

Part VI
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION
Chapter Four
THE CONFERENCES

<p style="text-align: center;">GBOD New Part VI, chap. 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As published in ADCA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GBOD New Part VI, chap. 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">With tracking changes to BOD 2016: additions <u>underlined</u> and deletions struck through. With references to BOD 2016 Part VI, e.g. [201]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comments</p>
<p>[Introductory comment: Each section is structured and numbered as follows: 5X1. <i>Purpose</i> 5X2. <i>Powers and Duties</i> (General conference only “powers”) 5X3. <i>Membership</i> 5X4. <i>Conference session</i> 5X5. <i>Records & Archives</i> 5X6. <i>Conference Agencies</i> 5X7. <i>Properties</i>]</p>		
<p>The United Methodist Church is a connectional structure maintained through its chain of conferences.</p> <p>Section I. The General Conference</p> <p>¶ 501. <i>Purpose</i>— The General Conference serves God’s mission for the Church on its worldwide, connectional level. It gathers the delegates, as representatives of the church, for worship, prayer, fellowship, and legislative action in a spirit of Christian conferencing.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>¶501=new</p>	<p>The United Methodist Church is a connectional structure maintained through its chain of conferences.</p> <p>Section I. The General Conference</p> <p>¶ 501. <u><i>Purpose</i></u>— <u>The General Conference serves God’s mission for the Church on its worldwide, connectional level. It gathers the delegates, as representatives of the church, for worship, prayer, fellowship, and legislative action in a spirit of Christian conferencing.</u></p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	<p>Clearly states the purpose of General Conference.</p>
<p>¶ 502. <i>Powers</i>—1. The General Conference has full</p>	<p>[501] ¶ 502. <i>Definition of Powers</i>-1. The General</p>	

<p>legislative power over all matters distinctively connec-tional (§ 16). It has no executive or administrative power.</p> <p>2. Only General Conference has the authority to speak officially for The United Methodist Church. Any written public policy statement issued by a general Church agency shall clearly identify either at the beginning or at the end that the statement represents the position of that general agency and not necessarily the position of The United Methodist Church.¹</p> <p>3. Any individual member called to testify before a legislative body to represent The United Methodist Church shall be allowed to do so only by reading, without elaboration, the resolutions and positions adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>GBOD ¶502.1 = 501; 502.2+3=509.1+2 ¹ See Judicial Council Decision 458.</p>	<p>Conference has full legislative power over all matters distinctively connec-tional (see BOD¶ 16, Division Two, Section II, Article IV, The Constitution). It has no executive or administrative power.</p> <p>[509] 2. Speaking for the Church 1. No person, no paper, no organization, <u>Only General Conference</u> has the authority to speak officially for The United Methodist Church, this right having been reserved exclusively to the General Conference under the Constitution. Any written public policy statement issued by a general Church agency shall clearly identify either at the beginning or at the end that the statement represents the position of that general agency and not necessarily the position of The United Methodist Church (BOD¶ 718).¹</p> <p>3.2 Any individual member called to testify before a legislative body to represent The United Methodist Church shall be allowed to do so only by reading, without elaboration, the resolutions and positions adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>¹ See Judicial Council Decision 458.</p>	
<p>¶ 503. <i>Membership</i>—1. The voting membership of the General Conference shall consist of:</p> <p>a) An equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences as provided in the <i>Discipline</i>. The missionary conferences and provisional annual conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purposes of this paragraph. Annual conferences are urged to seek inclusiveness in the election of delegates.²</p> <p>b) Delegates from The Methodist Church in Great Britain and other autonomous Methodist churches with which concordat agreements have been established providing for mutual election and seating of delegates</p>	<p>[502] ¶ 503. Membership-Composition 1. The voting membership of the General Conference shall consist of:</p> <p>a) An equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences as provided in the <i>Discipline</i>. The missionary conferences and provisional annual conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purposes of this paragraph. Annual conferences are urged to seek inclusiveness (as defined in ¶ 140) in the election of delegates.²</p> <p>b) Delegates from The Methodist Church in Great Britain and other autonomous Methodist churches with which concordat agreements have been established providing for mutual election and seating of delegates in</p>	

in each other's highest legislative conferences.

2. The number of delegates to which an annual conference is entitled shall be computed on a two-factor basis: the number of clergy members of the annual conference, and the number of members of local churches in the annual conference.³

3. Delegates to the General Conference shall be elected at the session of the annual conference held not more than two annual conference sessions before the calendar year preceding the session of the General Conference.⁴

4. Procedures shall be according to provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 503).⁵

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GBOD ¶ 503.1-3 = 502.1-3; 503.4=new

² See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

³ See Judicial Council Decisions 327, 333, 1051.

⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

GC-R ¶ 503. Membership— 1. At least thirty days prior to the beginning of the earliest possible calendar year for election of delegates, the secretary of the General Conference shall notify the bishop and the secretary of each annual conference of the number of delegates to be elected by that annual conference.⁶

2. The secretary of each annual conference, using the certificate of election form supplied, shall report to the

each other's highest legislative conferences.
~~BOD ¶¶ 13.2-3, 574~~

2. The number of delegates to which an annual conference is entitled shall be computed on a two-factor basis: the number of clergy members of the annual conference, and the number of members of local churches in the annual conference.³

~~The term *clergy members* as used in this paragraph shall refer to both active and retired members of the annual conference (¶ 602.1).~~

3. Delegates to the General Conference shall be elected at the session of the annual conference held not more than two annual conference sessions before the calendar year preceding the session of the General Conference.⁴ ~~At least thirty days prior to the beginning of that calendar year, the secretary of the General Conference shall notify the bishop and the secretary of each annual conference of the number of delegates to be elected by that annual conference.~~

4. Procedures shall be according to provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 503).⁵

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² See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

³ See Judicial Council Decisions 327, 333, 1051.

⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.

[502.3ff] **GC-R 503. Membership**— 1. At least thirty days prior to the beginning of the earliest possible calendar year for election of delegates, the secretary of the General Conference shall notify the bishop and the secretary of each annual conference of the number of delegates to be elected by that annual conference.⁶

2.4. The secretary of each annual conference, using the certificate of election form supplied by the secretary

This sub-paragraph moved to GBOD533.1

<p>secretary of the General Conference the names, addresses, and such other information as may be required for delegates and reserves elected by the annual conference.</p> <p>3. The secretary of the General Conference shall prepare and send to each annual conference secretary credentials to be signed and distributed to the delegates and reserves elected by the annual conference.</p> <p>4. The secretary, in cooperation with the General Commission on the General Conference, shall initiate procedures to prepare delegates from central conferences for full participation in the General Conference by providing information concerning both the operation of the General Conference and materials it will consider. As far as possible, the materials should be provided in the languages of the delegates.</p> <p>5. After consultation with the Council of Bishops, the secretary of the General Conference shall issue invitations to ecumenical representatives.</p> <p>GBOD GC-R ¶ 503.1-3 = 502.3-5; 503.4-5=504.3</p> <p>⁶ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.</p>	<p>of the General Conference, shall report to the secretary of the General Conference the names, addresses, and such other information as may be required for delegates and reserves elected by the annual conference.</p> <p>3.5- The secretary of the General Conference shall prepare and send to each annual conference secretary credentials to be signed and distributed to the delegates and reserves elected by the annual conference.</p> <p>[504.3] 4.3.—Assigned Duties—The secretary, in cooperation with the Commission on the General Conference, shall initiate procedures to prepare delegates from central conferences for full participation in the General Conference by providing information concerning both the operation of the General Conference and materials it will consider. As far as possible, the materials should be provided in the languages of the delegates.</p> <p>5. After consultation with the Council of Bishops, the secretary shall issue invitations to ecumenical representatives.</p> <p>⁶ See Judicial Council Decisions 435, 592.</p>	
<p>¶ 504. <i>Conference Session</i>—1. <i>Rules of Order</i>- The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference shall be as approved by the preceding General Conference until they have been modified by the action of the General Conference.</p> <p>2. <i>Commission on the General Conference</i>- There shall be a Commission on the General Conference, hereinafter called the commission.</p> <p>a) It shall select the site and set the dates of the General Conference up to four quadrennia in advance.</p> <p>b) It shall plan the General Conference program, including the opening day, special events and orders of</p>	<p>[505] ¶ 504. <i>Conference Session</i>-1. <i>Rules of Order</i>-The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference shall be the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as approved by the preceding General Conference until they have been altered or modified by the action of the General Conference.</p> <p>[511] 2. <i>Commission on the General Conference</i>- There shall be a Commission on the General Conference, hereinafter called the commission.</p> <p>1. Membership ...</p> <p>2. Officers ...</p> <p>3. Committees ...</p>	<p>The deleted parts in GBOD504 were moved to GC-R504</p>

the day.

c) It shall, in cooperation with the United Methodist Publishing House, make all necessary arrangements for the publication of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

d) It shall organize a Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order from within its membership. The committee shall study any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order to be presented to the commission for approval and submission to the General Conference.

e) The voting members of the commission shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference from the elected delegates to the General Conference for a term of eight years. They shall consist of twenty-five members as follows: one person from each US jurisdiction, one person from each central conference, one young adult, one youth, the chairperson of the host committee, and ten additional members. The additional members shall be allocated to reflect the proportionate jurisdictional membership based upon combined clergy and lay membership of the Church.

3. *Presiding Officers*— The bishops shall be the presiding officers at the General Conference.

4. *Secretary-Designate*— The General Conference elects a secretary-designate.

5. *Petitions to General Conference*- Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference according to the prescribed format.

6. The General conference session shall be organized according to provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 504).

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GBOD ¶ 504.1 = 505; 504.2Intro=511Intro;

~~4. *Responsibilities*-a) It The commission shall select the site and set the dates of the General Conference up to four quadrennia in advance and shall send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening day and hour of the General Conference and anticipated time of adjournment.~~

~~b) It The commission shall plan the General Conference program, including schedule for the opening day, of the Conference and shall further advise the delegates in advance of all such special events and orders of the day, the dates and times of which have been determined prior to the opening of the General Conference, in order that the delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program.~~

~~c) It shall, The commission, in cooperation with The United Methodist Publishing House, shall make all necessary arrangements for the publication of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*. and quadrennial reports of the Connectional Table and the general agencies of the church in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili (standard), and for all delegates to have timely (90-day period) and convenient access to the most linguistically appropriate translation of these documents. The commission shall also make arrangements for daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high importance information published in the English version of the *Daily Christian Advocate* to also be made available in each of these languages in a timely and convenient way.~~

~~d) ...~~

~~5. The secretary ...~~

[511.3b] ~~d)b) *Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* The commission It shall organize a Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order from within its membership. The composition of the committee shall be determined by the~~

504.2a=511.4a; 504.2b=511.4b; 504.2c=511.4c;
504.2d=511.3b; 504.2e=511.1a-b; 504.3=503;
504.4=504.2; 504.5=507Intro; 504.6=new

~~commission. The committee shall be organized at the initial meeting of the commission following General Conference. It shall elect its own chairperson and secretary, who will serve on the commission's executive committee. The committee shall study and consider any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and make needed changes and adaptations to be presented to the entire Commission on the General Conference for approval and submission to the General Conference. Any other matters relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General Conference may be referred to this committee.~~

[511.1a] ~~e)†~~ The voting members of the commission shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference from the elected delegates to the General Conference for a term of eight years. They ~~and~~ shall consist of twenty-five members as follows: one person from each US jurisdiction, one person from each ~~of the seven~~ central conferences, one young adult, one youth, the chairperson of the host committee, and ten additional members. The additional members shall be allocated to reflect the proportionate membership based upon combined clergy and lay membership of the Church.

[503] 3. Presiding Officers-The bishops shall be the presiding officers at the General Conference.

[504] 4. Election of Secretary-Designate-1. The General Conference elects a secretary-designate. The Council of Bishops shall present a nomination from the ordained ministry or lay membership of The United Methodist Church for secretary designate.

~~Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The election, if there be two or more nominees, shall be by ballot.~~

~~2. Assumption of Office ...~~

~~3. Assigned Duties ...~~

~~5. Petitions to General Conference- Any~~

GC-R ¶ 504. Conference session— 1. *Commission on the General Conference—*a) *Membership—* (1) Members shall be nominated from the elected delegates to the General Conference by the Council of Bishops prior to General Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years. Additional persons who meet the qualifications may be nominated from the floor of General Conference. The commission shall reflect a balance of clergymen and clergywomen, laywomen and laymen, and the diverse character of The United Methodist Church. Approximately half of the commission shall be elected by the General Conference each quadrennium.

(2) If vacancies occur, the Council of Bishops shall elect geographically appropriate successors to serve through the next session of the General Conference and then nominate for election by the General Conference persons to serve any remainder term.

(3) The Secretary of the General Conference, the Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Business Manager of the General Conference, and a bishop named by the Council of Bishops shall have the right to the floor without the privilege of voting. The Business Manager of the General Conference shall be the chief administrative officer of the commission.

organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference according to the prescribed format.

6. The General conference session shall be organized according to provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 504).

