense purposes, shall submit such proposal, accompanied by a plan for amortization, to the council for approval. If the council disapproves, the agency shall delay such borrowing until it can be considered by the next General Conference.

4. The apportionments for all apportioned general Church funds, as approved by the General Conference, shall not be subject to reduction either by the annual conference or by the charge or local church (¶ 615.1).<sup>22</sup>

5. Individual donors or local churches may make contributions to the support of any cause or project that is a part of the work of any general Church agency. Such miscellaneous gifts shall be sent to the General Council on Finance and Administration, which shall then forward the gift to the agency for which it is intended. Agencies receiving miscellaneous gifts shall acknowledge receipt of the gift to the donor. No agency shall solicit or cultivate gifts for any cause or project that has not been approved for support through World Service Special Gifts (¶ 819), general Advance Special Gifts (¶ 821), or a special appeal (¶ 818).

6. No general council, board, commission, or committee receiving general Church funds (see ¶ 810.2) shall initiate or cause to be organized without approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration a foundation, endowment fund, or similar organization for the purpose of securing, conserving, or expending funds for the direct or indirect benefit or support of any general agency or any of its programs or work. Foundations, endowment funds, and similar organizations related directly or indirectly to any general Church agency receiving general Church funds shall report annually to the council in a manner determined by the council.

¶ 812. The World Service Fund—The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches and annual conferences is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church.

1. The council shall recommend to each quadrennial session of the General Conference the amount of the annual World Service budget for the ensuing quadrennium and the method by which it shall be apportioned to the annual conferences. In cooperation with the Connectional Table, it shall prepare and recommend a plan of distribution of World Service receipts among the World Service agencies, in accordance with the procedures described in ¶ 806.1b. In the

<sup>22</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 818.

planning of the World Service budget, it shall be the role of the General Council on Finance and Administration to facilitate sound fiscal and administrative policies and practices within and among the general agencies of the Church. It shall be the role of the Connectional Table to relate the budget requests of the program agencies to one another in such a way as to implement the program and mission of the Church.

2. The general secretary or other duly authorized representative of each agency of The United Methodist Church seeking support from the World Service Fund and the authorized representative of any other agency for which requests are authorized by the General Conference shall have the right to appear before the council at a designated time and place to represent the cause for which each is responsible, provided such representation has been previously made to the Connectional Table.

3. The World Service agencies shall not solicit additional or special gifts from individual donors or special groups, other than foundations, unless approval for such solicitation is first secured from the council.

4. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the World Service Fund.

¶ 813. General Administration Fund—1. The General Administration Fund shall provide for the expenses of the sessions of the General Conference, the Judicial Council, special commissions and committees constituted by the General Conference, and other administrative agencies and activities recommended for inclusion in the general administration budget by the General Council on Finance and Administration and approved by the General Conference. Any agency or institution requiring or desiring support from the General Administration Fund shall present its case to the council at a time and place indicated by council officers. The council, having heard such requests, shall report the same to the General Conference with recommendations for its action and determination.

2. The treasurer of the council shall disburse the General Administration Fund as authorized by the General Conference and as directed by the council. Where the General Conference has not allocated definite sums to agencies receiving money from the General Administration Fund, the council or its executive committee shall have authority to determine the amount to be allocated to each.

3. The expenses of the Judicial Council shall be paid from the General Administration Fund, within a budget submitted annually by the Judicial Council to the General Council on Finance and Administration for its approval and subject to the requirement of ¶ 813.4.

4. The General Administration Fund, and all payments made from this fund, shall be subject to the financial, accounting, and auditing requirements of ¶ 806.

5. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the General Administration Fund.

¶ 814. Interdenominational Cooperation Fund—1. This fund shall provide United Methodist support of the basic budgets of those organizations that relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the Council of Bishops and of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Those organizations are described in Section XVIII—Ecumenical Organizations in ¶¶ 2401-2406.

2. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, shall recommend to the General Council on Finance and Administration the amounts of the several annual allocations from the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget. The council shall recommend to the General Conference the amounts to be included in the annual Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget.

3. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall determine annually, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, the designations of all funds for ecumenical agencies to be paid from the following year's Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget that have not been specifically designated by the prior General Conference. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall communicate such designations to the General Council on Finance and Administration prior to the beginning of the fiscal year made the subject of such designations. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall then disburse funds to each recipient in accordance with such designations during that fiscal year to the extent funds are available.

4. The fund shall also provide for the expenses of representatives chosen by the Council of Bishops or by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to attend meetings and committees of such ecumenical agencies. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall reimburse such expenses from vouchers approved by persons designated by the general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns or by the general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

5. Disbursement of Funds to Ecumenical Organizations—a) The General Council on Finance and Administration shall remit monthly to each organization included in the approved Interdenominational Cooperation Fund budget an on-ratio share of the fund's net receipts, after the payment of any fixed charges.

b) In the interim between sessions of the General Conference, exceptions to this directive may occur under one of the following circumstances:

(1) If the organization is unable to fulfill, or ceases to fulfill, the purpose or purposes which were the basis for the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns' original recommendation for funding.

(2) If the organization ceases to exist.

c) If the Commission, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, determines that such circumstances warrant, it may recommend to the General Council on Finance and Administration that funding for the organization be suspended or reduced, either indefinitely or for a specified period of time. The Council shall then reduce or suspend remittance of fund receipts to the organization until such time as the Commission, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, determines that the circumstances which led to reduction or suspension of payments no longer exist. The Commission shall then recommend to the General Council on Finance and Administration whether remittances to the organization are to be resumed in amounts based on current Interdenominational Cooperation Fund receipts only, or whether amounts previously withheld should be disbursed along with the amounts payable from current receipts.

d) If funding to an organization is reduced or suspended, the funds which otherwise would have been disbursed shall be held by the General Council on Finance and Administration until the Commission, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, recommends that they be restored to the organization or used to support a similar ecumenical organization. If the funds are not expended prior to the next session of the General Conference, the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Commission, shall report to the General Conference the amount of funds being held and may recommend, for General Conference action, the disposition of the funds.

6. Before the beginning of each calendar year, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine and communicate to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns the sum available from the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund Contingency Reserve to be allocated by the commission to meet emerging needs of ecumenical agencies.

7. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.

¶ 815. Black College Fund—The General Council on Finance and Administration shall recommend to the General Conference the sum that the Church shall undertake for the Black colleges and the method by which it shall be appor-

tioned to the annual conferences. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support for current operating budgets and capital improvements of the Black colleges related administratively to the Church.

1. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall remit monthly receipts for this fund to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for distribution to those Black colleges whose eligibility under adopted guidelines of management, educational quality, and measurement by announced objectives shall be the precondition of participation. These guidelines and a formula for distribution shall be revised and administered by the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, in consultation with the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges. The formula for distribution is as follows;

a) Five-sixths of the receipts of the fund shall be distributed to the colleges to assist in supporting their current operating budgets:

(1) 75 percent of the five-sixths operating portion shall be shared equally by each college.

(2) 20 percent of the five-sixths operating portion shall be distributed on the basis of enrollment.

(3) The remaining 5 percent of the five-sixths operating portion shall be distributed equally to each college annually for long-range planning, special academic programs, and meeting challenge grants in complying with the guidelines for support established by the General Conference.

b) One-sixth of the fund receipts shall be set aside for capital improvements, to be distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry on the basis of need and matching funds.

2. In the interim between sessions of the General Conference, the guidelines for support and formula for distribution may be changed as necessary upon recommendation of the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and with the consent of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

3. Promotion of the Black College Fund shall be by the Division of Higher Education and in consultation with the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges, in cooperation with and with the assistance of the General Commission on Communication, the cost being a charge against the Black College Fund receipts and within a budget approved by the Division of Higher Education and the General Council on Finance and Administration.

4. An annual conference may make direct and/or designated gifts for current expense or capital funds purposes to one or more of these colleges, but only after it has met its full Black College Fund apportionment. There may be reasonable

exceptions to this restriction, but such exceptions shall be negotiated with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry prior to implementation.

¶ 816. The Ministerial Education Fund—The council shall recommend to the General Conference the sum that the Church shall undertake for the Ministerial Education Fund and the method by which it shall be apportioned to the annual conferences, in accordance with the provisions adopted by the 1968 General Conference in establishing the Ministerial Education Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enable the Church to unify and expand its program of financial support for the recruitment and education of ordained and diaconal ministers and to equip the annual conferences to meet increased demands in this area.<sup>23</sup> The maximum amount possible from this fund shall go directly for programs and services in theological education, the enlistment and continuing education of ordained and diaconal ministers, and courses of study. When these funds are used to finance continuing education events sponsored by the board of ordained ministry of an annual conference, such events may be open to laity for their attendance and participation at the option of the board of ordained ministry of each annual conference.

1. Of the total money raised in each annual conference for the Ministerial Education Fund, 25 percent shall be retained by the annual conference that raised it, to be used in its program of ministerial education as approved by the annual conference and administered through its board of ordained ministry. The board of ordained ministry will confer concerning use of the Ministerial Education Fund. Administrative costs of the board of ordained ministry shall be a claim on the conference's operating budget. No annual conference that participated in a 1 percent plan or other conference program of ministerial student scholarships and loan grants prior to the establishment of this fund shall receive less for this purpose than it received in the last year of the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund, provided the giving from that conference for ministerial education does not fall below the level achieved in the quadrennium preceding the establishment of the fund.

a) "Service Loans" from the conference portion of the Ministerial Education Fund may be considered repaid if the recipients served five years in the connection in appointments approved by their bishop.

b) In case the recipients of these loans do not satisfy the terms of the "Service Loans" by service in the "connection," they would make arrangements to repay the loans with the conferences from which they received their loans.

2. Of the total money raised in each annual conference for the Ministerial Education Fund, 75 percent shall be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the council for distribution to the General Board of Higher Educa-

23 See Judicial Council Decision 545.

tion and Ministry for support of ministerial education and shall be administered by that board. It shall be distributed as follows:

a) At least 75 percent of the amount received by the divisions shall be distributed to the theological schools of The United Methodist Church on a formula established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry after consultation with the theological schools. All money allocated to the theological schools shall be used for current operations, not for physical expansion. Ministerial Education funds allocated to United Methodist theological schools for current operations shall only be used for:

—United Methodist student scholarships

—Faculty and staff salaries and benefits for those who prepare United Methodist students (implementing the curriculum required in

¶ 324.4) for ordained ministry or service as local pastors through the Course of Study program.

All United Methodist theological schools receiving Ministerial Education Fund allocations shall submit annual reports to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry detailing how the Ministerial Education Fund allocations were spent.

b) The remaining portion of the amount received shall be used for supplemental distributions to the theological schools and for board use in its program of ministerial enlistment and development. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry will recommend to the general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry appropriate funding for divisional programs of ministerial enlistment and development.

c) Beginning in the 2009-2012 quadrennium, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall facilitate the creation of United Methodist Ministerial Education Funds in the central conferences, including the development and provision of funds for this new initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to improve and strengthen the existing indigenous structures for theological education in order to create a sustainable system of education for central conference clergy.

3. Annual conferences shall regard this fund as a priority to be met before any additional benevolences, grants, or funds are allocated to a theological school or school of religion.

4. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the Ministerial Education Fund.

#### The Episcopal Fund

¶ 817. Purpose—1. The Episcopal Fund, raised in accordance with ¶ 817.3, shall provide for the salary and expenses of effective bishops<sup>24</sup> from the date of

<sup>24</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 781.

their consecration and for the support of retired bishops and surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops. Subject to the approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the treasurer shall have authority to borrow for the benefit of the Episcopal Fund such amounts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the orders of the General Conference. The General Commission on Communication shall promote the Episcopal Fund.

2. Requirements—The council shall recommend to each quadrennial session of the General Conference for its action and determination: (1) the amounts to be fixed as salaries of the effective bishops or a formula by which the council shall fix the salaries; (2) a schedule of such amounts as may be judged adequate to provide for their office expense; (3) provision for an annual operating budget for the Council of Bishops, including the offices of the secretary and the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops; (4) guidelines governing the payment of bishops' travel expenses, including all travel authorized by the Council of Bishops; (5) the minimum amounts to be fixed as annual pensions for the support of retired bishops and/or the method by which their annual pensions shall be determined; and (6) provisions for allowance for the surviving spouses and for the support of minor children of deceased bishops. From the facts in hand, the council shall estimate the approximate total amount required annually during the ensuing quadrennium to provide for the items of episcopal support mentioned above and shall report the same to the General Conference. This amount as finally determined shall be the estimated episcopal budget. The administration of the Episcopal Fund budget as determined by the General Conference shall be under the direction and authority of the General Council on Finance and Administration, including annual fiscal statements and audits. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the annual conference or conferences of an episcopal area from including in their budgets amounts for an area expense fund.

3. Proportionality—The amount apportioned to a charge for the Episcopal Fund shall be paid in the same proportion as the charge pays its pastor (see also ¶ 622).

4. Bishops' Salaries—The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall remit monthly to each effective bishop one-twelfth of the annual salary as determined by the General Conference, less such deductions or reductions from the salary as each bishop may authorize. Allowances for retired bishops and for the surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops shall be paid in equal monthly installments.

5. Housing Expenses—The General Council on Finance and Administration shall provide an annual grant from the Episcopal Fund to share in the costs of providing an episcopal residence, the amount of such grant to be approved by

the General Conference on recommendation of the council. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall remit the annual grant to the office designated by the episcopal residence committee to receive such housing payments. The treasurer shall also remit periodic installments of the amount approved by the council as office expenses to each bishop, or to the office designated by the bishop to receive such payments.

6. *Episcopal Expense Reimbursement and Honoraria Policies*—The treasurer of the council shall pay monthly the claim for the official travel of each bishop upon presentation of an itemized voucher with such supporting data as may be required by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Official travel of an effective bishop shall be interpreted to include: (1) all visitations to local churches and to institutions or enterprises of The United Methodist Church within the area; (2) such travel outside the area, but within the jurisdiction, as is approved by the College of Bishops; and (3) such other travel as may be consistent with guidelines approved by the General Conference as being within the meaning of official travel. No part of the expense and no honoraria for any such visitations shall be accepted from local churches or enterprises or institutions of The United Methodist Church, such expense being a proper claim against the Episcopal Fund. Nothing in this interpretation is intended to preclude special or nonofficial engagements of a bishop other than the oversight of the temporal and spiritual affairs of the Church, such as series of lectures in educational institutions, baccalaureate addresses, and preaching missions for several days' duration when such engagements do not interfere with official duties, nor does it preclude the acceptance of honoraria for such services.

7. *Audit of Episcopal Area Offices*—Fiscal reporting and audit procedures of each area office shall be determined according to a schedule as set forth by the council upon recommendation of the Committee on Episcopal Services.

8. *Episcopal Pensions*—The pensions for the support of retired bishops elected by general, jurisdictional, or central conferences and the surviving spouses and minor dependent children of such deceased bishops shall be administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration in consultation with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and in accordance with such program and procedures as may from time to time be determined by the General Council on Finance and Administration with the approval of the General Conference. For service years beginning January 1, 1982, and thereafter, the pensions for the support of bishops elected by jurisdictional conferences and those of their surviving spouses and dependent children shall include the benefits provided by the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, and the Comprehensive Protection

Plan of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The pensions for the support of bishops elected by central conferences and those of their surviving spouses and, for service years beginning before January 1, 1982, the pensions for the support of bishops elected by jurisdictional conferences and those of their surviving spouses shall both include the benefits provided by the Global Episcopal Pension Program.

9. Episcopal Group Health Care Plan—The General Council on Finance and Administration shall sponsor or participate in a group health care plan that covers bishops elected by jurisdictional conferences, in the United States. For the purpose of this paragraph, group health care plan shall mean a health insurance plan, group health care plan, or multiple-employer health care plan that provides benefits for major medical and hospitalization expenses. The General Council on Finance and Administration may recommend additional eligibility for the group health care plan in its discretion. In addition, the Council of Bishops shall develop and maintain health and wellness programs for bishops. Moreover, annually, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall submit Episcopal health plan data, de-identified as necessary, including, but not limited to, financial soundness, claims experience and other cost drivers, plan designs and coverage, and eligibility criteria to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

10. Episcopal Retiree Health Care Access—The General Council on Finance and Administration shall respect the health and wholeness of retired bishops in the United States and their spouses by facilitating access to Medicare supplement plans and prescription drug coverage plans. Access for retirees and their spouses may include, but shall not be limited to (i) sponsoring an employer retiree health care plan that supplements Medicare; (ii) participating in a multiple employer retiree health care plan that supplements Medicare; (iii) securing eligibility under group contracts with Medicare supplement plan providers; (iv) subsidizing the costs for retirees and their spouses to enroll in Medicare Part D plans or Medicare Advantage plans; (v) providing subsidies toward and group relationships with providers of individual retiree coverage policies; and (vi) providing fixed dollar retiree health benefits. On or before December 31, 2008, the General Council on Finance and Administration must submit a generally accepted financial valuation, such as in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 106, as amended, of its projected medical liabilities for the retired population covered by the Episcopal Group Health Care Plan to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and must submit a similar report biennially thereafter. On or before December 31, 2010, the General Council on Finance and Administration must create a plan to address the funding requirements of its projected future medical liabilities for the population covered by

the Episcopal Group Health Care Plan. On or before December 31, 2008, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall document in writing its policy regarding the portability of retiree health care eligibility, coverage, cost-sharing, and benefits and communicate the policy to new and current bishops in the United States. For the purpose of this paragraph, portability encompasses credit given to clergy for service within the denomination prior to becoming a bishop toward (i) eligibility for health care coverage in retirement and (ii) accrual of employer subsidies toward or employer cost-sharing of the cost of health care coverage.

11. Bishops Whose Service Is Interrupted—Should any effective bishop in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the jurisdictional conference be relieved by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction from the performance of regular episcopal duties on account of ill health or for any other reason, the president of the said College of Bishops shall so notify the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund. Beginning ninety days after such notification, the said bishop shall receive at least the minimum regular pension allowance of a retired bishop; the amount of such benefit for which the Episcopal Fund is responsible shall be reduced by the amount of any disability benefit payable from the Comprehensive Protection Plan of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Such pension allowance shall continue until the regular duties of an effective bishop are resumed or until the bishop's status shall have been determined by the jurisdictional conference. Assignment of another bishop or bishops to perform the regular episcopal duties of a bishop so disabled or otherwise incapacitated, for a period of sixty days or more, shall be interpreted as a release of the said bishop from the performance of regular episcopal duties.

12. Retired Bishops Appointed to Ad Interim Service—Should any retired bishop, in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the jurisdictional conference, be called into active service and assigned to active episcopal duty (§ 406.3), that bishop shall be entitled to remuneration for such service. The Episcopal Fund shall be responsible for the difference between the pension of the retired bishop and the remuneration of an active bishop. In the event of such assignment of a retired bishop to active episcopal duty, the president or secretary of the Council of Bishops shall notify the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund. The treasurer of the Episcopal Fund shall make remittance accordingly.

#### Financial Appeals Beyond the General Funds

¶ 818. Special Churchwide Financial Appeals—1. Any general appeal to the Church at large for financial support for any cause, agency, institution, or purpose shall be subject to the provisions of this paragraph. Appeals in conjunction or

partnership with other corporations for projects that are believed to be consistent with the established mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church shall also be subject to the provisions of this paragraph. Appeals to special or limited groups such as alumni of an educational institution are not included.

2. Any general board, cause, agency, or institution or any organization, group, officer, or individual of The United Methodist Church or to which The United Methodist Church contributes financial support desiring or proposing to make a special churchwide financial appeal during the quadrennium shall present a request for authorization to make such appeal to the General Council on Finance and Administration at the time budgets for the ensuing quadrennium are being considered. All such appeals shall be reviewed by the Connectional Table, and its actions shall be reported to the General Council on Finance and Administration. The council shall then report such request to the General Conference with a recommendation for its action thereon.

3. In the interim between the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, such proposed churchwide financial appeal shall require the approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops. In case of emergency, the executive committee of these bodies may act in such matter for the body itself, but only by a three-fourths vote.

4. All requests for approval of a special churchwide financial appeal, whether as a request for General Conference action or in the interim between sessions of General Conference, shall include a proposed budget for a promotion of the appeal, including proposed promotional expenditures and the sources of funding (see ¶ 1806.12).

5. Any individual or agency authorized to make a churchwide appeal for funds shall channel all gifts through the General Council on Finance and Administration.

6. The General Council on Finance and Administration may withhold payment of the allocation from any general fund to any agency or institution that it finds to be in violation of the provisions of this paragraph.

¶ 819. World Service Specials—1. World Service Specials are official programs within The United Methodist Church through which support may be designated for projects approved by the General Conference and in the interim by the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table.

2. A World Service Special donation is a designated financial contribution made by an individual, local church, organization, district, or annual conference to a project authorized as a World Service Special project. All general boards and commissions (see ¶ 810.2) except those units of the General Board of Global Ministries authorized to receive general Advance Specials are authorized to recom-

mend World Service Special projects for approval, provided the project is specifically related to one or more of the Disciplinary functions of the recommending agency.

3. General guidelines governing the types of projects that may be recommended as World Service Special projects shall be approved by the General Conference on recommendation of the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration.

4. The World Service Specials program shall be under the administrative supervision of the General Council on Finance and Administration, and programmatic supervision of the Connectional Table, which jointly shall: (a) establish project approval criteria consistent with the guidelines adopted by the General Conference; (b) establish the process by which projects may be recommended and approved; (c) approve projects to receive World Service Special support; and (d) provide adequate staff administration and program accountability.

5. Churches and individuals shall give priority to the support of World Service and conference benevolences and other apportioned funds. World Service Special giving shall be voluntary and in addition to the support of apportioned funds. World Service Specials shall not be raised as a part of a fund apportioned by an annual conference.

6. Local church treasurers shall remit World Service Special donations in full to annual conference treasurers, who shall remit each month to the General Council on Finance and Administration the total amounts received during the month as World Service Specials. The council shall remit such funds in full to the administering agencies, which shall acknowledge the receipt of every donation to the donor or the local church.

7. General promotion of this program, for purposes of name identification and visibility, shall be the responsibility of the General Commission on Communication.

8. Specific cultivation of approved projects shall be done by the administering agencies to specific audiences that have demonstrated their interest and concern for the ministry contained in the approved project. Expenses for specific cultivation shall be borne by the administering agencies. No promotional or cultivation expenses shall be paid from World Service Special receipts. Such expenses shall not exceed amounts approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration under guidelines approved by the General Conference.

¶ 820. General Directives, World Service Specials, and One Great Hour of Sharing—The following general directives shall be observed in the promotion and administration of World Service Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing:

1. In the appeal and promotion of World Service Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing offerings, there shall be no goals or quotas except as they may be set by the annual conferences for themselves.

2. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall be treasurer of World Service Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing.

3. Promotional expenses for World Service Specials shall be borne by the respective participating agencies in proportion to the amount received by each in World Service Specials. The causes of World Service Specials shall be coordinated with other financial appeals and shall be promoted by the General Commission on Communication.

4. The appeals for World Service Specials shall be channeled through bishops, district superintendents, and pastors. Details of the procedure shall be determined by the General Commission on Communication in consultation with representatives of the recipient agencies or entities.

5. In each annual conference, World Service Specials and One Great Hour of Sharing shall be promoted by the appropriate conference agency with the appropriate general agency and the General Commission on Communications.

6. Should a clear emergency arise or an appropriate outreach opportunity emerge requiring urgent response between sessions of the General Conference, any feature of the structure and administration of World Service Specials may be altered on the approval of a majority of the Council of Bishops and of the General Council on Finance and Administration in consultation with the Connectional Table. The executive committee of each of these bodies may act in such matter for the body itself, but only by a three-fourths vote.

¶ 821. The Advance—1. The Advance for Christ and His Church (hereafter referred to as the Advance) is an official program within The United Methodist Church through which support may be designated for projects approved by the Advance Committee. Cultivation for the Advance shall be through channels of the church other than United Methodist Women who have other means of mission giving.

2. A general Advance Special Gift is a designated financial contribution made by an individual, local church, organization, district, or conference to a project authorized for this purpose by the Advance Committee.

a) Gifts as Advance Specials may be made for specific projects or purposes authorized by the Advance Committee.

b) Gifts as Advance Specials may be made for broadly designated causes (such as a type of work, a country, or a region) or for use as block grants to a certain country or administrative unit, provided such causes are authorized by the Advance Committee. In such case the administering agency shall provide the donor

with information about the area to which the funds have been given and, where practicable, establish communication with a person or group representative of that type of work.

c) Rather than being given to a specific project, an Advance Special Gift may be given to the following designated program units of the General Board of Global Ministries: Evangelization and Church Growth Program Area, Community and Institutional Ministries

Program Area, Mission Contexts and Relationships Program Area, Mission Personnel Program Area, and United Methodist Committee on Relief. In such cases the program unit shall determine the Advance Special project(s) to which such a gift shall be allocated, inform the donor where the gift has been invested, and, as far as practicable, establish communication between donor and recipient.

3. Funds given and received as a part of the general Advance shall be subject to the following conditions:

a) Churches and individuals shall give priority to the support of the World Service Fund and conference benevolences and other apportioned funds. Advance giving shall be voluntary and in addition to the support of apportioned funds.

b) Funds shall be solicited or received only for authorized projects. Programs and institutions having general Advance Special projects shall promote only the projects approved and shall ask that gifts be remitted in the manner described in ¶ 821.4 below.

c) Funds received through the Advance shall be used solely for project support and are not to be used for administration or promotional costs. There may be a transaction fee for online contributions as charged by the financial institution.

d) Advance Special Gifts shall not be raised as a part of a fund apportioned by an annual conference. (For conference Advance Special Gifts, see ¶ 655.)

e) Upon receipt of funds for a general Advance Special, each administering program unit shall communicate promptly with the donor, acknowledging receipt of the gift and suggesting avenues for communication if communication has not already been established.

4. Receipts for general Advance Specials shall be remitted by the local church treasurer to the conference treasurer, who shall make remittance each month to the participating agencies in a manner determined by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Individuals may remit directly to respective program units in a manner determined by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, with these remittances reported to the annual conference treasurer by the respective program units.

¶ 822. General Directives, Advance Specials—The following general directives shall be observed in the promotion and administration of the Advance:

1. In the appeal and promotion of Advance Specials, there shall be no goals or quotas except as they may be set by the annual conferences for themselves.

2. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall be treasurer of the Advance. The treasury function for the Advance is performed by the treasurer of the General Board of Global Ministries on behalf of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

3. Promotional expenses for Advance Specials shall be borne by the respective participating units in proportion to the amount received by each in Advance Specials. The causes of the Advance shall be coordinated with other financial appeals and shall be promoted by the General Commission on Communication.

4. The appeal for Advance Specials shall be channeled through bishops, district superintendents, and pastors. Details of the procedure shall be determined by the General Commission on Communication in consultation with the designated unit of the General Board of Global Ministries and the Advance Committee.

5. In each annual conference the conference board of global ministries (if any; see ¶ 633), in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, shall promote Advance Specials through conference and district secretaries of global ministries, conference and district mission events, and other effective means as it may determine.

6. Should a clear emergency arise, any feature of the structure and administration of the Advance may be altered on the approval of a majority of the Council of Bishops and of the General Council on Finance and Administration in consultation with the Advance Committee.

¶ 823 General Church Special Sunday Offerings—The following are the churchwide special Sundays with offerings to be used in support of general Church causes:

1. Human Relations Day—Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Congregations are encouraged to observe Human Relations Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to further the development of better human relations. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society. In connection with Human Relations Day, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses (see ¶ 263.1). Funds shall be administered by the agencies under which approved programs are lodged.

2. One Great Hour of Sharing—Historically, One Great Hour of Sharing has been celebrated with an offering on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Congregations are encouraged to observe One Great Hour of Sharing on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to share the goodness of life with those who hurt (§ 263.2). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, General Board of Global Ministries (§ 1327.2), in accordance with the following directives:

a) All local churches shall be fully informed and encouraged to receive a free-will offering in behalf of the relief program.

b) Insofar as possible, planning and promotion of One Great Hour of Sharing shall be done cooperatively with other denominations through the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Offering receipts shall be administered by The United Methodist Church. In connection with One Great Hour of Sharing, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a church-wide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agency under which approved programs are lodged.

3. United Methodist Student Day—Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. Congregations are encouraged to observe United Methodist Student Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The offering shall support United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund (§ 263.4). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In connection with United Methodist Student Day, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agency under which approved programs are lodged.

4. World Communion Sunday—Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. Congregations are encouraged to observe World Communion Sunday on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to assist racial and ethnic persons pursuing various avenues of ministry. In connection with World Communion Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal according to the following directives:

a) Each local church shall be requested to remit as provided in § 823.8 all of the communion offering received on World Communion Sunday and such portion of the communion offering received at other observances of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the local church may designate.

b) The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to be divided as follows: 50 percent Crusade Scholarships; 35 percent Ethnic Scholarship Program, and 15 percent Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Funds shall be administered by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, in consultation with various ethnic groups (§ 263.3).

5. Peace with Justice Sunday—Historically, Peace with Justice Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday After Pentecost. Congregations are encouraged to observe Peace With Justice Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to witness “to God’s demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world” (§ 263.5). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Church and Society. In connection with Peace with Justice Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal.

a) The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the monies for Peace with Justice Ministries in the annual conference, to be administered by the conference board of church and society or an equivalent structure.

b) The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the monies to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

c) The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of the promotional expenses, to the General Board of Church and Society under which approved programs are lodged.

6. Native American Ministries Sunday—Historically, Native American Ministries Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. Congregations are encouraged to observe Native American Ministries Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences and in target cities of the Native American Urban Initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries, and to provide scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology (§ 263.6). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In connection with Native American Ministries Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agencies under which approved projects are lodged.

7. The General Commission on Communication shall promote all authorized churchwide special Sundays with offerings in consultation with participating agencies. Promotional expenses for each offering shall be a prior claim against the

receipts of the offering promoted. In each case, such expenses shall be within a budget approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration upon recommendation of the General Commission on Communication after consultation with participating agencies. In the promotion of these offerings, the spiritual implications of Christian stewardship shall be emphasized.

8. Receipts from all authorized churchwide special Sunday offerings shall be remitted promptly by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall remit monthly to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration. A special-gift voucher for contributions to the offerings will be issued when appropriate. Local churches shall report the amount of the offerings in the manner indicated on the annual conference report form.

### **Section III. Connectional Table**

¶ 901. Name—There shall be a Connectional Table in The United Methodist Church where ministry and money are brought to the same table to coordinate the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church. Effective January 1, 2005, the Connectional Table shall be assigned the primary responsibilities, general policies and practices found in the relevant 700 paragraphs.

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

¶ 903. Amenability—The Connectional Table shall report and be amenable to the General Conference.

¶ 904. Purpose—The purpose of the Connectional Table (CT) is for the discernment and articulation of the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by the actions of the General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops. As part of the total mission of the church, the CT is to serve as a steward of the vision and resources for mission and ministry, provide fiscal responsibility, and establish policies and procedures to carry out the mission of the church.

¶ 905. Objectives—The essential functions of the Connectional Table are:

1. To provide a forum for the understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church as determined in consultation with the Council of Bishops and/or the actions of the General Conference.

2. To enable the flow of information and communication among annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, general agencies, and the Council of Bishops.

3. Consistent with actions of the General Conference, to coordinate the program life of the church with the mandates of the gospel, the mission of the church, and the needs of the global community by listening to the expression of needs, addressing emerging issues, and determining the most effective, cooperative, and efficient way to provide optimum stewardship of ministries, personnel, and resources.

4. To review and evaluate the missional effectiveness of general program-related agencies and connectional structures of the church as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

5. To recommend to the General Conference such changes and implementing legislation as may be appropriate to ensure effectiveness of the general agencies.

6. To provide leadership in planning and research, assisting all levels of the church to evaluate needs and plan strategies to carry out the mission of the church.

7. In order to be accountable, along with the General Council on Finance and Administration, to The United Methodist Church through the General Conference, the Connectional Table shall have the authority and responsibility in the following matters:

a) To collaborate with the General Council on Finance and Administration in the preparation of budgets for the apportioned funds as provided for in ¶¶ 806.1 and 810.1.

b) To receive from the General Council on Finance and Administration and approve all general agency budget reviews.

c) To review and approve special offerings and churchwide appeals.

¶ 906. Organization of the Connectional Table—1. Membership—The voting members of the Connectional Table shall consist of 47 persons as follows:

a) Twenty-eight persons elected through jurisdictional and central conferences, one from each of the central conferences by their own nomination processes and 21 from the jurisdictional conferences elected by the jurisdictional nomination process. Jurisdictional membership shall include one person from each jurisdiction and the balance of the jurisdictional members shall be allocated by the Secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that the members represent the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership.

b) An effective bishop, selected by the Council of Bishops, serves as the chair of the Connectional Table.

c) The presidents of the following agencies: General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, General Commission on Religion and Race, General Commission on Status and Role of Women, General Commission on United Methodist Men, General Commission on Communications, and General Commission on Archives and History, program-related agencies that are accountable to the Connectional Table (as expressed in ¶ 702.2), and the president of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall also sit with voice and vote on the Connectional Table.

d) One youth and one young adult elected by the Connectional Table upon nomination by the membership of the Division on Ministries with Young People from among its members shall serve on the Connectional Table.

e) One member from each of the racial ethnic caucuses as elected by the Connectional Table upon nomination from: Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodists Associated to Represent Hispanic Americans, Native American International Caucus, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists and Pacific Islanders National Caucus United Methodist.

f) The general secretaries of the above named agencies and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the president and publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House shall sit at the Table and have the right of voice but no vote.

g) Jurisdictional, central conferences, and other groups involved in the nominating and election of persons to the Connectional Table shall ensure the diversity objectives of, insofar as possible, fifty percent clergy, fifty percent laity, fifty percent female, fifty percent male, not less than thirty percent members of racial/ethnic groups (excluding central conference members), and not less than ten percent youth and young adults, ensuring diversity as otherwise provided in ¶ 705.4b.

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

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

2. Meetings—The Connectional Table shall meet at least semi-annually and at such other times as are necessary on call of the president or on written request

of one-fifth of the members. One more than half of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

3. Officers—The officers of the Connectional Table, other than the chair, shall be elected from the Connectional Table and shall serve for a quadrennium or until their successors are duly elected.

4. Internal Structure—The Connectional Table shall determine its own internal structure as it deems appropriate for the performance of its duties.

5. Staff—The Connectional Table shall determine the support staff that it deems appropriate to facilitate its work.

¶ 907. Effective Date—The organizational plan for the Connectional Table shall be effective January 1, 2005.

#### **Section IV. General Board of Church and Society**

¶ 1001. Name—There shall be a General Board of Church and Society in The United Methodist Church, as an expression of the mission of the Church.