>VII: —<

[511.1bff] **GC-R 504. Conference session –** 1. *Commission on the General Conference—*a) *Membership—*(1) Members shall be nominated from the elected delegates to the General Conference by the Council of Bishops prior to General Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years. Additional persons who meet the qualifications may be nominated from the floor of General Conference. The commission shall reflect a balance of clergymen and clergywomen, laywomen and laymen, and the diverse character of The United Methodist Church. Approximately half of the commission shall be elected by the General Conference each quadrennium.

(2) If vacancies occur, the Council of Bishops shall elect geographically appropriate successors to serve through the next session of the General Conference and then nominate for election by the General Conference persons to serve any remainder term.

(3) The Secretary of the General Conference, the Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Business Manager of the General Conference, and a bishop named by the Council of Bishops shall have the right to the floor without the privilege of voting. The Business Manager of the General Conference shall be the chief administrative officer of the commission.

~~b)2. Officers-~~The officers of the commission shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary, all of

b) Officers— The officers of the commission shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary, all of whom shall be elected by the commission at the quadrennial organizational meeting. They shall serve until the adjournment of the next succeeding quadrennial session of the General Conference and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

c) Committees— (1) *Executive Committee*—There shall be an executive committee of the commission, consisting of the officers of the commission, the chairperson of the host committee, the bishop serving on the commission, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Business Manager of the General Conference, and the chairperson and secretary of the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

(2) *Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order*—The commission shall organize a Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order from within its membership. The committee shall be organized at the initial meeting of the commission following General Conference. It shall elect its own chairperson and secretary, who will serve on the commission's executive committee. The committee shall study any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order to be presented to the Commission on the General Conference for approval and submission to the General Conference. Any other matters relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General Conference may be referred to this committee.

d) Responsibilities— (1) The commission shall select the site and set the dates of the General Conference up to four quadrennia in advance and shall send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening day and hour of the General Conference and anticipated time of adjournment.

whom shall be elected by the commission at the quadrennial organizational meeting. 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.

~~c)3. Committees-(1)†) Executive Committee~~-There shall be an executive committee of the commission, consisting of the officers of the commission, the chairperson of the host committee, the bishop serving on the commission, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Business Manager of the General Conference, and the chairperson and secretary of the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

(2)~~b) Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order~~-The commission shall organize a Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order from within its membership. ~~The composition of the committee shall be determined by the commission.~~ The committee shall be organized at the initial meeting of the commission following General Conference. It shall elect its own chairperson and secretary, who will serve on the commission's executive committee. The committee shall study ~~and consider~~ any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order ~~and make needed changes and adaptations~~ to be presented to the ~~entire~~ Commission on the General Conference for approval and submission to the General Conference. Any other matters relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General Conference may be referred to this committee.

~~b)4. Responsibilities-(1)†)~~ The commission shall select the site and set the dates of the General Conference up to four quadrennia in advance and shall send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening day and hour of the General

(2) The commission shall advise the delegates in advance of all special events and orders of the day in order that the delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program.

(3) The commission, in cooperation with the United Methodist Publishing House, shall make all necessary arrangements for the publication of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and quadrennial reports of the Connectional Table and the general agencies of the church in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili, and for all delegates to have timely (90-day period) and convenient access to the most linguistically appropriate translation of these documents. The commission shall also make arrangements for daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information published in the English version of the *Daily Christian Advocate* to also be made available in each of these languages in a timely and convenient way.

(4) The commission shall take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates including but not limited to providing accommodation for languages and physical challenges of the delegates, and access to approved licensed childcare during the session at or near the site of the General Conference for children of General Conference delegates.

(5) The commission shall recommend to the General Conference the per diem allowance to be paid to the elected delegates for housing and meals.

(6) The commission shall set the number of legislative committees and the assignment of legislative materials to those committees in consultation with the Secretary of the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference.

e) The secretary of the General Conference shall calculate the number of delegates to be elected by each annual conference, based on the factors specified in

Conference and anticipated time of adjournment.

~~(2)*b)* The commission shall plan the schedule for the opening day of the Conference and shall further advise the delegates in advance of all such special events and orders of the day, the dates and times of which have been determined prior to the opening of the General Conference, in order that the delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program.~~

*(3)*e)* The commission, in cooperation with The United Methodist Publishing House, shall make all necessary arrangements for the publication of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and quadrennial reports of the Connectional Table and the general agencies of the church in English, French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili (standard), and for all delegates to have timely (90-day period) and convenient access to the most linguistically appropriate translation of these documents. The commission shall also make arrangements for daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information published in the English version of the *Daily Christian Advocate* to also be made available in each of these languages in a timely and convenient way.*

~~(4)*d)* The commission shall take necessary measures to assure full participation of all General Conference delegates including but not limited to providing accommodation for languages and physical challenges of the delegates, and access to approved licensed childcare during the session at or near the site of the General Conference for children of General Conference delegates.~~

*(5)*e)* The commission shall recommend to the General Conference the per diem allowance to be paid to the elected delegates for housing and meals.*

*(6)*f)* The commission shall set the number of legislative committees and the assignment of legislative*

¶ 503.2, using the most recent clergy and professing lay membership figures reported by the local congregation to the annual conference and from the annual conference to the General Council on Finance and Administration through their conference journals, as follows:

(1) One clergy delegate for the first 375 clergy members of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 375 clergy members or major fraction thereof,⁷ and

(2) One clergy delegate for the first 26,000 members of local churches of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 26,000 local church members or major fraction thereof, and

(3) A number of lay delegates equal to the total number of clergy delegates authorized as above.

(4) Every annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate.

(5) This formula is designated to comply with the Constitution (¶ 13), which defines the minimum and maximum number of delegates to a General Conference. Should the computations provided in the paragraph result in a figure below the prescribed minimum or above the prescribed maximum for delegates, the Commission on the General Conference shall be authorized to remedy the situation by adjusting up or down the numbers of clergy members and members of local churches of the annual conference necessary to entitle an annual conference to elect delegates, any such adjustment to be proportionally the same for the two factors.⁸

2. *Quorum*—When the General Conference is in session, it shall require the presence of a majority of the whole number of delegates to the General Conference to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may take a recess or adjourn from day to day in order to secure a quorum, and at the final session may approve the journal, order the record of the roll call,

materials to those committees in consultation with the Secretary of the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference.

~~e)5-~~ The secretary of the General Conference shall calculate the number of delegates to be elected by each annual conference, based on the factors specified in GBOD ¶ ~~502.1, 2-503.2~~, using the most recent clergy and professing lay membership figures reported by the local congregation to the annual conference and from the annual conference to the General Council on Finance and Administration through their conference journals, as follows:

~~(1)a)~~ One clergy delegate for the first 375 clergy members of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 375 clergy members or major fraction thereof,⁷ and

~~(2)b)~~ One clergy delegate for the first 26,000 members of local churches of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 26,000 local church members or major fraction thereof, and

~~(3)e)~~ A number of lay delegates equal to the total number of clergy delegates authorized as above.

~~(4)d)~~ Every annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate.

~~(5)e)~~ This formula is designated to comply with the Constitution, ~~Division Two, Section II, Article I~~ (¶ 13), which defines the minimum and maximum number of delegates to a General Conference. Should the computations provided in the paragraph result in a figure below the prescribed minimum or above the prescribed maximum for delegates, the Commission on the General Conference shall be authorized to remedy the situation by adjusting up or down the numbers of clergy members and members of local churches of the annual conference necessary to entitle an annual conference to elect delegates, any such adjustment to be proportionally the

and adjourn *sine die*.

3. *Secretary-Designate* — a) The Council of Bishops shall present a nomination from the ordained ministry or lay membership of The United Methodist Church for secretary-designate. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The election, if there be two or more nominees, shall be by ballot.

b) *Assumption of Office*— The secretary-designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the General Conference as all work in connection with the session has been completed, including the corrections to the *Daily Christian Advocate*, which serves as the official journal of the General Conference. Upon publication, all translations of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be made available as a daily downloadable file, free of charge, on the denominational website. The exact date of the transfer of responsibility to the secretary-designate shall be determined by the Commission on the General Conference, but shall not be later than December 31, following the adjournment of the General Conference.

4. *Petitions to General Conference*—A petition to the General Conference shall be submitted in the following manner:

a) It must be sent in writing according to the format officially approved by the secretary of the General Conference.

b) Each petition must address only one issue if the *Discipline* is not affected; if the *Discipline* is affected, each petition must address only one paragraph of the *Discipline*, except that, if two or more paragraphs in the *Discipline* are so closely related that a change in one affects the others, the petition may call for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another. Petitions dealing with more than one paragraph in the *Discipline* that do not meet

same for the two factors.⁸

[506] 2. Quorum—When the General Conference is in session, it shall require the presence of a majority of the whole number of delegates to the General Conference to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may take a recess or adjourn from day to day in order to secure a quorum, and at the final session may approve the journal, order the record of the roll call, and adjourn *sine die*.

[504] 3. Election of Secretary-Designate~~a~~1. The Council of Bishops shall present a nomination from the ordained ministry or lay membership of The United Methodist Church for secretary-designate.

Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The election, if there be two or more nominees, shall be by ballot.

~~b)2. Assumption of Office~~—The secretary-designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the General Conference as all work in connection with the session has been completed, including the corrections to the *Daily Christian Advocate*, which serves as the official journal of the General Conference. Upon publication, all translations of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be made available as a daily downloadable file, free of charge, on the denominational website. The exact date of the transfer of responsibility to the secretary-designate shall be determined by the Commission on the General Conference, but shall not be later than December 31, following the adjournment of the General Conference.

~~3. Assigned Duties~~... [→GC-R 503.4-5]

[507] 4. Petitions to General Conference~~—Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference according to the prescribed format~~ A petition to the General Conference shall be submitted in the

these criteria are invalid. Petitions that meet these criteria (composite petitions) shall not be separated into pieces.

c) Each petition must be signed by the person submitting it, accompanied by appropriate identification and return address, according to the prescribed format.

d) All petitions submitted to the General Conference, except those submitted by individual members of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, which call for the establishment of new programs or the expansion of existing programs will be invalid unless accompanied by supporting data that address the issue of anticipated financial requirements of the program.

e) Petitions must be postmarked by a national postal service no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference. If petitions are transmitted by a means other than a national postal service, they must be in the hands of the petitions secretary no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference.

f) Exceptions to the time limitations shall be granted for petitions originating from an annual conference session held between 230 and 45 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference, and for other petitions at the discretion of the Committee on Reference.

g) Petitions adopted and properly submitted by annual conferences, central and jurisdictional conferences, the Division on Ministries With Young People, or general agencies or councils of the Church, and petitions properly submitted by individual members (either clergy or lay) of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, provided that they have been received by the petitions secretary or secretary of the General Conference no later than 230 days before the opening of General Conference, shall be printed in the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

h) Petitions and/or resolutions not printed in the

following manner:

~~a)1. The petition~~ It must be sent in writing according to the format officially approved by ~~to the secretary of the General Conference or a designated petitions secretary. It shall be in typed or printed form, or other means approved by the secretary of the General Conference, and shall follow a format determined by that officer.~~

~~b)2.~~ Each petition must address only one issue if the *Discipline* is not affected; if the *Discipline* is affected, each petition must address only one paragraph of the *Discipline*, except that, if two or more paragraphs in the *Discipline* are so closely related that a change in one affects the others, the petition may call for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another. Petitions dealing with more than one paragraph in the *Discipline* that do not meet these criteria are invalid. Petitions that meet these criteria (composite petitions) shall not be separated into pieces.

~~c)3.~~ Each petition must be signed by the person submitting it, accompanied by appropriate identification and return, ~~such as address, according to the prescribed format. local church, or United Methodist board or agency relationship. Each petition submitted by fax or electronic mail must identify the individual submitting it, accompanied by identification as above, and must contain a valid electronic mail return address or return fax number by which the submitter can be reached. Electronic signatures will be accepted in accordance with common business practice.~~

~~d)4.~~ All petitions submitted to the General Conference, except those submitted by individual members of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, which call for the establishment of new programs or the expansion of existing programs will be invalid unless accompanied by supporting data that

Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be printed or copied and provided to all delegates. Where the content of petitions is essentially the same, the petition will be printed once, with the first author named and the number of additional copies received printed. Upon publication, all translations of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be made available as a downloadable file, free of charge, on the denominational website

i) The secretary of the General Conference shall arrange for electronic access to all petitions, including General Conference action and the resulting impact on the, throughout the General Conference session. This access shall be available until the publication of the new edition of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. Following General Conference 2020, the new *General Book of Discipline* shall be published in all languages used in the publication of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

Implementation shall be according to guidelines established by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.

j) All petitions that have been approved by a legislative committee shall receive a vote by the plenary session at that year's General Conference.

k) All petitions that have been submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee.

5. *Legislation Effective Date*—All legislation of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall become effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified for central conferences.

GBOD GC-R ¶ 504.1 = 511; GC-R 504.2=506; GC-R 504.3=504.1-2; GC-R 504.4=507; GC-R 504.5=508;

address the issue of anticipated financial requirements of the program.

~~e)5-~~ Petitions must be postmarked by a national postal service no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference.

~~6-~~ If petitions are transmitted by a means other than a national postal service, they must be in the hands of the petitions secretary no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference.

~~f)~~ Exceptions to the time limitations shall be granted for petitions originating from an annual conference session held between 230 and 45 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference, and for other petitions at the discretion of the Committee on Reference.