¶ 1002. Purpose—The purpose of the board shall be to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to the persons and structures of the communities and world in which they live. It shall seek to bring the whole of human life, activities, possessions, use of resources, and community and world relationships into conformity with the will of God. It shall show the members of the Church and the society that the reconciliation that God effected through Christ involves personal, social, and civic righteousness.<sup>25</sup>

¶ 1003. Objectives—To achieve its purpose, the board shall:

1. Project plans and programs that challenge the members of The United Methodist Church to work through their own local churches, ecumenical channels, and society toward personal, social, and civic righteousness;

2. Assist the district and annual conferences with needed resources in areas of such concerns;

3. Analyze the issues that confront persons, communities, nations, and the world; and

4. Encourage Christian lines of action that assist humankind to move toward a world where peace and justice are achieved.

¶ 1004. Responsibilities—The prime responsibility of the board is to seek the implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns.

Furthermore, the board and its executives shall provide forthright witness and action on issues of human well-being, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation that call Christians to respond as forgiven people for whom Christ died. In partic-

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25 See Judicial Council Decision 387.

ular, the board shall conduct a program of research, education, and action on the wide range of issues that confront the Church.

The board shall analyze long-range social trends and their underlying ethical values. It shall explore systemic strategies for social change and alternative futures. It shall speak its convictions, interpretations, and concerns to the Church and to the world.

The board shall develop, promote, and distribute resources and conduct programs to inform, motivate, train, organize, and build networks for action toward social justice throughout society, particularly on the specific issues prioritized by the board. Special attention shall be given to the nurture of the active constituency of the board. The board will encourage an exchange of ideas on strategy and methodology for social change. Through conferences, districts, coalitions, and networks, it will assist Church members as they identify and respond to critical social issues at community, regional, national, and international levels.

All the above shall be consistent with the Social Principles and policies adopted by the General Conference.

The board shall maintain close relationships with the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the Appalachian Development Committee as they seek to coordinate denominational support and cooperation with various movements for racial, sexual, and social justice, according to guidelines stated in the Book of Discipline. In cooperation with ecumenical agencies and other appropriate boards and agencies, the board shall encourage and promote ministries and models of mediation and conflict resolution, both ecumenically and within the agencies and institutions of The United Methodist Church.<sup>26</sup>

The Board shall facilitate and coordinate the legislative advocacy activities in the United States Congress of other general agencies of The United Methodist Church that receive General Church funds.

¶ 1005. Incorporation—The General Board of Church and Society shall be a corporation existing under the laws of the District of Columbia and shall be the legal successor and successor in trust of the corporations, boards, departments, or entities known as the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of The United Methodist Church; the Department of Christian Social Action of The Evangelical United Brethren Church; the Board of Christian Social Concerns of The Methodist Church; the Division of General Welfare of the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church; the Division of General Welfare of the General Board of Christian Social Concerns of The United Methodist Church; the Division of Alcohol Problems and General Welfare of the Board of Christian Social Concerns of The Methodist Church; the

<sup>26</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 387.

Division of Temperance and General Welfare of the Board of Christian Social Concerns of The Methodist Church; the Board of Temperance of The Methodist Church; the Board of Temperance, Prohibition, and Public Morals of The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church; the Commission on World Peace of The Methodist Church; the Commission on World Peace of The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Division of World Peace of the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church; the Board of Social and Economic Relations of The Methodist Church; the Division of Human Relations of the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 1006. Organization—1. The General Board of Church and Society shall have sixty-three members, constituted in accordance with ¶ 705.3d, and shall be organized as specified in its bylaws and in harmony with §§ 702-710 of the General Provisions. The membership shall be constituted as follows:

a) Jurisdictional Members—Clergy, laywomen, and laymen shall be elected to the board by the jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 705.5b, based on the following formula: North Central—7, Northeastern—8, South Central—11, Southeastern—12, and Western—3.

b) Central Conference Members—Six central conference members shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops, according to the provisions in ¶ 705.4c.

c) Episcopal Members—Six episcopal members, including at least one from the central conferences, shall be named by the Council of Bishops.

d) Additional Members—(1) United Methodist—Additional members are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywoman, and one layman) elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to nine additional members to ensure inclusivity and expertise.

(2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote from among the other churches of Churches Uniting in Christ.

¶ 1007. Vacancies—Vacancies in the board membership shall be filled by the procedure defined in ¶ 712.

¶ 1008. Financial Support—1. The General Conference shall determine and provide the funding for the board in accord with policies and procedures of ¶ 806.

2. Either on behalf of its total work or on behalf of one of its programs, the board may solicit and create special funds, receive gifts and bequests, hold proper-

ties and securities in trust, and administer all its financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and provisions of the Book of Discipline. Funds vested in any of the predecessor boards shall be conserved for the specific purposes for which such funds have been given.

¶ 1009. Staff—1. The general secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the board, responsible for the coordination of the total program of the board, the supervision of staff, and the administration of the headquarters office. The general secretary shall be an ex officio member of the executive committee without vote and shall sit with the board when it is in session, with voice but without vote.

2. All other staff are to be elected or appointed in a manner prescribed by the board consistent with the affirmative action policies of the Church and the board.

¶ 1010. Headquarters—The headquarters location shall be determined in accordance with ¶ 807.7. A United Nations Office shall be maintained in cooperation with the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries.

¶ 1011. Bylaws—The General Board of Church and Society shall provide its own bylaws, which shall not violate any provisions of the Constitution or the Book of Discipline. The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting thereon at a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of such amendment has previously been given to the members.

### **Section V. General Board of Discipleship**

¶ 1101. Purpose—1. There shall be a General Board of Discipleship, the purpose of which is found within the expression of the total mission of the Church. Its primary purpose shall be to assist annual conferences, districts, and local churches of all membership sizes in their efforts to win persons to Jesus Christ as his disciples and to help these persons to grow in their understanding of God that they may respond in faith and love, to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation means, increasingly identifying themselves as children of God and members of the Christian community, to live in the Spirit of God in every relationship, to fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and to abide in the Christian hope.

2. The board shall use its resources to enhance the meaning of membership as defined in ¶¶ 216-220, which emphasizes the importance of the identification of church membership with discipleship to Jesus Christ. The board shall seek to enable congregations to carry out their primary task and shall provide resources that support growth in Christian discipleship. In doing its work, the board shall listen to the needs and requests of the Church, conduct research, design and produce resources, offer training, and deliver resources. All of this is to support

congregations in their primary task of reaching out and receiving all who will respond, encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love made known in Jesus Christ, providing opportunities for them to be nurtured and formed in the Christian faith, and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples. The board, through all activities, shall lead and assist congregations in becoming inclusive communities of growing Christians, celebrating and communicating to persons of every age, racial and ethnic background, and social condition the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

¶ 1102. Responsibilities—All the responsibilities assigned to the units within the board shall be considered to be the responsibilities of the board. In addition to these, the board shall have authority to:

1. Provide for special publications directed toward the local church nurture, outreach, witness ministries, age-level and family ministries, ministry group representatives, the ministry group chairpersons, the pastor, and the other local church officers for whom the board has primary responsibility.

2. Manage and produce *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide and a wide range of other resources to help people grow in their relationship with God.

3. Provide systems of resources and support to users of resources that will assist people in the historic disciplines of the Church, i.e., Christian education, evangelism, lay ministries, spiritual growth, stewardship, and worship. These resources will address ministry concerns across children, youth, and adult ages and family groupings and across programmatic and administrative functions of the congregation in order to improve ministry and the quality of Christian leadership for the future ministry of the Church.

4. Develop and provide resources, training, and consultation for pastors of congregations. These resources will focus on equipping pastors for their spiritual and visioning leadership role with their congregations and their role as partners with the laity.

5. Develop and provide resources, training, and consultation for pastors and congregational leaders as they enhance and evaluate the ministries of the laity and initiate new forms of ministry that nurture faith, build Christian community, and equip people for ministry in daily life.

6. Provide resources and training that will assist annual conference leaders in building, improving, and sustaining systems that develop spiritual leaders for congregations.

7. Provide resources and training that will assist leaders in planning and administering comprehensive children, youth, young-adult, adult, and older-adult ministries that encourage lifelong learning and growth in faith, that strengthen

understanding of God and relationship with God and other people, and that lead to spiritual maturity in faith and in practice.

8. Provide representation in ecumenical and interdenominational agencies as they relate to the work of the board.

9. Respond to requests and needs for ministries throughout the world, in consultation with conferences and appropriate agencies.

10. Engage in research, experimentation, innovation, and the testing and evaluation of programs, resources, and methods to discover more effective ways to help persons achieve the purpose set forth in ¶ 1101. This responsibility will include authority for experimentation and research in all areas of ministry assigned to the General Board of Discipleship and will encourage cooperation with other agencies in the conduct of such research and experimentation. This research and experimentation may be assigned to appropriate units within the board.

11. Ensure that ethnic local church concerns shall be an integral part of the total life of the board, providing guidance, resourcing, and training so that these concerns are incorporated in all areas of discipleship in the local church.

¶ 1103. The board shall provide such bylaws as necessary to facilitate the work of the board, which shall not violate any provisions of the Discipline and which may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting thereon at a regular or special meeting; provided that written notice to such amendment has been given to the members and the vote thereon shall be delayed at least one day. The board shall have the power and right to do any and all things that shall be authorized by its charter(s) and by The Book of Discipline. It shall have authority to develop and carry out its responsibilities as described in ¶ 1102; to buy, acquire, or receive by gift, devise, or bequest property—real, personal, and mixed; to hold, mortgage, sell, and dispose of property; to sue and be sued; to borrow money in case of necessity in a manner harmonious with ¶¶ 806-807; to develop and maintain ecumenical relations to carry out its responsibilities; and to administer its affairs through the board and its various units and committees.

¶ 1104. Incorporation—1. The General Board of Discipleship shall be a corporation existing under the laws of Tennessee and shall be the legal successor and successor in trust of the corporations known as the General Board of Evangelism of The United Methodist Church and the General Board of Laity of The United Methodist Church, and it shall further be responsible for the performance of the functions previously conducted by the Commission on Worship of The United Methodist Church, the Division of the Local Church, and the Division of Curriculum Resources of the General Board of Education of The United Methodist Church.

2. The General Board of Discipleship is authorized to take such action as is appropriate under the corporation laws of Tennessee so as to accomplish the end result stated above, and under which the General Board of Discipleship shall be one legal entity.

3. The divisions of the General Board of Education were not incorporated separately; it is the intent, however, that responsibility for the functions delegated to the divisions by prior legislative action be transferred consistent with the separation of the divisions between the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In the division of the assets of the General Board of Education, it is the intent that all assets be used in keeping with the original intent and purpose for which they were established or acquired, and so be assigned as appropriate to the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry, respectively. It is further intended that the annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates formerly held by the General Board of Education be used for the benefit and use of the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry (in accord with their purposes as defined in the Discipline), respectively, as their interests may appear, and that real estate titles be authorized to be conveyed as appropriate and apportioned where indicated.

4. In the event that the intent of the original donor of existing annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates cannot clearly be determined in relation to the interests of the two boards, such assets shall be divided equally between the two boards.

5. It is further intended that should additional assets accrue to the former General Board of Education by reason of annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates not now known and where the intent of the donor can be clearly ascertained, the assets shall be used in keeping with the original intent and purpose for which they were established or acquired and so be assigned as appropriate to the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry, respectively.

6. It is further intended that should additional assets accrue to the former General Board of Education by reason of annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates not now known and where the intent of the original donor cannot be clearly determined in relation to the interests of the two boards, such assets shall be divided equally between the two boards.

7. The spiritual formation responsibilities of the general board as described in ¶ 1115 may be carried out primarily by its subsidiary The Upper Room, incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit, charitable organization that relates to the GBOD and whose board members are elected by the GBOD. The Upper Room is authorized, subject to ¶ 1108, to establish long-range investments and engage in fundraising that shall guarantee, insofar as possible, a continuous flow

of financial resources for the development of devotional literature, programs, and experiences.

8. The president of the board, the general secretary, and the treasurer shall have the power to execute on behalf of the board legal paper such as conveyances of real estate, releases on mortgages, transfer of securities, contracts, and all other legal documents.

¶ 1105. Organization—1. The board shall consist of fifty-eight members constituted in accordance with ¶ 705.3 of the General Provisions. It shall be organized to accomplish its work through elected officers as prescribed in ¶ 708. The membership shall be constituted as follows:

a) Jurisdictional members, clergy, laywomen, and laymen shall be elected to the board by the jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 705.3a based on the following formula: North Central—6, Northeastern—7, South Central—10, Southeastern—11, and Western—2.

b) Central Conference Members—A member from each central conference shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops, according to the provisions in ¶ 705.4c.

c) Episcopal Members—Six episcopal members, including at least one from the central conferences, shall be named by the Council of Bishops.

d) Division on Ministries With Young People—Three members selected by the Division on Ministries With Young People.

e) Additional Members—(1) United Methodist—Additional members are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywoman, and one layman) elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to six additional members to ensure inclusivity and expertise. (2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote, from among the other churches of the Churches Uniting in Christ.

2. The board may elect an executive committee and establish such rules as necessary for the carrying out of its duties. One of the executive committee members shall be from the Division on Ministries With Young People.

3. The board shall determine and establish the appropriate organization of the board and its staff, and it may create or discontinue as deemed necessary divisions, sections, committees, task forces, and consultations in order to carry out the regular or special duties of the board.

4. Adequate provisions shall be made in its organizational structure for all responsibilities assigned to the board. These organizational units shall be amenable to and report regularly to the board and its executive committee.

¶ 1106. Organizational Units—The organizational units shall be organized by the board so as to fulfill the objectives and the responsibilities assigned to them within the mandate of the board (see

¶ 1104.3). The basic organization of these units shall be as follows:

1. Membership—The units shall be composed of board members as provided in ¶ 705. In order to provide for unit members with special knowledge and experience, the board shall have authority to elect members at large to the units on nomination of the units and in accord with ¶ 705.

2. Meetings—The units shall meet in conjunction with the meetings of the board. Special meetings may be called in a manner prescribed by the board. The presence of one-third of the members of a unit shall constitute a quorum.

3. Officers—Each unit shall have a chairperson, elected by the board; such vice chairpersons as necessary; and a recording secretary, elected by the unit.

4. Executive Committee—Each unit may elect an executive committee and establish such rules as necessary for the carrying out of its duties.

5. Unit Staff—The administrative officer of each unit shall be elected by the board and shall sit with the unit and all its regular committees. In all of these relationships, he or she shall have the right of the floor without the power to vote. All other staff persons are to be elected or appointed in a manner prescribed by the board (¶ 714).

¶ 1107. Financial Support—1. The financial support of the board shall be determined as follows: the General Conference shall determine and provide the budget for the board in accord with procedures defined in ¶ 806.

2. The board shall have authority to receive and administer funds, gifts, or bequests that may be committed to it for any portion of its work and to solicit, establish, and administer any special funds that may be found necessary for the carrying out of its plans and policies in accordance with ¶ 811.3. In the investment of any funds, the board shall adhere to the specific investment guidelines adopted by the General Conference.

3. When special missions are conducted or special projects are undertaken by the board, offerings and contributions may be received toward defraying expenses.

4. In the discharge of its responsibility for Christian education in The United Methodist Church, the board may establish and provide for participation by church school groups in a fund (or funds) for missions and Christian education in the United States and overseas. Plans for the allocation of, administration of, and education for this fund(s) shall be developed cooperatively by such means as the board shall determine in consultation with the General Board of Global Ministries.

¶ 1108. Financial Relationship of The Upper Room to the General Board of Discipleship—1. The funds for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of The Upper Room shall be derived from sales of resources, gifts, devises, bequests, annuities, events, and funds raised from subscribers, customers, foundations, and other limited groups of faithful subscribers, supporters, and interested parties (as defined in ¶ 818.1).

2. No funds, property, or other investments either now in hand or hereafter accumulated by The Upper Room or other devotional and related literature hereafter produced by The Upper Room shall be used for the support of other features of the board's work, but all funds from the sale of such publications shall be conserved by the board for the purpose of preparing and circulating such literature and cultivating the devotional life; provided, however, that this shall not prevent the setting up of a reserve fund out of such income as a protection against unforeseen emergencies.

3. Administrative support services are provided to The Upper Room by the GBOD on a reimbursable basis. As a subsidiary of the GBOD, The Upper Room participates in the general church pension and benefits programs and receives administrative, financial, and personnel-related services from GCFA to the same extent as GBOD.

¶ 1109. Christian Education—1. The board shall have general oversight of the educational interests of the Church as directed by the General Conference. The board shall be responsible for the development of a clear statement of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian education, consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church and the mission of the board. The board shall devote itself to strengthening and extending the teaching ministry of the Church through research; testing new approaches, methods, and resources; evaluation; and consultation.

2. Through the ministry of Christian education, United Methodist congregations shall reach out to people of all ages as they are, encourage them to commit themselves to Christ and membership in his church, provide opportunities for them to grow in faith and to connect that faith with their daily lives, and equip them to live as God's people in the world. Opportunities for Christian education shall include educational aspects of all the general areas and interests of the denomination, such as evangelism, stewardship, missions, Christian social action, and Bible instruction. The ministry of Christian education shall be developed as a comprehensive, unified, and coordinated program for children, youth, adults, and families in local churches. It shall be promoted and administered by the board in cooperation with those agencies responsible for Christian education in jurisdictions, annual conferences, districts, and local churches. It shall give careful

consideration to the needs of all churches, such as small and large membership churches, rural and urban settings, and ethnic populations.

¶ 1110. Education Responsibilities and Standards—The board shall organize as may be necessary for carrying on the educational ministry throughout the whole life span of persons. The board shall:

1. Formulate and interpret the philosophy of Christian education based on biblical, theological, and educational foundations (consistent with the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules of The United Methodist Church, ¶ 103) as they relate to the church school and related activities; individual or group study; fellowship, education, and action groups for children, youth, and adults; related educational programs provided by civic youth-serving agencies; weekday nurseries and kindergartens; daycare centers; choirs, drama groups, mission studies; education for leisure; outdoor education; camping; education of persons with developmental disabilities and others of special need; special Bible study groups; confirmation and church membership training.

2. Develop educational approaches in a variety of settings that appeal to persons of different ages, lifestyles, learning needs, and theological perspectives.

3. Develop educational approaches that will enable persons of different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups to appropriate the gospel for their own life situations.

4. Promote church school extension in a variety of ways, such as providing resources and training that help persons in sponsoring new church schools, starting new church school classes, and expanding teaching and learning opportunities in the congregation and the community.

5. Provide resources and support services for pastors, parents, educational leaders, teachers, and others responsible for teaching and learning with persons across the life span at the local church, district, and conference levels.

6. Provide resources and support services for teacher recruitment, development, and training in biblical, theological, and ethical thinking, as well as in procedures and methods; work with the colleges and seminaries of the Church wherever possible to forward the common interest in the training of professional Christian educators and the training of ministerial students in local church Christian education; provide national camp training events and assist jurisdictions and annual conferences in designing, guiding, and resourcing camp training programs and outdoor Christian education.

7. Set standards and provide guidance concerning programming, leadership, and grouping for the various educational settings of the Church, including the church school.

8. Establish guidelines for the organization and administration of the church school, for recording and reporting membership and attendance of the church

school, and for the equipment, arrangement, and design for church school buildings and rooms, with particular attention given to the needs of persons with disabilities.

9. Provide resources and services related to the training and work of local church directors, ordained and diaconal ministers, and associates of Christian education and educational assistants.

10. Provide assistance and information for groups and organizations with direct oversight for United Methodist-related camp/retreat centers and ministries, to help them with their responsibility to establish standards, policies, and procedures related to physical facilities, program, and leadership. To the extent possible, all camps/retreat centers shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.

11. Cooperate with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry as they develop standards for certifying professional ministry careers as provided in ¶ 1421.2c and promote the continuing growth of local church staff related to educational ministries.

12. Provide resources, models, and training to support annual conferences and local churches as they help people make decisions related to their general Christian vocation as well as their specific occupations or careers.

13. Review and recommend for approval the curriculum plans developed in cooperation with the other boards and agencies in the Curriculum Resources Committee and interpret and support the curriculum developed by the committee.

14. Promote the observance of Christian Education Sunday (¶¶ 265.1, 1806.12).

¶ 1111. Cooperation—1. The board shall cooperate with other general boards and agencies in the promotion of stewardship, evangelism, worship, mission education, and social action, and in the evaluation of these ministries from the perspective of sound educational procedure.

2. The board, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, shall be responsible for developing a unified program of mission education for all age groups in the local church. The mission education program shall include provisions for the following:

a) Linking emerging philosophies of mission and of education through information flow and cooperative work of the respective staffs and boards;

b) Developing and interpreting varied styles of mission education appropriate to different groups, including age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures;

c) Curriculum planning for education in mission, providing mission information about projects supported by The United Methodist Church (including ecumenical projects) through the church school resources, and preparing curricular and other materials for mission education;

d) Participating with various agencies in the design, development, and promotion of ecumenical mission education resources;

e) Developing and interpreting educational approaches and channels for mission giving of children, youth, and adults, such as the Children's Fund for Christian Mission;

f) Developing and interpreting models for new approaches to mission study and educational participation in mission;

g) Providing information regarding educational criteria to the staff of the General Board of Global Ministries for use in certifying leaders for schools of mission;

h) Disseminating a comprehensive listing of mission resources for leaders;

i) Cooperating with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries in providing an emphasis on mission education in the schools of theology through United Methodist courses on history, polity, and doctrine now required for candidates considering ordination or consecration.

3. The board shall have authority to cooperate with other agencies of the Church, with defined organizations, and with ecumenical agencies to promote the ministry of Christian education.

4. The board is authorized to cooperate with the General Board of Global Ministries in the planning and execution of programs for the strengthening and development of the town and country, urban, and ethnic local church ministries of The United Methodist Church and of interdenominational cooperation in these fields.

¶ 1112. Evangelism—The board shall have general oversight of the evangelism ministries of the Church as directed by the General Conference. Evangelism is central to the mission of the Church. Evangelism is defined in the Book of Discipline, ¶ 630.1.

The board shall share the blessing of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people of all age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures by the development, promotion, and support of all phases of evangelism throughout The United Methodist Church.

¶ 1113. Evangelism Responsibilities—In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, the board shall have general oversight of the evangelism ministries of The

United Methodist Church by the envisioning and developing of resources and by training and consultation in various settings. The board shall:

1. Set forth an adequate biblical and theological basis and understanding for the personal, corporate, and social aspects of evangelism, consistent with the doctrine and tradition of The United Methodist Church, and it shall communicate and interpret the same to the membership of the Church.

2. Give emphasis to the development, interpretation, and promotion of ministries of evangelism at the conference, district, and local church levels so that persons who are not active Christian disciples through any local church will be invited and cared for by a United Methodist church.

3. Provide resources and training for strategies, ministries, and programs in evangelism, including resources for the local church ministry of evangelism (§ 255).

4. Cooperate with other program agencies of the Church in supporting and equipping both clergy and laity at all levels in involvement in evangelism, church growth, and new congregational development.

5. Provide and encourage research in what creative congregations of various membership sizes and settings are doing in effective evangelism that can serve as models for other churches, and foster experimentation and demonstration of additional evangelistic approaches, consistent with the nature of the Christian gospel and the Church, at all levels of the Church's life, including new congregations and all racial and cultural groups.

6. Provide resources and services for those serving as pastors, diaconal ministers, directors of evangelism, general evangelists, and other professionals in evangelism in local churches.

7. Set standards for elders desiring to serve as general evangelists. The board shall send copies of these standards quadrennially to the bishops, district superintendents, conference boards of discipleship, and general evangelists. An elder who feels called by God to be a general evangelist should prepare definitely for such service under the guidance of the annual conference to which that person belongs.

8. Relate and provide liaison services to denominational and ecumenical associations and fellowships of evangelism.

9. Seek mutual cooperation among and with the seminaries of the Church and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the training and nurturing of persons for ministry and in continuing education where the responsibilities intersect.

10. Communicate with other agencies in whose programs the subject matter of evangelism would be included, and provide counsel, guidance, and resources for the implementation of such programs.

11. Participate in and cooperate with the work of the Curriculum Resources Committee of the board for the inclusion of evangelism concepts and resources in local church study curriculum.

12. Provide consultation with conferences, districts, local congregations, and other agencies to develop strategies in evangelism for outreach, church revitalization, and new congregational development.

13. Work with the General Board of Global Ministries for the extension of the Church. To this end there shall be a Joint Committee on Congregational Development with equal representation of members from the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries, which shall meet regularly for mutual learning, developing strategies for Church extension, and providing resources and assistance to conferences and districts in the field of new congregational development and congregational revitalization.

¶ 1114. *Worship Responsibilities*—The board shall: 1. Set forth and interpret the biblical and theological basis for corporate worship with people of all age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures through resources, programs, and training materials consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church, and cultivate the fullest possible meaning in the corporate worship celebrations of the Church to the glory of God, including liturgy, preaching, the sacraments, music, related arts, and the observance of the liturgical seasons of the Christian Year.

2. Develop standards and resources for the conduct of public worship in the churches, including liturgy, preaching, the sacraments, music, and related arts.

3. Make recommendations to the General Conference regarding future editions of a book of worship and a hymnal and, as ordered, provide editorial supervision of the contents of these publications, which shall be published by The United Methodist Publishing House. The hymnals of The United Methodist Church are The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), *Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista* (1996), and *Come, Let Us Worship: The Korean-English United Methodist Hymnal* (2000). The ritual of the Church is that contained in The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992), *Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista* (1996), and *Come, Let Us Worship: The Korean-English United Methodist Hymnal* (2000).

4. Prepare revisions of the ritual of the Church and approved orders of worship for recommendation to the General Conference for adoption.

5. Work with other North American Christian denominations through the Consultation on Common Texts in the continuing development of a common calendar and lectionary, and encourage the voluntary use of the Revised Common Lectionary and resources based upon it.

6. Prepare and sponsor the publication of supplemental orders and texts of worship.<sup>27</sup>

7. Maintain a cooperative but not exclusive relationship with The United Methodist Publishing House in the preparation and publication of worship resources.

8. Advise the general agencies of the Church in the preparation, publication, and circulation of orders of service and other liturgical materials bearing the imprint of The United Methodist Church, encouraging use of racial and ethnic worship resources and incorporation of language that recognizes the several constituencies of the Church. (See ¶ 4.)

9. Counsel with the editors of the periodicals and publications of The United Methodist Church concerning material offered in the fields of worship, including preaching, music, and the other liturgical arts.

10. Participate in and cooperate with the Curriculum Resources Committee of the board for the inclusion of worship concepts and resources in local church study curriculum.

11. Encourage in the schools of theology and pastors' schools, and other settings, the offering of instruction in the meaning and conduct of worship. This should include the worship practices and expressions of the various racial cultures.

12. Counsel with those responsible for planning and conducting the worship services of the General Conference and other general assemblies of the Church.

13. Give guidance to, provide resources for, and encourage the continuing growth of those persons responsible for music leadership in the local church, i.e., directors, ordained ministers, associates, music assistants, and those volunteering in music and the other worship arts. (See ¶ 1405.7.)

14. Cooperate with the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts and The Order of St. Luke in affirming the sacramental life embracing liturgy, preaching, music, and other arts appropriate for the inclusive worship life of the Church.

15. Develop performance standards for associates, directors, and ministers of music in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and cooperate with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the development of standards and requirements for certification of directors, associates, and ministers of music as provided in ¶ 1405.6.

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27 See Judicial Council Decision 445.

¶ 1115. Stewardship Responsibilities—1. To interpret the biblical and theological basis for stewardship through programs, resources, and training materials for people of all ages consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church.

2. To provide education, counsel, resourcing, and training for the local church stewardship ministry group chairperson, commission on stewardship, board of trustees, endowment and permanent fund committees, wills and estate planning committees, memorial committees, committee on finance, committee on finance chairperson, financial secretaries, and treasurers, and to develop program resources and training materials for use with and by the above-named persons and/or groups (see ¶ 807.17). Matters relating to procedures involving official records, forms, and reporting of statistical and financial information shall be the responsibility of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

3. To create within The United Methodist Church a deepening commitment to personal and corporate Christian stewardship, which includes the use and sharing of talents and resources and the practice of a Christian lifestyle.

4. To develop strategies, provide resources, and implement actions that lead to a continuing improvement in the level of giving of United Methodists in providing adequate support for the mission of the Church.

5. To counsel in the area of stewardship and finance with jurisdictional and annual conference program agencies relative to their organizational structure and program responsibilities and assist them in their interpretation of program and resources.

6. To provide counsel, resources, and guidance to conference and area foundations as they fulfill their stewardship functions and to associations such as the National Association of United Methodist Foundations and the National Association of Stewardship Leaders.

7. To call together regularly United Methodist general agency leaders whose programs include the subject matter of stewardship to work toward common language, consistent stewardship theology, and cooperative efforts.

¶ 1116. Spiritual Formation Responsibilities of The Upper Room—To develop resources that foster an international community of people and congregations who are seeking God, building a vision of new life in Christ, nurturing one another by sharing experiences of God's love and guidance, and encouraging one another in Christian action to transform the world.

2. To explore and communicate a biblically and theologically informed vision of the spiritual life that encourages and supports spiritual leaders in the church who can guide people of all ages into a more vital, intimate, and transforming relationship with God through Christ.

3. To maintain and extend the worldwide ministry of The Upper Room and other resources, which are available in an increasing number of languages and which address the spiritual needs of people throughout their life and continue to embody the interdenominational character of the ministry of The Upper Room.

4. To cooperate with all other units within the board, as well as other groups within United Methodism, and other denominations whose concerns are related to the spiritual life.

¶ 1117. Ministry of the Laity—The board shall interpret and spread through the Church all the rich meanings of the universal priesthood of believers, of Christian vocation, and of the ministry of the laity in daily life.

The United Methodist Church has the responsibility of training and enabling the laos—the whole body of its membership—to enter into mission and to minister and witness in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. Although all units of the Church have some responsibility for this imperative, the General Board of Discipleship has a preeminent responsibility in that it is charged with developing discipleship. To this end, the board shall:

1. Help develop an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for ministry of the laity.

2. Develop and interpret ministry of the laity both inside and outside the institutional Church.

3. Provide resources and support services for the development and improvement of leadership in the local church, except as specifically delegated to other agencies, and especially for those persons who serve as members of charge conferences, church councils, councils on ministries, committees on pastor-parish relations, personnel committees, committees on lay leadership, those who serve as lay leaders, lay members of annual conferences, and leaders of related organizations in local churches, districts, annual conferences, and jurisdictions.

4. Assist congregations, districts, and annual conferences in equipping persons for leadership in community ministries.

5. Provide resources and suggested plans for the observance of Laity Sunday in the local church.

6. Provide support to conference and district directors of Lay Speaking Ministries, to conference and district committees on Lay Speaking Ministries, and to the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Speaking Ministries. In consultation with the conference directors, set standards for local church, certified lay speakers, and certified lay ministers and provide teaching resources for use by annual conference and district committees.

7. Provide support services to conference and district lay leaders and conference and district boards of laity or equivalent structures, to the Association of An-

nual Conference Lay Leaders, and to other appropriate associations and conference and district officers and agencies.

8. Initiate a process of coordination and collaboration in developing a comprehensive approach to leadership development and training within all program areas for which the General Board of Discipleship has responsibility.

9. Encourage ordained elders to select and train laity to distribute the consecrated Communion elements to sick or homebound persons following a service of Word and Table. This distribution also may apply to lay persons who have been assigned pastoral roles in a church or in more than one church by the district superintendent.

¶ 1118. Christian Discipleship Formation Responsibilities—The board shall interpret and promote group ministries in local congregations in order to support the formation of Christian disciples focused on the transformation of the world.

1. Small Group Ministries—Recognizing the diverse means of grace necessary in forming Christian disciples, the General Board of Discipleship shall assist local congregations in developing a comprehensive system of small-group ministries by:

a) providing resources, training, and support services for leaders of small-group ministries that support people in their search for God, in their yearning for community, and in their desire to be formed as Christian disciples;

b) providing resources and support services that equip people throughout the life span for faithful Christian living in the world, and especially those areas for which the General Board of Discipleship has responsibility. When developing resources, attention should be given to the impact of the oral and visual cultures in which we live and to the importance of story.

2. Accountable Discipleship—Affirming that our Wesleyan heritage embraces a distinct emphasis of mutual accountability, the General Board of Discipleship shall encourage accountability in congregations by:

a) promoting the General Rule of Discipleship: “To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit”<sup>28</sup>;

b) advocating the formation of Covenant Discipleship Groups for all ages throughout the church by providing resources, training, and support services that ground leadership in the richness of our Wesleyan tradition;

c) providing resources, training, and support services for revitalizing the role of class leaders so that they may interpret the General Rule of Discipleship to all church members and assist the pastor in fostering mutual accountability throughout the congregation;

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28 Adapted version of Wesley’s General Rules; see Gayle Turner Watson’s *A Guide to Covenant Discipleship Groups* (Discipleship Resources, 2000), p. 12.

d) providing consultative services to jurisdictions, conferences, and districts in the introduction and development of Covenant Discipleship Groups and class leaders in congregations.

¶ 1119. *Ethnic Local Church Concerns*—The board shall function as an advocate for programs and concerns of ethnic local churches. It shall coordinate efforts to keep the needs of the membership of ethnic churches uppermost in the minds of its membership. The board will ensure that adequate resources—fiscal, human, and programmatic—are used to support and encourage the ministries of the ethnic local churches.

¶ 1120. *Age-Level, Life-Span, and Family Ministries*—The board will provide for an integrated and coordinated approach in development of resources and service support for ministries with children, youth, adults of all ages, and families. Through its services to administrative and coordinating leaders, the board will assist congregations and conferences to:

- a) Build knowledge for development of ministries that support the primary task of the local congregation;
- b) Provide for the development and nurture of persons at all age levels and stages of growth and for families in diverse configurations;
- c) Assist individuals and families in spiritual development and growth; and
- d) Promote the making and keeping of covenants as foundations for family living.

The board will also engage in research and testing, consultation and training, and collaborative planning so as to enhance the delivery of resources and services to leaders with age-level and family ministries responsibilities.

1. *Comprehensive Children's Ministries*—The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries for and with children. Such ministries may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: Sunday school and vacation Bible school, weekday ministries for preschool and elementary ages, fellowship and neighborhood groups, scouting ministries, and short-term studies and activities within and outside the church facilities. Ministries should focus on biblical foundations, prayer and spiritual formation, community service, personal worth through Jesus Christ, human sexuality, values, United Methodist studies, creative and fine arts, multicultural awareness, outreach to others, and celebration of significant moments in children's lives.

Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: assisting congregations to be advocates on behalf of children; identifying the needs and concerns of children, their families and congregations; assessing the status of ministries with children in The United Methodist Church; collecting and disseminating pertinent

data on issues, models, and programs that inform the leaders in congregations and church structures to strengthen the quality of life of children.

2. Comprehensive Youth Ministry—There shall be a comprehensive approach to development and implementation of youth ministry programming at all levels of the Church. The comprehensive approach is based on the understanding of the primary task of youth ministry: to love youth where they are, to encourage them in developing their relationship to God, to provide them with opportunities for nurture and growth, and to challenge them to respond to God's call to serve in their communities. Four component parts undergird this comprehensive ministry:

a) Curriculum—Through the Curriculum Resources Committee (§ 1122), the General Board of Discipleship shall ensure the availability of curriculum and leaders' guides for use in a variety of settings suitable for the specific needs of all persons in the twelve- to eighteen-year-old age group;

b) Program Resources—Additional and supplemental guidebooks and other program aids shall be developed and promoted for effective youth ministry programs in the local church and at the district, conference, jurisdictional, and general Church levels;

c) Leadership Training and Networking—Leadership training shall be provided to encourage and support adult workers with youth and youth leaders in their roles as teachers, counselors, advisers, and enablers at all levels of the Church. Networking shall be developed to maintain ongoing communication through workshops, special mailings, and publications between leaders in youth ministries across the denomination for the enhancement of skills and the sharing of effective models and resources;

d) Structures—Active and effective structures for youth ministry programming shall be promoted and maintained at the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general Church levels for the full involvement of youth in leadership and membership and for the advocacy of youth concerns in all areas of Church life, planning, and administration.

3. Comprehensive Adult Ministries—The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries by, with, and for adults. In keeping with the primary task of the board, adult ministries may include but need not be limited to: education and ministries with young adults, middle adults, older adults, and single adults (i.e., widowed, always single, separated, and divorced), and intergenerational programs involving adults. Such a plan would include biblical foundation and study, developmental stages and tasks of adults, faith development and spiritual formation, and leadership training in various models of adult educational ministries.

Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: identifying the needs and concerns of adults (i.e., young adults, middle adults, older adults, and single adults); assessing the status of ministries by, with, and for adults in The United Methodist Church; collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the leaders in local congregations, districts, conferences, boards, and agencies to strengthen the quality of faith and life of adults.

4. **Comprehensive Family Ministries**—The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries with families. In alignment with the primary task, the ministries may assist families in the following areas: spiritual formation and development, marital growth ministries, parenting, human sexuality, care giving, and issues affecting the quality of family life. Such a plan would include: biblical exploration and study, as well as theological and experiential understandings of family life and the evolving patterns of family living. Ministries with families will focus on persons rather than structures.

The board may organize and administer a Committee on Family Life. The committee will provide an arena for information sharing, collaborative planning, and/or cooperative programming in alignment with the purpose and responsibilities of representative participants. The committee will serve as advocates for ministries with families in all boards and agencies.

Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: identifying the needs and concerns of families and of congregations, assessing the status of ministries with families in The United Methodist Church, collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the work of the boards and agencies to strengthen the quality of family life. The committee will relate to and provide liaison services to ecumenical and interdenominational agencies in the area of family life.

¶ 1121. **General Provisions for the Committee on Older Adult Ministries**—1. There shall be a Committee on Older Adult Ministries, which shall be administratively related to the General Board of Discipleship.

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

3. **Responsibilities**—The responsibilities of the committee shall include the following:

- a) Identify the needs, concerns, and potential contributions of older adults.

b) Promote a plan of comprehensive ministry by, with, and for older adults in local churches that includes spiritual growth, education, training, mission, service, and fellowship.

c) Encourage and support the development of resources and programs that will undergird local church ministries by, with, and for older adults.

d) Advocate development and implementation of policies and service designed to impact systems and concepts that adversely affect older adults.

e) Educate and keep before the Church the lifelong process of aging, with emphasis on the quality of life, intergenerational understanding and interaction, and faith development.

f) Encourage and support the development of resources and programs that can be used by annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, and the denomination at large in training and equipping older adults for new roles in the ministry and mission of the Church.

g) Serve as focal point for supplying information and guidelines on older-adult ministries to local churches.

h) Encourage coordination and networking opportunities among agencies responsible for the development of resources, programs, and policies relating to older-adult ministries.

i) Support and advocate the provisions contained in The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church related to aging.

j) Support and encourage resource development for the celebration of an annual Older Adult Recognition Day.

k) Develop and administer a program of financial grants for older-adult ministries throughout The United Methodist Church.

4. Membership—The committee shall be composed of one board member and one staff member from each of the following agencies: the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; one member (board or staff) from each of the following: the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, The United Methodist Publishing House, the General Commission on Communication, the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries; one active or retired bishop representing the Council of Bishops, and one central conference representative; five older adults, one to be selected by each jurisdictional College of Bishops; and no more than three members to be selected by the committee for expertise and/or professional qualifications, and no more than three additional members to be selected by the committee for inclusiveness

(racial/ethnic, disability, age, gender, laity, clergy, or geographic distribution). Staff and/or board members will provide appropriate liaison and reports to their respective agencies. Board members and central conference and jurisdiction representatives shall serve no more than two consecutive terms (one term equals four years). Each board and agency will be responsible for travel, lodging, and other expenses incurred by representatives attending meetings of the Committee on Older Adult Ministries.

5. Meetings—The committee will meet at least once a year in conjunction with a meeting of the General Board of Discipleship.

¶ 1122. Duties and Responsibilities of the Curriculum Resources Committee—There shall be a Curriculum Resources Committee, organized and administered by the General Board of Discipleship, which shall be responsible for the construction of plans for curriculum and curriculum resources to be used in the Christian educational ministry of the Church and other study settings. (See ¶ 258.1.)

1. The Curriculum Resources Committee shall carefully review and act on the plans constructed and proposed by the staff of Church School Publications based upon research, including ideas from the Curriculum Resources Committee and other persons in United Methodist educational ministries.

2. The plans for curriculum and curriculum resources shall be designed to help local churches carry out the Church's educational ministry with children, youth, young adults, adults, and families and to meet the needs of various racial, ethnic, age, cultural, and language constituencies, as well as the needs of persons of various learning capacities, backgrounds, levels of psychological development, sight and hearing impairments, and Christian maturity. Plans for curriculum shall give particular attention to the characteristics and needs of small membership congregations. They shall be for use in a variety of settings, both formal and informal, including Sunday schools; fellowship groups; outdoor experiences; family life; leadership education; campus ministries; preparation with parent(s), guardian(s), and sponsor(s) or godparent(s) who are presenting children to be baptized; and classes preparing youth for their profession of faith and their confirmation.

3. The plans for curriculum and curriculum resources shall be consistent with the educational philosophy and approach formulated for the educational ministry of the Church by the General Board of Discipleship and shall reflect a unity of purpose and a planned comprehensiveness of scope. They shall be designed to support the total life and work of the Church, shall teach Christian truth consistent with the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules of The United Methodist

Church (§ 103), and shall reflect the official positions of The United Methodist Church as authorized by the General Conference.

4. Plans for major new curriculum resources and new series that have been approved by the General Board of Discipleship shall be circulated by staff among appropriate persons and groups in the Church for review, suggestions for improvement, and additional ideas. In all matters, staff shall be responsible for bringing the review results into unity and harmony with the intent of the Curriculum Resources Committee.

a) The purpose of the review process shall be to improve the resource plans in order to fulfill § 1122.

b) Opportunity for timely review shall be offered to teachers, leaders, and pastors in local churches of various sizes, locations, and racial, ethnic, and cultural constituencies; general secretaries of the General Boards of Discipleship, Global Ministries, Church and Society, and Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Commissions on History and Archives, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, the Status and Role of Women, United Methodist Men, and Religion and Race; professors of educational ministries in United Methodist colleges and seminaries; professional Christian educators; and others who may have interest, experience, and skills to aid the perfection of the plans.

§ 1123. Curriculum Requirements—When the plans for curriculum and curriculum resources have been approved by the General Board of Discipleship, the editorial staff of Church School Publications shall be responsible for the development of curriculum resources based on the approved plans. The curriculum resources shall be based on the Bible, shall reflect the universal gospel of the living Christ, shall use the traditional calendar year designations of b.c. (Before Christ) and a.d. (Anno Domini, or Year[s] of the Lord) as a reflection of and witness to the Christian understanding of the centrality of Jesus Christ in the history of humankind, shall be in agreement with United Methodist doctrine as delineated in §§ 103 and 104 of the Book of Discipline, and shall be designed for use in the various settings that are defined by the board.

§ 1124. Authority of the Curriculum Resources Committee to Review Teaching Resources of General Agencies—The Curriculum Resources Committee shall review and may approve and recommend existing or projected resources from other agencies. The committee shall make certain that all approved materials conform to United Methodist doctrine as delineated in §§ 103 and 104 of the Book of Discipline. All curriculum resources that are approved by the General Board of Discipleship shall be authorized for use in the church school.

§ 1125. Relationship of the Curriculum Resources Committee to the General Board of Discipleship and to The United Methodist Publishing House—1.

The Curriculum Resources Committee shall be related to the General Board of Discipleship as follows:

a) The committee shall be responsible to the board with respect to educational philosophy and approaches and shall seek to maintain the standards set by the board.

b) The committee shall work with the General Board of Discipleship in setting policies for interpreting and promoting the use of approved curriculum resources.

c) The chairperson of the Curriculum Resources Committee shall serve as a member of the executive committee of the General Board of Discipleship.

d) In preparation of the budget for presentation to the board of The United Methodist Publishing House (§ 1636), the editor of Church School Publications shall consult with the general secretary of the General Board of Discipleship.

2. The Curriculum Resources Committee shall be related to The United Methodist Publishing House as follows:

a) The publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House or the chairperson of the board of The United Methodist Publishing House may sit with the General Board of Discipleship for consideration of matters pertaining to joint interests of the Curriculum Resources Committee and The United Methodist Publishing House and shall have the privilege of the floor without vote.

b) The United Methodist Publishing House shall publish, manufacture, and distribute the curriculum resources prepared by the editorial staff of Church School Publications. The United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Discipleship shall be responsible jointly for interpretation and support of these resources.

c) The United Methodist Publishing House shall cooperate with the editor of Church School Publications in developing formats and types of curriculum resources, such as periodicals, books, booklets, graphics, recordings, and other audiovisual materials. The publishing house shall have final responsibility in relation to publishing and financial matters, and in these matters the editor of Church School Publications shall recommend changes in formats of publications to be produced and shall work cooperatively with the publisher in the design, layout, and handling of proofs and in equivalent steps in the case of nonprinted resources.

d) The work of the Curriculum Resources Committee shall be financed by The United Methodist Publishing House.

3. The committee shall exercise these additional relationships:

a) The committee shall cooperate with other agencies of The United Methodist Church so that their assigned concerns are reflected in and supported by the church school resources.

b) The committee may explore and implement opportunities at home and overseas for cooperative planning and publishing wherever such cooperation seems best for all concerned and when it is found to be practicable and in harmony with editorial and publishing policies.

c) The committee may cooperate with The United Methodist Publishing House and the General Board of Discipleship in educational research, in the development of experimental resources, and in the evaluation of resources that are provided for the church school.

¶ 1126. Editor of Church School Publications—1. The editor of Church School Publications shall be responsible for the administration of the work of the Curriculum Resources Committee and the editorial staff of Church School Publications, the general editorial policy, and the final determination of editorial content of the church school publications.

2. The editor shall be elected by the General Board of Discipleship upon nomination by a joint committee composed of the president of the General Board of Discipleship, the chairperson of the Curriculum Resources Committee, one other member of the General Board of Discipleship representing educational concerns, the chairperson and two other members of The United Methodist Publishing House. The election of the editor shall be subject to confirmation by the board of The United Methodist Publishing House.

3. The editor shall be responsible to the General Board of Discipleship for seeing that the content of church school publications is consistent with the educational philosophy formulated by the board.

¶ 1127. Membership of the Curriculum Resources Committee—1. The Curriculum Resources Committee shall consist of twenty-one voting members elected quadrennially by the General Board of Discipleship as follows:

a) A bishop who is a voting member of the General Board of Discipleship, to be nominated by the executive committee of the board.

b) Twenty members, nominated by the executive committee of the board, at least seven of whom shall be pastors, at least three of whom shall be voting members of the board, and at least one of whom shall be at the time of election serving a church of two hundred members or less; at least seven shall be laypersons actively participating as member, leader, or teacher in the educational ministry in the local church; at least three of whom shall be voting members of the board; at least one of whom shall be at the time of election a member of a church of two hundred members or fewer; six additional members shall be nominated, three

of whom shall be members of the board, with due consideration to the diversity in theological perspectives, educational attainments, sex, age, racial, and ethnic differences, and sizes of local churches, and in consultation with the directors of councils on ministries or boards of discipleship in each of the annual conferences.

c) Twenty persons from the program boards shall participate in Curriculum Resources Committee meetings with the privilege of the floor without vote. These persons shall be: the general secretaries of the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or someone designated by them; the editor of Church School Publications; the president and publisher and the vice president in charge of publishing of The United Methodist Publishing House; and with due consideration to providing for diversity in sex, age, racial, and ethnic differences, five staff members of Church School Publications and eight other staff members representing the broad concerns of the General Board of Discipleship.

d) The chairperson of the committee shall be a member of the General Board of Discipleship.

2. The Curriculum Resources Committee may select other persons to assist in its work, including persons nominated by the boards, agencies, and general commissions of the Church.

The committee may prepare such bylaws and operating guidelines as are necessary to facilitate the work of the committee.

## **Section VI. Division on Ministries With Young People**

¶ 1201. There shall be a Division on Ministries With Young People of the General Board of Discipleship.

¶ 1202. Purpose—The purpose of the Division on Ministries With Young People is to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ, to nurture faith development, and to equip young leaders by

1. developing youth/young adult spiritual leaders of local congregations to transform lives by making disciples of Jesus Christ;
2. challenging The United Methodist Church to embrace, confirm, and celebrate God's call on the lives of young people;
3. cultivating and nurturing life-giving ministries where influence and worth are not limited by age or experience;
4. advocating for the issues and concerns of young people in the church and the global community;
5. empowering young people to work as agents of peace, justice, and mercy;

6. building a network of support and providing resources that connect the diverse experiences of youth and young adults in local ministries and communities across the globe.

¶ 1203. Responsibilities—The responsibilities of the Division on Ministries With Young People shall be

1. to promote and maintain active and effective systems for youth and young-adult ministry programming at the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional/central conference, and general church levels for the full involvement of young people in leadership and membership;

2. to advocate for the needs and concerns of young people throughout all arenas of church life, planning, and administration. Attention shall be given to the vast array of the life realities of young people.

3. to develop and support three constituency networks: a Network for United Methodist Youth, a Network for United Methodist Young Adults, and a Network for United Methodist Workers With Young People (may include youth workers, youth pastors, campus ministers, conference staff, chaplains, young adult workers, and so forth). These networks will provide ongoing communication and connective links between local churches and other arenas of church life, relational ties to the denomination and one another, and resources for the spiritual formation of young people.

4. to provide leadership training models and resources that will support youth, young adults, and adult workers with young people to be full and active participants in the life and mission of the Church;

5. to plan and carry out a quadrennial global young people's convocation and to provide program resources and support services for regional and national convocations;

6. to provide administrative oversight to the grants for ministries with young people distributed in consultation with the General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry;

7. to provide administrative oversight to the Youth Service Fund;

8. to recommend youth and young adults to nomination committees of general boards and agencies, considering suggestions from annual conference councils on youth and young-adult ministry (¶¶ 647.3e and 648.3e) and other appropriate organizations;

9. to collaborate with appropriate boards and agencies to provide young people with effective strategies and opportunities to live out their faith through ministries of peace, justice, and mercy in vocational choices and other avenues of service;

10. to collaborate with appropriate boards and agencies to strengthen the church's challenge for young people to respond to God's call to licensed and ordained ministry and to support young clergy through the development of networks and other appropriate resources;

11. to collaborate with appropriate boards and agencies to encourage the participation of young people in appropriate denominational, ecumenical, and interreligious relationships and deliberations.

¶ 1204. Authority and Accountability—The Division on Ministries With Young People shall be accountable to the General Board of Discipleship in programming, personnel, and administration. The Division shall have the authority to determine and interpret program directions that support its mandate. These program directions shall be in harmony with the charter of the General Board of Discipleship and have the GBOD's approval.

¶ 1205. Relationship of the Division on Ministries with Young People to the General Board of Discipleship—The Division on Ministries with Young People shall be related to the General Board of Discipleship as follows: Three members of the Division on Ministries with Young People shall be elected to the board, one of whom shall sit on the executive committee, one of whom shall sit on the finance committee and one of whom shall sit on the personnel committee of the General Board of Discipleship.

¶ 1206. Structure—The Division on Ministries With Young People shall be organized around three basic units: United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Young Adults, and United Methodist Workers With Young People.

¶ 1207. Membership—The membership of the Division on Ministries With Young People shall be inclusive with respect to gender, race/ethnicity, lay/clergy, and vocation.

1. Membership shall be as follows:

a) Twenty-two youth—1 youth elected by the youth organization of each central conference (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 24); 2 youth from each jurisdiction elected by the jurisdictional youth convocation

(¶ 533) who are 16 or younger at the time of appointment; 1 youth appointed by each racial/ethnic caucus who is 16 or younger at the time of appointment;

b) Seventeen young adults—1 young adult elected by the young-adult organization of each central conference (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 35); 2 young adults from each jurisdiction (as follows): 1 young adult elected by the jurisdictional conference, and 1 undergraduate student from each jurisdiction elected at the United Methodist Student Movement's Student Forum (¶ 1412.2g). Jurisdictional and UMSM

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

c) Eight adult workers with young people—1 adult from each central conference region (Africa, Asia, and Europe), appointed by the central conference nominating committee; 1 adult from each jurisdiction, elected by the jurisdictional conference;

d) Additional Members:

(1) Five members of the General Board of Discipleship (2 clergy, 2 lay, 1 bishop, one of whom serves on the Executive Committee);

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

(3) up to 5 additional members who, as determined by the General Board of Discipleship, may be nominated by the Division to ensure inclusiveness and expertise.

2. Resource People—The division shall be responsible for connecting and highlighting the work of general agencies and other United Methodist entities in youth and young-adult ministry. In order to effectively carry out that charge, one staff person (or board member when staff are not available) from the following entities shall be present (with voice but not vote) at meetings of the division. These representatives shall attend at the expense of the sending agency and shall relate the priorities of the division to their agency and serve as resource people to the division:

- a) General Board of Church and Society
- b) General Board of Discipleship
- c) General Board of Global Ministries
- d) General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
- e) General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
- f) General Commission on Religion and Race
- g) General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
- h) General Commission on United Methodist Men
- i) General Council on Finance and Administration
- j) Connectional Table
- k) United Methodist Communications
- l) United Methodist Publishing House
- m) Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries

¶ 1208. Youth Service Fund—There shall be a Youth Service Fund.

1. Organization—The Youth Service Fund shall be a means of stewardship education and mission support of youth within The United Methodist Church. As a part of the Fund's cultivation, youth shall be challenged to assume their

financial responsibilities in connection with the total program and budget of the church of which they are members. Local church treasurers shall send the full amount of Youth Service Fund offerings to the treasurer of the annual conference, who shall retain seventy percent of the amount for distribution by the annual conference council on youth ministry. The annual conference treasurer shall send the remaining thirty percent monthly to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to be forwarded to the General Board of Discipleship, Division on Ministries With Young People. All other Youth Service Fund money raised in the annual conference shall be divided in the same manner and distributed in the same way.

2. Project Review—The youth network of the Division on Ministries With Young People shall constitute a project review committee to advise the network in the selection of projects. The project review committee shall be comprised of youth and adult worker members of the Division on Ministries with Young People in a ratio of at least five youth to one adult as determined by the Division on Ministries with Young People. The projects shall be chosen according to the policies and criteria established by the youth network of the Division on Ministries With Young People.

3. A minimum of 70 percent of the general portion of the Youth Service Fund shall be used to fund Youth Service Fund projects; the remaining amount shall be used for office resourcing and Youth Service Fund promotion and interpretation. United Methodist Communications shall assist the Division on Ministries With Young People in the promotion and interpretation of the Youth Service Fund.

¶ 1209. Grants for Ministries with Young People—There shall be grants made available to local churches, affiliated organizations, campus ministries, districts, annual conferences, provisional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and central conferences of The United Methodist Church.

1. Purpose—The purpose of these grants is to fund dynamic, creative ministries with young people that can serve as model programs for other organizations throughout the connection.

2. Project Review—The Division on Ministries With Young People shall constitute a project review committee made up of three youth, three young adults, and three adult workers with young people who are members of the Division. The committee shall also include one staff representative and two board members each from the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Division on Ministries With Young People shall

establish criteria in consultation with the four participating program boards and in relation to the purposes of the Division and the program boards.

¶ 1210. Global Young People’s Convocation—There shall be a Global Young People’s Convocation.

1. Purpose—The Global Young People’s Convocation shall be a global event held once every four years for the purpose of celebrating the mission and vitality of young people in The United Methodist Church, raising the joys and concerns of young people from the global community, developing young people as leaders for effective ministry in local churches and communities of faith, highlighting emerging trends in youth and young-adult ministry, and providing a common forum that embraces the global reality of the church.

2. Legislation—During the convocation there shall be opportunities for jurisdiction and central conference delegations and individuals to propose legislation in a forum known as the United Methodist Young People’s Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly shall be made up of delegations as defined under “Voting members.” Legislation brought to the Assembly shall relate to issues of concern to young people. Legislation adopted by the Legislative Assembly may be referred to the Division on Ministries With Young People or sent to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church carrying the name “United Methodist Young People’s Legislative Assembly.”

All legislation, petitions, and programming must be in accordance with ¶ 806.9 and ¶ 806.10.

3. Membership—The membership of the United Methodist Young People’s Legislative Assembly shall be inclusive in nature and selected as follows:

a) Voting members

(1) 5 youth (ages 12-18) from each jurisdiction and 5 youth from each central conference according to the age definition of each central conference. These youth shall be elected at jurisdictional youth convocations or by central conference youth organizations in the year preceding the Global Young People’s Convocation.

(2) 5 young adults (ages 19-30) from each jurisdiction and 5 young adults from each central conference according to the age definition of each central conference. These young adults shall be elected by jurisdictional and central conference young-adult organizations.

(3) 2 adult workers with young people from each jurisdiction and 2 youth and young adult workers from each central conference. These adults shall be elected at jurisdictional youth and young-adult convocations (when appropriate) or by central conference youth organizations in the year preceding the Global Young People’s Convocation.

b) Nonvoting members (In all cases, nonvoting members will have the status of voice without vote.)

(1) Youth and young adult members of the general agencies

(2) Members and staff of the Division on Ministries With Young People

(3) Additional members from jurisdictions, central conferences, and ecumenical partners

4. Expenses—The expenses for the Global Young People’s Convocation are to be borne by participants wherever possible. An adequate funding plan shall be devised by the Division on Ministries with Young People to ensure the full participation of elected delegates to Global Young People’s Convocation and Legislative Assembly. It is strongly recommended that jurisdictions, central conferences, and annual conference councils on youth and young-adult ministries, or equivalent structures, secure funding for Convocation participants who are elected from said conference. A limited amount of need-based scholarships shall be made available through the Division on Ministries With Young People to promote the full participation of the body.

¶ 1211. Staff—1. The Division on Ministries With Young People shall have as its chief staff officer an Associate General Secretary. This staff officer shall be nominated by the personnel committee of the General Board of Discipleship for election by the Board. The search committee shall be chaired by the General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship and composed of equal representation from the General Board of Discipleship and the Division on Ministries With Young People.

2. All other staff members of the Division will be elected or appointed in a manner prescribed by the Board (¶ 714).

¶ 1212. Division Funding—1. The operating funds for the Division shall be derived from three main sources: World Service Fund, self-funding programs, and the general portion of the Youth Service Fund.

## **Section VII. General Board of Global Ministries**

¶ 1301. There shall be a General Board of Global Ministries, hereinafter referred to as the board, the purpose of which is found within the expression of the total mission of the Church. It is a missional instrument of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences, and local congregations in the context of a global setting.

The Church in mission is a sign of God’s presence in the world. By the authority of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church:

1. Joins God’s mission to reclaim, restore, and redeem the life of all creation to its divine intention;

2. Confesses by word and deed the redeeming activity of God in Christ among the whole human family;

3. Seeks to embody and realize the potential of new life in Christ among all human beings; and

4. Looks forward in faith and hope for the fulfillment of God's reign and the completion of God's mission.

¶ 1302. Responsibilities—1. To discern those places where the gospel has not been heard or heeded and to witness to its meaning throughout the world, inviting all persons to newness of life in Jesus Christ through a program of global ministries.

2. To encourage and support the development of leadership in mission for both the Church and society.

3. To challenge all United Methodists with the New Testament imperative to proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth, expressing the mission of the Church; and to recruit, send, and receive missionaries, enabling them to dedicate all or a portion of their lives in service across racial, cultural, national, and political boundaries.

4. To plan with others and to establish and strengthen Christian congregations where opportunities and needs are found, so that these congregations may be units of mission in their places and partners with others in the worldwide mission of the Christian church.

5. To advocate the work for the unity of Christ's church through witness and service with other Christian churches and through ecumenical councils.

6. To engage in dialogue with all persons, including those of other faiths, and to join with them where possible in action on common concerns.

7. To assist local congregations and annual conferences in mission both in their own communities and across the globe by raising awareness of the claims of global mission and by providing channels for participation.

8. To express the concerns of women organized for mission and to help equip women for full participation both locally and globally in Church and world.

9. To engage in direct ministries to human need, both emergency and continuing, institutional and noninstitutional, however caused.

10. To work within societies and systems so that full human potential is liberated and to work toward the transformation of demonic forces that distort life.

11. To identify with all who are alienated and dispossessed and to assist them in achieving their full human development—body, mind, and spirit.

12. To envision and engage in imaginative new forms of mission appropriate to changing human needs and to share the results of experimentation with the entire Church.

13. To facilitate the development of cooperative patterns of ministry so that the unified strength of local congregations and other units of the Church in designated areas can respond with more effective ministries of justice, advocacy, compassion, and nurture.

14. To affirm Volunteers in Mission as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement and devise appropriate structure to interpret and implement opportunities for mission volunteers in the global community.

15. To facilitate the receiving and assignment of missionaries from churches in nations other than the United States in cooperation with the other general agencies and with annual conferences.

¶ 1303. Objectives—1. The objectives of the board shall be:

a) To plan for the implementation of the responsibilities of the board in the missional outreach of The United Methodist Church.

b) To establish the appropriate organization of the board and staff to accomplish its program and fulfill the responsibilities of the board.

c) To determine, in cooperation with mission constituencies, the areas to be served and the nature of the work to be undertaken.

d) To determine policy and program, to establish goals and priorities, to project long-range plans, to evaluate the program and services of the board as to the progress made in fulfilling its purpose in accordance with ¶¶ 1301 and 1302, and to seek to achieve its objectives through the programs of the board.

e) To coordinate and harmonize the work of the board.

f) To elect or appoint, according to the bylaws, the staff of the board.

g) To assign responsibility and delegate authority to staff and to provide oversight of the staff.

h) To receive and properly administer all properties, trust funds, permanent funds, annuity funds, and other special funds.

i) To receive, secure, appropriate, and expend funds to underwrite its program and fulfill its responsibilities.

j) To receive and act upon the reports of its units, committees, and their staff.

k) To make a report of its activities during the quadrennium to the General Conference.

l) To develop and maintain cooperative relations with other general agencies and with jurisdictional, central, annual, and missionary conferences.

m) To be responsible for implementing a policy stating that The United Methodist Church is not a party to any comity agreement that limits the ability of any annual conference in any jurisdiction to develop and resource programs of ministry of any kind among Native Americans, including the organization of local churches where necessary.

2. The board shall develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with churches and ecumenical agencies on matters of mutual concern in the implementation of disciplinary responsibilities.

3. The board shall facilitate and coordinate the program relationships of other program agencies of The United Methodist Church with churches and agencies in nations other than the United States.

¶ 1304. Authority—The board shall have authority to make bylaws and regulate its proceedings in harmony with the Book of Discipline. Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting thereon at a regular or special meeting, provided that required notice of such amendment has previously been given to the members. The board shall have the power and right to do any and all things that shall be authorized by its charter, except when there is duplication of activities from one agency to another. It shall have authority to develop and carry out its responsibilities as described in ¶ 1302; to buy, acquire, or receive by gift, devise, or bequest property—real, personal, and mixed; to hold, mortgage, sell, and dispose of property; to sue and be sued; to borrow money in case of necessity in a manner harmonious with ¶¶ 806-807; to develop and maintain ecumenical relations to carry out its responsibilities; and to administer its affairs through the board and its various units and committees.

¶ 1305. Incorporation—1. The General Board of Global Ministries shall be incorporated and shall function through the board and its units.

2. The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church shall be the successor to the following corporations: the Board of Missions of The Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Home Missions and Church Erection Society of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ, the Women's Missionary Association of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the Missionary Society of The Evangelical Church, and the Board of Church Extension of The Evangelical Church, and as such successor it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its said predecessor corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character—real, personal, or mixed—held by them, and it shall and hereby is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by the said predecessor corporations.

3. It shall have control of all the work formerly controlled and administered by the following: the Board of Health and Welfare Ministries; the Board of Missions of The United Methodist Church; the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church; the Missionary Society, the Board of Foreign Missions, the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, the Woman's

Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the Ladies' Aid Societies of The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Board of Missions, including the Woman's Missionary Society, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, the Woman's Board of Home Missions, the Woman's Missionary Council, and the Board of Church Extension of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South; the Board of Missions of The Methodist Protestant Church; the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church; such other incorporated or unincorporated divisions and departments and their predecessors as may have been merged into the board; and such other corporations or agencies of the General Conference as do similar work; but this list shall not be construed as exclusive.

4. Subject to the limitations hereinafter specified, any corporations within the board shall be subject to the supervision and control of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in all things not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the states of incorporation.

5. The board shall have the power to create those subsidiary units or sections needed in the fulfillment of designated functions, upon approval of the board.

¶ 1306. Executive Committee—There shall be an executive committee, which shall exercise the powers of the board ad interim, and whose membership and responsibilities shall be determined by the bylaws of the board.

¶ 1307. Corporate Officers—The board shall elect as its corporate officers a president, three vice presidents, a treasurer, a recording secretary, and such other officers as it shall deem necessary. The board shall determine the powers and duties of its officers.

The president, general secretary, and treasurer of the board are ex officio members of all units and their executive committees, and standing committees of the board, without vote. The Women's Division shall elect its president, who shall be one of the three vice presidents of the board.

¶ 1308. Elected Staff—1. Board Cabinet—a) The board shall elect its general secretary annually by ballot. As chief staff officer of the board, the general secretary shall have direct involvement in staff selections.

b) The board shall elect a deputy general secretary for administration, a maximum of five other deputy general secretaries, and a board treasurer. In addition, the Women's Division shall nominate its deputy general secretary for election by the division and the board after consultation with the president and the general secretary of the board.

c) The board personnel committee, in consultation with the general secretary of the board, shall recommend candidates for the positions of deputy general secretaries and board treasurer for election by the board. The deputy general secre-

taries shall have administrative responsibility as assigned by the general secretary and shall be responsible to the general secretary.

d) The general secretary may add positions to the cabinet.

2. Unit Staff—*a)* The Women's Division shall nominate for election by the board such other staff persons of the Women's Division as are deemed necessary to carry out the work assigned.

b) The board shall elect additional staff as needed.

3. The board shall elect, on nomination of the board personnel committee and in consultation with the general secretary, one or more associate treasurers of the General Board of Global Ministries, one of whom shall be the treasurer of the Women's Division and nominated by the Women's Division. The associate treasurer(s) will be responsible to the treasurer of the General Board of Global Ministries for board fiscal procedures and to the assigned deputy general secretary for administrative procedures (§ 703.7e).

§ 1309. Personnel Policies—1. Selection—The staff of the board shall be selected on the basis of competency and with representation of ethnic and racial groups, young adults, and women, in accordance with policies in § 714.

2. Staff Participation of Women—*a)* Of the cabinet-level staff positions within the board, a minimum of 40 percent shall be occupied by women.

b) A minimum of 40 percent of all elected staff, as well as a minimum of 40 percent of the appointed staff, shall be women.

§ 1310. Properties, Trusts, and Annuities—1. All properties, trust funds, annuity funds, permanent funds, and endowments now or formerly held and administered by the Board of Missions, the Board of Health and Welfare Ministries, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief of The United Methodist Church; the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church; the Board of Missions of The Evangelical United Brethren Church or their successors; and their respective divisions and departments or their successors shall be carefully safeguarded. The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church shall endeavor to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and to administer such investments in the interest of those persons and causes for which said funds were established. Such properties, trust funds, annuity funds, permanent funds, and endowments shall be transferred to the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church from merged boards and societies only when such transfers can be made in accordance with the laws of the states where the several boards and societies are chartered and on the recommendation of the board and the approval of such boards and societies. Funds of the board and its preceding corpora-

tions and societies that are subject to appropriation shall be appropriated only on recommendation of the board. (See ¶ 806.11.)

2. Former Evangelical United Brethren mission agencies located within the United States not directly owned by the General Board of Global Ministries or the Women's Division of the board and which receive more than 50 percent of their charitable donations through United Methodist channels of giving shall be governed by a board of trustees or directors of whom two-thirds of its elected voting membership shall be members of The United Methodist Church.

3. The financial affairs of the board shall be as follows:

a) The income of the board, exclusive of the Women's Division, shall be derived from apportionments, assessments, or askings distributed to jurisdictions, annual conferences, and pastoral charges by the budget-making process of the General Conference in such manner as the General Conference may prescribe, and from church schools, gifts, donations, freewill offerings, annuities, bequests, specials, and other sources from which missionary and benevolence funds are usually derived, in harmony with The Book of Discipline and actions of the General Conference. Funds for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Women's Division shall be derived from annual voluntary pledges, offerings, gifts, devises, bequests, annuities, or money received through special emphases and from meetings held in the interest of the division.

b) All contributions to and income on all funds of the board should be used for current expenses and annual appropriations unless otherwise designated by the donor.

4. Askings shall be received from the fields, and budgets shall be prepared by the board, consistent with its constitution and charter, and the budget shall be presented to the Connectional Table in accordance with ¶ 806.

¶ 1311. Membership—The policies, plans of work, management, business, and all affairs of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church shall be governed and administered by the board, which shall be composed according to the following conditions:

1. The basic members (clergy, laymen, and laywomen) are elected by the jurisdiction upon the nomination of the annual conferences. Each annual conference shall have representation from this category on the General Board of Global Ministries at least once within a three-quadrennial period.

The jurisdictions shall use the following formula when electing members: Northeastern Jurisdiction—7; Southeastern Jurisdiction—8; Western Jurisdiction—4; North Central Jurisdiction—7; and South Central Jurisdiction—9 (at least one of whom shall be from either the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference or the Rio Grande Annual Conference). Each central conference shall elect

one member to the basic membership of the board for a total of seven. The additional members of the board are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction—a clergy member, a layman, and a laywoman—elected within each jurisdiction. The committee is to be convened by the president of the board, or if there be none, the secretary of the Council of Bishops. There shall be one additional member from each of the five jurisdictions (the member from the South Central Jurisdiction shall be from either the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference or the Rio Grande Annual Conference, unless they are already represented in the basic membership of the board). There shall be five additional members from the central conferences elected from those nominated according to ¶ 705.4e. An intentional effort shall be made to rotate representation among the central conferences.