~~g)7-~~ Petitions adopted and properly submitted by annual conferences, central and jurisdictional ~~and central~~ conferences, the Division on Ministries With Young People, or general agencies or councils of the Church, and petitions properly submitted by individual members (either clergy or lay) of The United Methodist Church and local church groups, provided that they have been received by the petitions secretary or secretary of the General Conference no later than 230 days before the opening of General Conference, shall be printed in the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

~~h)8-~~ Petitions and/or resolutions not printed in the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be printed or copied and provided to all delegates. Where the content of petitions is essentially the same, the petition will be printed once, with the first author named and the number of additional copies received printed. Upon publication, all translations of the Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be made available as a downloadable file, free of charge, on the denominational website

<p>⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 327, 558. ⁸ See Judicial Council Decisions 687, 1274.</p>	<p>i)9. The secretary of the General Conference shall arrange for electronic access to all petitions, including General Conference action and the resulting impact on the <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i>, throughout the General Conference session. This access shall be available until the publication of the new edition of <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i>. <u>Following General Conference 2020, the non-adaptable portions of the new <i>General Book of Discipline</i> shall be published in all languages used in the publication of the Advanced Edition of the <i>Daily Christian Advocate</i>.</u></p> <p>Implementation shall be according to guidelines established by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.</p> <p>j)10. All petitions that have been approved by a legislative committee shall receive a vote by the plenary session at that year's General Conference.</p> <p>k)11. All petitions that have been submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee.</p> <p>5.¶508. <i>Legislation Effective Date</i>-All legislation of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall become effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is enacted, unless otherwise specified <u>for central conferences.</u>—(BOD¶ 543.17.</p> <p>⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 327, 558. ⁸ See Judicial Council Decisions 687, 1274.</p>	
<p>¶ 505. <i>Records and Archives</i>— 1. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for the permanent record of the General Conference, according to provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 505).</p>	<p>[510] ¶ 505. <i>Records and Archives-1. Duties of the Secretary</i>—The secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for the permanent record of the General Conference, <u>according to the provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 505).</u> which shall</p>	

2. All original documents of a General Conference shall be filed with the General Commission on Archives and History.

>VII: —<

¶ 505.1 = 510Intro; 505.2=510.4

GC-R ¶ 505. *Records and Archives*—The permanent record of the General Conference shall include:

1. Corrections to the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The editor will file with the Commission on Archives and History two bound copies of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and corrections as the official record of General Conference. Bound copies shall also be made available at cost by The United Methodist Publishing House.

2. A *Book of Resolutions* to be edited by The United Methodist Publishing House. The book shall contain all valid resolutions of the General Conference. The preface of the *Book of Resolutions* shall include the guidelines for writing resolutions.

a) All valid resolutions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall be published in each edition of the *Book of Resolutions*. There shall be a complete subject index and index of Scripture passages to all valid resolutions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in each edition of the *Book of Resolutions*. Resolutions are official expressions of The United Methodist Church for eight years following their adoption, after which time they shall be deemed to have expired unless readopted. Those that have expired shall not be printed in subsequent editions of the *Book of Resolutions*. The *Book of Resolutions* shall be made available on the official website of The United Methodist

include:

~~1. Corrections...~~

~~2. A *Book of Resolutions* ...~~

~~3. The Advance Edition...~~

2.4. All original documents of a General Conference shall be filed with the General Commission on Archives and History.

>VII: —<

[510.1-3] **GC-R 505.** *Records and Archives*—The permanent record of the General Conference, ~~which~~ shall include:

1. Corrections to the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The editor will then file with the Commission on Archives and History two bound copies of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and corrections as the official record of General Conference. Bound copies shall also be made available at cost by The United Methodist Publishing House.

2. A *Book of Resolutions* to be edited by The United Methodist Publishing House. The book shall contain all valid resolutions of the General Conference. The preface of the *Book of Resolutions* shall include the guidelines for writing resolutions.

a) All valid resolutions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall be published in each edition of the *Book of Resolutions*. There shall be a complete subject index and index of Scripture passages to all valid resolutions of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in each edition of the *Book of Resolutions*. Resolutions are official expressions of The United Methodist Church for eight years following their adoption, after which time they shall be deemed to have expired unless readopted. Those that have expired shall not be printed in subsequent editions of the *Book of Resolutions*. The *Book of Resolutions* shall be made

<p>Church. <i>b)</i> The program boards and agencies shall review all valid resolutions and recommend to the General Conference the removal of time-dated material. <i>c)</i> Resolutions to be an official part of the <i>Book of Resolutions</i> will require a 60 percent affirmative vote at General Conference. 3. The Advance Edition of the <i>Daily Christian Advocate</i> and the <i>Daily Christian Advocate</i>.</p> <p>GBOD GC-R ¶ 505.1-3 = 510.1-3</p>	<p>available on the official website of The United Methodist Church. <i>b)</i> The program boards and agencies shall review all valid resolutions and recommend to the General Conference the removal of time-dated material. <i>c)</i> Resolutions to be an official part of the <i>Book of Resolutions</i> will require a 60 percent affirmative vote at General Conference. 3. The Advance Edition of the <i>Daily Christian Advocate</i> and the <i>Daily Christian Advocate</i>.</p>	
<p>¶ 506. <i>Conference Agencies</i>— Chapter 5 <i>Administrative Order</i> makes provisions for General Conference agencies. >VII: —<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 506 = new</p>	<p>¶ 506. <u><i>Conference Agencies</i>— Chapter 5 <i>Administrative Order</i> makes provisions for General Conference agencies.</u> >VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 507. <i>Property</i>— Chapter 6 <i>Property</i> makes provisions for Church property in The United Methodist Church. >VII: —<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 507 = new</p>	<p>¶ 507. <u><i>Property</i>— Chapter 6 <i>Property</i> makes provisions for Church property in The United Methodist Church.</u> >VII: —<</p>	
<p>Section II. Jurisdictional Conferences ¶ 508. Within the boundaries of the United States, there shall be Jurisdictional Conferences and Interjurisdictional Committees according to legislation enacted by General Conference in its <i>Discipline</i>, Part VII. >VII: 508.001-508.007< GBOD ¶ 508 = new</p>	<p>Section II. Jurisdictional Conferences ¶ 508. <u>Within the boundaries of the United States, there shall be Jurisdictional Conferences and Interjurisdictional Committees according to legislation enacted by General Conference in its <i>Discipline</i>, Part VII.</u> >VII: 508.001-508.007<</p>	<p>In ordering the material of ¶¶ 512-539, the same structure was used as for all other conferences in this chapter (see headline). Furthermore, ¶ 508.001 to ¶ 508.007 are changed where needed for parallel</p>

		wording as ¶ 511 to 517 for central conferences.
<p>¶ 509. <i>Missionary Conferences</i>— Within the boundaries of the United States, there may be Missionary Conferences, according to legislation enacted by General Conference in its <i>Discipline</i>, Part VII. >VII: 509.001-509.007< GBOD ¶ 509 = new</p>	<p><i>Section VII. The Missionary Conference</i></p> <p>¶ 509. <u><i>Missionary Conferences</i></u> – Within the boundaries of the United States, there may be Missionary Conferences, according to legislation enacted by General Conference in its <i>Discipline</i>, Part VII.</p> <p>>VII: 509.001-509.007<</p>	<p>As missionary conferences only exist nowadays in the jurisdictions in the US, and GBGM has no intention to use this category anymore outside the US, BOD par.585-588 are moved here to GBOD 509, and mentioning missionary conferences in the section of central conferences has been deleted. In Part VII, 509.001-509.007 follow the same structuring as each other level of conferences.</p>
<p>Section III. Central Conferences</p> <p>¶ 511. <i>Purpose</i>—1. The purpose of the central conference is to connect regionally Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions, for common mission and ministry, to establish episcopal supervision as an expression of the General Superintendency, and to facilitate worldwide connections.</p> <p>2. The General Conference, by a two-thirds vote, may organize annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions into central conferences, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Thus, The United Methodist Church shall have central conferences with territorial boundaries and numbers of bishops as listed in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 511).⁹</p> <p>3. A provisional central conference may become a central conference upon the fulfillment of the necessary</p>	<p>Section III. Central Conferences</p> <p>[540] ¶ 511 <u><i>Purpose</i></u>—1. The purpose of the central conference is to connect regionally Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions, for common mission and ministry, to establish episcopal supervision as an expression of the General Superintendency, and to facilitate worldwide connections.</p> <p><u>2. <i>Authorization</i></u> 1. In territory outside the United States, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, mission conferences, and missions, in such numbers as t The General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine, may be organized by the General Conference <u>annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions into central conferences, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Thus, the United Methodist Church shall have central conferences with</u></p>	<p>Several changes are done in order to have similar language in the sub-paragraphs on jurisdictional and on central conferences.</p>

requirements and upon the authorization of the General Conference, including the number of bishops to be elected according to the provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 407.1).

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 511.1 = new; 511.2=540.1; 511.3=540.4

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 371.

GC-R ¶ 511. *Boundaries of Central Conferences and Numbers of Bishops*—General Conference, by a two-thirds vote, has organized the following central conferences, and has authorized, by majority vote, the election of the following number of bishops:

1. *Africa Central Conference*: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; with the authority to elect five bishops.

2. *Central and Southern Europe Central Conference*: Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Tunisia; with the authority to elect one bishop.

3. *Congo Central Conference*: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of

territorial boundaries and numbers of bishops as listed in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 511).⁹—~~or provisional central conferences, with such duties, privileges, and powers as are hereinafter set forth and as the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall prescribe.~~

~~2. There shall be ...[GBOD513.3]~~

~~3. The United ...[GC-R 511]~~

3.4. A provisional central conference may become a central conference upon the fulfillment of the necessary requirements and upon the authorization of the General Conference, including the number of bishops to be elected according to the provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 407.1).

>VII: —<

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 371.

[540.3] **GC-R 511.** *Boundaries of Central Conferences and Numbers of Bishops*—General Conference, by a two-thirds vote, has organized the following central conferences, and has authorized, by majority vote, the election of the following number of bishops.

~~3. The United Methodist Church shall have central conferences with ministries in the following countries:~~

a) *Africa Central Conference*: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe; with the authority to elect five bishops.

b) *Central and Southern Europe Central Conference*: Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Tunisia; with the authority to elect one bishop.

Sub-paragraph moved to ¶ 513.3

Sub-paragraph moved to GC-R 511

<p>Congo, Tanzania, Zambia; with the authority to elect four bishops.</p> <p>4. <i>Germany Central Conference</i>: Germany; with the authority to elect one bishop.</p> <p>5. <i>Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference</i>: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; with the authority to elect two bishops.</p> <p>6. <i>Philippines Central Conference</i>: Philippines; with the authority to elect three bishops.</p> <p>7. <i>West Africa Central Conference</i>: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone; with the authority to elect four bishops.</p> <p>GBOD GC-R ¶ 511.1-7 = 540.3</p>	<p>c) <i>Congo Central Conference</i>: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia; <u>with the authority to elect four bishops.</u></p> <p>d) <i>Germany Central Conference</i>: Germany; <u>with the authority to elect one bishop.</u></p> <p>e) <i>Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference</i>: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan; <u>with the authority to elect two bishops.</u></p> <p>f) <i>Philippines Central Conference</i>: Philippines; with the authority to elect three bishops.</p> <p>g) <i>West Africa Central Conference</i>: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone; <u>with the authority to elect four bishops.</u></p>	
<p>¶ 512. <i>Powers and Duties</i>— 1. Central conferences are organized with such duties, privileges, and powers as hereinafter conferred by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference.</p> <p>2. To a central conference shall be committed, for supervision and promotion, the missionary, educational, evangelistic, industrial, publishing, medical, and other connectional interests within its boundaries. It shall provide suitable organizations for such work and elect the necessary officers for the same.</p> <p>3. a) A central conference shall fix the boundaries of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions within its boundaries, proposals for changes first having been submitted to the annual conferences concerned, and provided that only General Conference can establish provisional annual conferences.¹⁰</p> <p>b) In central conferences no annual conference shall</p>	<p>[543] ¶ 512. <i>Powers and Duties</i>-1. <u>Central conferences are organized with such duties, privileges, and powers as hereinafter conferred by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference.</u></p> <p><u>2. To a central conference shall be committed for supervision and promotion,—in harmony with the <i>Discipline</i>—and—interdenominational—contractual agreements, the missionary, educational, evangelistic, industrial, publishing, medical, and other connectional interests within its boundaries. of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within its territory and such other matters as may be referred to it by said bodies or by order of the General Conference; and</u> It shall provide suitable organizations for such work and elect the necessary officers for the same.</p> <p>6. A central conference shall have authority to elect and support general officers in all departments of the</p>	<p>¶ 543.6 not needed, as integrated in ¶ 512.2+4.</p>

be organized with fewer than thirty-five clergy members except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium, which shall not reduce the number below twenty-five. Nor shall an annual conference be continued with fewer than twenty-five clergy members except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium.

4. A central conference may elect bishops from among the ordained elders in full connection of The United Methodist Church, according to the number of bishops determined by the General Conference. It shall have power to fix the tenure of bishops elected by the said central conference and shall assign bishops to their respective residences.¹¹

5. a) A central conference shall have authority to engage in dialogue with other Christian bodies within its boundaries, to enter into interim ecumenical agreements with them, and to negotiate unions, provided that all proposed ecumenical agreements are submitted to the Council of Bishops for approval, and all proposals for church union are submitted to the General Conference for approval before consummation.¹²

b) When conferences outside the United States that are parts of The United Methodist Church desire to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or affiliated united church, approval shall first be secured from the central conference involved and this decision be ratified by the annual conferences within the central conference by two-thirds majority of the aggregate votes cast by the annual conferences, and shall respect the provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 512).¹³

6.a) Upholding the *General Book of Discipline*, Parts I - VI, a central conference shall have authority to establish and publish legislation and provisions pertaining to the annual, district, and charge conferences

~~work of the Church within the boundaries of the central conference but may not determine the number of bishops.~~

~~3.8.a) A central conference shall fix the boundaries of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within its boundaries, proposals for changes first having been submitted to the annual conferences concerned, and provided that only General Conference can establish provisional annual conferences.¹⁰ as prescribed in the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.~~

~~b) In central conferences no~~ No annual conference shall be organized with fewer than thirty-five clergy members except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium, which shall not reduce the number below twenty-five. Nor shall an annual conference be continued with fewer than twenty-five clergy members except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium.

~~4.2. A central conference, when authorized by a specific enabling act of the General Conference, may elect one or more bishops from among the traveling ordained elders in full connection of The United Methodist Church, according to the number of bishops. The number of bishops to be elected by each central conference shall be determined from time to time by the General Conference. 3. When a central conference shall have been authorized to elect bishops, such elections shall be conducted under the same general procedure as prevails in the jurisdictional conferences for the election of bishops. A central conference It shall have power to fix the tenure of bishops elected by the said central conference and shall assign bishops to their respective residences.¹¹~~

~~5. A central conference,...~~ [GBOD516.2]

~~5.a)20. A central conference shall have authority to engage in dialogue with other Christian bodies within its boundaries, to enter into interim ecumenical agreements~~

Sub-paragraph moved to ¶ 516.2

within its boundaries, including educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country. In establishing such legislation and provisions, it is authorized to make such changes and adaptations of the *Discipline*, Part VII, as the special conditions and the mission of the church in the area require, provided that no action shall be taken that is contrary to the *General Book of Discipline*, Parts I - VI. Subject to this restriction, a central conference may delegate to an annual conference within its boundaries the power to make one or the other of the changes and adaptations referred to in this paragraph, upon request of such annual conference.¹⁴

b) The central conference is authorized to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries within its boundaries.

c) In a central conference using a language other than English, changes in the *General Book of Discipline*, Parts I – VI, passed by the General Conference shall take effect at the latest on July 1st of the year following the General Conference year in order to afford the necessary time for translation.

7. a) A central conference is authorized to edit a simplified, revised, and translated Ritual as it may deem necessary, such changes to require the approval of the resident bishop or bishops of the central conference.

b) It is authorized to conform the detailed rules, rites, and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage to the statute laws of the country or countries within its boundaries.

8. A central conference shall have authority to adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods

with them, and to negotiate unions, provided that all proposed ecumenical agreements are submitted to the Council of Bishops for approval, and all proposals for church union are submitted to the General Conference for approval before consummation.¹² may, with the consent of the bishops resident in that conference, enter into agreements with churches or missions of other denominations for the division of territory or of responsibility for Christian work within the territory of the central conference.

[see also 572 Intro] ~~b)21.~~ When conferences outside the United States that are parts of The United Methodist Church desire to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or affiliated united church, approval shall first be secured from the central conference involved and this decision be ratified by the annual conferences within the central conference by two-thirds majority of the aggregate votes cast by the annual conferences, and shall respect the provisions in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 512).¹³

~~A central conference shall have the right to negotiate with other Protestant bodies looking toward the possibility of church union; provided that any proposals for church union shall be submitted to the General Conference for approval before consummation.~~

6.a)7. Upholding the *General Book of Discipline*, Parts I - VI, a central conference shall have authority to establish and publish legislation and provisions pertaining to the annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country. In establishing such legislation and provisions, it is authorized ~~A central conference shall have power to make such changes and adaptations of the *Book of Discipline*, Part VII, as the special conditions and the~~

of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that clergy shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and provided also, that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded.¹⁵

9. A central conference is authorized to establish a judicial court, which in addition to other duties that the central conference may assign to it shall hear and determine the legality of any action, and of any decision of law by the presiding bishop, pertaining to legislation and provisions as mentioned in §6.

10. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the apportionment amounts for the annual conferences of the central conferences for the succeeding quadrennium based on calculation methodology approved by the General Conference upon recommendation by the Council. This determination shall be informed by consultation with the Council of Bishops.

11. Each central conference within the boundaries of which the General Board of Global Ministries has work shall maintain a cooperative and consultative relationship with the said general board; but the legal distinction between the General Board of Global Ministries and the organized church on the field shall always be kept clear.

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 512.1 = 540.1; 512.2=543.1+6; 512.3=543.8; 512.4=543.2+3; 512.5=543.20+21+572 Intro; 512.6=543.7+9+16+10+15+18+17; 512.7=543.13+14; 512.8=543.12; 512.9=547.3; 512.10=543.4; 512.11=542.6

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decisions 525, 541, 549.

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 311, 430.

¹² See Judicial Council Decision 350.

¹³ See Judicial Council Decisions 548, 1062.

~~mission of the church in the area require, especially concerning the organization and administration of the work on local church, district, and annual conference levels, provided that no action shall be taken that is contrary to the General Book of Discipline, Parts I – VI, Constitution and the General Rules of The United Methodist Church, and provided that the spirit of connectional relationship is kept between the local and the general church. Subject to this restriction, a central conference may delegate to an annual conference within its boundaries the power to make one or the other of the changes and adaptations referred to in this paragraph, upon the request of such annual conference.¹⁴~~

~~9. A central conference may advise its annual conferences and provisional annual conferences to set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.~~

~~10. A central conference shall have power to make changes and adaptations in procedure pertaining to the annual, district, and charge conferences within its territory and to add to the business of the annual conference supplementary questions considered desirable or necessary to meet its own needs.~~

~~b)48. A The central conference is authorized to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion (page 69) so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries within its boundaries territory.~~

~~c)47. In a central conference or provisional central conference using a language other than English, legislation changes in the General Book of Discipline, Parts I – VI, passed by thea General Conference shall not take effect at the latest on July 1st of the year following the General Conference year until twelve months after the close of that General Conference in order to afford the necessary time for translation to make adaptations and to publish a translation of the legislation that has~~

¹⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 313.

¹⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 310, 595.

~~been enacted, the translation to be approved by the resident bishop or bishops of the central conference. This provision, however, shall not exclude the election of delegates to the General Conference by annual conferences within the territory of central conferences or provisional central conferences.~~

~~7.a)13.~~ A central conference is authorized to edit a prepare and translate simplified, revised, and translated or adapted forms of such parts of the Ritual as it may deem necessary, such changes to require the approval of the resident bishop or bishops of the central conference.

~~b)14. A central conference shall have the power~~ It is authorized to conform the detailed rules, rites, and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage to the statute laws of the country or countries within its boundaries jurisdiction.

~~8.12.~~ A central conference shall have authority to adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that clergy the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and provided also, that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded.¹⁵

[547.3] ~~9.3.~~ A central conference is authorized to that adapts and edits the Discipline as provided in ¶ 543.16 shall establish a judicial court, which in addition to other duties that the central conference may assign to it shall hear and determine the legality of any action and of the central conference taken under the adapted portions of the Discipline or of any decision of law by the presiding bishop, pertaining to legislation and provisions as mentioned in § 6. of the central conference pertaining to

~~the adapted portions of the *Discipline*, upon appeal by the presiding bishop or by one fifth of the members of the central conference. Further, the judicial court shall hear and determine the legality of any action of an annual conference taken under the adapted portions of the *Discipline* or of a decision of law by the presiding bishop of the annual conference pertaining to the adapted portion of the *Discipline*, upon appeal of the presiding bishop or of such percentage of the members of the annual conference as may be determined by the central conference concerned.~~

[543.4] 104. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the apportionment amounts for the annual conferences of the central conferences for the succeeding quadrennium based on calculation methodology approved by the General Conference upon recommendation by the Council. This determination shall be informed by consultation with the Council of Bishops.

[542.6] 11.6. Each central conference within the boundaries of which the General Board of Global Ministries has work shall maintain a cooperative and consultative relationship with the said board ~~through a duly constituted executive committee, executive board, or council of cooperation~~; but the legal distinction between the General Board of Global Ministries and the organized church on the field shall always be kept clear.

~~11. A central conference... [GBOD515]~~

~~15. Subject to the approval of the bishops resident therein, a central conference shall have the power to prescribe courses of study, including those in the vernaculars, for its ministry, both foreign and indigenous, including local preachers, lay servants, Bible women, deaconesses, teachers both male and female and all other workers whatsoever, ordained or lay. It shall also make rules and regulations for examination in these courses.~~

Subparagraph b moved to ¶ 515

¶ 543.15 deleted, but “including educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries” in GBOD ¶ 512.6a

¶ 543.16 not needed in addition to GBOD ¶ 512.6

~~16. A central conference shall have authority to edit and publish a central conference *Discipline*, which shall contain in addition to the Constitution of the Church such sections from the general *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church as may be pertinent to the entire Church and also such revised, adapted, or new sections as shall have been enacted by the central conference concerned under the powers given by the General Conference.~~

~~19. A central conference shall have power to authorize the congregations in a certain state or country to form special organizations in order to receive the acknowledgment of the state or country according to the laws of that state or country. These organizations shall be empowered to represent the interests of the Church to the authorities of the state or country according to the rules and principles of The United Methodist Church, and they shall be required to give regular reports of their activities to their respective annual conferences.~~

~~>VII: —<~~

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decisions 525, 541, 549.

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 311, 430.

¹² See Judicial Council Decision 350.

¹³ See Judicial Council Decisions 548, 1062.

¹⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 313.

¹⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 310, 595.

~~*BECOMING AN AUTONOMOUS METHODIST,
AFFILIATED AUTONOMOUS METHODIST,
OR AFFILIATED UNITED CHURCH FROM CENTRAL
CONFERENCES*~~

[572] **GC-R 512.** *Becoming an autonomous
Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or affiliated*

¶ 543.19 deleted, but “and forms of organization according to the laws of the country” in GBOD ¶ 512.6a

GC-R ¶ 512. *Becoming an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist, or affiliated united*

<p><i>church from central conferences</i>— 1. The conference(s) involved shall prepare a historical record with reasons why affiliation and/or autonomy is requested and shall consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (BOD¶ 2201) on proceedings for affiliation and/or autonomy.</p> <p>2. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and the conference(s) involved shall mutually agree on the confession of faith and the constitution of the new church. These shall be prepared with care and shall be approved by the conference(s) involved.</p> <p>3. Preparation of its <i>Discipline</i> is the responsibility of the conference(s) desiring affiliation and/or autonomy.</p> <p>4. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, when all disciplinary requirements for affiliated and/or autonomous relationship have been met, the General Conference through an enabling act shall approve of and grant permission for the conference(s) involved to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist or affiliated united church.</p> <p>5. Then the central conference involved shall meet, declare the present relationship between The United Methodist Church and the conference(s) involved dissolved, and reorganize as an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist or affiliated united church in accordance with the enabling act granted by the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall assist in this process and, when the plans are consummated, report to the Council of Bishops. The proclamation of affiliated and/or autonomous status shall then be signed by the president of the Council of Bishops and the secretary of the General Conference.</p> <p>6. A plan of cooperation shall be developed in accordance with ¶421.2d.</p>	<p><i>united church from central conferences</i>- ¶572. When conferences...[→GBOD512.5b]</p> <p>1. The conference(s) involved shall prepare a historical record with reasons why affiliation and/or autonomy is requested and shall consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (BOD¶ 2201) on proceedings for affiliation and/or autonomy.</p> <p>2. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and the conference(s) involved shall mutually agree on the confession of faith and the constitution of the new church. These shall be prepared with care and shall be approved by the conference(s) involved.</p> <p>3. Preparation of its <i>Discipline</i> is the responsibility of the conference(s) desiring affiliation and/or autonomy.</p> <p>4. Upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, when all disciplinary requirements for affiliated and/or autonomous relationship have been met, the General Conference through an enabling act shall approve of and grant permission for the conference(s) involved to become an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist or affiliated united church.</p> <p>5. Then the central conference involved shall meet, declare the present relationship between The United Methodist Church and the conference(s) involved dissolved, and reorganize as an autonomous Methodist, affiliated autonomous Methodist or affiliated united church in accordance with the enabling act granted by the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall assist in this process and, when the plans are consummated, report to the Council of Bishops. The proclamation of affiliated and/or autonomous status shall then be signed by the president of the Council of Bishops and the secretary of the General Conference.</p>	
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<p>GBOD ¶ GC-R 512 = 572.1-6</p>	<p>6. A plan of cooperation shall be developed in accordance with BOD¶ 571.4</p>	
<p>¶ 513. <i>Membership</i>— 1. a) The membership of a central conference shall consist of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual and provisional annual conferences.</p> <p>b) By ballot, the clergy members shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual or provisional annual conferences and the lay members by the lay members thereof.</p> <p>c) Each annual and provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least two clergy and two lay delegates, and no other selection of delegates shall be authorized that would provide for more than one clergy delegate for every six clergy members of an annual or provisional annual conference; except that a majority of the number fixed by a central conference as the ratio of representation shall entitle an annual or provisional annual conference to an additional clergy delegate and to an additional lay delegate.¹⁶</p> <p>d) Delegates to the central conferences shall be elected at the session of the annual conference held not more than two annual conference sessions preceding the session of the General Conference. The secretary of the central conference shall notify the bishop and the secretary of each annual conference of the number of delegates to be elected by that annual conference.</p> <p>2. Each mission is authorized to elect and send one lay and one clergy to the central conference concerned as its representative, with voice but not vote.</p> <p>3. No central conference shall be established with less than thirty clergy and thirty lay delegates on the basis of representation as set forth in § 1, except as provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium.</p>	<p>[541] ¶ 513. <i>Membership Composition-1.a)</i> <u>The membership of a central conference shall consist be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates, elected by the annual conferences and provisional annual conferences. members in equal numbers;</u></p> <p><u>b) By ballot,</u> the clergy members shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual or provisional annual conferences and the lay members by the lay members thereof. Their qualifications and the manner of election shall be determined by the central conference itself, subject only to constitutional requirements.</p> <p><u>c) Each annual conference and provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least two clergy and two lay delegates, and no other selection of delegates shall be authorized that would provide for more than one clergy delegate for every six clergy members of an annual or provisional annual conference; except that a majority of the number fixed by a central conference as the ratio of representation shall entitle an annual or provisional annual conference to an additional clergy delegate and to an additional lay delegate.¹⁶</u></p> <p><u>d) Delegates to the central conferences shall be elected at the session of the annual conference held not more than two annual conference sessions preceding the session of the General Conference. The secretary of the central conference shall notify the bishop and the secretary of each annual conference of the number of delegates to be elected by that annual conference.</u></p> <p><u>2. Each missionary conference and mission is authorized to elect and send one of its members to the central conference concerned as its representative, with</u></p>	