2. The Women's Division membership procedures are an exception to those described in §§ 705, 709 of the General Provisions. Women's Division membership is defined in ¶ 1325. Members of the Women's Division who are members of the board shall also serve on the membership of other units and committees of the board.

3. The composition of the board and its units should reflect the major recognized categories of Church members. (See ¶ 705.) A minimum of one-half of the membership should be women.

4. Members of the board shall be distributed across the component units and standing committees of the board in accord with board bylaws.

5. The term of office of all members whose election is provided for in this paragraph shall begin and the board shall organize at a meeting to be held within ninety days after the adjournment of the last meeting of the several jurisdictional conferences held after the adjournment of the General Conference.

6. On nomination of the Council of Bishops, the General Conference shall elect to the board one bishop from each jurisdiction and three central conference bishops.

7. The general secretary, the treasurer of the board, and the deputy general secretaries shall be members without vote.

8. Salaried members of staff of any agency receiving appropriation funds from the board shall not be eligible to serve as voting members of said board, except in order to fulfill the provisions of

¶ 705.

¶ 1312. Advance Committee—There shall be an Advance Committee, which shall have general oversight of the Advance for Christ and His Church (¶ 821).

1. The Advance Committee shall be organized under the authority and direction of the General Board of Global Ministries. It shall consist of twenty (20)

members as follows: Ten (10) directors of the General Board of Global Ministries; five (5) conference secretaries of global ministries (representing the five jurisdictions and elected by their jurisdictional associations) and five (5) members at large appointed by the Director of the Advance for Christ and His Church in consultation with the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries.

2. Director of the Advance

a) There shall be a Director of the Advance, nominated by the General Secretary and elected by the General Board of Global Ministries. The salary and benefits of the director and other administrative costs of the Advance shall be borne by the General Board of Global Ministries.

b) Responsibilities of the Director of the Advance shall be:

(1) To coordinate the total program of the Advance, including its promotion, cultivation and administration;

(2) To coordinate the staff work required of the participating units of the General Board of Global Ministries within the Advance;

(3) To report directly to the Advance Committee concerning the program and progress of the Advance; and

(4) To keep a record of all general Advance Special projects.

3. General Advance Special Projects—It shall be the responsibility of the Advance Committee to determine which projects are approved to receive general Advance Special Gifts (§ 821.2). The Advance fosters partnership between those who give and those who receive, and it affirms the right of persons to determine the priority of their own needs.

a) Projects shall be proposed by authorized persons closely related to the project and shall be recommended to the Advance Committee by the administering programmatic unit.

b) The Advance Committee may consider and approve proposals for either specific projects or broadly designated causes, such as a type of work, a country, a region, or an administrative unit.

c) No project within the boundaries of an annual conference shall be approved by the Advance Committee for promotion, cultivation, and administration as an Advance Special without consultation with the resident bishop and the board or agency delegated to have responsibility for mission by the annual conference.

4. Administering Units—Units authorized to recommend projects and receive and administer funds for general Advance Special projects shall be the following designated programmatic units of the General Board of Global Ministries: Evangelization and Church Growth Program Area, Community and Institutional Ministries Program Area, Mission Contexts and Relationships Program Area,

Mission Personnel Program Area, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The administering programmatic units shall report annually to the Advance Committee on the financial progress of projects and assist in providing programmatic information as requested.

### Mission Program Areas

¶ 1313. Program Areas—Six program areas shall be assigned responsibilities within the General Board of Global Ministries as it seeks to enhance the involvement of all United Methodists in Christian mission and develop ways to facilitate their mission involvement. The membership of the program areas shall be constituted in accord with the bylaws of the General Board of Global Ministries.

1. The Evangelization and Church Growth Program Area exists to facilitate the proclamation and witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ through word, deed, and sacrament in every sphere of human existence, the establishment of faith communities or new churches, and the strengthening of existing congregations. The responsibilities of Evangelization and Church Growth shall be:

a) To support evangelization among people who have not heard or heeded the gospel.

b) To undertake strategic new mission initiatives and to establish new congregations where United Methodism and/or cooperative church relationships do not exist.

c) To identify, prepare, train, and empower persons for leadership in the church and community so that vital mission-oriented congregations may be developed.

d) To prepare persons to share their Christian faith and witness among persons of other faiths.

e) To revitalize existing congregations and faith communities.

f) To work with the General Board of Discipleship for the extension of the Church through a Joint Committee on Congregational Development composed of equal representation from the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Discipleship, which shall meet at least annually to expedite cooperation between these two boards in the field of congregational development of both new congregations as well as the revitalization of existing congregations.

g) To administer the United Methodist Development Fund in accord with policies set by the General Board of Global Ministries for the purpose of making first mortgage loans to United Methodist churches, districts, city societies, district unions, mission institutions, or conference church extension agencies for the purchase of sites and for the purchase, construction, expansion, or major improvement of churches, parsonages, or mission buildings.

2. The Community and Institutional Ministries Program Area exists to facilitate, resource, and support missional outreach to meet human needs, with special emphasis on ministries with women, children, youth, and older adults through the following: direct services; specialized ministries; community organizing and development, including economic development; and community justice advocacy. The responsibilities of Community and Institutional Ministries shall be:

a) To develop strategies for church and community development, including grants, loans and technical assistance for programs of self-development and self-determination pertaining to social needs arising from concerns for ethnic and cultural pluralism, economic and sexual exploitation, and political and racial oppression.

b) To develop community-based programs in areas such as agricultural mission, communications, student and youth ministries.

c) To provide funding, consultation, training, resources, and coordinated mission strategy to new and historically related community centers, residences, health-care agencies, multiservice mission complexes, special regional agencies, childcare institutions, schools, and other educational institutions.

d) To use institutions as places to develop new models of community transformation.

e) To develop strong local and regional organizations and the capacity to network and become part of an internationally related program.

f) To foster and facilitate cooperative patterns of ministry such as cooperative parishes, metropolitan ministries, rural and town and country ministries; to work with denominational, ecumenical, and secular coalitions; and, as appropriate, to develop new patterns of joint mission.

g) To facilitate and coordinate program relationships of other agencies of The United Methodist Church with community and institutional ministries.

3. The Mission Contexts and Relationships Program Area exists to analyze and evaluate the context in which the Church is called to Christian ministry, including factors such as culture, religion, history, politics, economics, environment, and demographics; to develop and sustain covenant relationships and mission partnerships; to explore dialogues with persons of other faiths and engage in ecumenical cooperation; and to develop concerted actions and advocacy for global justice, peace, and freedom. The responsibilities of Mission Contexts and Relationships shall be:

a) To identify and analyze the missional concerns that shape the conditions under which the Church is called to minister.

b) To develop and sustain covenant relationships and mission partnerships that include sharing of opportunities and resources, networking, and cooperation.

This includes maintaining and fulfilling the connectional relationships with annual conferences, missionary conferences, and central conferences; autonomous, affiliated autonomous, and united churches; and ecumenical church bodies.

c) To develop missional relationships in countries and communities where The United Methodist Church has no commitments by pursuing a working agreement with the church, churches, a united mission organization, or ecumenical bodies related to the area. If these approaches are not available, the board may participate in the formation of a new United Methodist denominational structure, in which case it may request the Council of Bishops to provide any necessary episcopal oversight.

d) To request each central conference and its conferences, both annual and provisional, and each affiliated autonomous Methodist church or united church, where applicable, to make provision for liaison functions with the board.

e) To provide information and assist in developing action and advocacy for global justice, peace, and freedom through working cooperatively with other agencies of the Church; other denominations; and ecumenical, interfaith, and secular coalitions.

f) To foster interaction of churches and ecumenical groups for the purpose of mutuality in the definition and implementation of Christian mission and international concerns.

g) To administer funding and other forms of resource sharing for projects and programs—especially those serving women, children, and youth of partner churches and ecumenical bodies.

h) To relate to persons in mission of partner churches.

i) To resource leadership training programs and administer scholarships, including the World Communion Scholarship Program.

j) To participate and partner with those annual conferences and local congregations who are developing initiatives for mission using models such as the Mozambique Initiative process.

4. The Mission Education Program Area exists to develop a mission education philosophy for the General Board of Global Ministries that is rooted in a biblical and theological understanding of Christian global mission and to undergird the total program of the board through mission education. The responsibilities of Mission Education shall be:

a) To provide opportunities for United Methodists to understand the global mission of The United Methodist Church and for personal and corporate witness through involvement in and support of the mission.

b) To initiate and develop, in consultation with appropriate units of the board, programs, and resources that will encourage persons of particular cultures

to become receivers and bearers of the gospel across boundaries and to live faithfully within a multicultural world.

c) To provide for mission interpreters a specific period of training and assistance in effective communication, including audiovisual techniques, public speaking, briefings on current issues, and an overview of the board's work.

d) To tell the story of global mission throughout the Church, including its relationship to the World Service funds and other apportioned funds and special offerings.

e) To train mission leaders, in cooperation with other units of the board and others in the Church, to fulfill their responsibilities.

f) To work with schools of theology and professors of mission in providing an emphasis on education for mission, in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

g) To cooperate with the General Board of Discipleship, especially the Curriculum Resources Committee, in providing opportunities for mission involvement and understanding of all age levels.

h) To initiate and develop special programs and resources through which children and youth may understand the mission of the Church.

i) To work with ecumenical agencies in fulfilling mission education responsibilities.

j) To provide opportunities for United Methodists to gather and witness as a global church.

5. The Mission Volunteers Program Area exists to enable the participation of persons from throughout the world in global mission volunteer programs and projects so that affirming, empowering, and trusting relationships are established. The responsibilities of the program area, Mission Volunteers, shall be:

a) To plan for and develop a broad range of mission volunteer opportunities for short-term assignments.

b) To promote and interpret the need for volunteers with a variety of skills and abilities.

c) To work in close relationship with conference and jurisdictional officers to assist in identifying, developing, and supporting opportunities for mission volunteer service (i.e., Volunteers in Mission, disaster response volunteers, and special volunteer programs).

d) To provide information enabling the relationship between volunteers and projects.

e) To provide, in cooperation with jurisdictions and conferences, guidelines and procedures for participation and training of mission volunteers.

f) To develop, in cooperation with jurisdictions and conferences, standards by which projects qualify for mission volunteers and to evaluate a project upon request.

g) To encourage local churches, districts, central conferences, and annual conferences to provide funds and/or materials and spiritual support for those who offer their skills, talents, and commitment.

h) To work cooperatively with agencies of the Church, other denominations, and coalitions, both ecumenical and secular.

6. The Mission Personnel Program Area exists to serve the Church in the identification, recruitment, selection, preparation, training, assignment, supervision, and support of mission personnel for short- and long-term assignments. It also exists to assist in the identification of opportunities for Christian service in representing mission personnel concerns before the General Board of Global Ministries. The responsibilities of Mission Personnel shall be:

a) To promote the opportunities for mission service related to the General Board of Global Ministries throughout the constituencies of the Church.

b) To recruit, select, prepare, and assign mission personnel, including, but not limited to, missionaries, deaconesses, US-2s, mission interns, and church and community workers.

c) To provide all mission personnel with preparation and training for effective service in mission.

d) To evaluate mission personnel for appropriate placement.

e) To recommend persons as candidates for commissioning as deaconesses and missionaries, and to supervise and confirm the completion of all requirements for commissioning.

f) To engage in supervision and support of mission personnel through referral, transfer procedures, career counseling, missionary wellness, and personnel development, assisting them in the fulfillment of their missional vocation.

g) To administer a diverse program of remuneration and benefits for personnel service.

h) To offer training for mission service throughout the global church.

i) To work with ecumenical agencies in fulfilling mission personnel responsibilities.

j) To facilitate the receiving and assigning of missionaries—lay and clergy—from central conferences and from autonomous, affiliated autonomous, and united churches, in cooperation with other boards and agencies and with annual conferences.

k) To foster the support of mission personnel by congregations and individuals through Covenant Relationships, a feature of The Advance for Christ and his

Church; and expand other forms of mission commitment including Global Mission Partners.

Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner

¶ 1314. General Provisions—1. There shall be in The United Methodist Church the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner. The purpose of the office of deaconess and home missioner shall be to express representatively the love and concern of the believing community for the needs in the world and to enable, through education and involvement, the full ministry and mission of the people of God. Deaconesses and home missionaries function through diverse forms of service directed toward the world to make Jesus Christ known in the fullness of his ministry and mission, which mandate that his followers:

- a) Alleviate suffering;
- b) Eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth;
- c) Facilitate the development of full human potential; and
- d) Share in building global community through the church universal.

2. Deaconesses, who are laywomen, and home missionaries, who are laymen, are professionally trained persons who have been led by the Holy Spirit to devote their lives to Christlike service under the authority of the Church. They are approved by the General Board of Global Ministries and commissioned by a bishop at a session of the board or at a setting approved by the board. They shall have a continuing relationship to The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries.

Deaconesses and home missionaries are available for service with any agency or program of The United Methodist Church. Deaconesses and home missionaries may also serve in other than United Methodist Church agencies or programs, provided that approval be given by the board in consultation with the bishop of the receiving area.

3. Full-time service is the norm for the ministry of a deaconess or home missionary, meaning that the person's entire vocational time is devoted to work of ministry in the field of labor to which one is appointed by the bishop.

a) The program office shall process appointments for deaconesses and home missionaries in consultation with the bishop of the area, in accordance with the policies and procedures of the General Board of Global Ministries.

b) The appointment shall be fixed by the bishop (¶ 415.7) at the session of annual conference and printed in the list of appointments in the annual conference journal.

c) The annual conference secretary shall:

(1) Keep a record of all persons in the annual conference who have been commissioned to the office of deaconess or home missionary.

(2) Publish annually in the annual conference journal the list of appointments of deaconesses and home missionaries.

4. A deaconess or home missionary shall hold church membership in a local church within the conference where her/his appointment is located and shall be a voting member of the charge conference of that church. Those holding staff positions with a general board or connectional agency of The United Methodist Church may hold church membership in an annual conference within reasonable distance of the headquarters of the board or agency served. A deaconess or home missionary whose appointment is located outside the boundaries of an annual conference may hold her or his church membership in a local church in her or his home conference or in the local church in the annual conference in which she or he last held her or his church membership.

5. Deaconesses and home missionaries shall be seated at the sessions of the annual conference with voice and vote.

6. A deaconess or home missionary shall be a member of the annual conference in accordance with ¶¶ 32 and 602.4.

7. Deaconesses and home missionaries shall be subject to the administrative authority of the program or agency to which they are appointed. In matters of their assignment they are subject to the authority of the General Board of Global Ministries and may not contract for service that would nullify this authority.

8. Each deaconess or home missionary shall enroll in a pension plan. The rights of any deaconess or home missionary in any prior or existing agreement or pension plan shall be fully protected.

9. A leave of absence may be requested. It shall be granted for reasons of health, family responsibilities, or vocational re-assessment, or for lack of employment in a helping profession or church-related vocation. Approval of leave of absence shall be given annually. Such leave shall normally not exceed five years. Exceptional circumstances requiring an extended leave shall be handled in consultation with the Personnel Services Team of the Mission Personnel Program Area of the General Board of Global Ministries.

10. Involuntary termination for a deaconess or home missionary shall follow the procedural guidelines as set forth in ¶ 2702.

¶ 1315. Home Missionaries—All persons commissioned to the office of home missionary shall retain that office with all of the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

¶ 1316. Committee on Deaconess Service—1. There shall be a Committee on Deaconess Service, which shall be advisory to the General Board of Global Ministries.

2. The Committee on Deaconess Service shall be composed of one bishop who is a member of the General Board of Global Ministries; a total of six active deaconesses, home missionaries, and home missionaries selected by vote of the active deaconesses, home missionaries, and home missionaries who relate to the board; and four directors of the General Board of Global Ministries, at least two of whom shall also be directors of the Women's Division.

Additional members may be co-opted as deemed necessary by the Committee on Deaconess Service.

3. There shall be an executive committee and other committees as necessary for carrying out the duties of the Committee on Deaconess Service.

4. The work of the committee shall be carried out in accordance with the bylaws as approved by the General Board of Global Ministries.

¶ 1317. Deaconess Program Office—There shall be a program office for deaconesses and home missionaries to represent the deaconess and home missionary relationship on a national level and to maintain a community of professionally competent persons who are committed to service under authority of the Church. The executive secretary of the program office shall be a deaconess.

1. All administrative policies and procedures that pertain to the office of deaconess and home missionary shall also apply to the office of home missionary and be administered by the Deaconess Program Office (¶¶ 1314-1317).

2. The General Board of Global Ministries shall assign the administration of the program office to the Mission Personnel Program Area or another unit as it may determine (¶ 1303.1b).

3. There may be a national organization of deaconesses, home missionaries, and home missionaries, which shall operate according to policies approved by the General Board of Global Ministries.

4. There may be jurisdictional organizations of deaconesses, home missionaries, and home missionaries and their support constituencies, which shall operate according to policies approved by the General Board of Global Ministries.

#### Women's Division

¶ 1318. The Women's Division shall be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and shall interpret the purpose of United Methodist Women. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today's world, the Women's Division shall be an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and

children; shall work to build a supportive community among women; and shall engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement throughout the organization.

¶ 1319. Responsibilities—The responsibilities of the Women's Division shall be:

1. To recommend program and policies to United Methodist Women.
2. To interpret the role and responsibility of the division in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church.
3. To provide resources and opportunities for women that enrich their spiritual life and increase their knowledge and understanding of the needs of the world and their responsibility in meeting those needs.
4. To secure funds through the channels of United Methodist Women for the support of the program of the Church through the General Board of Global Ministries, with special concern for the needs and responsibilities of women.
5. To project plans specially directed toward leadership development of women through appropriate planning with the other units of the board.
6. To strengthen the Church's challenge to women to enlist in the diaconate as missionaries and deaconesses.
7. To enlist women in activities that have a moral and religious significance for the public welfare and that contribute to the establishment of a just global society.
8. To work with the other agencies of the Church and community in areas of common concern and responsibility. A United Nations Office shall be conducted in cooperation with the General Board of Church and Society.
9. To give visible evidence of oneness in Christ by uniting in fellowship and service with other Christians, including the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, Church Women United, and other similar groups, thereby strengthening the ecumenical witness and program of the Church.
10. To formulate concepts of contemporary mission.

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

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

3. The Women's Division shall include in its responsibilities:

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

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

4. The Women's Division shall have the authority:

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

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

c) To appropriate funds received through United Methodist Women.

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

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

¶ 1322. Structure—The Women’s Division shall be organized into such sections as the division shall determine.

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

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

¶ 1325. Membership—The Women’s Division shall be composed of fifty members as follows: forty shall be laywomen elected by the jurisdiction organizations of United Methodist Women at quadrennial meetings (¶ 536.4); five shall be the jurisdiction presidents of United Methodist Women; and five shall be elected by the Women’s Division. The president, general secretary, and treasurer of the board (¶ 1307) and the deputy general secretary, treasurer, and assistant general secretaries of the Women’s Division shall be members *ex officio*. The Women’s Division shall elect from its membership to board membership a number equivalent to one-third of total board membership but not less than thirty. It shall also elect members to units and committees of the board as defined in board bylaws.

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

## Health and Relief

¶ 1327. 1. General Provisions—*a)* Purpose—The Health and Relief Unit exists to assist United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in health and welfare ministries and in direct ministry to persons in need through programs of relief, rehabilitation, and service, including issues of refugees, hunger and poverty, and disaster response; and to assist organizations, institutions, and programs related to annual conferences and other units of The United Methodist Church in their involvement in direct service to persons in need through both residential and nonresidential ministries.

*b)* Authority—The Health and Relief Unit, a single administrative unit with two functional areas—United Methodist Committee on Relief, and Health and Welfare Ministries—shall operate under policies set by the General Board of Global Ministries.

*c)* Membership—The membership of Health and Relief shall be constituted in accord with the bylaws of the General Board of Global Ministries.

2. United Methodist Committee on Relief—*a)* Responsibilities—The responsibilities of the United Methodist Committee on Relief shall be:

(1) To seek to address human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

(2) To provide immediate relief of acute human need and to respond to the suffering of persons in the world caused by natural, ecological, political turmoil and civil disaster.

(3) To work cooperatively with the appropriate conference units, ecumenical bodies, and interdenominational agencies in the identification of, advocacy for, and assistance with ministries with refugees, hunger and poverty, and disaster response.

(4) To administer these ministries in the spirit of Jesus Christ, preserving the dignity of persons without regard to religion, race, nationality, or gender, and shall seek to enhance the quality of life in the human community.

(5) To work cooperatively with The General Commission on Communication in promotion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

(6) To initiate printed, audiovisual, electronic, and other resources to interpret, support, and communicate with conferences and churches concerning appeals for help and information related to ministries with refugees, hunger and poverty, and disaster response.

(7) To assist and train conference coordinators to address emerging and ongoing issues related to refugee ministries, root causes of hunger and poverty, disaster relief, and rehabilitation.

*b)* Financial Support—Sources of funds shall include: voluntary gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing offering, Advance Special Gifts, supplementary gifts of

United Methodist Women, churchwide appeals made by authority of the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration, and designated benevolence funds. Sources of funds for administrative functions of the General Board of Global Ministries shall be other than designated funds to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

c) Consultation—The response of United Methodist Committee on Relief growing out of natural or civil disaster shall be made at the request of the appropriate body related to The United Methodist Church. Repair and reconstruction of local church property and other church-related property shall be included in the funding response of the United Methodist Committee on Relief only when such response has been included in the appeal made for funds or the Advance Special Gifts made for this purpose. When this condition has been met, the United Methodist Committee on Relief shall respond in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries as follows:

(1) UMCOR, in consultation with conference disaster response coordinators, bishops, and district superintendents, shall identify specific locations where local church property and church-related properties have suffered damage.

(2) This information shall be relayed to the General Board of Global Ministries, which shall contact the conference disaster response coordinator to arrange an on-site visit to evaluate damages and initiate an ongoing consultative process.

3. Health and Welfare Ministries—a) Responsibilities—The responsibilities of Health and Welfare Ministries shall be:

(1) To assist conference units in addressing emerging and ongoing global health issues, including comprehensive community-based primary health care, HIV/AIDS, ministries with persons with physically and mentally challenging conditions, environmental health, and particularly the health needs of women, children, youth, the communities of color in the United States, and racial and ethnic communities globally.

(2) To provide upon request of the appropriate conference unit consultation services to existing and emerging health and welfare institutions and programs, and to jurisdictional, conference, district, and local church units.

(3) To assist local churches, districts, and annual conferences to develop ministries of health, healing, and wholeness.

(4) To provide help to conferences and health and welfare institutions to clarify their relationship with one another, including matters of legal and financial responsibility, and to help health and welfare institutions to become involved in outreach ministry globally.

(5) To provide programs for annual conferences, districts, and local churches that encourage awareness of the gifts and needs of persons with disabilities and to

promote the leadership and employment throughout the connectional system of persons with disabilities.

(6) To initiate printed, audiovisual, electronic, and other resources to interpret, support, and communicate with conferences and churches concerning development of health and welfare ministries and promotion of Golden Cross and similar offerings.

b) Financial Support—Sources of funds shall include financial support from World Service and other funds designated for the program of health and welfare ministries, including such proportion of undesignated gifts as may be determined by the board, and from gifts, wills, and trust funds given especially to Health and Welfare Ministries. Health and Welfare Ministries is authorized to receive financial grants and trusts from private foundations and funds from public agencies and is empowered to act as trustee for the administration of bequests.

c) Relationship with the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries—Health and Welfare Ministries shall work with the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries in leadership development and may make services available to the association.

d) Limitation of Responsibility—Health and Welfare Ministries shall not be responsible, legally or morally, for the debts, contracts, or obligations or for any other financial commitments of any character or description created, undertaken, or assumed by any institution or interest related to a unit of The United Methodist Church, whether or not such institution or interest shall be approved, accepted, or recognized by Health and Welfare Ministries or shall be affiliated with Health and Welfare Ministries, or whether or not the promotion or establishment of the same shall be approved by the constitution of Health and Welfare Ministries. No such institution or interest related to a unit of The United Methodist Church and no officer or member of Health and Welfare Ministries shall have any authority whatsoever to take any action directly or by implication at variance with, or deviating from, the limitation contained in the preceding sentence hereof, except as Health and Welfare Ministries may directly own and manage an institution in its own name.

### **Section VIII. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**

¶ 1401. There shall be a General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, hereinafter referred to as the board.

¶ 1402. Incorporation—The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be a corporation under the laws of Tennessee and shall be responsible for the functions previously conducted by the Division of Higher Education of

the General Board of Education and the Commission on Chaplains and Related Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry is authorized to take such action as is appropriate under the corporation laws of Tennessee so as to accomplish the end result stated above, and under which the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be one legal entity.

The divisions of the General Board of Education were not incorporated separately; it is the intent, however, that responsibility for the functions delegated to the divisions by prior legislative action be transferred consistent with the separation of the divisions between the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In the division of the assets of the General Board of Education, it is the intent that all assets be used in keeping with the original intent and purpose for which they were established or acquired, and so be assigned as appropriate to the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry, respectively. It is further intended that the annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates formerly held by the General Board of Education be used for the benefit and use of the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry (in accord with their purposes as defined in the Discipline), respectively, as their interests may appear, and that real estate titles be authorized to be conveyed as appropriate and apportioned where indicated.

In the event that the intent of the original donor of existing annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates cannot be clearly determined in relation to the interests of the two boards, such assets shall be divided equally between the two boards.

It is further intended that should additional assets accrue to the former General Board of Education by reason of annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates not now known and where the intent of the donor can be clearly ascertained, the assets shall be used in keeping with the original intent and purpose for which they were established or acquired and so be assigned as appropriate to the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry, respectively.

It is further intended that should additional assets accrue to the former General Board of Education by reason of annuities, bequests, trusts, and estates not now known and where the intent of the original donor cannot be clearly determined in relation to the interests of the two boards, such assets shall be divided equally between the two boards.

¶ 1403. Amenability and Accountability—The board shall be amenable to the General Conference, and between sessions of the General Conference it shall be accountable to the Connectional Table.

¶ 1404. Purpose—The board exists, within the expression of the total mission of the Church, for the specific purpose of preparing

and assisting persons to fulfill their ministry in Christ in the several special ministries, ordained and diaconal; and to provide general oversight and care for campus ministries and institutions of higher education, including schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools.

¶ 1405. Objectives—All the objectives assigned to the divisions shall be considered to be the objectives of the board. In summary, the board shall have authority:

1. To maintain the historic mission of The United Methodist Church in higher education and to serve as advocate for the intellectual life of the Church.
2. To seek to understand and communicate the significance of the Christian mission in higher education and ministry throughout the world as the context in which values and Christian lifestyle are shaped.
3. To encourage a Christian presence in institutions related to The United Methodist Church.
4. To ensure that the board's programs and policies address the needs and concerns for ministry with racial and ethnic persons and people with disabilities.
5. To provide counsel, guidance, and assistance to annual conferences through their boards of ordained ministry and higher education and campus ministry, and other such program units as may be organized in the annual conferences.
6. To study needs and resources for ordained and diaconal ministries, including identification of new types of ministry.
7. To develop and maintain standards and procedures for certification in professional ministerial careers and for ordination into the ordained ministry.<sup>29</sup>
8. To promote and give direction to work among racial and ethnic groups, and people with disabilities for enlistment, training, and placement of persons in the professional Church-related ministries.
9. To coordinate and make visible information about career assessment opportunities and continuing education that will assist persons in professional Church-related ministries with their professional growth and development.
10. To recruit, endorse, and provide general oversight of United Methodist ordained ministers, including persons who speak languages in addition to English, who desire to serve as chaplains in specialized institutional ministry settings in both private and governmental sectors.
11. To represent The United Methodist Church in, and provide liaison with, United Methodist ordained ministers certified by professional certifying and accrediting organizations related to ministry in specialized settings.
12. To plan and implement a continuing ministry to United Methodist laity in institutions and armed forces who are separated from their local churches.

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29 See Judicial Council Decision 507.

13. To develop and provide services directed to enlistment for specialized Church-related ministries, professional growth and development, and counseling.

14. To offer personnel and placement assistance for persons involved in professional Church-related ministries.

15. To conduct research on human needs to be met by the Church through its resources in higher education.

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

17. To maintain adequate fiduciary and legal relationships with institutions and ministries and to assist annual conferences and other judicatories in their responsibilities in these matters.

18. To provide counsel, guidance, and assistance to institutions of higher education in their relationships with governmental agencies.

19. To guard property and endowments entrusted to the institutions and to maintain and enforce adequate trust and reversionary clauses.

20. To monitor and interact with public higher education in terms of its reflection on the wholeness of persons and the meaning of life, and to study and inform constituencies of public policy issues related to higher education, both independent and public.

21. To promote, in cooperation with the General Commission on Communication, churchwide special Sundays and funds: Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and other funds and special days ordered by the General Conference.

22. To evaluate United Methodist higher education and professional Church-related ministries with concern for the quality of their performance and the integrity of their mission.

23. To provide standards and support for and interpretation of the work of United Methodist theological schools.

24. To analyze needs of those in Church-related ministries for continuing education, including assessment of effectiveness, professional growth and development, and funding.

25. To provide professional ministerial courses of study for orderly entrance into ordained ministry. In providing these courses of study, consideration shall be given to languages other than English and to persons with disabilities.

26. To provide for a continuing discussion of the theological bases for professional Church-related ministries and higher education.

27. To provide such services as will create a climate of acceptance and empowerment for women, racial and ethnic persons, and people with disabilities in

higher education and professional Church-related ministries, and to be alert to the necessity of advocacy in behalf of these professional ministries in questions of equity and justice.

28. To provide counsel, guidance, and assistance to professional associations and fellowships related to diaconal and other Church-related special ministries.

29. To interpret, promote, and administer the loan and scholarship programs of the board, and to cooperate with the General Board of Global Ministries in matters related to the World Communion Scholarship Program.

30. To engage in research related to personnel needs and interpretation of occupational opportunities in the Church.

31. To provide such support agencies as are deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the board.

32. To give priority to the planning and policy development functions of the board on behalf of the Church.

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

1. To establish and review the objectives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry within the wider mission of The United Methodist Church.

2. To establish appropriate organizational structures within the board and staff to achieve established objectives, including writing bylaws, electing officers, establishing committees, electing staff, and filling vacancies in accord with ¶ 712.

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

4. To give direction to the staff and to delegate authority to board executives through general oversight of the administration.

5. To report the activities of the board to The United Methodist Church through appropriate agencies of the general and jurisdictional conferences.

6. To develop and maintain cooperative relationships with ecumenical agencies and other denominations for the full discharge of the objectives of the board.

7. To cooperate with other agencies in The United Methodist Church in the fulfillment of the programs of the General Conference.

8. To develop and maintain cooperative relationships with higher educational institutions, campus ministries, chaplains and related ministries, and diaconal ministries throughout the world in collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries.

9. Upon request, to provide resources and technical assistance in higher education throughout the world in collaboration with churches of the Wesleyan tradition.

10. In cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, to develop long-range investments and fundraising projects within the Church that shall guarantee, insofar as possible, the continuous flow of resources for United Methodist higher education for the decades and the centuries to come. In developing such long-range investments, the board shall adhere to the specific investment guidelines adopted by the General Conference.

11. To promote awareness of and concurrence with “Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments” (§ 716), the Social Principles (§§ 160-166), and The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 1407. Organization—1. The membership shall be sixty-four persons constituted in accordance with ¶ 705.3a and .4 of the General Provisions.

2. The membership shall be constituted as follows:

a) Jurisdictional Members—Clergy, laywomen, and laymen shall be elected to the board by the jurisdictional conference upon nomination from the annual conference in accordance with ¶ 705.4, based on the following formula: North Central—8, Northeastern—8, South Central—11, Southeastern—12, and Western—3.

b) Central Conference Members—Six Central Conference members shall be elected to the board on nomination by the Council of Bishops according to the provisions in ¶ 705.4c.

c) Episcopal Members—Six episcopal members shall be named by the Council of Bishops, including at least one from the central conferences (see ¶ 710.11).

d) Additional Members—(1) United Methodist—Additional members are nominated by a committee composed of three persons from each jurisdiction (one clergy, one laywoman, and one layman) elected by the jurisdictional conference. They shall elect up to nine additional members to ensure inclusivity and expertise. (2) It is recommended that the board elect at least one of the additional members without vote from among the other churches of Churches Uniting in Christ.

e) If a vacancy occurs in the board, it shall be filled in accordance with ¶ 712.

¶ 1408. 1. Divisions—The board shall provide for a Division of Higher Education, and a Division of Ordained Ministry providing support for ordained clergy, local pastors, and diaconal ministers. Further, the board is authorized to alter its organization to adjust to changing circumstances, within the parameters of responsibility established by The Book of Discipline.

2. Offices—The board, in implementing the objectives (§§ 1403, 1405), shall have authority to establish and maintain the following offices: (a) Interpretation; and (b) Loans and Scholarships.

¶ 1409. Provision for Funding—1. The work and program of the board shall be supported from the general benevolences of the Church and the Ministerial Education Fund. Funds received by the board for the divisions from the Ministerial Education Fund shall be restricted to the support of theological schools and the Division of Ordained Ministry in the development of their programs of enlistment, basic professional degree programs, and continuing education (in accordance with ¶ 816.2a and b).

2. Administration and other programs of the divisions shall be supported solely from World Service moneys. The associate general secretaries shall recommend through the general secretary of the board to the General Council on Finance and Administration the amount of financial support that should be allocated for the divisions.

#### Division of Higher Education

¶ 1410. Duties and Responsibilities—1. Higher education is a significant part of our Wesleyan heritage, our present task, and our future responsibility. The Church continues its historic mission of uniting knowledge and vital piety by maintaining educational institutions and a campus ministry, and through them an intellectual, spiritual, and material ministry to all persons within the academic community without respect to sex, race, creed, or national origin.

2. There shall be a Division of Higher Education representing The United Methodist Church in its relationships with educational institutions and the campus ministry. The division shall have an advisory relationship to all United Methodist-affiliated institutions, including universities, colleges, secondary and special schools, Wesley Foundations, and similar organizations as well as ecumenical campus ministry groups. The division will, on request, serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to all agencies of the Church owning or administering educational institutions and campus ministry units.

3. The nominating committee of the board shall, insofar as possible, provide representation for nomination as members of the Division of Higher Education an equitable number of persons directly related to the areas of concern of the division.

4. Principal objectives of the division are:

a) To determine the nature of the United Methodist mission in and through its elementary, secondary, and higher educational institutions and campus ministries.

b) To develop policy that enables The United Methodist Church to engage effectively in higher education throughout the world.

c) To encourage the Church in programs designed to nurture and sustain educational institutions and campus ministry units as invaluable assets in the ongoing life of the Church.

d) To promote the United Methodist Student Movement, along with other Methodist and ecumenical student Christian movements around the world, and a concerned Christian ministry of the educational community; to witness in the campus community to the mission, message, and life of Jesus Christ; to deepen, enrich, and mature the Christian faith of college and university students, faculty, and staff through commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church and to assist them in their service and leadership to the world, in and through the Church.

e) To interpret both the Church and its educational institutions and campus ministry to each other; to help the agencies of the Church and higher education participate in the greater realization of a fully humane society committed to freedom and truth, love, justice, peace, and personal integrity.

f) To foster within educational institutions the highest educational standards, effective programs of Church relationships, the soundest business practices, the finest ethical and moral principles, and especially Christian ideals; to help people experience release from enslavement, fear, and violence; to help people live in love; and to raise the awareness of and sensitivity to persons with special needs.

g) To preserve and protect resources, property, and investments of The United Methodist Church or any conference, agency, or institution thereof, in any educational institution, Wesley Foundation, or other campus ministry unit founded, organized, developed, or assisted under the direction or with the cooperation of The United Methodist Church.

h) To relate to professional organizations of higher education and campus ministry on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

i) To enable the division's constituencies to develop an interest in and response to public policies bearing on higher education, both independent and public.

j) To provide resources and suggest guidelines for annual conference boards of higher education and campus ministry.