<p>>VII: —< GBOD ¶ 513.1-1c = 541.1; 513.1d=new; 513.2=541.1; 513.3=540.2 ¹⁶See Judicial Council Decision 371.</p>	<p>voice but not vote. said representative to be accorded the privilege of sitting with the committees of the central conference, with the right to speak in the committees and in the regular sessions of the central conference, but without the right to vote. Representatives of missionary conferences or missions shall have the same claim for payment of expenses as is allowed to members of the central conference.¹⁰</p> <p>2. In the case of a central conference, the rule of proportionate representation shall be applied by each annual conference.</p> <p>[540.2] 3.2. There shall be such central conferences as have been authorized or shall be hereafter authorized by the General Conference, provided that a <u>No</u> central conference shall <u>be established with less than have a total of at least thirty clergy and thirty lay delegates on the basis of representation as set forth in § 1</u>this section, except as <u>provided by an enabling act for the quadrennium.</u> the General Conference may fix a different number.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>¹⁶See Judicial Council Decision 371.</p>	
<p>¶ 514. <i>Conference Session – 1. Convening Date-a)</i> Each central conference shall meet within the year succeeding the session of the General Conference at such time and place as the central conference itself or its bishops may determine.</p> <p><i>b) Special Session -</i> (1) The central conference may order a special session. Such session cannot transact any other business than that indicated in the call.</p> <p>(2) The College of Bishops, with the concurrence of the executive committee, shall have the authority to call a special session of the central conference to be held at</p>	<p>[542] ¶ 514. <i>Conference Session-Organization 1.</i> The first meeting of a central conference shall be called by the bishop or bishops in charge at such time and place as they may elect, to which members of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions concerned shall be elected on the basis of representation as provided herein. The time and place of future meetings shall be determined by the central conference or its executive committee.</p> <p>1. <i>Convening Date-a)</i>2. Each central conference shall meet within the year succeeding the session of the</p>	

the time and place designated by them.

(3) The delegates to a special session of the central conference shall be the delegates last elected by each annual or provisional annual conference.

2. *Rules of Order*-The central conference shall adopt its own procedure, rules, and plan of organization.

3. *Presiding Officers-a)* A bishop shall be the presiding officer.

b) The bishop acting as presiding officer shall decide questions of law, subject to an appeal to the Judicial Council, or the Judicial Court of the central conference.¹⁷

c) The Council of Bishops may assign one or more of its members to visit a central conference. When so assigned, the bishop shall be an accredited representative of the general Church, and when requested by a majority of the bishops resident in that conference may exercise therein the functions of the episcopacy.

4. The central conference shall provide for the expenses of its sessions.

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 514.1 = 542.2; 514.2=new;

514.3=new+542.4+3; 514.4=new

¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 375, 376, 381.

~~General Conference at such time and place as the central conference itself or its bishops may determine. for the purpose of electing bishops when vacancies occur and for attending to other matters as required. The central conference has the right to hold such adjourned sessions as it may determine. The sessions of said conference shall be presided over by the bishops. In case no bishop is present, the conference shall elect a temporary president from among its own members.~~

b) Special Session-(1) The central conference may order a special session. Such session cannot transact any other business than that indicated in the call.

~~(2) The College of Bishops ~~bishops of the resident in a central conference or a majority of them,~~ with the concurrence of the executive committee, ~~or other authorized committee,~~ shall have the authority to call an special extra session of the central conference to be held at the time and place designated by them.~~

(3) The delegates to a special session of the central conference shall be the delegates last elected by each annual or provisional annual conference.

2. *Rules of Order*-The central conference shall adopt its own procedure, rules, and plan of organization.

3. *Presiding Officers-a)* A bishop shall be the presiding officer.

~~b)4. The bishop acting as presiding officer of the central conference shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the central conference, and shall decide questions of law, subject to an appeal to the Judicial Council, or the Judicial Court of the central conference.¹⁷ but questions relating to the interpretation of the rules and regulations made by the central conference for the governing of its own session shall be decided by the central conference.~~

~~c)3. The Council of Bishops may assign one or more of its members ~~number~~ to visit any central conference ~~or~~~~

	<p>provisional central conference. When so assigned, the bishop shall be an accredited representative of the general Church, and when requested by a majority of the bishops resident in that conference may exercise therein the functions of the episcopacy.</p> <p>5. A central conference,...[GBOD517] 6. Each central conference... [GBOD512] <u>4. The central conference shall provide for the expenses of its sessions.</u></p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 375, 376, 381.</p>	<p>Sub-paragraph moved to GBOD 517</p> <p>Sub-paragraph moved to GBOD 512</p>
<p>¶ 515. Records and Archives —1. The central conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings. If there are no archives of the central conference, the secretary shall keep the bound copy or copies to be handed on to the succeeding secretary.</p> <p>2. Each central conference shall send without charge to the General Commission on Archives and History a copy of its journal, of every translation of the <i>General Book of Discipline</i>, including its adapted Part VII, in printed or electronic format. Other general agencies may request such material as needed at their expense.</p> <p>3. The secretary of a central conference in which one or more bishops have been elected shall report to the secretary of the General Conference the names of the bishop(s) and the residences to which they have been assigned by the central conference.</p> <p>4. A central conference may examine and acknowledge the journals of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions located within its boundaries and to make rules for the drawing up of the journals as may seem necessary.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	<p>[545] ¶ 515 Records and Archives-1. <u>The central conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings. If there are no archives of the central conference, the secretary shall keep the bound copy or copies to be handed on to the succeeding secretary. The journal of the proceedings of a central conference, duly signed by the president and secretary, shall be sent for examination to the General Conference through its secretary. Two paper copies in every translation shall be sent without charge to the General Commission on Archives and History and the General Council on Finance and Administration, and one copy of a digital version shall be sent along with the paper copies, if available. It is recommended that the journal include memoirs of deceased clergy and deceased clergy spouses.</u></p> <p>2.3. The secretary of e <u>Each central conference shall send without charge to the General Commission on Archives and History a copy of its journal, submit a hardcopy of every translation and adaptation of the gGeneral Book of Discipline, including its adapted Part VII, in printed or electronic format. Other general</u></p>	

<p>GBOD ¶ 515.1 = new; 515.2-3=545.3+2; 515.4=543.11</p>	<p>agencies may request such material as needed at their expense, or portion thereof in use in that central conference to the General Commission on Archives and History and the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>3.2. The secretary of a central conference in which one or more bishops have been elected <u>chosen</u> shall report to the secretary of the General Conference the names of the bishop(s) or bishops and the residences to which they have been assigned by the central conference.</p> <p>[543.11] 4. A central conference shall have authority to <u>may</u> examine and acknowledge the journals of the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions located within its boundaries and to make rules for the drawing up of the journals as may seem necessary.</p> <p><u>>VII: —<</u></p>	
<p>¶ 516. <i>Conference Agencies</i>— 1. Central conferences may create agencies, structures or committees with such duties and mandates as the central conference may determine to carry out their mission. >VII: 516.001<</p> <p>2. Upon nomination of their respective annual conference delegations, each central conference shall elect a committee on episcopacy consisting of at least one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual or provisional annual conference. The committee shall:</p> <p>a) review and evaluate at least once each quadrennium the work of the bishops, pass on their character and ministry, and report such evaluations and other findings to the central conference for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power; such review and evaluation may be organized by episcopal areas, in which case the central conference decides on the</p>	<p>¶ 516. <i>Conference Agencies</i> - 1. Central conferences <u>may create agencies, structures or committees with such duties and mandates as the central conference may determine to carry out their mission.</u></p> <p><u>>VII: 516.001<</u></p> <p>2. Upon nomination of their respective annual conference delegations, each central conference shall <u>elect a committee on episcopacy consisting of at least one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual or provisional annual conference. The committee shall:</u></p> <p><u>a) review and evaluate at least once each quadrennium the work of the bishops, pass on their character and ministry, and report such evaluations and other findings to the central conference for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power; such review and evaluation may be organized by episcopal areas, in</u></p>	<p>GBOD ¶ 516.1 = ¶ 542.5, see also below GBOD ¶ 517.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 516.2: establishing of a committee on Episcopacy was missing and is now proposed similar to ¶ 524 for Jurisdictions.</p>

<p>enlargement of membership of sub-committees in episcopal areas;</p> <p>b) it shall, after consultation with the College of Bishops, recommend to the central conference for its approval the boundaries of the episcopal areas and the assignments of the bishops;</p> <p>c) It shall receive and act upon requests for possible voluntary or involuntary retirement of bishops.</p> <p>d) The central conference shall provide funding for the expenses of its committee on episcopacy.</p> <p>3. Each central conference shall establish a board of pensions or make provisions for the creation of boards of pensions on the level of the annual conferences, episcopal areas, or countries within its boundaries. These boards of pensions are responsible for the long-term sustainability of their plans, administration of their pension programs in accordance with plan provisions, investment of pension funds, and proposing plan amendment.</p> <p>GBOD ¶516.1 = 547+new; 516.2=543.5+new; 516.3=new</p>	<p><u>which case the central conference decides on the enlargement of membership of sub-committees in episcopal areas;</u></p> <p>[543.5] b) 5. A central conference, in consultation with the bishops of that central conference, shall fix the episcopal areas and residences and make assignments to them of the bishops who are to reside in that central conference. The bishops of a central conference shall arrange the plan of episcopal visitation within its bounds.</p> <p><u>It shall, after consultation with the College of Bishops, recommend to the central conference for its approval the boundaries of the episcopal areas and the assignments of the bishops;</u></p> <p><u>c) It shall receive and act upon requests for possible voluntary or involuntary retirement of bishops.</u></p> <p><u>d) The central conference shall provide funding for the expenses of its committee on episcopacy.</u></p> <p><u>3. Each central conference shall establish a board of pensions or make provisions for the creation of boards of pensions on the level of the annual conferences, episcopal areas, or countries within its boundaries. These boards of pensions are responsible for the long-term sustainability of their plans, administration of their pension programs in accordance with plan provisions, investment of pension funds, and proposing plan amendment.</u></p>	
<p>¶ 517. <i>Property</i>— 1. A central conference, through a duly incorporated property-holding body or bodies, shall have authority to purchase, own, hold, or transfer property for and on behalf of all the unincorporated organizations of The United Methodist Church within its boundaries or on behalf of other organizations of The</p>	<p>[546] ¶ 517. <i>Property</i>-1. A central conference, through a duly incorporated property-holding body or bodies, shall have authority to purchase, own, hold, or transfer property for and on behalf of all the unincorporated organizations of The United Methodist Church within <u>its the territory of that central conference</u></p>	<p>Comment: BOD542.5 no more needed, but included in GBOD517.</p>

United Methodist Church that have entrusted their property to that central conference.

2. A central conference shall have authority to make the necessary rules and provisions for the holding and management of such properties; provided, however, that *a)* all procedure shall be subject to the laws of the country or countries concerned; and *b)* no action shall be taken transferring or alienating property or proceeds of property without due consideration of its trusteeship for local churches, annual conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other organizations, local or general, of the Church.