5. The division shall appoint personnel, including an assistant general secretary for campus ministry, an assistant general secretary for schools, colleges, and universities, and an assistant general secretary for the Black College Fund, and it shall establish such committees and commissions as may be necessary for effective fulfillment of its objectives. It may adopt such rules and regulations as may be required for the conduct of its business.

¶ 1411. Responsibilities to General and Annual Conferences—The Division of Higher Education will cooperate with and assist the General and annual con-

ferences and their respective boards and area commissions organized in behalf of educational institutions and the campus ministry. (For annual conference boards, see ¶ 634.2.)

1. The division shall:

a) Provide for the cooperative study of plans for maximum coordination of the work of United Methodist higher education with the Church's mission in Christian education.

b) Direct attention of Church members to the contribution of United Methodist educational institutions and campus ministry units to the life and character of students, faculty, and staff and to the place the institutions and campus ministry have in the preservation and propagation of the Christian faith for our time.

2. The division shall assess institutional and campus ministry relationships with and responsibilities to the Church, and it shall aid in the determination of the degree of active accord between institutional and campus ministry policies and practices and the policies of the Church as expressed in the Discipline and in General Conference enactments.

3. The division shall assist educational societies and foundations related to the annual conferences for the promotion of Christian higher education and the campus ministry, and it shall recognize such societies and foundations as auxiliaries of the division when their objectives and purposes, articles of incorporation, and administrative policies shall have been approved by the annual conference within whose boundaries they have been incorporated.

4. The division should provide the connectional relationship whenever agencies of the General Church wish to enter into discussion with or make inquiry into United Methodist-related schools, colleges, and universities.

5. The division shall direct attention to the work and needs of those educational institutions that stand in special relationship to The United Methodist Church and shall request support for them. Due recognition shall be given to the needs of the Black colleges historically related to The United Methodist Church. (See ¶¶ 815, 1420.)

6. The division shall approve changes in institutional sponsorship and relationships to the general or annual conferences, including separation from United Methodist program boards, from the general or one or more annual conferences, or from the University Senate as the certifying agency of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 1412. Responsibilities to Educational Institutions—The Division of Higher Education shall establish policy and practice providing for consultation with and support of United Methodist educational institutions, campus ministry units, and annual conference boards of higher education and campus ministry in matters

of institutional study and evaluation, promotion, interpretation, management, program, and finance.

1. The division shall, in cooperation with the University Senate:

a) Study trends in higher education, the needs of the Church, and public and private educational opportunities and requirements and make recommendations to the educational institutions and

state commissions or other bodies or publics concerned with higher education.

b) Recommend and approve plans for institutional cooperation, consolidation, or merger between or among United Methodist-related colleges and/or between them and institutions of other denominations that ensure that the interests of The United Methodist Church are adequately protected.

c) Investigate the objectives, academic programs, educational standards, personnel policies, plant and equipment, business and management practices, financial program, public relations, student personnel services, student development programs, religious life, and Church relations of any educational institution claiming or adjudged to be related to The United Methodist Church.

d) Evaluate and classify institutions in order to authenticate relatedness to the Church and determine eligibility for Church financial support.

2. The division shall, in regard to campus ministry, Wesley Foundations, and ecumenical campus ministry groups, provide a structure within the division in order to:

a) Assist in development of plans for the systematic evaluation of these units in cooperation with their regularly constituted boards of directors or trustees and with conference boards of higher education and campus ministry, and with area or regional committees or commissions on Christian higher education and campus ministry or appropriate ecumenical agencies.

b) Study the trends in programming and funding in campus ministry, review reports from the United Methodist Campus Ministers Association (UMCMA), conference agencies and local units, and interpret these findings to the constituency as appropriate and to The United Methodist Church.

c) Affirm its commitment to an ecumenical approach to campus ministry; encourage local, campus, state, regional, and global units of that ministry to work toward ecumenical programming and structures where appropriate to provide counsel and support to conference boards and agencies in reviewing, evaluating, and strengthening existing and proposed local and regional ecumenical covenants for campus ministry; and ensure that ecumenical covenants and procedures for these units are on file with the annual conference boards of higher education and campus ministry.

d) Develop standards and policies for the professional staff of Wesley Foundations, campus ministries and chaplaincies and provide educational and training opportunities for campus ministers and chaplains.

e) Establish policies and guidelines for the work and responsibilities of oversight of the annual conference board of higher education and ministry programs of campus ministry in Wesley Foundations, local churches, and ecumenical campus ministries, and the work and responsibilities of local Wesley Foundations and campus ministry boards of directors.

f) Establish procedures and guidelines for the establishment of a new Wesley Foundation or campus ministry unit and the planning and construction of Wesley Foundation or campus ministry buildings.

g) Recognize and cooperate with agencies with whom relationships may serve to further the objectives of the division.

h) Provide for representation and participation, as deemed necessary, with other national and international ecumenical campus ministry agencies and associations.

i) Provide services to meet specific denominational needs.

j) Relate college and university students of The United Methodist Church to the United Methodist Student Movement and such Methodist and ecumenical student organizations around the world as may be appropriate.

3. The division shall, as it seeks to interpret higher education:

a) Promote the Church's mission in higher education, including the special missions and educational ministries to ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and other peoples disadvantaged by world conditions.

b) Promote Christian instruction and provide opportunity for Christian service.

c) Encourage educational institutions and campus ministry units to inculcate human and humane values consistent with the gospel and the public good.

d) Foster the development of Christian community within the life of educational institutions and campus ministry units.

e) Make use of the existing Church organization and publications for interpreting the mission of higher education.

f) Participate in the World Communion Scholarship program.

g) Design and organize the promotion of United Methodist Student Day to recognize United Methodist students in higher education.

¶ 1413. Financial Support of Higher Education—1. In recognition of its heritage and the mandate to maintain its mission in higher education and in light of emergent fiscal concerns, The United Methodist Church affirms its commit-

ment to higher education and to the means by which it can be continuously supported and renewed.

2. The Division of Higher Education shall be empowered to take such action as may be necessary to:

a) Promote the financial support of Christian higher education within the Church.

b) Create arrangements that shall provide for the flow of supporting funds from the whole Church to the institutions affiliated with the Church as affirmed by the University Senate (§ 1416).

c) Develop corporations, or other fiscal or fiduciary agencies, for the purpose of financing, creating, recycling, managing, or otherwise caring for institutions and campus ministry units or their assets and liabilities.

3. The division, in regard to fiscal matters, shall:

a) Study the financial status of United Methodist educational institutions and campus ministry units, encourage the Church to give them continuous support, and provide consultative services in fiscal affairs and other aspects of institutional management. The division shall study all appropriate related data and may recommend to each conference or agency the support levels appropriate for each related institution or institutions.

b) Appropriate such funds as are available for the support of educational institutions, Wesley Foundations, or other campus ministry units related to The United Methodist Church under such rules as the board may adopt.

c) Take such action as is necessary to protect or recover resources, property, and investments of The United Methodist Church or any conference, agency, or institution thereof, in capital or endowment funds of any educational institution, Wesley Foundation, or other campus ministry unit founded, organized, developed, or assisted under the direction or with the cooperation of The United Methodist Church should any such institution discontinue operation or move to sever or modify its connection with the Church or violate the terms of any rules adopted by the board or the terms of any such grant of new capital or endowment funds made by The United Methodist Church or any conference, agency, or institution thereof. In order to carry out its duties under this paragraph, the division shall, at its discretion, investigate, audit, and review all necessary records and documents of any educational institution claiming or adjudged by the division to be related to The United Methodist Church. In the event any such educational institution, Wesley Foundation, or other campus ministry unit shall endeavor to discontinue operation or move to sever or modify its connection with the Church or violate the rules adopted by the division in accordance with § 1413.3b, it shall be the duty of the trustees and the administrators of such institutions, along

with the conference agency on higher education and the resident bishop of the conference in which such institution is located, to confer at the earliest possible opportunity with appropriate representatives of the division to determine what resources and aid the division may be able to provide and to permit the division to carry out its responsibilities under this paragraph.

d) (1) Foster and aid through a special apportionment the United Methodist institutions historically related to education for African Americans. It shall have authority to institute plans by which colleges sponsored by the division may cooperate with or may unite with colleges of other denominations or under independent control, provided that the interests of The United Methodist Church are adequately protected. (2) Encourage such Black colleges to secure adequate endowments for their support and maintenance. Whenever the division is assured that their support will be adequate and the property will be conserved and perpetuated for Christian education under the auspices and control of The United Methodist Church, it may transfer the colleges to boards of trustees under such conditions as the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry may prescribe, which shall include the right of reversion to the board under conditions prescribed by the board.

#### University Senate

¶ 1414. Organization and Membership—1. The University Senate is an elected body of professionals in higher education created by the General Conference to determine which schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools meet the criteria for listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church.<sup>30</sup>

2. The senate shall be composed of twenty-five voting members who, at the time of election, are actively engaged in the work of education through employment in an educational institution and are fitted by training and experience for the technical 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. Nine of these members shall be elected quadrennially by the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church—seven of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships; four by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related higher educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships; four by the General Conference—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of

<sup>30</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 589.

United Methodist-related educational institutions at the time of their election, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships; four by the senate itself, without limitation other than the general provisions of this paragraph; and four shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops—two of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other two holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships. Each of the five electing bodies shall elect at least one woman.

Members elected by the General Conference shall be nominated and elected by the following procedure: Twelve persons shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops, six of whom shall be chief executive officers of United Methodist-related educational institutions, the other six holding other positions relevant to academic or financial affairs or Church relationships. At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, additional nominations may be made from the floor but at no other time. From these nominations, the General Conference shall elect without discussion, by ballot and by plurality vote, the four persons to serve on the senate, two from each of the two categories of nominees. Should a vacancy occur in the members elected by General Conference in the interim prior to the next General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall appoint a replacement taken from the remaining nominees. The election process shall be repeated at each succeeding General Conference. Care should be taken that women, racial and ethnic persons, and representatives from the United Methodist-related Black colleges and graduate theological seminaries shall be members of the senate. If a member (other than the four elected by the General Conference) retires from educational work, or for any other cause a vacancy occurs during the quadrennium, it shall be filled by the agency by which the retiring member was elected at its next meeting. 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.

3. The associate general secretary of the Division of Higher Education shall be the executive secretary of the senate. The general secretary of the board shall convene it for organization at the beginning of each quadrennium. The senate shall elect its own officers, including a president, a vice president, and a recording secretary, and it may appoint such committees and commissions and delegate to them such powers as are incident to its work. Thereafter, it shall meet semiannu-

ally at such time and place as it may determine. Special meetings may be called on the written request of five members or at the discretion of the president and the executive secretary.

4. After consultation with the officers of the senate, the Division of Higher Education shall provide in its annual budget for the expense of the senate as it may deem sufficient, except that expenses incurred by the senate on behalf of any other board of the Church shall be borne by that board.

¶ 1415. Purposes and Objectives—1. To establish the criteria that must be met by schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools to achieve and retain listing as institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

2. To support the development of institutions whose aims are to address and whose programs reflect significant educational, cultural, social, and human issues in a manner reflecting the values held in common by the institutions and the Church.

3. To provide an effective review process to ensure that schools, colleges, universities, and theological schools listed by the University Senate and qualifying for Church support have institutional integrity, well-structured programs, sound management, and clearly defined Church relationships.<sup>31</sup>

4. To establish effective annual reporting procedures that will provide the senate with the data necessary to complete its review of the institutional viability and program integrity of member institutions.

5. At the conclusion of each General Conference a complete set of the Daily Christian Advocate for that General Conference shall be sent to each theological school approved by the University Senate.

¶ 1416. Institutional Affiliation<sup>32</sup>—1. Approval by the senate is prerequisite to institutional claim of affiliation with The United Methodist Church.

2. Every effort shall be made by both the annual conferences and institutions to sustain and support each other, but identification of an institution with The United Methodist Church shall depend upon its approval by the senate. The senate shall provide adequate guidelines and counsel to assist institutions seeking initial or renewed affiliation.

3. Only institutions affiliated with The United Methodist Church through approval by the senate shall be eligible for funding by annual conferences, General Conference, general boards, or other agencies of The United Methodist Church.

4. To qualify for affiliation with The United Methodist Church, institutions must maintain appropriate academic accreditation.

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31 See Judicial Council Decision 589.

32 See Judicial Council Decision 589.

5. Assessment of Church relationships shall be a part of the process for those institutions seeking approval of the senate for affiliation with The United Methodist Church. Inasmuch as declarations of Church relationships are expected to differ one from the other, and because of the diversity in heritage and other aspects of institutional life, declarations of Church relationship will necessarily be of institutional design.

¶ 1417. Annual Reports of Approved Institutions—1. Each year the senate shall publish a list classifying United Methodist-affiliated institutions. These institutions shall include secondary schools, colleges, universities, graduate theological seminaries, and special schools.

2. The senate shall also prepare annually a list of approved schools, colleges, universities, and graduate theological seminaries for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry in determining candidate educational eligibility for admission into full connection.

3. An institution that chooses to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church for any reason shall: a) inform the University Senate as soon as possible after discussions begin concerning disaffiliation; b) inform all appropriate United Methodist judicatories; and c) seek technical and legal assistance from the Division of Higher Education regarding fiduciary issues.

4. The senate shall publish annually, with its list of United Methodist-affiliated institutions, the names of institutions of other historic Methodist Churches that wish to participate in research projects, the insurance program, and technical services of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Such institutions shall be designated as “associate” institutions.

¶ 1418. Consultative Services—1. Support for approved institutions shall include, through the appropriate divisions of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, consulting teams with skills in comprehensive institutional design, management, governance, and program.

2. Support for approved institutions shall include an interpretation of and consultation on data in the annual institutional reports.

3. The Division of Higher Education shall report annually to the senate on the level and types of institutional support rendered by related conferences and agencies and shall evaluate such support, including specific responses of conferences and agencies to recommended levels.

#### United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

¶ 1419. The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation is incorporated in the State of Tennessee as a nonprofit, charitable organization with permanent

ties to the Division of Higher Education, which elects its board of trustees. The general purpose of the foundation is to foster the growth and development of institutions of higher education by encouraging persons and corporations to provide financial support and by acting as a foundation for such support. The foundation is also authorized to serve as a trustee and administrator of gifts and bequests designated by donors to specific institutions.

#### Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges

¶ 1420. Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges—1. There shall be an organization known as the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges. It shall be composed of all the presidents of the United Methodist institutions historically related to the education of African Americans and with a current relationship to The United Methodist Church.

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

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

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

#### Division of Ordained Ministry

¶ 1421. Duties and Responsibilities of the Division of Ordained Ministry—The Division of Ordained Ministry shall be responsible for leading and serving the church in inviting, equipping, and supporting faithful and effective spiritual leaders from all cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, who serve as ordained deacons and elders, licensed local pastors, diaconal ministers, certified persons in specialized ministries, and clergy endorsed for extension ministries in order to fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The division's work includes all men and women who are serving in categories of appointment by a bishop. This responsibility shall be discharged in active relationship with bishops, schools of theology, annual conference boards of ordained ministry, cabinets, jurisdictional boards or committees on ordained ministry, central conferences, ethnic caucuses, and other appropriate bodies. This division shall be responsible for the promotion of theological education and its support for the whole church.

In fulfillment of this responsibility and in accordance with the disciplinary requirements established for each region of the church in the world, the division will organize its work around the following core responsibilities:

1. Administration—a) Provide leadership in the interpretation of the need for ministry in The United Methodist Church in ways that are appropriate to each region of the church in the world. The interpretation of ministry includes the ministry of deacons, elders, local pastors, those approved for extension ministries, and certified for specialized ministries.

b) Maintain contact with the constituencies of the Division through gatherings of the chairs of the Order of Deacons and the Order of Elders and the Fellowship of Local Pastors, personal communication, newsletters, and other consultative services.

c) In consultation with ethnic constituencies, work with boards of ordained ministry, district committees on ordained ministry, and other appropriate agencies by developing guidelines, training, and resources for their work; providing guidance and counseling in the examination of ministerial students; and interpreting current disciplinary legislation concerning ordained and licensed ministry.

d) Provide resources and training to conference boards of ordained ministry and similar recognized bodies in their responsibility for administering the standards, requirements, examination, and interviews for ordination and certification in ministry careers.

e) Provide the connectional relationship whenever agencies of the general church wish to enter into discussion with or make inquiry into the work of United Methodist seminaries.

f) Study and coordinate mutual ministry between United Methodist schools of theology and annual conferences in the fulfillment of their responsibilities for the education and formation of candidates for ordained, licensed, and certified ministries.

g) Lead in the church-wide interpretation and promotion of the Ministerial Education Fund, and support other funds and programs that assist in training persons for ordained ministry.

h) Relate to the University Senate and its Commission on Theological Education in the review and approval of non-United Methodist seminaries for candidates for ordination as elder and deacon.

i) Cooperate with other agencies and ethnic groups within The United Methodist Church in matters related to the calling, training, and support of ministerial leadership throughout the church.

j) Participate in professional, ecumenical, national and international associations that support professional ministry.

k) Cooperate with the General Council on Finance and Administration and boards of ordained ministry concerning legal issues, policies of professional ethics, and other matters related to the practice of ministry.

l) Foster cooperative relationships among persons in the diaconate of The United Methodist Church and their colleagues in other Christian churches.

2. Enlistment/Candidacy—  
a) Lead the church in lifting up God's call to ordained, licensed, and certified ministry in The United Methodist Church, through enlistment programs in the local church and annual, jurisdictional and central conferences.

b) Study ministerial needs and resources in The United Methodist Church and cooperate with the general boards and agencies, and other appropriate ethnic and cultural groups, in the interpretation of ministry as a vocation, in an effort to enlist suitable persons for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry.

c) Study the ministerial needs of the annual and central conferences in terms of pastoral leadership, the ministry of the deacon, and certified ministries, including candidacy statistics, retirement trends, retention of clergy, and the changing demand for ministerial supply.

d) Study the ministerial needs of the world and provide resources for the enlistment of persons for service in ministries beyond the local church.

e) Provide program materials and training resources for the enlistment and support of candidates for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry.

f) Work with ethnic centers related to the United Methodist seminaries, general church initiatives, and the ethnic caucuses to enlist racial and ethnic persons as candidates for ordained, licensed, and certified ministry.

3. Education—  
a) Maintain the educational standards for those who are ordained as deacons and elders, licensed as local pastors, and certified for specialized ministries in The United Methodist Church.

b) Certify the course offerings in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity as specified in ¶ 335.(3), and provide the University Senate and boards of ordained ministry with a list of the courses approved.

c) Prescribe a theological studies program which will include basic graduate theological studies for those preparing for ordination as a Deacon, an advanced course of studies program for local pastors preparing for ordination as an Elder, and a curriculum of studies for those seeking certification in areas of specialized ministry.

d) Prescribe a Course of Study for local pastors that include the studies for license for pastoral ministry and the five-year Course of Study curriculum. All work in the Course of Study shall be taken in programs approved by the Division of Ordained Ministry. Upon approval of the Conference board of ordained minis-

try, a candidate may complete up to one-half of the work through online courses developed by the Division of Ordained Ministry.

e) Identify the areas of need for specialized ministries; provide standards and educational programs that may lead to certification in those areas; and review the qualifications of persons recommended for certification by conference boards of ordained ministry.

f) Consult with the schools of theology and programs of pastoral training in the central conferences concerning pastoral needs, the relationship between United Methodist seminaries in the central conferences and the United States, and other resources for training pastors to serve in the central conferences.

g) Promote attending United Methodist seminaries for theological training in the Wesleyan tradition.

h) Cooperate with the Office of Loans and Scholarships, the Higher Education Foundation, the Crusade Scholarship Program, and other funding agencies in regard to scholarship assistance for racial and ethnic students preparing for ordained ministry.

4. Support/Accountability—  
a) Provide guidance and resources for the continuing education, spiritual formation, and career development of faithful and effective pastors, deacons, chaplains, diaconal ministers and persons certified for specialized ministries serving in local churches, extension ministries, and other appointment settings in the church and world.

b) Support and cooperate with bishops and district superintendents in the fulfillment of their ministry of superintending by (1) providing jointly with the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops for the training of new district superintendents; (2) providing ongoing training and support for bishops and superintendents in their work; and (3) developing resources to assist clergy, superintendents, and local churches in assessment and evaluation of ministry, including providing tools for staff-parish relations committees, pastors, boards of ordained ministry, and cabinets on ensuring effective cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments.

c) Encourage and resource conference boards of ordained ministry, the Order of Deacons and the Order of Elders, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors for the ongoing support of persons in ordained, consecrated, licensed, and certified ministry in The United Methodist Church.

d) Provide guidance to cabinets and other annual conference agencies to ensure conditions of employment, support, and benefits commensurate with their training, ability, and experience for those ordained, consecrated, licensed, or certified for ministerial service.

e) Support members of the endorsed community through relationships to certifying bodies and professional organizations; linking congregations, conferences, and church structures with persons in specialized settings; assisting persons in receiving specialized training for ministry in pastoral care and pastoral counseling settings; and providing retreats, convocations, and other special programs.

f) Lead the church in the acceptance and support of women of all ethnic and racial groups in ordained and licensed ministry.

g) Give attention to the specific needs of clergy with disabilities.

h) Work with bishops, cabinets, boards of ordained ministry, the Order of Deacons and the Order of Elders, the Fellowship of Local Pastors, and other church agencies in maintaining the professional and ethical standards of ministry in The United Methodist Church.

i) Encourage and support the continuing education, spiritual formation, and career development of effective spiritual leaders of all races and ethnic origins.

5. Endorsement—  
a) Identify, assess, and support chaplains and clergy who show demonstrated ability to provide pastoral care in health-care settings, children's homes, retirement homes, prisons, workplaces, counseling centers, and the military.

b) Establish standards required for endorsed persons in the areas of specialized education, training and skills, and when required, professional certification, to ensure that The United Methodist Church provides quality pastoral care to patients, residents, prisoners, workers, counselees, and military personnel and their families.

c) Maintain policies and procedures to provide Ecclesiastical Endorsement for associate members, deacons and elders under appointment to ministries of chaplaincy and pastoral care where endorsement is required.

(1) The Division of Ordained Ministry, through its endorsing committee, has the authority to grant and remove endorsement and to adopt appropriate rules of procedure, to include procedure for appeals.

(2) An endorsing committee consisting of elected members of the Division of Ordained Ministry and chaired by a bishop shall represent The United Methodist Church in all endorsing procedures.

(3) Endorsement is the credential which certifies that a clergyperson performs a valid ministry of The United Methodist Church and has presented evidence of required specialized education, training, skills, and, when required, professional certification necessary to perform that ministry. Once the clergyperson no longer serves in that particular setting, the endorsement is withdrawn.

d) Establish and follow procedures for Ecclesiastical Approval for persons in the military student chaplain candidate programs, intermittent chaplaincy with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other identified entities.

e) Maintain programs for the oversight and advocacy of endorsed/approved persons.

f) Provide general oversight for all those under endorsement, particularly those serving outside the bounds of their annual conferences.

g) Assure conference boards of ordained ministry concerning the validity of ministry of clergy serving under endorsement.

h) Verify annually, to bishops and conference boards of ordained ministry, those clergy under endorsement and where necessary request their reappointment.

i) Establish and maintain standards for ecclesiastical endorsement.

(1) Establish standards for endorsements for all ministry settings in ¶ 344.1b

(2) Provide standards for use by annual conference boards of ordained ministry to determine the appropriateness of other extension ministry settings not identified in ¶ 344.1, and will assist, as requested, to evaluate specific settings.

(3) Provide advocacy for persons appointed under ¶ 344.1d and encourage new efforts to widen the understanding of ministry through the development of new extension ministry settings.

(4) Coordinate with certifying bodies in the development of standards for pastoral care certification in a variety of ministry settings.

j) Link congregations, conferences and church agencies with those persons in extension ministry settings.

k) Advise congregations, conferences, and church agencies in the development of programs of pastoral care in extension ministries.

l) Interpret extension ministries to the church and serve as an advocate for persons in extension ministries under its endorsement.

m) Assist in providing a ministry to United Methodist laity in or associated with the military, particularly outside the continental United States. The Division of Ordained Ministry, with GBOD, GBGM and other agencies of the Church, shall work together to prepare materials, programs, and continuing ministries that include retreats, confirmation classes and other pastoral functions.

n) Receive and distribute funds and special gifts as have been or shall be given specifically for the support of endorsing agency responsibilities.

o) Sponsor the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund for certain endorsed clergy, with administration and oversight provided by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

6. Constituency Relationships—Establish three teams (elders and local pastors, deacons and diaconal ministers, chaplains and endorsed clergy) to relate

directly with the constituents of the Division of Ordained Ministry to resource, support and interpret the work of the Division of Ordained Ministry. Each team shall be led by a member of that particular constituency.

### Schools of Theology of The United Methodist Church

¶ 1422. Goals—1. United Methodist schools of theology share a common mission of preparing persons for leadership in the ministry of The United Methodist Church; of leading in the ongoing reflection on Wesleyan theology; and of assisting the church in fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They contribute to the life of the global United Methodist connection through theological education for the sake of the worldwide mission of the church. These schools of theology are maintained for the education of ordained and lay leadership, for the interpretation of the Christian faith and United Methodist tradition through biblical and theological research, and for prophetic leadership. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry provides leadership and support in this common mission and in the development of relationships among the schools of theology in the U.S.A. and the central conferences and the various agencies of the General Church.

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

3. Schools of theology of The United Methodist Church located in the U.S.A.—a) Schools of theology of The United Methodist Church located in the U.S.A. exist to serve The United Methodist Church, primarily in the United States, but with concern for the witness of the church around the world. In addition to their commitment to United Methodism, they also serve students of other denominations in witness to United Methodism's ecumenical relationships. As denominational schools, they have a historic relationship to the denomination and are officially related to The United Methodist Church through the Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the approval of the University Senate. The following schools comprise this network of United Methodist schools of theology in the U.S.A.: Boston University School of Theology, Claremont School of Theology, Duke Divinity School, Candler School of Theology, the Theological School-Drew University, Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC), Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Perkins School of Theology, Saint Paul School of Theology, United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio), and Wesley Theological Seminary. They are

accountable to the church through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the University Senate. Therefore, agencies of the church seeking to monitor the use of the schools will do so in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry.

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

c) In fulfilling their task of preparing persons for effective service for Christ and the church, The United Methodist schools of theology located in the USA shall acquaint students with the current polity, theology and programs of The United Methodist Church and shall offer practical experience in administration, evangelism, stewardship, and other areas which will prepare them for effective Christian ministry in a multicultural society. Each school of theology, in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry, shall provide the courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity specified in ¶ 335.(3) and seek to form persons for ministry in the Wesleyan tradition.

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

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

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33 See Judicial Council Decision 545.

accountable to the appropriate bodies for their program and their relationship to the denomination.

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

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

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

## **Section IX. General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

### General Administration

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

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

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

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

¶ 1502. 1. Membership—a) The membership of the general board shall be composed of two bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences from the annual conference nominations

on a ratio providing for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions, based on the combined clergy and laity membership thereof, as determined by the secretary of the General Conference; six members, with not more than two from the same jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops; and eight additional members for the purpose of bringing to the general board special knowledge or background, not more than two from the same jurisdiction, nominated and elected by the general board in such manner as it shall provide in its bylaws.

b) The aforementioned electing bodies shall give consideration during the nominating process to equitable representation on the basis of race, color, age, gender, and people with disabilities.

c) The general secretary of the general board shall be an *ex officio* member thereof, without vote.

d) The terms of all members so elected shall be four years, to take effect at the first meeting of the general board following the General Conference, hereinafter referred to as the organizational meeting.

(1) Members shall serve during the terms for which they are elected and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

(2) Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, members of the general board may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms.

(3) In case a vacancy occurs between regular sessions of the jurisdictional conferences for any cause, the general board shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term from that jurisdiction in the representation of which the vacancy occurs, except in the case of members elected by the General Conference or the general board where such vacancies would be filled by the general board in the manner prescribed by its bylaws without regard to geographic or jurisdictional representation.

2. Officers—*a)* The general board shall elect from its membership at its organizational meeting a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a recording secretary whose duties shall be prescribed in its bylaws.

*b)* The general board shall elect quadrennially at its organizational meeting a general secretary, who shall be the chief executive officer of the general board.

*c)* Other offices that are deemed desirable and in the best interest of the general board for carrying out its purposes may be created by the general board, and persons may be elected or appointed to fill such offices.

*d)* A vacancy in any of these offices shall be filled by the general board for the remainder of the unexpired term in a manner prescribed in its bylaws.

3. Meetings—The general board shall hold at least one meeting in each calendar year.

a) The place and time of all meetings shall be designated by the general board, but if it fails to do so, then the time and place shall be designated by the chairperson.

b) It shall convene at such other times on call of the chairperson, on written request by one-fifth of its members, or on written request by a majority of its executive committee.

c) A majority of the members of the general board shall constitute a quorum.

4. Committees—The general board shall establish the following committees:

a) Executive Committee—An executive committee shall be elected by the general board from its membership. During the periods between the meetings of the general board, its business and affairs shall be managed by the executive committee.

b) Committee on Audit and Review—A committee on audit and review shall be elected by the general board. At least one half of the members of this committee shall not be members of the general board. The committee on audit and review shall be responsible for reviewing the financial audits and related policies of the general board and its constituent legal entities.

c) Committee on Appeals—A committee on appeals shall be elected by the general board. The committee on appeals shall hear appeals from participants in the funds, plans, and programs administered by the general board. Decisions of the committee on appeals shall be final and not reviewed by the full general board.

d) Other Committees—The general board shall have the authority to establish, from time to time, such other standing committees or special committees as provided in its bylaws.

e) Committee Membership—The general board shall elect the membership of its standing committees in accordance with its bylaws. The membership of any special committees shall be selected in accordance with the resolution establishing such special committee.

f) Committee Members at Large—The general board shall have the authority to elect additional members to its committees, not to exceed one-half of the committee membership, for the purpose of bringing to those committees special knowledge or background. These committee members at large shall have full voice and vote on the committee, but they shall have voice, but not voting privileges, on the general board.

¶ 1503. Legal Entities—1. Subject to the continuing control and direction of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as set forth from time to time in the Discipline, the general board is authorized and empowered to cause the operations of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be car-

ried on and the general authorizations defined in ¶ 1504 to be achieved in such manner, through or by means of such agencies or instrumentalities, and by use of such procedures as the general board may from time to time determine to be necessary, advisable, or appropriate, with full power and authority in the premises to take all such action and to do all such other acts and things as may be required or found to be advisable. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the general board is authorized and empowered, for the purposes of this paragraph:

a) To use, manage, operate, and otherwise utilize all property and assets of every kind, character, and description of any corporation(s) created by the general board pursuant to ¶ 1503.2 below, as well as all income from such property and assets and the avails thereof, all with liability or obligation to account for such property and assets, the use thereof, the income therefrom, and avails thereof only to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

b) To cause a corporation(s) created by the general board pursuant to ¶ 1503.2 to take all such action and to do all such things as the general board may deem necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this paragraph. The governing body of said corporation(s) from time to time shall take all action that the general board deems necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purpose of this paragraph, unless local law would require such governing bodies to make independent decisions with respect to particular actions.

2. The general board is authorized and empowered in its discretion at any time it may deem such action to be desirable or convenient to create corporations or other legal entities through which it shall fulfill its responsibilities described hereunder.

a) The general board is authorized and empowered in its discretion to cause its general operations to be conducted through a corporation, the name of which shall be the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, Incorporated in Illinois.

b) The general board is authorized and empowered in its discretion to cause its general trust operations to be conducted through a corporation, the name of which shall be the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, Incorporated in Missouri.

c) If the general board creates and directs more than one legal entity, it is authorized and empowered at its discretion at any time it may deem such action desirable or convenient to take action in the name of said legal entities to surrender the charter or charters of one or several or all of said legal entities or to merge, consolidate, or affiliate such corporations, or any of them, in compliance with appropriate state or federal laws.

d) The governing bodies of such legal entities shall be determined by the general board in conformance with applicable local law. A majority of the members of the governing bodies shall be elected from the membership of the general board.

e) The legal entities created under this paragraph are agencies or instrumentalities through which the denomination known as The United Methodist Church provides benefits, investment services, and other services outlined in ¶ 1504 below in the name of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

¶ 1504. Authorizations—The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized and empowered to provide administrative, trust, and investment support to The United Methodist Church and its constituent boards, agencies, conferences, organizations, and other institutions in their efforts to provide support, relief, and assistance, and pension, welfare, and other benefits for clergy of this denomination, lay workers of the various units of the Church, and their families. Subject to the provisions of ¶ 2506 herein the general board shall perform its duties and responsibilities in the spirit of the Church's mandate for inclusiveness and racial and social justice. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the general board, directly or through any entity created by it, is authorized and empowered:

1. To operate, manage, and administer the mandatory benefit funds, plans, and programs established by the General Conference: (a) the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program; (b) the Staff Retirement Benefits Program, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Retirement Security Program for General Agencies of The United Methodist Church; and (c) the Comprehensive Protection Plan. The provisions of these mandatory benefit programs shall be incorporated by reference into the Discipline and shall have the full force of law as if printed in the Discipline. No proposal shall be made to the General Conference that changes a benefit presently in effect without first securing through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits an actuarial opinion concerning the cost and other related aspects of the proposed change.

2. To create, amend, operate, manage, administer, and terminate nonmandatory relief, assistance, and benefit funds, plans, products, and programs for interested members, conferences, local churches, boards, agencies, institutions, and other affiliated units of The United Methodist Church.

3. To continue the operation, management, and administration of relief, assistance, and benefit funds, plans, and programs created prior to 1981.

4. To make reports to the General Conference with respect to the support, relief, assistance, and pension, welfare, and other benefits for clergy of this denomination, lay workers of the various units of the Church, and their families.

5. To adopt rules, regulations, and policies for the administration of the relief, assistance, and benefit funds, plans, and programs that the general board administers, in all matters not specifically covered by General Conference legislation or by reasonable implication, and to prescribe such forms and records as are needed for the administration of such funds, plans, and programs.

6. To prepare and publish benefit summaries, manuals, and other publications or media related to the funds, plans, and programs administered by the general board.