3. A central conference or any of its incorporated organizations shall not involve a general agency of the Church in any financial obligation without the official approval of said agency or organization. All invested funds, fiduciary trusts, or property belonging to an annual conference, a provisional annual conference, or a mission, or any of its institutions, acquired by bequest, donation, or otherwise and designated for a specific use, shall be applied to the purpose for which they were designated. They shall not be diverted to any other purpose, except by the consent of the conference or mission involved and with the approval of the central conference concerned and civil court action when necessary. The same rule shall apply to similar funds or properties acquired by a central conference for specific objects. In cases involving the diversion of trust funds and properties within the boundaries of a central conference, the central conference concerned shall determine the disposition of the interests involved, subject to an appeal to the judicial court of the central conference.

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 517.1 = 546.1; 517.2=546.2+3; 517.3=546.4

or on behalf of other organizations of The United Methodist Church that have entrusted their property to that central conference.

2. A central conference shall have authority to make the necessary rules and ~~provisions~~ regulations for the holding and management of such properties; provided, however, that

(a) all procedure shall be subject to the laws of the country or countries concerned; and

(b) no action shall be taken transferring or alienating of—property or proceeds of property without due consideration of its trusteeship for local churches, annual conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other organizations, local or general, of the Church. ~~shall be made from one annual conference to another without the consent of the conference holding title to such property; and~~ *(c)* ~~the status of properties held by local trustees or other holding bodies shall be recognized.~~

~~3. A central conference shall not directly or indirectly, through its incorporated property holding body or bodies, alienate property or proceeds of property without due consideration of its trusteeship for local churches, annual conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other organizations, local or general, of the Church.~~

3.4. A central conference or any of its incorporated organizations shall not involve a general agency of the Church ~~the General Board of Global Ministries or any organization of the Church~~ in any financial obligation without the official approval of said ~~agency~~ board or organization. All invested funds, fiduciary trusts, or property belonging to an annual conference, a provisional annual conference, ~~a missionary conference,~~ or a mission, or any of its institutions, acquired by bequest, donation, or otherwise and designated for a specific use, shall be applied to the purpose for which

	<p>they were designated. They shall not be diverted to any other purpose, except by the consent of the conference or mission involved and with the approval of the central conference concerned and civil court action when necessary. The same rule shall apply to similar funds or properties acquired by a central conference for specific objects. In cases involving the diversion of trust funds and properties within the <u>boundaries territory</u> of a central conference, the central conference concerned shall determine the disposition of the interests involved, subject to an appeal to the judicial court of the central conference.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
<p>Section IV. Provisional Central Conferences ¶ 521. Purpose— Annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions outside the United States that are not included in central conferences and that, because of geographical, language, political, or other considerations, have common interests that can best be served thereby, may be organized into provisional central conferences by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference. Thus, The United Methodist Church may have Provisional Central Conferences with territorial boundaries as listed in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R ¶ 521).¹⁸ >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 521 = 560 ¹⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 525.</p> <p>GC-R ¶ 521. Purpose— General Conference, by a two-thirds vote, has organized the following Provisional</p>	<p>Section IV. Provisional Central Conferences [560] ¶ 521. Purpose Authorization— Annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions outside the United States that are not included in central conferences or in the territory of affiliated autonomous churches and that, because of geographical, language, political, or other considerations, have common interests that can best be served thereby, may be organized into provisional central conferences <u>by a two-thirds vote of the General Conference. Thus, The United Methodist Church may have Provisional Central Conferences with territorial boundaries as listed in the General Conference Regulations (GC-R 521).</u> as provided in ¶ 540.1.¹⁸ >VII: —< ¹⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 525.</p> <p>[560] GC-R 521. Purpose— General Conference, by a two-thirds vote, has organized the following Provisional</p>	

<p>Central Conferences: The United Methodist Church shall have a provisional central conference with ministries in the following countries: a) <i>Southeast Asia and Mongolia Provisional Central Conference</i>: Laos, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam. GBOD GC-R ¶ 521 = 560</p>	<p>Central Conferences: The United Methodist Church shall have a provisional central conference with ministries in the following countries: a) <i>Southeast Asia and Mongolia Provisional Central Conference</i>: Laos, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam.</p>	
<p>¶ 522. <i>Powers and Duties</i>— The General Conference may grant to a provisional central conference any of the powers of a central conference except that of electing bishops.¹⁹ >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 522 = 562 ¹⁹ Judicial Council Decision 403.</p>	<p>[562] ¶ 522. <i>Powers and Duties</i>—The General Conference may grant to a provisional central conference any of the powers of a central conference except that of electing bishops.¹⁹ >VII: —< ¹⁹ Judicial Council Decision 403.</p>	
<p>¶ 523. <i>Membership</i>—Membership of a provisional central conference shall be according to the enabling act by the General Conference. >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 523 = new</p>	<p>¶ 523. <i>Membership</i>—<u>Membership of a provisional central conference shall be according to the enabling act by the General Conference.</u> >VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 524. <i>Conference session 1. Episcopal Supervision</i>— The General Conference shall make provision for the episcopal supervision of work in a provisional central conference. 2. <i>Organization</i> a) The organization of a provisional central conference shall conform to the provisions prescribed for central conferences insofar as they are considered applicable by the bishop in charge. b) The first organizational meeting of a new provisional central conference shall take place within the quadrennium after General Conference action. c) <i>Ad Interim Provisions</i>— In the interval between General Conferences, the General Board of Global</p>	<p>[566] ¶ 524 <i>Conference session- 1. Episcopal Supervision</i>—The General Conference shall make provision for the episcopal supervision of work in <u>a provisional central conference.</u> the territory outside the United States that is not now included in central conferences. [561] <u>2. Organization-a)</u> The organization of a provisional central conferences shall conform to the <u>provisions regulations</u> prescribed for central conferences insofar as they are considered applicable by the bishop in charge. <u>b) The first organizational meeting of a new provisional central conference shall take place within the</u></p>	

Ministries, upon the recommendation of the bishops in charge and after consultation with the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, and missions concerned, may make changes in the boundaries of a provisional central conference. All changes in boundaries shall be reported to the ensuing session of the General Conference and shall expire at the close of that session unless renewed by the General Conference.

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 524.1 = 566; 524.2a=561; 524.2b=new
524.2c=563

quadrennium after General Conference action.

[563] c) Ad Interim Provisions-In the interval between General Conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries, upon the recommendation of the bishops in charge and after consultation with the annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, ~~missionary conferences~~, and missions concerned, may make changes in the boundaries of a provisional central conference ~~and may grant to a provisional central conference or to any of its component parts any of the powers of a central conference except that of electing bishops.~~ All changes in boundaries ~~and all grants of powers authorized by the General Board of Global Ministries~~ shall be reported to the ensuing session of the General Conference and shall expire at the close of that session unless renewed by the General Conference.

>VII: —<

~~¶ 564. Lay Membership~~-An annual conference or a provisional annual conference in the field of a provisional central conference shall have the power to set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of its lay members.

~~¶ 565. Ad Interim Provisions for Conferences Outside the United States~~-To annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, ~~missionary conferences~~, and missions that are outside the United States and are not included in central conferences or provisional central conferences, the General Conference may grant any of the powers of central conferences except that of electing bishops; and in the interval between General Conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries may grant such powers when requested to do so by the bishop in charge and by the annual conference,

¶ 564-565 are no more needed and can be deleted entirely.

	<p>provisional annual conference, missionary conference, or mission concerned.</p>	
<p>Section V. Annual Conferences ¶ 531. Purpose —1. The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God. 2. Annual Conferences are the fundamental bodies of the Church (¶ 11). >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 531 = 601</p>	<p>Section <u>V.IX. The Annual Conferences</u> [601] ¶ 531. Purpose-1. The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God. <u>2. Annual Conferences are the fundamental bodies of the Church (BOD¶ 11).</u> >VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 532. Powers and Duties — 1. The annual conference for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the <i>Discipline</i> of The United Methodist Church.²⁰ >VII: 532.001< 2. An annual conference cannot financially obligate any organizational unit of The United Methodist Church except the annual conference itself.²¹ 3.a) The clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to make inquiry into the moral and official conduct of its clergy members. Subject only to the provisions on <i>Judicial Administration</i>, the clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to hear complaints against its clergy members and may try, reprove, suspend, deprive of clergy office and credentials, expel, or acquit any against whom charges may have been preferred. The clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to locate a clergy member for failure to perform effectively and competently the duties of itinerant ministry. The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference.²²</p>	<p>[604] ¶ 532 Powers and Duties-1. The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the <i>Discipline</i> of The United Methodist Church.²⁰ . provided that in exercise of its powers, each annual conference shall act in all respects in harmony with the policy of The United Methodist Church with respect to elimination of discrimination. (See ¶ 4, Article IV.) >VII: 532.001< 2. An annual conference cannot financially obligate any organizational unit of The United Methodist Church except the annual conference itself.²¹ 3. The annual conference may admit into clergy membership only those who have met all the disciplinary requirements for membership and only in the manner prescribed in the <i>Discipline</i>. 3.a) <u>The clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to make inquiry into the moral and official conduct of its clergy members. Subject only to the provisions on <i>Judicial Administration</i> of ¶¶ 2701-2719, the clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to hear complaints against its clergy members and</u></p>	<p>¶ 604.3 is included and covered by GBOD ¶ 532.1. see also GBOD ¶ 532.3. “Clergy session of the annual conference” is the term consistently used in chapter 2 of the GBOD.</p>

b) All clergy members of the annual conference and the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may attend and shall have voice in the clergy session. Only the ordained clergy in full connection and the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote. Others may be admitted by express action of the clergy session, but shall not have vote, nor, unless specifically granted by the clergy session, shall have voice.²³

4. The annual conference shall have power to make inquiry into the financial status of the local churches, and shall provide counsel to help a local church overcome a deficit position.

5. The annual conference shall have the power to make inquiry into the membership status of the local churches, particularly if no members have been received on confession of faith during the year.

6. The annual conference shall give recognition to any new churches that have been organized during the year. >VII: 532.002<

7. The annual conference shall make provision for legal counsel applicable to its legal context. >VII: 532.003<

8. If any annual conference initiates, joins, monitors, or terminates a boycott, the guidelines in *The 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. >VII: 532.004<

9. The annual conference may choose to adopt a conference wide plan for compensation of pastors. Such a plan shall provide the method for setting and funding the salaries, and/or other compensation elements as specified in the plan, of the pastors appointed to the charges of the annual conference.

GBOD ¶ 532.1-2=604.1-2; 532.3=604.4+605.7; 532.4-6=604.8-10; 532.7=603.8; 532.8=603.8/new; 532.8-

may try, reprove, suspend, deprive of clergy office and credentials, expel, or acquit any against whom charges may have been preferred. The clergy session of the annual conference shall have power to locate a clergy member for failure to perform effectively and competently the duties of itinerant ministry. The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference.²²

[605.7] ~~b)7. The annual conference shall make inquiry into the moral and official conduct of its ordained ministers and local pastors. In response to the inquiry whether all such persons are blameless in their life and official administration, the district superintendent may answer for all the preachers in the district in one answer, or the Board of Ordained Ministry may make inquiry of each district superintendent about each ordained minister in the district and make one report to the bishop and the conference in open session. Questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy shall be the business of the clergy session. The actions of the clergy session shall be for and on behalf of the annual conference. The provisions of the *Book of Discipline* applicable to an annual conference shall also be applicable to the clergy session. All clergy members (¶¶ 601.1, 602.1) of the annual conference and the lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may attend and shall have voice in the clergy session. Only the ordained clergy in full connection and the members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote (¶ 602.1a). Others may be admitted by express action of the clergy session, but shall not have vote, nor, unless specifically granted by the clergy session, shall have voice (¶ 333).~~²³

[604.5] ~~5. The status of a clergy member and of a provisional member and the manner and conditions of a transfer of a clergy member from one annual conference to another are governed by the section on the ordained~~

9=604.12-13 BOD604.6-7 → see GBOD335.1!

²⁰ See Judicial Council Decisions 43, 74, 141, 318, 367, 373, 432, 435, 476, 536, 584, 590, 592, 699, 876, 1198.

²¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 707, 440.

²² See Judicial Council Decisions 534, 782.

²³ See Judicial Council Decisions 686, 690.

ministry (Chapter Two).

[604.8ff] ~~4.8.~~ The annual conference shall have power to make inquiry into the financial status of the local churches, and ~~where there is a deficit in finances, it may require the pastor and the lay member to appear before the appropriate committee and make explanation.~~ Based upon its findings, it shall provide counsel to help the church overcome such a deficit position.

~~5.9.~~ The annual conference shall have the power to make inquiry into the membership status of the local churches, particularly if ~~and where~~ no members have been received on confession of faith during the year, ~~it may require the pastor and the lay member to appear before the appropriate agency and make explanation.~~

~~6.10.~~ The annual conference shall give recognition to any new churches that have been organized during the year, ~~and shall, through the presiding bishop and the secretary, send to each new church a certificate of organization, which the district superintendent shall, on behalf of the conference, present to the new church in an appropriate ceremony.~~ >VII: 532.002<

~~11.~~ The annual conference shall secure, during the course of its annual session, the answers to the questions for ~~conducting annual conference sessions, and the secretary to the annual conference shall include the answers to these questions in the conference journal and in the report to the council on finance and administration.~~

7. The annual conference shall make provision for legal counsel applicable to its context. [instead of BOD603.8:]~~8.~~ The annual conference shall designate, a chancellor, and may designate one or more associate chancellors. The chancellor and any associate chancellors must be members in good standing of a local church or an annual conference in the episcopal area, and be licensed to practice law in the episcopal area. The chancellor and any associate chancellors shall be

¶ 604.6-7 moved to GBOD ¶ 335.1

	<p>nominated by the bishop and elected quadrennially by the annual conference. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the bishop shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference. The chancellor, assisted by the associate chancellors, if any, shall serve as legal adviser(s) to the bishop and the annual conference. Each annual conference shall report its election of the chancellor and any associate chancellors to the General Council on Finance and Administration. >VII: 532.003<</p> <p>8.42. If any annual conference initiates, joins, monitors, or terminates a boycott, the guidelines in <i>The Book of Resolutions</i>, 2008, 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. >VII: 532.004<</p> <p>9.43. The annual conference may choose to adopt a conference-wide plan for compensation of pastors. Such a plan shall provide the method for setting and funding the salaries, and/or other compensation elements as specified in the plan, of the pastors appointed to the charges of the annual conference.</p> <p>²⁰ See Judicial Council Decisions 43, 74, 141, 318, 367, 373, 432, 435, 476, 536, 584, 590, 592, 699, 876, 1198. ²¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 707, 440. ²² See Judicial Council Decisions 534, 782. ²³ See Judicial Council Decisions 686, 690.</p>	
<p>¶ 533. <i>Membership</i> - 1. The clergy membership of an annual conference shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, affiliate members, and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment, each with their respective voting rights. The term <i>clergy members</i> shall refer to both active and retired members of the annual conference.²⁴ >VII: 533.001<</p>	<p>[602] ¶ 533. <i>Membership Composition and Character</i>-1. The clergy membership of an annual conference (¶ 370) shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶ 333), provisional members (¶ 327), associate members, affiliate members (¶¶ 344.4, 586.4), and local pastors <u>under full-time or part-time appointment (¶ 317), each with their respective rights. The term <i>clergy member</i></u></p>	<p>Last sentence of GBOD ¶ 533.1= ¶ 502.2</p>

2. a) The lay membership of the annual conference shall consist of a professing member elected by each charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, one youth and one young adult from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference according to the age provisions of the central conference or outside central conference boundaries by other legislation enacted by General Conference. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.²⁴

b) Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment.

c) The lay members shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. The four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under thirty years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.

>VII: 533.002<

3. The lay member or alternate, whoever was last seated in the annual conference, shall be seated in a

shall refer to both active and retired members of the annual conference.²⁴ >VII: 533.001<

~~a) Clergy members in full connection shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.~~

~~b) Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences.~~²⁹

~~c) Associate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (§ 634.1). Affiliate clergy members shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General jurisdictional or central conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.~~²⁹

~~d) Full-time and part-time local pastors shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments; election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference~~

special session of the annual conference when convened, provided that no local charge shall be deprived of its lay member.²⁶

4. The lay members of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of clergy, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and committee on investigation. Lay members shall serve on all committees except those on ministerial relations.²⁷

5. It is the duty of every member to attend the sessions of the annual conference.

6. Officers who are not members of the annual conference and such additional persons as the annual conference may decide shall have voice but not vote.

>VII: 533.003<

GBOD ¶ 533.1 = 602.2+502.2; 533.2=602.4; 533.3-4=602.5-6; 533.5=602.8; 533.6=602.9+10

²⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 477, 555, 1062.

²⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 1212.

²⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 319.

²⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 109, 505.

~~relations of clergy.³⁰ When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶ 634.1). Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional or central conferences.³¹~~

~~e) Each annual conference having campus ministers, chaplains and Wesley Foundation directors shall include the same in its lay and clergy annual conference composition. In districts where United Methodist laypersons serve as campus ministers/directors of Wesley Foundations, they shall be added as district at-large lay members to the annual conference. In districts where United Methodist clergy serve as chaplains, campus ministers, and directors of Wesley Foundations, the laypersons elected as their balancing counterpart shall be elected from either the campus ministry board of directors or a student from that ministry/foundation. In making sure that such inclusion is adhered to, special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.~~

~~2. Consecrated diaconal ministers serve as lay members of the annual conference as long as they maintain this status in The United Methodist Church.~~

~~3. Persons who become associate members prior to January 1, 1997, shall be allowed to continue in this relationship and serve under the provision of the 1992 Book of Discipline as long as they hold this status.~~

~~2.a).4. The lay membership of the annual conference shall consist of a professing member elected by each charge, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, the conference president of United Methodist~~

Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, one youth ~~between the ages of twelve and eighteen~~ and one young adult ~~between the ages of eighteen and thirty~~ from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference (in the case of central conferences, the youth member shall be not younger than twelve and no older than twenty-five and the young adult member shall be not younger than eighteen and not older than thirty-five), and the chair of the annual conference college student organization. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.²⁵

b) Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment.

c) The lay members shall have been members of The United Methodist Church for the two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election. ~~(¶¶ 32, 251.2).~~ >VII: 533.002<

~~*a)* In the annual conference or the central conferences, †~~ The four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived for young persons under thirty years of age. Such persons must be members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election.

~~*b)* By authorization of a central conference, national diaconal ministers may be given the same~~

privileges as a diaconal minister.

~~3.5.~~ The lay member or alternate, whoever was last seated in the annual conference, shall be seated in a special session of the annual conference when convened, provided that no local charge shall be deprived of its lay member.²⁶ ~~due to death, serious illness, or cessation of membership. Under such circumstances, another lay member may be elected by the charge conference.³⁵ (See ¶ 32.)~~

4.6. The lay members of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of clergy ~~ordained ministers~~, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and committee on investigation. Lay members shall serve on all committees except those on ministerial relations.²⁷

~~7. When at any time a lay member is excused by the annual conference from further attendance during the session, the alternate lay member, if present, shall be seated. The lay member or the alternate shall be the lay member of the annual conference, and it shall be the duty of the lay member to report to the local church on actions of the annual conference.~~

~~5.8.~~ It is the duty of every member and all provisional members and local pastors of the annual conference to attend the its sessions of the annual conference and furnish such reports in such form as the *Discipline* may require. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

	<p>6.9. Officers who are not members of the annual conference and such additional persons as the annual conference may decide shall have voice but not vote. The following shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote: official representatives from other denominations invited by the annual conference; missionaries regularly assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries and serving within the bounds of the annual conference; lay missionaries regularly appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries in nations other than the United States and certified lay missionaries from nations other than the United States serving within the bounds of the annual conference.</p> <p>10. If not otherwise a voting member of the annual conference, the conference chancellor shall be seated in the annual conference and shall be given the privilege of the floor without vote.</p> <p>>VII: 533.003<</p> <p>²⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 477, 555, 1062. ²⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 1212. ²⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 319. ²⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 109, 505.</p>	
<p>¶ 534. Conference Session— 1. The bishop shall appoint the times for holding the annual conference.²⁸</p> <p>2. The annual conference or a committee thereof shall select the place for holding the conference session. Each central conference may provide for minimum standards for places and sites in which to hold annual conference sessions. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>. >VII: 534.001<</p> <p>3. The agenda of the session shall be prepared by the bishop, the district superintendents, the conference lay</p>	<p>[603] ¶ 534.. Conference Session—Organization—1. Annual conferences...</p> <p>1.2. The bishops shall appoint the times for holding the annual conferences.²⁸</p> <p>2.3. The annual conference or a committee thereof shall select the place for holding the conference. <u>Each central conference may provide for minimum standards for places and sites in which to hold annual conference sessions. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>.</u> >VII: 534.001<</p> <p>[605.2] 3.2. The agenda of the session <u>The annual</u></p>	

leader, and such others as the conference may name and shall be submitted to the conference for adoption. >VII: 534.002<

4. A special session of the annual conference may be held at such time and in such place as shall have been determined by the annual conference after consultation with the bishop, or by the bishop with the concurrence of three-fourths of the district superintendents. A special session of the annual conference shall have only such powers as are stated in the call.²⁹

5. The bishop assigned shall preside over the annual conference or, in case of inability, shall arrange for another bishop to preside. In the absence of a bishop, the conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president *pro tempore* from among the ordained elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except ordination.

6. At the conclusion of the examination of the standing of the clergy members or at such later times as the bishop may designate, the presiding bishop may call to the bar of the conference the class to be admitted into full connection and receive them into conference membership after asking the questions of the Historic examination. >VII: <534.003

7. The annual conference shall adopt a comprehensive policy for handling sexual and gender harassment of clergy when laypersons are the perpetrators. This policy shall guide the local church in how to handle the report, how to care for the accuser and the accused, the victim and the perpetrator, the findings and settlement. It shall make provision for support of the pastor and for care of church members.

8. Members for committees, boards, and commissions of the annual conference shall be selected in such manner as the *Discipline* may specifically require or as the annual conference may determine.

~~conference, to expedite the transaction of its business, may adopt an agenda as a basis of its procedure. Such agenda shall be prepared by the bishop, the district superintendents, the conference lay leader, and such others as the conference may name and shall be submitted to the conference for adoption. >VII: 534.002<~~

[603.5f] ~~4.5-~~ A special session of the annual conference may be held at such time and in such place as shall have been determined by the annual conference after consultation with the bishop, or by the bishop with the concurrence of three-fourths of the district superintendents. A special session of the annual conference shall have only such powers as are stated in the call.²⁹

~~5.6-~~ The bishop assigned shall preside over the annual conference or, in case of inability, shall arrange for another bishop to preside. In the absence of a bishop, the conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president *pro tempore* from among the traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except ordination.

[605.8f] ~~6.8-~~ At the conclusion of the examination of the standing of the clergy members ~~ordained ministers and local pastors in the conference~~ or at such later times as the bishop may designate, the presiding bishop may call to the bar of the conference the class to be admitted into full connection and receive them into conference membership after asking the questions of the Historic examination. ~~to be found in ¶ 336. This examination of the ordained ministers and the passing of their characters may be the business of one session.~~ >VII: <534.003

~~7.9-~~ The annual conference shall adopt a comprehensive policy for handling sexual and gender harassment of clergy when laypersons are the perpetrators. This policy shall guide the local church in how to handle the report, how to care for the accuser and

Attention shall be given to inclusiveness.³⁰
>VII: 534.004<

9. The annual conference at the first session following the General Conference or central or jurisdictional conference shall elect a secretary, a conference lay leader, a statistician, and a treasurer/director of administrative services to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. In the case of a vacancy in either office, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference. Quadrennial elections for conference agencies shall take place the same year as the election of officers.

a) *The conference lay leader*- The conference lay leader shall be a professing member of a local church in the annual conference, shall be the chairperson of the conference board of laity, or its equivalent structure, and participate in annual conference sessions as a partner in ministry with the bishop.

The conference lay leader is the elected leader of conference laity and has responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of the laity both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church and enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the annual conference in cooperation with the bishop and district superintendents. >VII: 534.005<

b) *The treasurer / director of administrative services* is directly amenable to the conference council on finance and administration, and may sit with the council and its committees at all sessions and have the privilege of voice but not vote. The treasurer / director may serve as treasurer for any or all agencies served by a conference central treasury and report of all receipts, disbursements, and balances of all funds under his or her

the accused, the victim and the perpetrator, the findings and settlement. It shall make provision for support of the pastor and for care of church members.

[605.3] ~~8.3~~. Members for ~~all-standing~~ committees, boards, and commissions of the annual conference shall be selected in such manner as the *Book of Discipline* may specifically require or as the annual conference may determine. Attention shall be given to inclusiveness. ~~(¶¶ 124, 140)~~.³⁰ >VII: 534.004<

3. For the purpose of adjusting tenure, a certain number of members for committees, boards, and commissions of the annual conference may be elected or appointed for particular terms. Members shall hold office until their successors are elected. For the annual conference agencies provided for by the *Discipline*, see BOD ¶ 610.1; and for the agencies established by the annual conference itself, see BOD ¶ 610.2.

[603.7] ~~9.7~~. The annual conference at the first session following the General Conference ~~or jurisdictional or central or jurisdictional~~ conferences ~~(or, if it may desire, at the last session preceding the General, jurisdictional, or central conferences)~~, ~~utilizing such nominating procedure as the Annual Conference shall determine,~~ shall elect a secretary, a conference lay leader, and a statistician, and a treasurer / director of administrative services to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. In the case of a vacancy in either office ~~in the interim of the sessions~~, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next session of the annual conference. ~~(See ¶ 619 for election of the treasurer.~~ Quadrennial elections for conference agencies shall take place the same year as the election of officers.