7. To compile and maintain complete service records of clergy members in full connection, associate members, and provisional members, and of local pastors whose service may be related to potential annuity claims of the annual conferences of The United Methodist Church situated within the boundaries of the United States and Puerto Rico. Such service records shall be based on answers to the Business of the Annual Conference questions as published in the journals of the annual conferences situated within the boundaries of the United States and Puerto Rico and in the General Minutes of The United Methodist Church, or in comparable publications of either or both of the uniting churches, and from information provided by annual conference boards of pensions. The conference boards of pensions shall be responsible for providing census data when requested by the general board on participants and their families, including but not limited to such data as birth dates, marriage dates, divorce dates, and dates of death.

8. To administer a clearinghouse for the allocation of pension responsibility among the annual conferences situated within the boundaries of the United States and Puerto Rico, in accordance with the principle of divided annuity responsibility, and for the collection and distribution of pension funds related to such responsibility.

a) For each beneficiary involved in the operation of the clearinghouse, the general board shall determine the division of responsibility on account of approved service rendered.

b) The general board shall have authority to determine the pension responsibility of each annual conference, in accordance with the principle of divided annuity responsibility, and to collect from each annual conference, as determined on the basis of their respective pension programs, the amount required by the clearinghouse to provide the pension benefits related thereto. Each annual conference shall provide funds to meet its annuity responsibility to beneficiaries of other

annual conferences on the same basis as it provides pension payments for beneficiaries related directly to itself.

c) The general board is authorized and empowered to make all the rules concerning details that may be necessary for the operation of the clearinghouse.

9. On request of an annual conference or conference organization or agency of The United Methodist Church, to receive therefrom distributable and reserve pension funds and to make the periodic pension payments to the beneficiaries of such annual conference, conference organization, board, or agency, in accordance with a schedule of distribution, which shall be provided for the guidance of the general board in making such payments. The general board shall report annually the details of transactions under this provision. The general board shall be entitled to recover the cost of performing such services.

10. To administer the Chartered Fund for the benefit of all the annual and provisional annual conferences in The United Methodist Church, the boundaries of which are within the United States, its territorial and insular possessions, and Cuba, unless the General Conference shall order otherwise. Once a year the net earnings of the fund, after provision for depreciation, shall be divided equally among such annual and provisional annual conferences in accordance with the restrictive rule contained in ¶ 22.

11. To order and direct that the income from the General Endowment Fund for Conference Claimants (formerly known as the General Endowment Fund for Superannuates of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South) held by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church, Incorporated in Missouri, shall be distributed on account of service of conference claimants rendered in an annual conference of The United Methodist Church; provided, however, that such distribution shall be restricted to annual conferences that, directly or through their predecessor annual conferences, participated in raising this fund, in proportion to the number of approved years of annuity responsibility of each annual conference as shall be determined by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

12. To distribute on the basis it determines the appropriations from the net earnings of the publishing interests that are contributed to the pension programs of The United Methodist Church and of the several annual conferences.

13. To create such legal entities in order to obtain, accept, receive, manage, and administer any and all assets or property, absolute or in trust, for the purpose of providing for, aiding in, and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pension, welfare, and other benefits for clergy of this denomination, lay workers of the various units of the Church, and their families and for other purposes stated in the trust instrument.

14. To discharge its fiduciary duties with respect to a benefit fund, plan, or program solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the plan, with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

15. To receive, hold, manage, merge, consolidate, administer, invest, and reinvest all connectional relief, support, and benefit funds. The general board is encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of the Church, subject to other provisions of the Discipline, and with due regard to any and all special contracts, agreements, and laws applicable thereto. Among the tools the general board may use are shareholder advocacy, selective divestment, and advocacy of corporate disinvestment from certain countries or fields of business.<sup>34</sup>

16. To receive, hold, manage, administer, and invest and reinvest, by and through its constituent corporations, endowment funds or other funds of an annual conference, local church, board, agency, or other unit affiliated with The United Methodist Church that have been designated for the funding of relief, support, or benefit funds, plans, or programs, and endowment funds or other funds of such units not so designated. The general board is encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of the Church; provided, however, that at no time shall any part of the principal of the endowment funds be appropriated by the general board for any other purpose. The general board shall annually provide to such units an accounting of such funds.

17. To receive, hold, manage, administer, invest and reinvest, funds of and offer administrative services to other nonprofit organizations.

18. To collect, receive, and administer such gifts, devises, and bequests, and other funds as may be specifically designated for the general board or any constituent corporation of the general board by donors, subject to the rules, regulations, and policies of the general board with respect thereto. All undesignated gifts, devises, bequests, and donations shall be collected, received, and administered under the direction of the general board.

19. To charge the various trusts, funds, plans, and programs for which it is responsible an administrative fee for its general services and to charge reasonable and appropriate transactional fees for specific services provided to a unit of

<sup>34</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 720.

the Church or to a participant or beneficiary. The general board shall not use for operational or administrative purposes moneys allocated from any of the general Church funds of The United Methodist Church.

20. To create, administer, and encourage funding for the programs of the Central Conference Pension Initiative, in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, and supported by a multi-agency task force.

21. To support the health as wholeness of the clergy and lay workers of the denomination, and thereby mitigate the frequency and duration of disability and incapacity, by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating the group health care plan data and health and wellness program information submitted by annual conferences, the General Council on Finance and Administration for bishops, and general agencies. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall use the collected group health care plan data and health and wellness program information to (a) establish denomination-wide benchmarks and standards; (b) identify and disseminate best practices for healthy lifestyles and health and disability costs management; (c) provide reports of data; (d) share data and analyses with the denomination; (e) advise about health care plan designs, coverage, financial soundness, and wellness programs and initiatives; and (f) recommend health and wellness strategies and guidelines for annual conferences, the General Council on Finance and Administration for bishops in the United States, and general agencies.

22. To cause its operations to be carried on and the objectives defined above to be achieved in such manner by use of such procedures as the general board may from time to time determine to be necessary, advisable, or appropriate, with full power and authority in the premises to take all such action and to do all such other acts and things as may be required or found to be advisable.

¶ 1505. General Agency Pension Credit—Pension for service approved for pension credit by an agency of The United Methodist Church receiving financial support from the general Church funds shall be provided by the employing agency in uniformity with that provided by other agencies under one of the pension funds, plans, or programs administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church; provided, however, that where service has been rendered in two or more agencies, the total pension benefit shall be calculated as if all such service had been with one agency, and the final agency shall provide any additional pension benefits necessary to accomplish this; furthermore, such agency may not make any arrangement with a life insurance company or any other entity for the purchase of annuities for the benefit of individual effective or retired employees or take any steps to nullify, in whole or in

part, the pension plans or program of The United Methodist Church by making contracts with outside parties.

#### Annual Conference Administration

¶ 1506. Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities of Annual Conferences—1. The annual conference, on recommendation of the conference Board of Pensions, shall determine the admissibility and validity of service approved, or compensation entering the contribution base, for pension credit and the payments, disallowances, and deductions thereunder, subject to the provisions of the Discipline and the rules and regulations of the pension and benefit funds, plans, and programs of The United Methodist Church.<sup>35</sup>

2. a) Service rendered prior to January 1, 1982, by a clergyperson in The United Methodist Church, including service rendered in either or both of the uniting churches prior to Church union, shall be approved for pension credit in accordance with provisions of the Discipline in effect and applicable thereto, or as subsequently amended, at the time such service was rendered. Pension for such service shall be provided in accordance with the past service provisions of the Ministerial Pension Plan.

b) Pension for full-time service rendered by a clergyperson in The United Methodist Church prior to January 1, 1982, shall be not less than an amount based upon pension credit for service prior to January 1, 1982, and the benefit levels in effect on December 31, 1981; provided, however, that the pension of a clergyperson whose membership was terminated prior to January 1, 1982, shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, pension funds, plans, and programs in effect at the time of such termination.

c) Pensions earned by bishops (elected by a jurisdictional conference) and other clergy, and protection benefits for such bishops and other clergy in The United Methodist Church after December 31, 1981, shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, and the Comprehensive Protection Plan.<sup>36</sup>

3. For service rendered prior to January 1, 1982, the following years of approved service in an annual conference of The United Methodist Church shall be counted for pension credit subject to the conditions stated in this paragraph:

a) By a clergyperson who is a provisional member or who is in the effective relation as an associate member or a member in full connection in the annual conference: (1) as pastor, associate or assistant pastor, or other clergyperson in a pastoral charge; (2) as district superintendent, presiding elder, conference president,

<sup>35</sup> See Judicial Council Decisions 81, 360, 379.

<sup>36</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 502.

conference superintendent, or other full-time salaried official of the conference; (3) under appointment beyond the local church to an institution, organization, or agency that in the judgment of the annual conference rendered to it some form of service, direct or indirect, sufficient to warrant pension credit, or to a community church, or as a conference-approved evangelist; provided, however, that such institution, organization, agency, community church, or evangelist accepts and pays such apportionments as the conference may require, with the recommendation that this apportionment shall be not less than twelve times the annuity rate of the conference; and provided further, that pension related to such service may be arranged through one of the pension funds or plans administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; (4) as a student appointed to attend school, but only if the clergyperson serves subsequently with pension credit in an annual conference or conferences for three or more years under appointment other than to attend school, such credit as a student not to exceed three years; provided, however, that all years for which pension credit was given under legislation in effect prior to the 1972 General Conference, on account of appointment to attend school, shall be counted in determining the pension claim thereon; and provided further, that if a clergyperson is again appointed to attend school after having served under appointment for six consecutive years as a clergy member in full connection with pension credit in an annual conference or conferences other than under appointment to attend school, pension credit shall be given for up to but not more than three additional years under appointment to attend school if the clergyperson serves subsequently with pension credit in an annual conference or conferences for three or more additional years under appointment other than to attend school; (5) as a clergyperson on sabbatical leave, provided that not less than five of the ten years just preceding the granting of such leave were served with pension credit in the annual conference that grants the sabbatical leave; and (6) as a clergyperson on disability leave subsequent to the 1968 Uniting Conference, not to exceed fifteen years.<sup>37</sup>

b) By a person classified by the board of ordained ministry as eligible to be appointed as a full-time local pastor, and by an approved supply pastor prior to Church union in 1968, as a pastor or assistant pastor of a pastoral charge in full-time service under appointment; provided, however, that such credit shall be conditional and subject to provisions hereinafter stated in this paragraph.<sup>38</sup>

c) By an ordained minister from another Christian denomination who has not attained the age of mandatory retirement for a conference clergy member, who has not retired from the denomination, and who is approved by the annual conference on recommendation of the board of ordained ministry as provided in

37 See Judicial Council Decision 180.

38 See Judicial Council Decisions 73, 206.

¶ 346.2 who renders full-time service under appointment as a pastor or assistant pastor subject to provisions hereinafter stated in this paragraph.

d) In calculating fractions of years of service for pension credit earned prior to January 1, 1982, the following formula shall be used:

- (1) Any period of up to and including forty-five days shall not be counted.
- (2) Forty-six days up to and including 136 days shall be counted as one quarter of a year.
- (3) One hundred thirty-seven days up to and including 228 days shall be counted as one half of a year.
- (4) Two hundred twenty-nine days up to and including 319 days shall be counted as three quarters of a year.
- (5) Three hundred twenty days up to and including 365 days shall be counted as one year.

4. Concerning the normal conditions for pension credit and pro rata pension credit, the following provisions shall apply for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982, in determining approval for pension credit, eligibility for pension, and allocation of responsibility:

a) Normal Conditions—The normal conditions required of a clergyperson for full pension credit shall be:

- (1) That full-time service is rendered by a person appointed to a field of labor under provisions of ¶ 338.1;
- (2) That this person not be attending school as a regular student except as provided in ¶ 1506.3a(4);
- (3) That this person not be on leave of absence;
- (4) That this person not be substantially employed in work other than that to which he or she is appointed by the bishop; and
- (5) That this person receive not less cash support per annum from all Church and/or conference-related sources than that provided in the schedule of equitable salaries adopted by the annual conference for those in this person's classification.

b) Proportional Pension Credit—Effective as of the closing day of the 1980 annual conference session, pro rata pension credit may be granted to persons appointed to less than full-time service under the provisions of ¶ 338.2 by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in the annual conference session on recommendation of the conference board of pensions. Such pension credit shall be in one-quarter year increments; provided, however, that no one individual receives in excess of one year of pension credit per annum.

c) Full Pension Credit—Full pension credit may be granted for persons not meeting some or all of the above conditions by a three-fourths vote of those pres-

ent and voting in the annual conference on recommendation of the conference board of pensions.<sup>39</sup>

d) Service as a chaplain on full-time duty prior to January 1, 1947, which previous legislation includes as eligible to be counted in determining the annuity claim on an annual conference, shall be so recognized.

e) Pension responsibility on account of the appointment of a clergy member of an annual conference to attend school prior to 1982 shall be allocated to the conference or conferences in which the clergy member shall first thereafter render six years of service under appointment to a local church, to conference staff, as a district superintendent, or to an appointment beyond the local church normally considered to be eligible for pension by the annual conference. This allocation procedure shall continue through December 31, 1987, at which time any unallocated years shall be assigned on a pro rata basis to the conference or conferences in which service under appointment to a local church, to conference staff, as a district superintendent, or to an appointment beyond the local church normally considered to be eligible for pension coverage by the annual conference totaled less than six years; provided, however, that such allocation shall not apply in cases where pension payments were in effect prior to January 1, 1985, on the basis of the allocation of responsibility under previous legislation.

f) Service of a local pastor prior to 1982 may be approved for pension credit only by vote of the annual conference, on recommendation of the conference board of pensions, after consultation with the district superintendents. If such credit is granted, it should be included under the Discipline question, "What other personal notation should be made?"

g) Upon recommendation of the conference board of pensions and by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in the annual conference, pension credit may be granted to a clergy member in full connection, provisional member, or associate member of the conference on account of full-time service previously rendered as an approved local pastor or approved supply pastor to an institution, organization, or agency, which in the judgment of the annual conference rendered to it some form of service sufficient to warrant pension credit; provided, however, that such institution, organization, or agency shall accept and pay such apportionment as the conference may require.

h) On recommendation of the conference board of pensions and approval by the annual conference, appointments beyond the local church shall be listed in the conference journal as follows:

(1) with pension responsibilities on the annual conference, or (2) with pension responsibility on the institution or agency served. If at any session the conference fails to make such listing, it may be done subsequently, whenever desirable, under

the Business of the Annual Conference question, “What other personal notation should be made?”<sup>40</sup>

i) In the event of retirement under ¶ 358.2b, the pension or subsequent pension resulting from annuity rate increases for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982, shall be determined by reducing the pension (years times rate) by the lesser of: (1) one-half percent per month or fraction of a month of age less than sixty-five years attained on the date the actuarially reduced pension is to commence (or the date of such annuity rate increase), or (2) one-half percent per month for each month of difference between the assumed date at which forty years of service under appointment would have been completed and the actual date the actuarially reduced pension or annuity rate increase is to commence under ¶ 358.2b. Effective at the close of the 1988 General Conference, if retirement is granted in accordance with ¶ 358.2e, the actuarially reduced pension shall be calculated from the deferred retirement date. Such actuarially reduced pension shall be calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and allocated pro rata to the annual conference or conferences that are charged with the pension responsibility.<sup>41</sup>

5. a) A pension shall be payable on account of pension credit for service prior to 1982 as a full-time local pastor or supply pastor if:

(1) the local pastor shall have been admitted as an associate or provisional member or member in full connection in an annual conference and has subsequently been placed in the retired relation by the conference, or (2) the local pastor shall have rendered no less than four consecutive years of full-time service with pension credit for service prior to 1982 or with full participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan since 1981, or a combination thereof, in one annual conference.

b) On recommendation of the conference board of pensions, a pension shall be payable on account of pension credit for service prior to 1982 for an ordained minister from another Christian denomination who shall have rendered not less than four consecutive years of full-time service with pension credit for service prior to 1982 or with full participation in the Comprehensive Protection Plan since 1981, or a combination thereof, in one annual conference while qualified under ¶ 346.2, who has attained the age of voluntary retirement for a conference clergy member. (See also § 3c above.)

6. The annual conference, on recommendation of the conference board of pensions, shall have the power to revise, correct, or adjust a clergy person’s record of pension credit as set forth in his or her service record. Prior to the revision of such record, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits may be requested to review relevant data and report its findings thereon. Such revisions, correc-

40 See Judicial Council Decision 95.

41 See Judicial Council Decision 428.

tions, and adjustments shall be published in the journal of the annual conference in answer to Business of the Annual Conference questions and shall be reported to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits by the conference board of pensions.<sup>42</sup>

7. The annual conference shall review annually the annuity rate for service rendered in the annual conference prior to January 1, 1982, for the purpose of adjusting the rate as appropriate, taking into account changes in economic conditions. Such annuity rate may remain the same or be increased without restriction. It is recommended that such rate be not less than 1 percent of the average compensation of the conference as computed by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. However, for plan years beginning after December 31, 1998, in no case may the annuity rate be less than eight-tenths of one percent of the average compensation of the conference. The annuity rate for approved service of local pastors shall also be determined by the conference each year and shall be the same as the rate for service of clergy members in full connection, provisional members, and associate members. A successor conference resulting from a merger involving a former Central Jurisdictional conference shall establish for all for whom it has pension responsibility the same rate for past service of clergy members in full connection, provisional members, and associate members in the former Central Jurisdiction as for service in a geographic former Methodist jurisdiction and the same rate for past service of local pastors regardless of the jurisdiction in which the service was rendered.<sup>43</sup>

8. On or before July 15, 2002, each annual conference shall develop, adopt and implement a formal funding plan for retiring its pre-1982 pension obligations. This funding plan must result in the retirement of its pre-1982 pension obligations on or before December 31, 2021. The funding plan shall identify any funds which have been designated by the annual conference and protected for the exclusive purpose of retiring its pre-1982 pension obligations. The funding plan shall: (a) address the funding for both the existing and incremental liabilities incurred by future increases in the past service rate, (b) be approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a written opinion from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and (c) be published along with the written opinion of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in the journal of the annual conference. In addition, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall present a quadrennial report to General Conference concerning the long-term pension and retiree medical liability of the denomination. In order to assist the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in the preparation of this report, each annual conference shall provide to the General

42 See Judicial Council Decision 386.

43 See Judicial Council Decisions 360, 389.

Board of Pension and Health Benefits information periodically requested by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits concerning the long-term pension and retiree medical obligations of the particular annual conference.

9. Persons who have served full-time appointments beyond the local church under endorsement by the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries are eligible for pension support for those years of service so served for which no other pension is provided. Such pension support shall be in accordance with the Chaplains Supplemental Pension Grant Fund or the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, under arrangements agreed to by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through its Division on Chaplains and Related Ministries and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

10. The responsibility for pension for service approved for pension credit shall rest with the annual conference in which the service was rendered; provided, however, that in the event of mergers, unions, boundary changes, or transfers of churches, such responsibility shall rest with the successor annual conference within whose geographical boundaries the charge is located.<sup>44</sup>

11. Pension for service approved for pension credit by an annual conference shall be provided by the annual conference under one of the pension funds, plans, or programs administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church.

12. An annual conference may not make any arrangement with a life insurance company for the purchase of annuities for the benefit of individual effective or retired clergy or take any steps to nullify, in whole or in part, the pension plans and programs of The United Methodist Church by making contracts with outside parties.<sup>45</sup>

13. Other Annual Conference Organizations—*a)* Annual conferences, hereinafter called conferences, are authorized to establish, incorporate, and maintain investment funds, preachers' aid societies, and organizations and funds of similar character, under such names, plans, rules, and regulations as they may determine, the directors of which shall be elected or otherwise designated by the conference, where permissible under the laws of the state of incorporation, and the income from which shall be applied to the support of the pension, health, and welfare benefit programs for clergy through the conference board of pensions.<sup>46</sup>

*b)* Distributable pension, health, and welfare benefit funds from all sources shall be disbursed by or under the direction of the conference board of pensions, excepting only such funds as are otherwise restricted by specific provisions

<sup>44</sup> See Judicial Council Decisions 203, 389, 523.

<sup>45</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 716.

<sup>46</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 218.

or limitations in gifts, devises, bequests, trusts, pledges, deeds, or other similar instruments, which restrictions and limitations shall be observed.

c) It shall not be permissible for any conference or permanent fund organization thereof to deprive its beneficiaries who are beneficiaries in other conferences of the privilege of sharing in the distribution of the earned income of such funds through the clearinghouse administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

d) (1) Prior to January 1, 1982, a conference subject to the laws of the state in which it is incorporated shall have power to require from its clergy who are serving with pension credit from the conference an annual contribution to either its permanent or reserve fund or for current distribution or to a preachers aid society for the benefit of its beneficiaries, subject to the following provisions <sup>47</sup>

(a) The annual payment may be made in installments as provided by the conference.

(b) The making of such payment shall not be used as the ground of contractual obligations upon the part of the conference or as the ground of any special or additional annuity claim of a clergyperson against the conference; neither shall it prevent disallowance of a clergyperson's annuity claim by conference action.

(c) The conference may fix a financial penalty for failure of the clergyperson to pay.

(d) In case membership in the conference is terminated under the provisions of the Discipline, the conference may refund the amount so paid, in whole or in part, after hearing has been given to the clergyperson, in case such hearing is requested.

(e) Clergy entering a conference shall not be charged an initial entry fee by any organization mentioned in § a above; furthermore, the annual contribution required from a clergyperson shall not exceed an amount equal to 3 percent of the clergyperson's support.

(2) If a clergyperson is participating in one of the pension funds, plans, or programs administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, that individual shall not be required by the conference or by an organization thereof related to the support of beneficiaries to make any other contribution for pension purposes.

e) Each conference, on recommendation of its conference board of pensions or one of the organizations mentioned in § a above, may select a Sunday in each year to be observed in the churches as Retired Ministers Day, in honor of the retired clergy, their spouses, and the surviving spouses of clergy in recognition of the Church's responsibility for their support. The bishop may request each conference in the area to insert a Retired Ministers Day in its calendar.

<sup>47</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 181.

14. A conference board of pensions may make special grants to clergy or former clergy of an annual conference who have served under appointment in that conference; or to their spouses, former spouses, surviving former spouses, or surviving dependent children (including adult dependent children). A report of such special grants shall be made annually to the annual conference.

15. a) A former clergy member in full connection, provisional member, or associate member of an annual conference whose membership was terminated on or after January 1, 1973, and prior to January 1, 1982, after the completion of ten or more years of service with pension credit in an annual conference or conferences, shall retain the right to receive a pension beginning the first of any month following the date the former clergyperson attains age sixty-two, based on the years of service approved for pension credit.<sup>48</sup> Such former clergyperson's pension shall be based on all years of service with pension credit if the former clergyperson had twenty or more such years. If less than twenty such years but at least ten years, the years used in the calculation of the benefit shall be a percentage of the approved service years; such percentage shall be determined by multiplying the credited whole years by 5 percent, resulting in 50 percent of such years for ten years of credited service and 100 percent for twenty years of such service. If pension begins prior to the age at which retirement under ¶ 358.2c could have occurred, then the provisions of ¶ 1506.4i shall apply.

b) A former clergy member in full connection, provisional member, or associate member of an annual conference whose membership was terminated on or after January 1, 1982, after the completion of ten or more years of service under appointment in an annual conference or conferences, shall retain the right to receive a pension beginning the first day of any month coinciding with or following the date the former clergyperson attains age sixty-two, based on the years of service prior to January 1, 1982, approved for pension credit.<sup>49</sup> If pension begins prior to the age at which retirement under ¶ 356.2c could have occurred, then the provisions of ¶ 1506.4i shall apply.

c) Effective at the close of the 1976 General Conference, former clergy members in full connection, provisional members, and associate members of the annual conference whose membership was terminated on or after such date shall have any vested pension benefits calculated at the annuity rate in effect on the date such person's membership is terminated.

d) Clergy members in full connection, provisional members, and associate members in an annual conference who voluntarily withdraw from the ministry of The United Methodist Church to enter the ministry of another church or denomination, on the attainment of age sixty-two and on recommendation of the con-

<sup>48</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 717.

<sup>49</sup> See Judicial Council Decision 717.

ference board of pensions and a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in any annual conference in which approved service was rendered prior to January 1, 1982, or the legal successor, may be recognized and granted pensions on account of approved service rendered in that conference. If pension begins prior to the age at which retirement under ¶ 356.2c could have occurred, then the provisions of ¶ 1506.4i shall apply.

16. The responsibility for providing pension on account of service rendered prior to January 1, 1982, in a missionary conference, provisional annual conference, or former mission within the United States or Puerto Rico that has been approved for pension credit shall rest jointly with: (a) the missionary conference, provisional annual conference, or former mission concerned, (b) the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits with funds provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration, and (c) the General Board of Global Ministries. The revenue for pension purposes covering such service shall be provided by the aforesaid parties in accordance with such plan or plans as may be mutually agreed to by them.

17. A clergyperson who has been granted the retired relation in a central conference or an affiliated autonomous church shall be entitled to a pension from a conference or conferences in the United States or Puerto Rico for the years of approved service rendered therein upon attainment of the required age or the completion of the required years of approved service. Such clergyperson shall notify the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits upon his or her retirement. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall certify the years of approved service to each annual conference concerned. Payments due thereunder shall be collected from the conference concerned and forwarded to the claimant by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in such manner as it may deem most expedient and economical.

18. Pension and benefit contributions are the responsibility of the Plan Sponsor for participants in the Ministerial Pension Plan, (amended and restated effective January 1, 2007 as the Clergy Retirement Security Program) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan. Unless otherwise determined by vote of the annual, missionary, or provisional conference, the treasurer of a local church or pastoral charge shall remit such contributions related to the participant's compensation that is provided from local church funds to the Plan Sponsor. If compensation from the local church or pastoral charge is supplemented from other church sources, pension and benefit contributions related to such supplements shall be paid from that same source. If the entire compensation for a participant is from a salary-paying unit other than a local church or a pastoral charge, the unit responsible for compensation shall remit the pension and benefit contributions to the

Plan Sponsor. Nothing in this paragraph shall be understood as preventing an annual, missionary, or provisional conference from raising part or all of the annual contributions for the pension program of its pastors or the Comprehensive Protection Plan by an apportionment to the churches of the conference and remitting payments to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits on behalf of all the pastors covered; there is no time limit on this provision.

19. Effective January 1, 2007, pension contributions will be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program. Actual compensation, limited by 200 percent of the denominational average compensation, is the basic contribution base of the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

20. An annual conference may establish a pension support fund to be administered by the conference board of pensions. Local churches may request pension assistance from this fund when special circumstances arise that result in nonpayment of pension contributions and/or apportionments for pension and benefit purposes. The board shall present its estimate of the amount required to the conference council on finance and administration, which shall include it in its recommendation to the conference. If the amount is approved by the conference, it shall be apportioned as an item of clergy support.

21. The annual conference board of pensions, in consultation with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, shall have the responsibility to enroll clergy of the annual conference in the Ministerial Pension Plan and the Comprehensive Protection Plan in accordance with the provisions of such plans.

22. Optional provisions contained in the Ministerial Pension Plan, amended and restated effective January 1, 2007, as the Clergy Retirement Security Program, and Comprehensive Protection Plan may be adopted by vote of the annual conference subsequent to the receipt of a recommendation from the conference board of pensions. Effective January 1, 2007, contributions and credited service are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program.

23. Each annual conference's board of pensions or other agency authorized by the annual conference shall submit, annually, its group health care plan data, de-identified as necessary, including, but not limited to, financial soundness, claims experience and other cost drivers, plan designs and coverage, and eligibility criteria to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

24. On or before December 31, 2008, each annual conference's board of pensions or other agency authorized by the annual conference must submit a generally accepted financial valuation, such as in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 106, as amended, of its projected medical liabilities for its population covered by its employer retiree health care plan to the

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and must submit a similar report biennially thereafter.

25. On or before December 31, 2010, each annual conference must create a plan to address the funding requirements of its projected future medical liabilities for the population covered by its retiree health care plan.

26. On or before December 31, 2008, each annual conference shall document in writing its policy regarding the portability of retiree health care eligibility, coverage, cost-sharing, and benefits and communicate the policy to its clergy and lay employees and incoming clergy and lay employees from other annual conferences or general agencies. For the purpose of this paragraph, portability encompasses credit given for service outside the annual conference within the denomination to clergy and lay employees toward (a) eligibility for health care coverage in retirement and (b) accrual of annual conference subsidies toward or annual conference cost-sharing of the cost of health care coverage.

¶ 1507. Financing Pension and Benefit Programs—The annual conference shall be responsible for annually providing moneys in the amount necessary to meet the requirements of the pension and benefit funds, plans, and programs of the conference.

1. The board shall compute the amount to be apportioned annually to meet the requirements of the pension and benefit programs of the conference.

2. After consultation with the board, the conference council on finance and administration shall report to the annual conference the amounts computed by the board that are required to meet the needs of the pension, benefit, and relief programs of the conference.

3. Distributable pension funds from all sources, unless restricted by specific provisions or limitations, shall be disbursed by, or under the direction of, the conference board of pensions.

4. The board may accumulate a fund from the income for pension purposes in order to stabilize the pension program of the conference.<sup>50</sup>

¶ 1508. Policies Related to Conflict of Interest and Investment Management—The following rules shall apply to the financial administration of annual conference pension and pension-related funds:

1. A member of the board connected or interested in any way with the securities, real estate, or other forms of investment sold to or purchased from such funds, or with an insurance program or a contract under consideration by the board, shall be ineligible to participate in the deliberation of the investment committee or of the board or to vote in connection therewith.

2. No officer or member of a conference agency handling such funds shall receive a personal commission, bonus, or remuneration, direct or indirect, in

50 See Judicial Council Decision 50.

connection with the purchase or sale of any property the loan of any money, the letting of any annuity or insurance contract, the making or acceptance of any assignment, pledge, or mortgage to secure the payment of any loan, or for the purchase or sale of any securities or other properties from or to that agency, or be eligible to obtain a loan in any amount from funds committed to the care of that agency. No investment shall be purchased from or sold to any member of the board or any member of the family of a member of the board.

3. To prevent development of any conflict of interest or preferential treatment and to preserve goodwill and confidence throughout the Church, no local church, Church-related institution, or organization thereof shall be eligible to obtain a loan in any amount from such funds.<sup>51</sup>

4. The principle of diversification of investments shall be observed, with the agency encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of our Church, however with primary consideration given to the soundness and safety of such investments.

5. Real property may hereafter be accepted as consideration for gift annuity agreements only with the stipulation that the annuity shall not exceed the net income from the property until such property shall have been liquidated. Upon liquidation, the annuity shall be paid upon the net proceeds at the established annuity rate.

6. An annual conference agency handling such funds shall not offer higher rates of annuity than those listed in the annuity schedule approved by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

7. a) There shall be printed in the annual conference journal a list of the investments held by each agency handling such funds directly or indirectly under the control of the annual conference, or such list may be distributed directly to the members of the annual conference at their request.

b) The conference board of pensions shall require an annual audit of pension and pension-related funds setting forth the total asset value of such funds and the distribution of income from such funds from persons and organizations appointed or employed for the management of these funds.

8. The borrowing of money in any conference year by a conference corporation or organization to enable the conference board of pensions to meet the requirements of the pension and benefit programs shall be done only on authority of the conference granted by three-fourths vote of the members present and voting.

9. Depositories and Bonding—a) The conference board of pensions shall designate a bank or banks or other depository or depositories for deposit of the

51 See Judicial Council Decision 145.

funds held by the board and may require a depository bond from such depository or depositories.

b) The board, through the conference council on finance and administration, shall provide a fidelity bond in suitable amount for all persons handling its funds.

¶ 1509. Joint Distributing Committees—1. Authorizations—Whenever two or more annual or provisional annual conferences are to be merged, in whole or in part, there shall be elected by each conference affected a distributing committee of three members and three alternates, which shall act jointly with similar committees from the other conference or conferences. The joint distributing committee thus formed shall have power and authority: (a) to allocate the pension responsibility involved; (b) to distribute equitably the permanent funds and all other pension assets of the conference or conferences affected, taking into consideration the pension responsibility involved, such distribution to be made within twelve months of the date of the dissolution of the committee as provided in ¶ 1509.3d;

(c) to the extent not otherwise previously provided for by the conference or conferences involved, to apportion or distribute equitably any other assets or property and any other liabilities or obligations. It shall be governed by the legal restrictions or limitations of any contract, trust agreement, pledge, deed, will, or other legal instrument.

2. Organization—The committee shall be convened by the general secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, or by some other officer of that board designated by the general secretary in writing, and shall elect from its membership a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary.

3. Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities—a) The committee shall determine the number of years of service approved for pension credit rendered in the conferences that will lose their identity in the merging of conference territories, and the findings of the committee shall be final unless substantial evidence to the contrary is presented, and the annuity payments by the continuing conference or conferences shall be made accordingly. The determination of pension benefits in The United Methodist Church shall recognize all pension rights to which clergy are entitled under the pension plans in existence at the time of Church union and shall recognize all approved service that has been rendered in The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church prior to the date of Church union.

b) The committee shall keep complete minutes of its transactions, and a copy thereof shall be filed with the secretary of each annual conference involved and with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

c) Until the committee's work shall have been completed, the corporate organization of each conference in the process of merger shall be maintained. After the committee shall have completed its work, the officers of such corporation, subject to the completion of its business, shall dissolve or merge it, in accordance with applicable corporate laws, after being authorized to do so by the conference involved.

d) The committee, having completed its work in connection with the merger or mergers for which it was organized and having filed copies of its findings and actions with the secretaries of the conferences involved for publication in the respective conference journals, and with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, shall be dissolved; subject, however, to recall by the general secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits in the event of the discovery and presentation to the general board of data substantially at variance with those previously submitted, for the purpose of reviewing such data and possible revision of its previous actions.

4. Whenever a single annual conference or provisional annual conference is to be divided into two or more conferences, the provisions of ¶ 1509 shall be applied, provided the distributing committee members of each resulting conference shall be named subsequent to the effective date of the division and no later than the first regular annual session of such conferences.

### **Section X. The United Methodist Publishing House**

¶ 1601. Authorization and Establishment—The United Methodist Publishing House comprises the publishing interests of The United Methodist Church. It shall have responsibility for and supervision of the publishing and distribution for The United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Publishing House shall, through agencies or instrumentalities it deems necessary, achieve the objectives set forth in ¶ 1613. The United Methodist Publishing House shall provide publishing and distribution services for other agencies of The United Methodist Church and shall share with other agencies of The United Methodist Church in the total program of The United Methodist Church, as well as share in the total ecumenical program in the area of publishing for the advancement of the cause of Christ and his Kingdom as The United Methodist Publishing House shall determine to be appropriate. All matters related to the work of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be under the direction of the Board of The United Methodist Publishing House in accordance with the provisions of the 1996 Book of Discipline and the Restrictive Rules (¶ 22, section III, article VI, of the Constitution) until and unless the General Conference takes specific action amending these pro-

visions. The effective date of this subparagraph shall be the close of 2000 General Conference.

¶ 1602. Membership—1. The board of The United Methodist Publishing House, hereinafter called the board, shall consist of up to forty-three members as follows:

a) Episcopal members—Three bishops, including at least one from the central conferences, named by the Council of Bishops.

b) Jurisdictional members—Thirty members elected by the jurisdictional conferences based on the following formula: North Central—6, Northeastern—6, South Central—7, Southeastern—9, and Western—2, provided that no jurisdiction shall be represented by fewer than two members.

c) Additional members—Up to eight additional members may be elected by the board, with consideration given to representation of women and racial and ethnic groups not elected by the jurisdictions, and to special knowledge or background in publishing, marketing, graphic arts manufacturing, production of audiovisuals or electronic media, or other business fields. It is recommended that persons elected by each jurisdiction be inclusive of women and ethnic groups—Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

d) Central Conference Members—Two central conference members elected by the Council of Bishops.

e) At least two persons who are young adults at the time of election shall be elected each quadrennium.

f) Membership on the board shall be equally divided, as far as practicable, between ordained ministers and laypersons.

g) Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, membership shall also be by classes based on term of office for one, two, or three quadrennia, attention being given to the principle of rotation so that, as far as practicable, one third of the membership shall be elected each quadrennium.<sup>52</sup> The principle of rotation is also applicable to the executive committee.

h) In case a vacancy occurs between sessions of the jurisdictional conferences for any cause, the board shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term from that jurisdiction in the representation of which the vacancy occurs, except in the case of members elected by the board where such vacancies would be filled by the board in the prescribed manner without regard to geographic or jurisdictional relationship.

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

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52 See Judicial Council Decision 593.

¶ 1603. Annual Meeting—The board shall hold at least one meeting in each calendar year. The place and time of all meetings shall be designated by the board, but if it fails to do so, then the time and place shall be designated by the chairperson. It shall convene at such other times on call of the chairperson or by the board or by the executive committee. At all meetings of the board, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1604. Record of Proceedings—The board shall keep a correct record of its proceedings and make written report thereof to the Church through the General Conference.

¶ 1605. Tenure of Board Members and Officers—The members of the board and all officers of the board elected by it shall hold office until their successors are chosen and the new board is duly organized.

¶ 1606. Executive Committee—The board is authorized to perfect its organization from its membership, including the offices of chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The board shall elect from its membership an executive committee of eleven members, including the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the board, who shall serve, respectively, as chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary of the committee. Special attention shall be given to representation of racial and ethnic groups and women. Not more than three members of the executive committee shall be from any one jurisdiction. The bishops serving on the board shall be *ex officio* members, and the publisher of The United Methodist Church (¶ 1614) shall be an *ex officio* member without vote. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the executive committee shall be filled by it, subject to confirmation by the board at its next meeting.

¶ 1607. Powers and Duties of the Executive Committee—The executive committee shall have and may exercise all the powers of the board except those expressly reserved by the board and/or by the Discipline for board action. It shall meet quarterly to examine the affairs under its charge and shall keep and submit to the board correct records of its proceedings. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson on his or her own initiative and shall be called on the written request of four members of the executive committee. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1608. Successor in Interest—The board shall be the successor in interest to and carry on the work of the Board of Publication of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and the General Board of Publication of The Methodist Church.

¶ 1609. Powers and Duties of the Board—1. The board is empowered and authorized in its discretion to carry out its general operations under the name of The United Methodist Publishing House.

2. The board is authorized and empowered in its discretion at any time it may deem such action to be desirable or convenient to create an additional corporation(s), in compliance with appropriate state corporation laws.

3. If the board creates and directs more than one corporate entity, it is authorized and empowered in its discretion at any time it may deem such action desirable or convenient to take corporate action in the name of said corporations to surrender the charter or charters of one or several or all of said corporations or to merge, consolidate, or affiliate such corporations, or any of them, in compliance with appropriate state laws.

¶ 1610. Board Members as Trustees—The members of the board shall serve and act as directors or trustees of the corporation(s) named in ¶ 1609.

¶ 1611. Agency Status—The corporation(s) named in ¶ 1609 is an agency or instrumentality through which The United Methodist Church conducts its publishing, printing, and distribution in the name of The United Methodist Publishing House in accordance with the objectives set forth in ¶ 1613. The corporation(s) shall comply with the policies set forth in ¶ 715.

¶ 1612. Report to General Conference—The board shall examine carefully the affairs of The United Methodist Publishing House and make written report thereof to the Church through the General Conference.

¶ 1613. Objectives—The objectives of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be: the advancement of the cause of Christianity throughout the world by disseminating religious knowledge and useful literary, scientific, and educational information in the form of books, tracts, multimedia, electronic media, and periodicals; the promotion of Christian education; the implementation of any and all activities properly connected with the publishing, manufacturing in a variety of media, and distribution of books, tracts, periodicals, materials, and supplies for churches and church schools, including the ecumenical outreach of Christianity, and such other activities as the General Conference may direct.

¶ 1614. Direction and Control—The United Methodist Publishing House shall be under the direction and control of the board, acting through an executive officer elected quadrennially by the board, who shall be the publisher of The United Methodist Church, and such other officers as the board may determine.

¶ 1615. Appropriation of Net Income—The net income from the operations of The United Methodist Publishing House, after providing adequate reserves for its efficient operation and allowing for reasonable growth and expansion, shall be appropriated by the board and distributed annually on the basis of a just plan provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the several annual conferences for the persons who are and shall be conference claimants. The just plan may encompass disproportionate allocations to annual confer-

ences where there is a desperate need relative to other annual conferences, as, for example, in underdeveloped nations relative to developed nations.

¶ 1616. Designation of Net Income—The net income from the operations of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be appropriated to no other purpose than its own operating requirements and for persons who are or shall be conference claimants as provided in ¶ 22 and ¶ 1615.<sup>53</sup>

¶ 1617. Board Members as Successors—The members of the board and their successors in office are declared to be the successors of the incorporators named in the charters of The Methodist Book Concern issued by the States of New York and Ohio and in the charter of the Board of Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church issued by the State of Pennsylvania. The executive officer of the board, elected from time to time under this or any subsequent Discipline, is declared to be the successor in office of the Book Agents of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, named in the charter issued to the corporation of that name by the State of Tennessee.

¶ 1618. Powers and Duties of the Board—Subject to the provisions of ¶ 1614 and to the continuing control and direction of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as set forth from time to time in the Discipline, the board is authorized and empowered to cause the operations of The United Methodist Publishing House to be carried on and the objectives defined in ¶ 1613 to be achieved in such manner, through or by means of such agencies or instrumentalities and by use of such procedures as the board may from time to time determine to be necessary, advisable, or appropriate, with full power and authority in the premises to take all such action and to do all such other acts and things as may be required or found to be advisable. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board is authorized and empowered, for the purposes of this section:

1. To use, manage, operate, and otherwise utilize all property and assets of every kind, character, and description of any corporation(s) created by the board pursuant to ¶ 1609.2, as well as all income from such property and assets and the avails thereof, all with liability or obligation to account for such property and assets, the use thereof, the income therefrom, and avails thereof, only to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church or as it shall direct.

2. To cause a corporation(s) created by the board pursuant to ¶ 1609.2 to take all such action and to do all such things as the board may deem necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this paragraph. The governing body of said corporation(s) from time to time shall take all action that the board deems necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this para-

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53 See Judicial Council Decisions 322, 330.

graph. The board shall cause all legal obligations of said corporation(s) to be met, fulfilled, and performed.

3. To continue to exercise the powers and administer the duties and responsibilities conferred on it as an agency of The United Methodist Church through the corporation named The United Methodist Publishing House, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois in accord with authority delegated to it by the General Conference of 1952, or through such other means and agencies as it may from time to time determine to be expedient and necessary in order to give full effect to the purposes expressed in this section.<sup>54</sup>

¶ 1619. Ownership and Control of Assets—1. The property, assets, and income of the Illinois corporation shall be held by it, under the direction of the board, as an agency of The United Methodist Church and shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as set forth from time to time in the Discipline.

2. In carrying out and executing its operations and functions, the board of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be entitled to hold, use, manage, operate, and otherwise utilize all property and assets of every kind, character, and description of the corporation(s) identified in ¶ 1618.1 (other than its corporate powers and franchises) and all income therefrom and avails thereof for the purposes and objectives defined in this section.

3. The Illinois corporation and any corporation(s) created by the board pursuant to ¶ 1609.2 shall from time to time take all such action as the board deems necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this paragraph and section.

4. The board of The United Methodist Publishing House shall be liable for and shall execute and satisfy all legal obligations of the corporation(s) created by the board pursuant to ¶ 1609.2, but neither it nor the board shall have or be under any obligation to account for principal and income to any such other corporation or to otherwise report to any of them.

¶ 1620. Dissolution of The Evangelical Press and Otterbein Press—Pursuant to the Declaration of Union of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church and under the authority of ¶¶ 939, 950-954 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 1968, The Otterbein Press, an Ohio corporation, and The Evangelical Press, a Pennsylvania corporation, have been legally dissolved and their charters have been surrendered. The proceeds of their corporate assets have been and are being administered pursuant to said disciplinary provisions.

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54 See Judicial Council Decision 330.

¶ 1621. Corporate Officers—The officers of the corporation(s) under the direction of the board shall be elected annually in accordance with its charter and bylaws.

¶ 1622. Corporate President—The executive officer (publisher) elected pursuant to ¶ 1614 shall also be elected the president of the corporation(s) under the direction of the board.

¶ 1623. Salaries for Corporate Officers—The board shall fix the salaries of the officers of the corporation(s) and shall report the same quadrennially to the General Conference.

¶ 1624. Quarterly Financial Reports—The board shall require the president to submit quarterly to the executive committee and annually to the board written reports of the financial condition and operating results of The United Methodist Publishing House.

¶ 1625. Authority to Extend Activities—The president (publisher) and the board shall have authority to extend the activities of The United Methodist Publishing House in such manner as they may judge to be for the best interests of the Church.

¶ 1626. Fidelity Bonding of President and Corporate Officers—The board shall require the president and other corporate officers to give bond conditioned on the faithful discharge of their respective duties. It also shall authorize the execution of a blanket bond covering all staff personnel whose responsibilities justify such coverage. The amount of the bonds shall be fixed by the board, and the bonds shall be subject to the approval of the board. The premiums shall be paid by The United Methodist Publishing House, and the chairperson of the board shall be the custodian of the bonds.

¶ 1627. Power to Suspend Officers—The board shall have power to suspend, after hearing, and to remove, after hearing, the president or any of the officers for misconduct or failure to perform the duties of their offices.

¶ 1628. Book Editor—The board shall elect annually a book editor, who shall be designated editorial director of general publishing. The book editor shall have joint responsibility with the publisher for approving manuscripts considered for publication. The book editor shall edit or supervise the editing of all books and materials of our publication. In the case of church school publications and official forms and records, the book editor shall collaborate with the editor of Church School Publications and the Committee on Official Forms and Records whenever such collaboration is mutually desirable and beneficial. The book editor shall perform such other editorial duties as may be required by the board.

¶ 1629. Quarterly Review—The board, at its discretion, may continue the publication of the periodical Quarterly Review, with the book editor responsible for its editorial content.

¶ 1630. Salary of Book Editor—The board shall fix the salary of the book editor.

¶ 1631. Suspension of Book Editor—The board shall have power to suspend or remove, after hearing, the book editor for misconduct or failure to perform the duties of the office.

¶ 1632. Editor of Church School Publications—There shall be an editor of Church School Publications, elected as set forth in ¶ 1126.

¶ 1633. Duties of Editor of Church School Publications—The editor of Church School Publications shall be responsible for the preparation of all curriculum materials as set forth in ¶ 1126.

¶ 1634. Church-School Curriculum—The curriculum of the church school shall be determined by the Curriculum Resources Committee, which shall include in its membership the vice president in charge of publishing and the publisher, as set forth in ¶ 1127.1c.

¶ 1635. Salary of Editor of Church School Publications—The board shall fix the salary of the editor of Church School Publications and shall have full financial responsibility for all expenses connected with this work.

¶ 1636. Publications of the Curriculum Resources Committee—The publications of the Curriculum Resources Committee shall be manufactured, published, and distributed through The United Methodist Publishing House. In matters involving financial responsibility, the final determination in every case shall lie with the board. After consultation with the publisher, the editor of Church School Publications shall prepare a complete budget for this work, including salaries of assistants and office secretaries and travel, etc., to be effective when approved by the board, and shall direct its operation from year to year.

¶ 1637. Service of the Entire United Methodist Church—There shall be one complete, coordinated system of literature published by the board for the entire United Methodist Church. This literature is to be of such type and variety as to meet the needs of all groups of our people. The board president and publisher shall consult with the general program agencies, the General Commission on Communication, and the Connectional Table with regard to their publishing needs in order to avoid unnecessary overlapping and duplication.

¶ 1638. Financial Feasibility—The board and the publisher shall have authority to decline to publish any item of literature when in their judgment the cost would be greater than should be borne by The United Methodist Publishing House.

¶ 1639. Board Participation—The editor of Church School Publications (¶ 1126) and a member of the General Board of Discipleship designated by the president shall have the right to sit with the board and shall have the privilege of the floor without vote for the consideration of matters pertaining to their joint interests.

¶ 1640. Cooperative Publications—The United Methodist Publishing House shall explore and engage in cooperative publication of United Methodist church school curriculum resources wherever both The United Methodist Publishing House and the Curriculum Resources Committee of the General Board of Discipleship find this to be practicable and in harmony with related editorial and publishing policies.

¶ 1641. Use of Distribution System by General Agencies—It is recommended that all general agencies of The United Methodist Church use the distribution system of The United Methodist Publishing House for distribution of resources, materials, and supplies needed for use in the local church.

¶ 1642. Real Estate Purchases—The United Methodist Publishing House shall not buy any real estate costing in excess of \$500,000 and shall not sell or exchange any real estate having a fair market value in excess of \$500,000 except by the order of the General Conference or, between sessions of the General Conference, by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the board. In either case, such vote shall be taken at a regular or called meeting of the board, and if at a called meeting, the purpose of this meeting shall have been stated in the call. The erection of a new building or improvement, alteration, or repair of an existing building or the purchase of real estate for retail purposes involving an expenditure of not more than \$500,000, or the sale or exchange of real estate used by the publishing house for retail purposes that has a fair market value of not more than \$500,000, may be authorized by the vote of a majority of the executive committee. These provisions shall not prevent the making of investments on mortgage security or the protection of the same or the collection of claims and adjustments.

## **Section XI. General Commission on Archives and History**

¶ 1701. Authorization and Establishment—The name of the official historical agency of The United Methodist Church shall be the General Commission on Archives and History.

¶ 1702. Incorporation—The General Commission on Archives and History shall be incorporated under the laws of whatever state the commission may determine.

¶ 1703. Purpose—1. The purpose of the commission shall be to promote and care for the historical interests of The United Methodist Church at every level.

It shall gather, preserve, and hold title to library and archival materials, and it shall disseminate interpretive materials on the history of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents. It shall cooperate with other bodies, especially the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, the World Methodist Historical Society, and the World Methodist Council in areas of mutual concern. It shall maintain archives and libraries in which shall be preserved historical records and materials of every kind relating to The United Methodist Church and shall see that such holdings are available for responsible public and scholarly use. It shall provide guidance for the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of documentary record material at all levels of The United Methodist Church (see ¶ 1711.1b). It shall provide support, direction, and encouragement for the work of annual conference and jurisdictional historical agencies and organizations by developing and making available historical, interpretive, and training media. It shall develop policies and resources for the designated United Methodist Historic Sites and United Methodist Heritage Landmarks. It shall provide general supervision for the observance of Heritage Sunday (see ¶ 264.1). It shall engage with other Wesleyan, Methodist, or Evangelical United Brethren-related denominations in lifting up our joint heritage.

2. The commission shall be accountable to the Connectional Table for all programmatic assignments.

3. The commission shall have responsibility for and supervision of its archives and historical libraries and other depositories of similar character, if any, established by The United Methodist Church.

4. The commission shall promote collection and dissemination of information and materials concerning the historic witness made individually and collectively by women, racial and ethnic peoples, and other constituencies not covered extensively in traditional historical documentation in the worldwide life of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents.

5. The commission shall develop and make available interpretive materials such as handbooks, services of worship and celebrations of historical events, training films, and other media helpful to annual conferences and local churches.

6. Once each quadrennium, the commission may hold a historical convocation, to which may be invited members of jurisdictional and annual conference historical agencies and organizations; appropriate faculty and students in institutions of higher education related to The United Methodist Church; members of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church; members of other Wesleyan, Methodist, and Evangelical United Brethren-related historical organizations; and such other persons, groups, or organizations as may be interested.

¶ 1704. Membership—1. The commission shall be constituted quadrennially, and its members and all officers elected by it shall hold office until their successors have been chosen. The commission may fill interim vacancies during a quadrennium where not otherwise provided by the Discipline.

2. The commission shall be composed of twenty-four members in the following manner: ten members elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops, in which number two shall be from the central conferences; two bishops (one of whom shall come from the central conferences); five presidents of the jurisdictional commissions on archives and history, or where no commission exists or any disciplinary conflict arises, a person designated by the jurisdictional College of Bishops; and seven additional members elected by the general commission ensuring that all three regions of the central conferences are represented. It is recommended that careful consideration be given to people with special interests and skills in the history of United Methodism and that careful consideration be given to inclusiveness, including representation from men, women, age levels, and all racial and ethnic groups.

¶ 1705. Meetings—The commission shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine, subject to the provisions of the act of incorporation. The commission may hold special meetings on the call of the president. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1706. Officers—The commission shall elect from its membership a president, vice president, secretary, and such other officers as may be needed. The president shall be a bishop. The officers shall perform the duties usually incident to their positions.

¶ 1707. Staff—The commission shall elect a general secretary and such other staff officers as may be needed. The general secretary shall be the executive and administrative officer and shall carry on the work of the commission, keep the records and minutes, serve as editor of official publications of the commission, supervise the depositories, make an annual report to the commission, and furnish such reports as are required to the General Conference and General Conference agencies. The general secretary shall attend meetings of the commission and the executive committee and shall have the privilege of the floor without vote. Archivists, curators, and librarians employed by the commission shall be responsible to the general secretary. They shall attend meetings of the commission and the executive committee when it is deemed necessary by the general secretary. When in attendance, they shall have the privilege of the floor without vote.

¶ 1708. Executive Committee—There shall be an executive committee, composed of the president, vice president, secretary, and two members from each of the three standing committees—Heritage Landmarks, Archives and Library,

and History and Interpretation. The executive committee shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the commission between meetings. Its minutes shall be submitted to the commission for approval. The executive committee and the commission may vote on any matter by mail. Mail polls shall be directed by the general secretary, who shall state clearly the propositions to be voted on and announce the results to all the members.

¶ 1709. Finances—The commission shall be financed by appropriations of the General Conference; the sale of literature and historical materials; subscriptions to the commission's official publications; dues from associate members; and gifts, grants, and bequests of interested individuals and organizations.

¶ 1710. Historical Society of The United Methodist Church—1. The general commission shall endorse and encourage the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and encourage membership therein for the purpose of promoting interest in the study, preservation, and dissemination of the history and heritage of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents. The Historical Society shall be encouraged to enlist the support and cooperation of commission on archives and history (or equivalent) at the annual conference, jurisdictional conference, and general Church levels as well as other interested agencies and organizations in the promotion of the historical interests of the Church. The society shall be financially self-supporting through dues and other sources, except for such services as may be provided by the General Conference Commission on Archives and History.

2. Membership in the Historical Society shall be established as the society may determine. Membership shall entail the payment of such dues as the society may direct, in return for which members shall receive publications and other benefits as are deemed suitable.

¶ 1711. 1. Archival Definitions—a) Archives, as distinguished from libraries, house not primarily books, but documentary record material.

b) Documentary record material shall mean all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, reports, pamphlets, letters, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or any other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to any provisions of The Discipline in connection with the transaction of Church business by any general agency of The United Methodist Church or of any of its constituent predecessors.

c) General agency of The United Methodist Church or of its constituent predecessors shall, in turn, mean and include every Church office, Church officer, or

official (elected or appointed)—including bishop, institution, board, commission, bureau, council, or conference—at the national level.

2. Custodianship of Records—The church official in charge of an office having documentary record material shall be the custodian thereof, unless otherwise provided.

3. Procedures—a) The general commission shall establish a central archives of The United Methodist Church and such regional archives and record centers as in its judgment may be needed.

b) The bishops, General Conference officers, the Judicial Council, general boards, commissions, committees, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall deposit official minutes or journals, or copies of the same, in the archives quadrennially and shall transfer correspondence, records, papers, and other archival materials described above from their offices when they no longer have operational usefulness. No records shall be destroyed until a disposal schedule has been agreed upon by the General Commission on Archives and History and the agency. When the custodian of any official documentary record material of a general agency certifies to the General Commission on Archives and History that such records have no further use or value for official and administrative purposes and when the commission certifies that such records appear to have no further use or value for research or reference, then such records may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the agency or official having custody of them. A record of such certification and authorization shall be entered in the minutes or records of both the commission and the agency. The General Commission on Archives and History is hereby authorized and empowered to make such provisions as may be necessary and proper to carry this paragraph into effect.

c) The commission shall have the right to examine the condition of documentary record material and shall, subject to the availability of staff and funds, give advice and assistance to Church officials and agencies in regard to preserving and disposing of documentary record material in their custody. Officials of general agencies shall assist the commission in the preparation of an inventory of records in their custody. To this inventory shall be attached a schedule, approved by the head of the agency having custody of the records and the commission, establishing a time period for the retention and disposal of each series of records. So long as such approved schedule remains in effect, destruction or disposal of documentary record material in accordance with its provisions shall be deemed to have met the requirements of ¶ 1711.3b.

d) The commission is authorized and directed to conduct a program of inventorying, repairing, and microfilming among all general agencies of The United Methodist Church for security purposes that documentary record material which

the commission determines has permanent value and to provide safe storage for microfilm copies of such material. Subject to the availability of funds, such program may be extended to material of permanent value of all agencies of The United Methodist Church.

e) The general boards, commissions, committees, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall place two copies, as they are issued, of all their publications, of whatever kind, in the archives or in lieu thereof shall file a statement with the archivist affirming that they are preserving copies of all such items in their own libraries or depositories.

f) Official documents, or copies thereof, such as articles of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, and other official papers of the boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall be deposited in the archives.

g) Whoever has the custody of any general agency records shall, at the expiration of the term of office, deliver to the successor, custodian, or, if there be none, to the commission all records, books, writings, letters, and documents kept or received in the transaction of official general agency business. This will also apply to the papers of temporary and special general Church committees.

h) The bishops, General Conference officers, and the general boards, commissions, committees, and agencies of The United Methodist Church are urged to counsel with the central archivist concerning the preservation of all materials.

i) Jurisdictional, central, and annual conference secretaries shall deposit, without charge, two paper copies of their respective conference journals quadrennially or annually, as the case may be, with the General Commission on Archives and History and in the archives of the central, jurisdictional, and annual conference as appropriate. One copy of a digital version of the journal will be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History, if available.

j) Secretaries of jurisdictional and annual conference boards, commissions, committees, and agencies shall deposit annually, or as often as they meet, copies of their minutes (as distinguished from reports that are printed separately or in the jurisdictional and annual conference journals) in the central archives or in the appropriate regional archives.

k) Bishops, General Conference officers, general agency staff personnel, missionaries, and those ordained ministers and laypersons in positions of leadership and influence at any level of the Church are urged to deposit or bequeath their personal papers to the archives of the general commission.

l) Organizations and individuals may negotiate appropriate restrictions on the use of materials that they deposit in the archives.

m) Upon recommendation of its executive committee, the commission may authorize the transfer of materials to an organization, agency, or family.

n) All materials in the archives shall be available for research and exhibition, subject to such restrictions as may be placed on them.

¶ 1712. Historic Sites and Heritage Landmarks—1. a) Historic Sites—Historic sites are buildings, locations, or structures that are specifically related to a significant event, development, or personality in the history of an annual, central, or jurisdictional conference (or its antecedents). Historic sites are designated by formal action of the annual, central, or jurisdictional conference within whose regions the site is located. Such designation shall first be considered and reviewed by the respective commission on archives and history (or equivalent). After action by the annual, central, or jurisdictional conference to designate a building, structure, or location as a historic site, the president or chairperson of the commission on archives and history (or equivalent) shall advise the General Commission on Archives and History of the action taken and provide such documentation as may be required. The general commission in turn shall provide an official historic site marker, keep a register of all historic sites, and maintain an ongoing file of pertinent information concerning them.

b) Heritage Landmarks—Heritage landmarks of The United Methodist Church are buildings, locations, or structures that are specifically related to significant events, developments, or personalities in the overall history of The United Methodist Church or its antecedents. They must have distinctive historic interest and value for the denomination as a whole, as contrasted with local or regional historic significance. Ordinarily, buildings, locations, or structures that have achieved historic significance within the preceding fifty years shall not be considered for designation as a heritage landmark.

c) Designation of Heritage Landmarks—All nominations for the designation of buildings, locations, and structures as United Methodist heritage landmarks shall be made by the annual, central, or jurisdictional conference commission on archives and history (or equivalent) within whose regions they are located. Such nominations shall be referred for consideration to the General Commission on Archives and History, in accord with guidelines established by the commission. Through its Committee on Heritage Landmarks, the commission shall consider the merits of each nomination and shall make such recommendation as it deems appropriate to the ensuing General Conference for its action and determination.

The commission shall recommend only a building, location, or structure for designation as a heritage landmark that has been registered as a historic site by an annual, central, or jurisdictional conference and has met the requirements established by the commission. The commission shall keep a register of all duly designated heritage landmarks and maintain an ongoing file of pertinent information concerning them.

d) Quadrennial Review—The commission shall be responsible for making a quadrennial review of the existing duly designated heritage landmarks, according to the criteria that it shall prepare and which shall be compatible with *The Book of Discipline*. The commission shall further be responsible for recommending to the General Conference the redesignation or reclassification of the designated heritage landmarks as such action may be appropriate in keeping with such criteria.

2. Present Heritage Landmarks—The present heritage landmarks of The United Methodist Church (and the year of their designation by General Conference) are: Acuff's Chapel, between Blountville and Kingsport, TN (1968); Albright Memorial Chapel, Kleinfeltersville, PA (1968); Asbury Manual Labor School and Mission, Ft. Mitchell, AL (1984); Barratt's Chapel, near Frederica, DE (1968); Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, FL (1984); Bishop John Seybert/Flat Rock Cluster, Flat Rock and Bellevue, OH (1992); Boehm's Chapel, Willow Street, PA (1984); Cokesbury College, Abingdon, MD (1984); Cox Memorial United Methodist Church, Hallowell, ME (1992); Deadwood Cluster, Deadwood, SD (1984); Edward Cox House, near Bluff City, TN (1968); First Evangelical Association Church Building and Publishing House, New Berlin, PA (1988); First United Methodist Church, Johnstown, PA (1996); Green Hill House, Louisburg, NC (1968); Hanby House, Westerville, OH (1988); John Street Church, New York City (1968); John Wesley's American Parish, Savannah, GA (1976); Keyword Marker, Glade Spring, VA (1988); Isaac Long's Barn, Landis Valley, Lititz, PA (2008); Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, MD (1972); McMahan's Chapel, Bronson, TX (1972); Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY (1972); Old McKendree Chapel, Jackson, MO (1968); Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore, MD (1968); Old Stone Church Cemetery and Site, Leesburg, VA (1968); Organization of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Louisville, KY (1984); Peter Cartwright United Methodist Church, Pleasant Plains, IL (1976); Rehobeth Church, near Union, WV (1968); Robert Strawbridge's Log House, near New Windsor, MD (1968); Rutersville Cluster, Rutersville, TX (1988); St. George's Church, Philadelphia, PA (1968); St. Simon's Island, Brunswick, GA (1968); Wesley Foundation, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (1996); Town of Oxford, GA (1972); United Brethren Founding Sites Cluster, Frederick, Keedysville, and Beaver Creek, MD (2000); Wesleyan College Cluster, Macon, GA (1992); Whitaker's Chapel, near Enfield, Halifax County, NC (1972); Wilamette Mission, near Salem, OR (1992); Women's Foreign Missionary Society founding site, Boston, MA (2004) Wyandot Indian Mission, Upper Sandusky, OH (1968); and Zoar United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA (1984).

## Section XII. General Commission on Communication

¶ 1801. As United Methodists, our theological understanding obligates us, as members of the body of Christ, to communicate our faith by speaking and listening to persons both within and outside the Church throughout the world, and to utilize all appropriate means of communication.

The responsibility to communicate is laid upon every church member, every pastor, every congregation, every annual conference, every institution, and every agency of the Church. Within this total responsibility, there are certain functions that the General Conference has assigned to the General Commission on Communication, to be performed in behalf of all through the talents and resources at its command.

¶ 1802. Name—There shall be a General Commission on Communication of The United Methodist Church, which for communication and public relations purposes may be designated as United Methodist Communications (UMCom).

¶ 1803. Incorporation—The General Commission on Communication is successor to the Joint Committee on Communications, incorporated in the State of Ohio, and shall be authorized to do business as United Methodist Communications (UMCom). It is authorized to create such other corporate substructures as the commission deems appropriate to carry out its functions.

¶ 1804. Amenability and Accountability—The General Commission on Communication shall be amenable to the General Conference. As an administrative general agency that carries significant program functions in addition to its many service and support responsibilities, the commission shall be accountable to, report to, and be evaluated by the Connectional Table in program matters and shall be accountable to and report to the General Council on Finance and Administration in financial matters.

¶ 1805. Purpose—The General Commission on Communication shall lead the Church in communication. It shall meet the communication, public relations, and marketing needs of the entire Church, reflecting the cultural and racial diversity within The United Methodist Church. It shall provide communication resources and services to local churches and annual conferences. It shall have a consultative relationship with all general agencies of the Church and with any structures for communication and public relations at the jurisdictional, episcopal area, annual conference, district, or local church level.

¶ 1806. Responsibilities—Specific responsibilities and functions of the General Commission on Communication and its staff are as follows:

1. It shall be the official newsgathering and distributing agency for The United Methodist Church and its general agencies. In discharging its responsibilities, in keeping with the historic freedom of the press, it shall operate with editorial

freedom as an independent news bureau serving all segments of church life and society, making available to both religious and public news media information concerning the Church at large.

2. It shall have major responsibility on behalf of The United Methodist Church in the United States to relate to the public media in presenting the Christian faith and work of the Church to the general public through broadcast, the press, and multimedia. It may develop such structures for broadcast and multimedia communication purposes as are deemed helpful to the Church in its witness through the media. It shall unify and coordinate public media messages and programs of United Methodist general agencies.

3. It shall give special attention to television, including broadcast television, cable, videotape, videodisc, and satellite. It shall provide counsel and resources to annual conferences—and through conferences, to districts and local churches—to develop and strengthen their television ministries. Responsibilities of the commission shall include program production and placement, and relationships to commercial broadcasters at the national level in the United States.

4. It shall represent The United Methodist Church in the Department of Communication of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and in other national and international interdenominational agencies working in mass communications. Budget allocations and other funds granted to these ecumenical agencies shall be administered in accordance with ¶ 814.

5. It shall have responsibility to work toward promotion and protection of the historic freedoms of religion and the press, and it shall seek to increase the ethical, moral, and human values of media structures and programs.

6. It shall have general supervision over the conduct of public relations activities for The United Methodist Church in the United States, planning and doing public relations work at the denomination-wide level, and counseling the various units of the Church in regard to their public relations needs. It shall interpret to the constituency of the Church the significance of the denomination and its various programs.

7. It shall develop and oversee a unified and comprehensive program of multimedia materials for the Church. It shall plan, create, produce or cause to be produced, and distribute or cause to be distributed multimedia materials that are informative and vital to the religious life of all United Methodists. It shall unify and coordinate the multimedia programs of all United Methodist agencies dealing with projected pictures, recordings, videotape, and other multimedia or electronic materials.

8. It shall oversee a comprehensive communication system for the Church, providing a total view of communication structure and practices, including tele-

communications. It shall create networks of communicators at all levels, including local church, district, conference, jurisdiction, and general church. These networks may include periodic consultations for such purposes as idea exchange, information sharing, joint planning, and monitoring and evaluating the total Church's communication enterprises. With respect to the use of computers for communication purposes, the agency shall cooperate with the General Council on Finance and Administration (see ¶ 807.9).

9. It shall provide guidance, resources, and training for the local church coordinator of communications (¶ 255[3]), provided that training at the local level shall be through and in cooperation with annual conferences.

10. It shall educate and train in communication principles and skills, including the following: (a) national workshops and training experiences in communication skills related to various media; (b) consultation with and assistance to annual conferences, districts, and racial and ethnic groups in training local church persons, especially the local church coordinator of communications; (c) training experiences for bishops, personnel of general Church agencies, and other groups on request; (d) providing and facilitating apprenticeship, internship, and scholarship programs for church communicators; and (e) counseling schools of theology and other institutions of higher education about the training of faculty, candidates for the ordained ministry, and laypersons in the principles and skills of communication, media resource development, and media evaluation.

11. It shall determine and implement, after consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration, policy for the marketing of all financial causes demanding churchwide promotion or publicity.

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 (¶ 817.1), General Administration Fund (¶ 813), Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (¶ 818), Ministerial Education Fund (¶ 816), Human Relations Day (¶¶ 823.1 and 263.1), One Great Hour of Sharing (¶¶ 820, 823.2 and 263.2), Native American Ministries Sunday (¶¶ 823.6 and 263.6), Peace with Justice Sunday (¶¶823.5 and 263.5), World Communion Sunday (¶¶ 823.4 and 263.3), United Methodist Student Day (¶¶ 823.3 and 263.4), the Advance for Christ and His Church (¶¶ 821 and 822), World Service Special Gifts (¶ 819), 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 (¶ 818). In the marketing of these causes, this

agency shall consult with and is encouraged to use content material provided by the program agency responsible for the area and with the agency responsible for the administration of the funds. Budgets for the above funds shall be developed in cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration. In cases where the General Conference assigns a portion of the marketing responsibility to some other agency, such marketing work shall be subject to coordination by the General Commission on Communication. The cost of marketing the funds, as set in the approved marketing budget, shall be a charge against receipts, except that the cost of marketing general Advance Specials shall be billed to the recipient agencies in proportion to the amount of general Advance Special funds received by each (§ 822.3), and the cost of marketing World Service Special Gifts shall be borne by administering agencies (§ 819.6). The administration of the money thus set aside for marketing shall be the responsibility of the General Commission on Communication.

13. It shall undertake the marketing of any cause or undertaking, financial or otherwise, not herein mentioned demanding churchwide promotion or publicity, provided such action is approved by the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration, or their respective executive committees. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the source of the funding for any such authorized promotions.

14. Appeals for giving that are made to United Methodists shall be consistent with the aims of Christian stewardship. The General Commission on Communication and the General Board of Discipleship will cooperate in order that programs and resource materials of the two agencies may be in harmony in their presentation of Christian stewardship.

15. It shall publish a program journal for pastors and other church leaders that shall present the program and promotional materials of the general agencies in a coordinated manner and shall be in lieu of general agency promotional periodicals. This agency shall determine the manner of selecting the principal editors, who shall be responsible for the content of the journal. This agency shall obtain from the churches or district superintendents the names of church officials entitled to receive the journal so as to compile a subscription list compatible with U.S. Postal Service regulations.

16. It shall lead in communication study and research, applying findings from the professional and academic communities to the work of the Church, and in evaluative communication research. It shall cooperate with other agencies and other levels of the Church in communication research and development work and share the findings of study and research.

17. It shall represent United Methodist interests in new technological developments in the field of communication, including research, the evaluation of new devices and methods, and the application of technological developments to the communication services of the Church.

18. It may develop information and other services that provide channels of communication to and from all levels of the Church.

19. It shall provide resources, counsel, and staff training for area, conference, and district communication programs and develop guidelines in consultation with persons working in areas, conferences, and districts.

20. It shall produce materials for program interpretation in cooperation with the Connectional Table and the general program boards, including the official program calendar of the denomination.

21. The General Commission on Communication shall be charged with planning and implementation of the official United Methodist presence on and use of the Internet, the World Wide Web, or other computer services that can connect United Methodist conferences, agencies, and local churches with one another and with the larger world.

¶ 1807. Organization—1. Membership—The membership of the General Commission on Communication shall be composed of twenty-eight members as follows:

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

b) Sixteen members elected by the jurisdictional conferences based on the following formula: North Central—3, Northeastern—3, South Central—4, Southeastern—4, and Western—2. It is recommended that at least one of the persons elected by the jurisdictional conferences be a racial or ethnic person.

c) Two members of the central conferences named by the Council of Bishops.

d) Seven additional members elected by the commission to ensure membership of persons with expertise in communication.

e) The additional members shall be nominated by a committee composed of one commission member designated from each jurisdiction and one of the member bishops.

f) In order to ensure inclusiveness, the composition of the commission shall reflect the major recognized categories of Church members (see ¶ 705.3h).

2. Meetings—The commission shall hold at least one meeting in each calendar year. Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum.

3. Officers—The commission shall elect a president, at least one vice president, a recording secretary, and such other officers as it determines.

There may be an executive committee comprised of not more than one-third of the total membership of the commission and elected by the commission. The membership of the executive committee shall be representative of the composition of the commission.

4. Internal Organization—The General Commission on Communication is empowered to create internal structures as it deems appropriate for effective operation.

5. Staff—The commission shall elect annually a general secretary upon nomination by the executive committee or a nominating committee and shall elect such deputy general secretaries as needed, and it shall provide for election or appointment of other staff. The general secretary shall cooperate with the Connectional Table for program services and with the general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration for financial services.

¶ 1808. Finance—The General Conference shall provide for the financial needs of the General Commission on Communication upon recommendation by the General Council on Finance and Administration. The commission shall consult with the Connectional Table in the area of program matters in development of an annual budget, which shall be reported to the General Council on Finance and Administration for approval.

### **Section XIII. General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns**

¶ 1901. The name of this agency shall be the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns.

¶ 1902. Purpose—The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall exercise its ecumenical leadership role in seeking to fulfill two major responsibilities in the context of the search for the unity of the human community and the renewal of creation:

1. To advocate and work toward the full reception of the gift of Christian unity in every aspect of the Church's life and to foster approaches to ministry and mission that more fully reflect the oneness of Christ's church in the human community.

2. To advocate and work for the establishment and strengthening of relationships with other living faith communities, and to further dialogue with persons of other faiths, cultures, and ideologies.

¶ 1903. Responsibilities—The responsibilities of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be:

1. To enable ecumenical and interreligious understanding and experience among all United Methodists, including assistance to all United Methodist agencies.

2. To recruit and provide ecumenical leadership training and opportunities for all United Methodists, with special attention to youth, young adults, and racial and ethnic persons.

3. To provide resources and counsel to conference commissions or committees on Christian unity and interreligious concerns and to local church leadership.

4. To develop or assist in the development of resources and other educational materials that will stimulate understanding and experience in ecumenical and interreligious relationships.

5. To develop and interpret the primary relationships of The United Methodist Church to ecumenical and interreligious organizations (such as the World Council of Churches, regional councils of churches, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Methodist Council, Churches Uniting in Christ, and the World Conference on Religion and Peace); to united churches, which include a church formerly related to The United Methodist Church or its predecessors; to churches with which a concordat of exchange of voting delegates has been established by General Conference; and to churches that have entered into a formal covenanting act with The United Methodist Church. We further encourage dialogue with other organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals and the World Evangelical Fellowship.

6. To pursue or initiate relationships and conversations with Christian ministries, organizations, and denominations that are not a part of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., to seek areas of cooperation and common cause in the advancement of the cause of Christ.

7. To pursue or initiate relationships and conversations with other Christian churches on possible church unions and in general bilateral or multilateral dialogues.

8. To develop and engage in dialogue, cooperation, and unity discussions with the historic members of the Methodist denominational family in the United States—namely, the African Methodist Episcopal, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal churches, and all those Wesleyan bodies in the United States related to the World Methodist Council. (See ¶ 2403.)

9. To work toward unity and greater understanding within The United Methodist Church.

10. To report to General Conference on developments in Christian unity and interreligious issues and to make recommendations on any specific proposals for church union.

11. To continue or initiate relationships, conversations, and cooperative efforts with other religious faith communities.

12. To consider resolutions, pronouncements, and actions of ecumenical and interreligious councils and agencies, to be responsible for appropriate United Methodist responses, and to initiate or to channel counsel to ecumenical and interreligious bodies.

13. To receive reports from Churches Uniting in Christ, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the World Methodist Council, and the World Council of Churches on their work, such reports to include relevant financial information.

14. To maintain a close relationship with the General Board of Church and Society and the General Commission on Religion and Race as they seek to coordinate denominational support and cooperation in eradicating racism, promoting social justice, and enhancing Christian unity.

15. To receive copies of all requests for funds from ecumenical and interreligious bodies to all United Methodist agencies and to review for possible recommendations to both the ecumenical and United Methodist agencies.

16. To enable and review the ecumenical and interreligious involvements, programming, and funding of all United Methodist program agencies; to review funding of ecumenical agencies by United Methodist program agencies through examination of the disclosure records annually provided to the General Council on Finance and Administration; and to report findings and make recommendations to those agencies and to the Connectional Table and the General Council on Finance and Administration as requested.

17. To advocate for appropriate funding and oversee disbursement of United Methodist funds provided in support of the major ecumenical and interreligious agencies (see ¶ 814).

18. To advocate for adequate funding for the core budgets of the major ecumenical and interreligious agencies.

19. To provide from its own budget, where possible, supplementary funding for cognate units in ecumenical agencies and ad hoc ecumenical and interreligious enterprises.

20. To report to the Connectional Table and recommend to the General Council on Finance and Administration the total goal and constituent allocations of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund for submission to General Conference and to administer all aspects of the fund in accordance with guidelines

established in consultation with the General Council on Finance and Administration and with the Council of Bishops. (See ¶ 818.)

21. To receive and administer funds allocated to it through the General Conference or the General Council on Finance and Administration and other sources.

22. To report annually to the Council of Bishops on aspects of Christian unity and interreligious developments, issues, and trends.

23. To channel and recommend to the Council of Bishops qualified United Methodists for service as representatives on ecumenical councils or agencies and to special meeting or assemblies, and to name such representatives to councils, agencies, or assemblies not named by the Council of Bishops.

24. To work as partners with agencies of The United Methodist Church on matters of mutual concern.

25. To care for other matters as may be deemed necessary by the commission or requested by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops (see ¶ 2401), or the Connectional Table.

¶ 1904. Authority and Powers—The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall have the authority and power to fulfill all the responsibilities noted in ¶ 1903 and to fulfill other functions that may be requested of it by the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, or the General Council on Finance and Administration and General Conference. (See ¶ 2401 on relationships with the Council of Bishops.)

¶ 1905. Organization—The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be organized quadrennially in conformity with ¶¶ 705-710. In addition:

1. The commission shall elect from its membership a chairperson and other officers as it may determine.

2. There shall be an executive committee of the commission with powers as determined by the commission.

3. The general secretary shall be a member of the commission executive committee without vote.

4. The general secretary, in relationships with other churches, shall be referred to as the ecumenical staff officer for The United Methodist Church, in conformity with common practice in other churches.

5. The commission shall meet annually and at such other times as it shall deem necessary. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

6. The general commission shall elect its general secretary and its associate general secretary(ies) annually by ballot (¶ 713). Other staff may be elected or appointed as the general commission shall determine.<sup>55</sup>

55 See Judicial Council Decisions 496, 499.

7. The responsibilities of the general secretary are to be defined by the commission.

8. 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 Officer of the Council of Bishops, the President of GCCUIC if the President is not also the Ecumenical Officer, and one lay and one clergy member of GCCUIC elected by GCCUIC. If the President of GCCUIC is also the Ecumenical Officer, then the Vice President of GCCUIC shall be a member of the commission.

¶ 1906. 1. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall be composed of thirty-eight United Methodists as follows:

a) Four bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops, one of whom shall be the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops and one of whom shall be from a central conference.

b) Persons from each jurisdiction, based on the following formula: North Central—5, Northeastern—4, South Central—6, Southeastern—5, and Western—2, elected by the jurisdictional conferences (see ¶ 705).

c) Three persons from the central conferences, elected by the Council of Bishops.

d) Seven additional members with vote selected by the elected commission at the organizational meeting. It is recommended that persons elected by each jurisdiction and by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns be inclusive of ethnic representation—Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islander—and youth and young adults.

2. Two additional members with vote may include persons from the other churches in Churches Uniting in Christ.

3. All members shall be selected with a view to balances envisioned in ¶ 705 and may well include persons from administration or faculty of United Methodist

schools of theology and undergraduate colleges, campus ministers, seminarians, members of conference commissions on Christian unity and interreligious concerns, delegates to or members of central or executive committees of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Churches Uniting in Christ, the World Methodist Council, and staff of regional and local cooperative agencies.

4. The general commission shall be authorized to fill vacancies in its membership during the quadrennium according to the three categories of membership: (a) by requesting appointment by the Council of Bishops; (b) by requesting replacement appointment by the appropriate jurisdictional College of Bishops (see ¶ 712); (c) by its own nomination and election process for the other directors.

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

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

1. To lead and coordinate studies commissioned by the General Conference in matters related to the faith, doctrine, order and discipline of the church.

2. To support and provide resources upon request to the Council of Bishops in their responsibility to “guard, transmit, teach and proclaim, corporately and individually the apostolic faith as it is expressed in Scripture and tradition, and as they are led and endowed by the Spirit, to interpret that faith evangelically and prophetically.”

3. To prepare and provide resources and study materials to the General Church upon request from the General Conference, Council of Bishops, or Connectional Table.

¶ 1909. Responsibilities—The responsibilities of the Committee on Faith and Order shall be:

1. To provide a venue and context for ongoing conversation on matters of faith, doctrine, order and discipline.

2. To draw upon scholars and scholarship in biblical studies, biblical theology, systematic theology, historical theology, Christian ethics, Wesleyan studies, and other areas thereby providing expertise and knowledge to lead and assist the church in addressing matters of faith and order critical to the life, ministry and mission of the church.

3. To receive and administer mandates from General Conference for studies on matters that require significant inquiry into and application of the faith and order of the church.

a) The committee shall nominate from its own membership and from others those who are to serve on various study committees and teams, and present these nominations to the Council of Bishops for approval.

b) The committee may, with approval of the Council of Bishops, carry out the mandated study internally or may create such committees and teams using members from within the committee and others from beyond the committee as may be required by the volume and complexity of work.

c) The committee itself and all committees and teams empowered by the committee shall include racial/ethnic and gender diversity, regional representation, and shall model effective representation of the theological diversity of The United Methodist Church.

4. To coordinate and provide for effective interaction and communication among various study committees, commissions and teams when multiple studies have been mandated.

5. Upon request to provide research and resourcing for the Council in Bishops in matters related to faith, doctrine, order and discipline.

6. To make provision for the preparation and dissemination of study documents and materials for the church upon request of the General Conference, Council of Bishops or Connectional Table.

7. To bring all studies, materials or publications as appropriate to the Council of Bishops or the General Conference for approval and action.

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

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

1. Six bishops shall serve as members including the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church and five other bishops assigned by the Council of Bishops.

2. Six members shall be nominated by the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools chosen from the faculties of seminaries affiliated with The United Methodist Church. The Association of United Methodist Theological Schools shall rotate nominations from among the seminaries on a basis established by itself.

3. Twelve members who are not bishops shall be chosen by the Council of Bishops upon nomination by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Six of the twelve chosen by the Council of Bishops shall come from the nominations of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and six shall be chosen from those nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Three of the members nominated by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be nominated from the faculties of seminaries affiliated with The United Methodist Church in the Central Conferences. Funding for this will be provided within the regular budgets for the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

4. All twenty-four members of the committee shall be approved and elected by the Council of Bishops at its fall meeting following the General Conference each quadrennium.

5. At least three (3) of the members of the committee shall be clergy actively serving full-time in the local church and three (3) shall be laity. One third of the membership shall be persons of minority racial/ethnic identity.

6. In its capacity of providing spiritual and doctrinal leadership, the Council of Bishops shall exercise oversight in the nomination and election of members with regard to Central Conference inclusion, geographic diversity, and age representation; it shall also ensure that the committee models effective representation of the theological diversity of The United Methodist Church.

7. Membership on the board of directors of any other general agency does not make one ineligible to serve as a member of this committee, ¶¶ 710.5 and 714.6 to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

1. The committee shall elect from its episcopal membership a chairperson and from its total membership other officers as it may determine.

2. There shall be an executive committee of the committee with powers as determined by the committee.

3. The initial election of members for the committee on Faith and Order shall include twelve persons elected for four years and twelve persons elected for eight years. Thereafter, all persons elected to the committee on Faith and Order shall be elected to eight year terms.

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

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

#### **Section XIV. General Commission on Religion and Race**

¶ 2001. Authorization and Establishment—There shall be a General Commission on Religion and Race.

1. Amenability and Accountability—The general commission shall be amenable to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, the commission shall be accountable to the Connectional Table by reporting and interpreting activities designed to fulfill the purpose of the commission and by cooperating with the council in the fulfillment of its legislated responsibilities.

¶ 2002. Purpose—The primary purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race shall be to challenge and equip the general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures of The United Methodist Church to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through teaching, advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness as we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

¶ 2003. Membership—The total membership of the commission shall be forty-three, composed of:

1. Three bishops, including at least one from the central conferences, named by the Council of Bishops.

2. Twenty-seven persons elected by the jurisdictions from the annual conference nominations, based on the following formula: North Central—5, Northeastern—7, South Central—6, Southeastern—6, and Western—3. It is recom-

mended that persons elected by each jurisdiction include persons from each ethnic group—Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islanders. At least two shall be women, and at least one under the age of thirty.

3. One central conference member named to the board by the Council of Bishops according to the provisions in ¶ 705.4c.

4. Twelve additional members to be elected by the commission. It is recommended that of the additional members, at least two members shall be elected from each of the five racial and ethnic groups (Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, Native American, and Pacific Islanders). There should be four young people, two between the ages of eighteen and thirty and two between the ages of twelve and seventeen.<sup>56</sup>

¶ 2004. Vacancies—Vacancies in the commission membership shall be filled by the procedure defined in ¶ 712 of the General Provisions.

¶ 2005. Officers—The General Commission on Religion and Race shall elect as its officers a president, a vice president, a secretary, and such other officers as it shall deem necessary.

¶ 2006. Staff—The General Commission on Religion and Race shall elect its general secretary annually by ballot (¶ 713). The commission shall select by whatever process it chooses the additional staff needed to assist the general secretary in carrying out the commission's responsibilities.

¶ 2007. Finances—The General Council on Finance and Administration shall make provision for the support of the work of the commission, including provision for a general secretary and associated staff and an office for the commission.

¶ 2008. Responsibilities—The general commission will assume general Church responsibility for such matters as:

1. Coordinating the denominational concern and providing a channel of assistance to ensure that ethnic and racial group members of The United Methodist Church will have equal opportunities for service, representation, and voice on every level of the Church's life and ministry.

2. Reviewing, evaluating, and assisting agencies and institutions of the Church as they seek to develop programs and policies to implement the mandate for racial inclusiveness, including equality of compensation for racial and ethnic clergy and lay staff at all levels of the Church.

3. Reviewing, evaluating, and assisting annual conferences and their appointive cabinets as they seek to develop appointments, programs, and policies designed to achieve racial and ethnic inclusiveness.

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56 See Decision 5, Interim Judicial Council.

4. Providing channels of assistance to racial and ethnic groups as they seek to develop programs of empowerment and ministry to their local churches and communities.

5. Relating to and coordinating the concerns of the racial and ethnic groups as they relate to minority group empowerment and ministry within the Church.

6. Reviewing, investigating, and conducting hearings where necessary in response to written allegations of violation of the Church's policy of racial and ethnic inclusiveness that have not been satisfactorily resolved in the annual conference, any general agency, or other institution of the Church. All involved parties shall meet with the General Commission on Religion and Race or its designated representatives, presenting their briefs, arguments, and evidence related to said allegations. The commission will submit its findings and recommendations to the appropriate parties, conferences, general agencies, or institutions concerned, for the purpose of securing a satisfactory resolution to the case at hand.

7. Administering the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund. The Minority Group Self-Determination Fund is established by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church for the empowerment of racial and ethnic persons within and outside the Church. The fund is available through grants to congregations comprised of racial and ethnic persons, community agencies, and other groups for the purposes established by the General Conference. The Fund shall be administered by the General Commission on Religion and Race on behalf of The United Methodist Church guided by the principle of self-determination. The General Commission shall be responsible for developing guidelines and policies regarding grants, and for evaluation of projects receiving support.

8. Providing resources for the local church ministry group on religion and race, enabling them to address the different situations in which they find themselves: inner city, suburbia, metropolitan, rural communities, and Native American reservations.

9. Counseling local churches that are seeking to establish multiracial fellowships, and encouraging and supporting local churches in maintaining a Christian ministry in racially changing neighborhoods.

10. Maintaining a close relationship with the General Board of Church and Society in seeking to coordinate the denominational support and cooperation with various movements for racial and social justice.

11. Being available to assist central conferences, autonomous and affiliated autonomous Methodist and united churches, and Methodist bodies in countries other than the United States as they address the issues of global racism, including ethnocentric tribalism and ethnocentrism.

12. Providing opportunities for multiracial and interethnic dialogue and meetings throughout the Church.

13. Working directly with the Council of Bishops and the related annual conferences to plan workshops, seminars, and consultations on racism based on biblical and theological grounds.

14. Providing programs of sensitization and education at every level of the Church's life on the nature and meaning of racism—attitudinal, behavioral, and institutional.

15. Relating to and assisting the annual conference commissions on religion and race, enabling them to address their different communities and situations: inner city, suburbia, metropolitan, rural communities, and Native American reservations.

16. Advising the General Council on Finance and Administration (§ 811.1) with regard to the policies and practices of agencies and Church-related institutions receiving general Church funds concerning their implementation of the denomination's policy of inclusiveness and nondiscrimination on the basis of race and ethnic heritage. This shall be done by: (1) consulting with the council in development, review, and maintenance of the certification form to be submitted to the council by agencies and institutions receiving general Church funds; (2) reviewing annually the submissions of certifications of compliance with § 811.1a, b, and c; and (3) recommending to the council acceptance of the certifications, or other appropriate action, including withholding approval of the entire budget of an agency or institution because of noncompliance with § 811.1a, b, or c.

17. Developing leadership among racial and ethnic groups for the total ministry in the life of the Church.

18. Facilitating the delivery of program services and information to racial and ethnic local churches.

19. Maintaining a close relationship with the General Board of Church and Society and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, as they seek to coordinate denominational support and cooperation in eradicating racism, promoting social justice, and enhancing Christian unity.

20. Reporting to the General Conference on the status of racial and ethnic groups within The United Methodist Church and on the progress of the denomination's journey toward racial inclusiveness.

21. Providing training at every level of the connectional structure on the sin of racism and ways to eliminate its pervasive impact.

22. Engaging the Church's white constituency in ways to dismantle racism in the church and the world.

**Section XV. General Commission on the Status and Role of Women**

¶ 2101. There shall be a General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church.

¶ 2102. Purpose—The primary purpose of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall be to challenge The United Methodist Church, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and in the policy-making at all levels of the Church's life.

Such commitment will confirm anew recognition of the fact that The United Methodist Church is part of the universal church, rooted in the liberating message of Jesus Christ, that recognizes every person, woman or man, as a full and equal part of God's human family.

The general commission shall function as an advocate with and on behalf of women individually and collectively within The United Methodist Church; as a catalyst for the initiation of creative methods to redress inequities of the past and to prevent further inequities against women within The United Methodist Church; and as a monitor to ensure inclusiveness in the programmatic and administrative functioning of The United Methodist Church.

¶ 2103. Responsibility—The general commission shall be charged with the responsibility of fostering an awareness of issues, problems, and concerns related to the status and role of women, with special reference to their full participation in the total life of the Church at least commensurate with the total membership of women in The United Methodist Church.

1. In the fulfillment of its mandate, this commission shall have the authority to initiate and utilize such channels, develop such plans and strategies, and assign staff as may be required in the implementation of the following primary needs across The United Methodist Church: leadership enablement, resources and communication, affirmative action and advocacy roles, and interagency coordination.

Such plans and strategies related to these needs shall be directed toward the elimination of sexism in all its manifestations from the total life of The United Methodist Church, including general agencies as well as the various connectional channels and structures that reach the local church. The commission shall work with the respective agencies as needs may determine in achieving and safeguarding representation and participation of women, including racial and ethnic groups.

2. The commission, through its various research and monitoring processes, shall continue to gather data, make recommendations, and suggest guidelines for action as appropriate to eradicate discriminatory policies and practices in any

form or discriminatory language and images wherever found in documents, pronouncements, publications, and general resources.

3. The commission shall stimulate ongoing evaluation procedures and receive progress reports toward the end of effecting the guidelines in § 2 above in all responsible bodies of the Church.

4. The commission shall establish and maintain a working relationship with annual conference commissions, taking into account the objectives and guidelines for conferences in ¶ 644.1 and seeking to develop and strengthen the leadership of the conference for the realization of these objectives within the general context of the responsibilities of the general commission (¶ 2103.1).

5. The commission shall recommend plans and curricula for new understanding of theology and biblical history affecting the status of women. The commission shall also be encouraged to explore the relationships between spiritual gifts and women in the Bible.

6. The commission shall create needed policies and recommendations and program for immediate and long-range implementation related to the enhancement of the role of women in professional and voluntary leadership in the Church.

7. The commission shall serve in an advocacy role to ensure openness and receptivity in matters related to women's role in the Church's life, with particular attention to the contributions of clergy and lay professional women, racial and ethnic women, and those experiencing changing lifestyles. The commission in its role as advocate shall assist the local church, annual conferences, the councils, boards, commissions, schools of theology, and other related institutions on eradicating the problems of sexual harassment by developing policies and procedures for addressing these problems.

8. The commission shall generate active concern and give full support toward immediate efforts in the fulfillment of the following directive: Councils, boards, commissions, committees, personnel recruitment agencies, schools of theology, and other related institutions are directed to establish guidelines and policies for specific recruitment, training, and full utilization of women in total employment, which includes but is not limited to pastoral and related ministries, health and welfare ministries, and faculties and staffs of seminaries and other educational institutions.

9. Advise the General Council on Finance and Administration (¶ 811.1) with regard to the policies and practices of agencies and Church-related institutions receiving general Church funds concerning their implementation of the denomination's policy of inclusiveness and nondiscrimination on the basis of gender. This shall be done by: (1) consulting with the council in development, re-

view, and maintenance of the certification form to be submitted to the council by agencies and institutions receiving general Church funds; (2) reviewing annually the submissions of certifications of compliance with ¶ 811.1a, b, and c; and (3) recommending to the council acceptance of the certifications, or other appropriate action, including withholding approval of the entire budget of an agency or institution because of noncompliance with ¶ 811.1a, b, or c.

10. The commission shall provide resources for the local church ministry group on the status and role of women.

¶ 2104. Membership—1. The policies, plans, and administration of the work of the general commission shall be determined by its membership, which shall be composed of forty-three persons in accord with the following guidelines:

a) Jurisdictional membership shall be nominated and elected by the jurisdictional conferences, ensuring that the pluralism and diversity of the Church's membership is reflected in the representation of racial and ethnic minorities and various age categories. Each jurisdiction shall elect persons for membership based on the following formula: North Central—5, Northeastern—5, South Central—7, Southeastern—7, Western—3. It is recommended that where possible, the members include at least one laywoman, one layman, one clergywoman, and one clergyman. Of the persons elected by each jurisdictional conference, at least one should be from a racial and ethnic group and at least one should be under thirty-one years of age at the time of election.

b) There shall be eight additional members elected by the general commission, in accord with the provisions of ¶ 705.3a. The election of the additional members shall take into account the need to provide adequate representation of racial and ethnic groups and of the various age categories, and to include persons of special competence. It is recommended that the addition of the at-large membership ensure that the total membership maintains the one-third laymen, one-third laywomen, one-third clergy balance as well as majority membership of women. It is further recommended that such additional members shall maintain a membership total of at least 10 percent youth and 10 percent young adults.

c) There shall be three women named by the Women's Division from its members or staff to serve as ex officio members with vote.

d) There shall be three bishops, including at least one from the central conferences, named by the Council of Bishops.

e) There shall be two central conference members named to the board by the Council of Bishops according to the provisions in ¶ 705.4c.

f) In the total membership: (1) Persons over sixty-five years of age should be included. (2) There should be no less than four persons (two women and two

men) from each of these five racial and ethnic groups: Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders. (3) There shall be at least one member who is a diaconal minister.

g) The general commission shall be authorized to fill vacancies in its membership during the quadrennium.

¶ 2105. Officers—The president of the general commission shall be a woman elected by the total commission from its membership. Other officers shall be elected as the commission determines.

¶ 2106. Meetings—The general commission shall meet annually, with such additional meetings as needs demand.

¶ 2107. Funding—The funds for carrying out the general commission's purpose shall be authorized by the General Conference.

¶ 2108. Staff—The general commission shall elect annually by ballot its general secretariat or general secretary who shall provide executive, administrative, and program staff leadership (¶ 713). The commission shall elect such other staff members as needs require within the General Conference mandates and the authority vested in the commission to develop policies and programs directed toward the realization of its purpose.

¶ 2109. Relationships—In order to fulfill its responsibilities and the directives of the General Conference, the general commission shall work with the Council of Bishops, the general agencies, institutions, and other appropriate structures and channels at all levels of the Church.

## **Section XVI. Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters**

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

2. The standing committee shall meet twice within the quadrennium in order to review, consider, and develop resolutions and petitions related to central conferences and may be called into session during General Conference as needed. It shall review and prepare such recommendations as it considers necessary for presentation directly to the General Conference. The committee shall submit its report and recommendations in accordance with the timelines governing general agencies for submission of petitions and resolutions. All resolutions and peti-

tions related to central conferences presented to the General Conference shall be referred to the committee for consideration, and the committee shall report its recommendations directly to the General Conference. On matters dealing with the determination of episcopal areas (§ 404.1), affiliation and autonomy (§ 572), and joining The United Methodist Church (§ 575), the committee shall report directly to the General Conference.

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

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

## **Section XVII. General Commission on United Methodist Men**

¶ 2301. There shall be a General Commission on United Methodist Men in The United Methodist Church.

The general commission shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, the general commission shall be accountable to the Connectional Table by reporting and interpreting activities in its purpose (§ 702.2).

¶ 2302. Purpose—The General Commission on United Methodist Men shall have primary oversight for the coordination and resourcing of men's ministry within The United Methodist Church.

1. United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. Men's ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. This purpose is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

2. Individual and group strategies form the foundation of UMMen ministry:

a) enhance Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life (EMS), as men become servant leaders.

b) advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries including prayer, missions, stewardship, and civic/youth serving ministries.

c) forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.

d) enhance organizational strength by effective leadership, resources, membership growth, and financial accountability.

e) assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles and responsibilities in their family setting, workplace, and society.

f) cultivate leadership among men for a policy of no tolerance of sexual harassment in family, church, workplace and society

g) understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.

h) fulfill the membership vows through commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, and service in congregational life.

i) fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the body of Christ.

3. To provide support services to promote the ministry and growth of United Methodist Men:

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

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

c) promote the annual certification of local church men's ministry and the chartering/annual renewal of local church men's units

(¶ 256.6) with the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b) to provide advocacy, cooperation, and relationship in partnership with the National (USA) Association of United Methodist Scouters, the General Board of Discipleship, the Council of Bishops, and the civic youth-serving agencies (Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Camp Fire USA, 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and such appropriate organizations within the Central Conferences) for the promotion of youth-serving/scouting ministries within The United Methodist Church;

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

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

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

b) the five (5) jurisdictional presidents of United Methodist Men;

c) six members elected by the National Association of Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men, including the national president and five members at large (including at least two members of the commission from the previous

quadrennium, for continuity) chosen for expertise and jurisdictional balance if possible;

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

e) the president of the United Methodist Men Foundation;

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

g) six members at large elected by the commission for inclusiveness, expertise, and balance, which should include at least one young person under the age of 30;

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

This legislation shall take effect upon the adjournment of the 2008 General Conference.

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

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

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

5. Meetings—The general commission shall meet annually, with such additional meetings as needs demand.

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

### **Section XVIII. Ecumenical Relationships and Organizations**

¶ 2401. Liaison Role of the Council of Bishops—1. In formal relations with other churches and/or ecclesial bodies, the Council of Bishops shall be the primary liaison for The United Methodist Church. The ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops shall be responsible for these relationships and shall work in cooperation with the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns in the fulfillment of these functions.

2. a) The Council of Bishops shall have the authority to enter into interim and provisional ecumenical agreements with other Christian bodies, following consultation with and the concurrence of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious concerns. However, all agreements of full communion and permanent membership in ecumenical organizations shall be ratified by General Conference, before they become effective.

b) Full communion describes the relationship between two or more Christian churches that

(1) recognize in each other the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic faith as expressed in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the church's historic creeds;

(2) recognize the authenticity of each other's baptism and Eucharist and extend sacramental hospitality to each other's members.

(3) recognize the validity of their respective ministries

(4) recognize the full interchangeability and reciprocity of all ordained ministers in each of the churches.

That relationship commits the churches to working together as partners in mission toward fuller visible unity. A relationship of full communion does not mean there are no differences or distinctions between the churches but does mean that these differences are not church dividing.

3. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns shall consult with the Council of Bishops in establishing the guide-lines for the administration of the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (see ¶¶ 814 and 1903.17).

4 The United Methodist representatives to ecumenical organizations in the following paragraphs shall be selected by the Council of Bishops from nominations reviewed by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Such representatives shall be inclusive in terms of gender, race and ethnicity, age, persons with disabilities, 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 general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in consultation with 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 general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in consultation with the ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops.

5. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, should structural changes be voted between sessions of the General Conference by any of the ecumenical organizations in the following paragraphs, necessitating election of a new group of United Methodist delegates, the Council of Bishops is authorized to elect, based on recommendations from the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, such delegates as may be required.

¶ 2402. Financial Support—United Methodist financial support of the ecumenical organizations in the following paragraphs shall be remitted from the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund through the General Council on Finance and Administration in accordance with ¶ 814. The general agencies of the Church may make such payments to these ecumenical organizations as they deem to be their responsibility and proportionate share in the cooperative programs. Such payments shall be reported to the General Council on Finance and Administration, and that Council shall include a summary report of United Methodist financial support in its annual financial report to the Church. United Methodist financial support of ecumenical dialogues and multilateral conversations, approved by the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, shall also be remitted from the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund in the same manner.

¶ 2403. 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 ¶¶ 571.3 and 570 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.

2. Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union—Given the relationship and shared history of the denominations of the Wesleyan tradition in America, there shall be a Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union established jointly among The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, The African Union Methodist Protestant Church, The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, and The United Methodist Church. The membership of the commission shall consist of nine persons from each member denomination, with each denomination naming three bishops, three clergypersons, and three lay persons to include at least one young adult.

The commission shall work to define, determine, plan, and, in cooperation with established agencies of the several denominations, execute activities to foster meaningful cooperation among the four Methodist denominations and to explore possible union and related issues. Such cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, evangelism, missions, publications, social concerns, and higher education. Each denomination will pay the expenses of its delegation to participate in the work of the commission. The commission may develop one or more Pan-Methodist coalitions to further meaningful cooperation on a particular activity or issue.

Each quadrennium, the commission shall plan and convene a Consultation of Methodist Bishops. The commission shall report to each of its member denominations through their General Conferences. The commission may be expanded by the inclusion of other denominations of the Wesleyan tradition and the commission may establish guidelines to provide for such expansion. Before another Wesleyan or American Methodist denomination may become a part of the commission, it must have the approval of its general conference or equivalent.

3. Striving Toward Union—As a result of our heritage as a part of a people called Methodist, The United Methodist Church commits itself to strive toward closer relationship with other Methodist or Wesleyan churches wherever they may be found (§ 6).

¶ 2404. Covenantal or Conciliar Relationships—The United Methodist Church strives toward greater Christian unity through its participation in councils of churches and/or covenantal relationships. The United Methodist Church may establish covenants with other Christian churches through bilateral or multi-lateral efforts.

1. Churches Uniting in Christ—The United Methodist Church is a member of Churches Uniting in Christ, its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been involved in its very beginnings and in all its committees and plenary consultations. The United Methodist Church is in covenantal relationship with other churches in Churches Uniting in Christ.

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.

*b)* Other National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations—The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, shall be in dialogue with United Methodists in whatever countries they may reside, and shall coordinate, explore, and advocate United Methodist participation in regional ecumenical and interfaith organizations and shall address the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund funding committee of the GCCUIC on financial needs and the advisability of support of these organizations.

*c)* The United Methodist Church shall seek observer status in the National Association of Evangelicals. United Methodist observers to these bodies shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops.

3. The World Council of Churches and Other International Ecumenical Organizations—*a)* World Council of Churches—The United Methodist Church is a member of the World Council of Churches, its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been charter members of such body.

*b)* Other International Ecumenical Organizations—The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in consultation with the Council of Bishops, shall be in dialogue with United Methodists in whatever countries they may reside, and shall coordinate, explore, and advocate United Methodist participation in international ecumenical and interfaith organizations and shall address the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund funding committee of the GCCUIC on financial needs and the advisability of support of these organizations.

*c)* The United Methodist Church shall seek observer status in the World Evangelical Fellowship. United Methodist observers to these bodies shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops.

¶ 2405. The American Bible Society—To encourage the wider circulation and use of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world and to provide for the translation, printing, and distribution essential thereto, the American Bible Society shall be recognized as a means of mission outreach for The United Methodist Church, for which appropriate entities of The United Methodist Church shall offer means for seeking the financial support needed for this program.

**Section XIX: JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation**

¶ 2406. 1. Mission—JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation is a mission of The United Methodist Church to engage conflict constructively in ways that strive for justice, reconciliation, resource preservation and restoration of community in and through The United Methodist Church and with the Church universal to the world in which we live.

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

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