[603.9a] ~~9-a) *The Conference Lay Leader*- The conference lay leader is the elected leader of conference laity and is an officer of the annual conference.~~ The

¶ 603.8 see GBOD
¶ 532.7

<p>direction. The treasurer / director shall perform such other staff services as the council on finance and administration may require in the fulfillment of its functions and responsibilities.</p> <p>>VII: 534.006<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 534.1 = 603.2; 534.2=603.3+4; 534.3=605.2; 534.4-5=603.5-6; 534.6-7=605.8+9; 534.8=605.3; 534.9=603.7+619 534.9a=607.1; 534.9b=619Intro+1b+1c(2)+1f</p> <p>²⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 1206</p> <p>²⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 397.</p> <p>³⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 559.</p>	<p>conference lay leader shall be a professing member of a local church in the annual conference, <u>shall be the chairperson of the conference board of laity, or its equivalent structure, and participate in annual conference sessions as a partner in ministry with the bishop.</u></p> <p>[607.1] 4- The conference lay leader is the elected leader of conference laity and <u>has will</u> have responsibility for fostering awareness of the role of the laity both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world in achieving the mission of the Church and enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making processes of the annual conference, district, and local church in cooperation with the bishop, <u>and district superintendents, and pastors.</u> >VII: 534.005<</p> <p>[extracted from 619Intro+1b+1c(2)+1f] <u>b) The Treasurer / Director of Administrative Services-</u> The treasurer / director of administrative services is directly amenable to the conference council on finance and administration, and may sit with the council and its committees at all sessions and have the privilege of voice but not vote. The treasurer / director may serve as treasurer for any or all agencies served by a conference central treasury and report of all receipts, disbursements, and balances of all funds under his or her direction. The treasurer / director shall perform such other staff services as the council on finance and administration may require in the fulfillment of its functions and responsibilities.</p> <p>>VII: 534.006<</p> <p>²⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 1206</p> <p>²⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 397.</p> <p>³⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 559.</p>	
<p>¶ 535. <i>Records and Archives</i>—1. The annual conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings according to the forms provided by the General, central, and</p>	<p>[606] ¶ 535. <i>Records and Archives</i>-1. The annual conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings according to the forms provided by the General,</p>	

jurisdictional conferences. If there are no archives of the annual conference, the secretary shall keep the bound copy or copies or a digital version to be handed on to the succeeding secretary.

2. Each annual conference shall send without charge to the General Commission on Archives and History, a copy of its annual journal, in printed or electronic format. Other general agencies may request such material as needed at their expense.

3. The annual conference journal shall include at least the following divisions:

- a) Officers of annual conference,
- b) Boards, commissions, committees; rolls of conference members,
- c) Daily proceedings,
- d) Business of the annual conference report (formerly known as the disciplinary questions),
- e) Appointments,
- f) Reports as ordered by the annual conference,
- g) Clergy record,
- h) Roll of deceased clergy members,
- i) Memoirs,
- j) Statistics,
- k) Miscellaneous,
- l) Index.

>VII: 535.001<

4. The secretary, or other administrative officer named by the annual conference, shall keep a complete service record of clergy and diaconal ministry personnel in the annual conference. Service records shall include but not be limited to biographical information supplied by the individual, a list of appointments, a record of annual conference actions with regard to conference relationships, and in addition descriptions of circumstances related to changes in conference relationships, credentials surrendered to the bishop or

~~jurisdictional, and central, and jurisdictional conferences. If there are no archives of the annual conference, the secretary shall keep the bound copy or copies or a digital version to be handed on to the succeeding secretary. The conference shall send to its jurisdictional conference or central conference copies of the minutes of the quadrennium for examination.~~

2. Each annual conference shall send without charge to ~~the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the General Commission on Archives and History, the Central Conference or Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and the Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History~~ two printed copies ~~or a digital version~~ a copy of its annual journal, in printed or electronic format. Other general agencies may request such material as needed at their expense. In addition, the annual conference shall send one printed copy or a digital version of its annual journal to the Connectional Table and one printed copy or a digital version to United Methodist Communications. If available, one copy of a digital version of the journal shall be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History and one copy to United Methodist Communications.

3. ~~The annual conference may form a committee on journal publication.~~ The annual conference journal shall include the following divisions, ~~in the following order:~~

- a) Officers of annual conference,
- b) Boards, commissions, committees; rolls of conference members,
- c) Daily proceedings,
- d) Business of the annual conference report (formerly known as the disciplinary questions),
- e) Appointments,
- f) Reports as ordered by the annual conference,
- g) Clergy record, Annual report of the district

district superintendent, and confidential trial records.

5. The local church report to the annual conference shall be submitted as per the requirements of the annual conference.

6. In central conferences, official records of secretaries, statisticians, and treasurers shall be kept according to basic forms prepared by the General Council on Finance and Administration in cooperation with the central conferences so that elementary statistical data can be collected from all annual conferences. The General Council on Finance and Administration may recommend the use of more developed forms where applicable. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the *Discipline*.

7. All records of candidates and clergy and diaconal ministry personnel maintained by the conference secretary, or other administrative officer named by the annual conference, Board of Ordained Ministry, and board of pensions, are to be kept on behalf of the annual conference, subject to the laws of the country, in conformity with guidelines provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the following principles:

- a) The annual conference is the owner of its personnel records and files;
- b) Individuals in whose name a record is kept shall have access to the information contained in a record or file, with the exception of surrendered credentials and information for which a right-of-access waiver has been signed;
- c) Access to unpublished records by persons other than the bishop, district superintendent, conference secretary, treasurer, or other administrative officer or the

superintendents, if any.

~~h) Memoirs as ordered by the annual conference following the guidelines of the General Commission on Archives and History,~~

~~h) i) Roll of ~~dead~~-deceased clergy members,~~

~~i) Memoirs,~~

~~j) Statistics, Historical,~~

~~k) Miscellaneous,~~

~~l) Pastoral record (including the records of accepted local pastors in such manner as the conference may determine),~~

~~m) Statistics,~~

~~n) Index.~~

>VII: 535.001<

~~4~~1. An annual conference in the United States and Puerto Rico shall include in its journal a list of the deaconesses and missionaries, clergy and lay, active and retired, who have gone from the conference into mission service or who are presently serving in such capacity within the bounds of the annual conference.

~~5~~2. The annual conference journal shall include a listing of the consecrated diaconal ministers and their service records.

~~4.6~~. The secretary, ~~treasurer,~~ or other administrative officer named by the annual conference, shall keep a complete service record of clergy ordained and diaconal ministry personnel in the annual conference. Service records shall include but not be limited to biographical information supplied by the individual, a list of appointments, ~~and~~ a record of annual conference actions with regard to conference relationships, and in- ~~In~~ addition to service records, the secretary, treasurer, or ~~other administrative officer named by the annual conference shall keep~~ descriptions of circumstances related to changes in conference relationships, credentials

Board of Ordained Ministry, through its chair, board of pensions, through its chair, counsel for the Church, and committee on investigation, through its chair, shall require written consent of the person in whose name a record is kept; access to trial records shall be governed by the provisions of the chapter on *Judicial Administration*.³¹

GBOD ¶ 535.1-3 = 606.1-3; 535.4-7=606.6-9

³¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 751, 765, 1024.

surrendered to the bishop or district superintendent, and confidential trial records.

~~5.7-~~ The local church report to the annual conference shall be submitted as per the requirements of the annual conference. ~~3.~~ The local church annual report to the conference shall be submitted on the prescribed forms no later than thirty days following the close of the calendar year. If the annual conference sets an earlier deadline for receiving the reports, the earlier deadline shall apply.

~~6.8-~~ In central conferences, official records of secretaries, statisticians, and treasurers shall be kept according to the basic forms prepared by the General Council on Finance and Administration in cooperation with the central conferences so that elementary statistical data can be collected from all annual conferences. The General Council on Finance and Administration may recommend the use of more developed forms where applicable. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the *Discipline*.

~~4. so that~~ The official statistical and financial items shall be handled alike in all annual conferences, and that uniformity of reporting shall be established as a worldwide church policy.

~~7.9-~~ All records of candidates and clergy ordained and diaconal ministry personnel maintained by the conference secretary, treasurer, or other administrative officer named by the annual conference, Board of Ordained Ministry, and board of pensions, and the district committee on ordained ministry are to be kept on behalf of the annual conference, subject to the laws of the country, in conformity with guidelines provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration, in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the following principles:

- a) The annual conference is the owner of its

	<p>personnel records and files;</p> <p>b) Individuals in whose name a record is kept shall have access to the information contained in a record or file, with the exception of surrendered credentials and information for which a right-of-access waiver has been signed;</p> <p>c) Access to unpublished records by persons other than the bishop, district superintendent, conference secretary, treasurer, or other administrative officer or the Board of Ordained Ministry, through its chair, board of pensions, through its chair, the district committee on ordained ministry, through its chair, counsel for the Church, and committee on investigation, through its chair, shall require written consent of the person in whose name a record is kept; access to trial records shall be governed by the provisions of the chapter on <i>Judicial Administration</i>. ¶¶ 2712.5, 2713.5.³¹</p> <p>³¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 751, 765, 1024.</p>	
<p>¶ 536. <i>Conference Agencies</i> —1. The annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose. In so doing it shall provide for the connectional relationship from the annual conference to the district and the local church, as well as to the central, jurisdictional and General conference and their respective agencies. >VII: 536.001<</p> <p>2. a) Annual conferences are given flexibility to design conference and district structures in ways that best support the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ in an increasingly diverse global community, except for the mandated entities. In doing so, an annual conference shall provide for such functions of and connections with the agencies of central, jurisdictional or General conference as help develop its mission.</p> <p>b) Conferences are permitted to create contextually</p>	<p>CONFERENCE AGENCIES</p> <p>[610] ¶ 536. <i>Conference Agencies-1.</i> The annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose. (¶ 601), with the exception of the mandated provisions of ¶¶ 611, 635, 636, 637, 639, 640, 647, 648. In so doing it shall provide for the connectional relationship <u>from the annual conference to of the local church, as well as to the central, jurisdictional and General Conference and their respective agencies.</u> district, and conference with the general agencies. It will monitor to ensure inclusiveness racial, gender, age, and people with disabilities in the annual conference. Every board, standing committee, commission, council, and work area of the annual conference shall designate one of its members as its coordinator of witness ministries. These persons shall help the groups of which they are</p>	

appropriate structures that encourage collaboration and partnerships among all program, administrative, and financial entities. Annual conferences may fund their ministries in ways that reflect conference priorities and structures, as approved by the annual conference in the budgeting process.

c) It is recommended that each annual conference have a director of connectional ministries or designated person to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the annual conference. The director may be lay or clergy, and shall serve as an officer of the annual conference and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the vision and program of the annual conference. Whether appointed or elected to this position, the director shall be amenable to the bishop, in consultation with the appropriate annual conference personnel body. >VII: 536.002-536.027<

3. In central conferences, the mandated entities for each annual conference shall be the Council on Finance and Administration (§538) and the Board of Ordained Ministry (§539). Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the *Discipline*.

4. Provisions for membership of mandated entities shall be made by each central conference, or in territories outside central conference boundaries by other legislation enacted by General conference, provided that:

a) among the members in all mandated entities shall be at least one member of the cabinet as expression of its ministry of general oversight and superintendency;

b) members in the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board.³²

GBOD ¶ 536.1 = 610Intro; 536.2=610.1+608.after§6;

~~members to engage in witness ministries and, in particular, to ask, “How are we intentionally reaching new people for Jesus Christ through our ministries?” and “How are we helping new people grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ through our ministries and areas of responsibility?”.~~ >VII: 536.001<

~~2.a) Annual conferences are given permitted the flexibility to design conference and district structures in ways that best support the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ in an increasingly diverse global community and that place secondary any prescribed structure, except for the mandated entities in ¶ 610 above. In doing so, an annual conference shall provide for such the functions of and connections with the agencies of central, jurisdictional or General conference as help develop its mission and General Conference connections with all general agencies provided by the *Discipline* as follows: a) There shall be clear connections between the General Conference agencies, annual conference program and administrative entities, and the local congregations. These connections shall be identified in the business questions of the annual conference each year. b) There shall be clear checks and balances regarding program functions and financial/administration functions within the annual conference. These structural matters will be defined and approved by the annual conference session. Further,~~

~~b) Conferences are permitted to create contextually appropriate structures that encourage collaboration and partnerships among all program, administrative, and financial entities. Annual conferences may fund their ministries in ways that reflect conference priorities and structures, as approved by the annual conference in the budgeting process.—All disciplinary references to “equivalent structures” shall be defined by this paragraph.~~

536.3=new+611+635; 536.4b=635.1a

³² See Judicial Council Decisions 446, 558.

[608.6Intro+a+b] c) It is recommended that each annual conference have a director of connectional ministries or designated person to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the annual conference.

a) The director may be lay or clergy, and-

b) ~~The director~~ shall serve as an officer of the annual conference and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the vision and conference program of the annual conference, ~~and other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.~~ Whether appointed or elected to this position, the director shall be amenable to the bishop, in consultation with the appropriate annual conference personnel body.
>VII: 536.002-536.027<

[see 611+635] 3. In central conferences, the mandated entities for each annual conference shall be the Council on Finance and Administration (§ 538) and the Board of Ordained Ministry (§ 539). Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the *Discipline*.

4. Provisions for membership of mandated entities shall be made by each central conference, or in territories outside central conference boundaries by other legislation enacted by General conference, provided that:

a) among the members in all mandated entities shall be at least one member of the cabinet as expression of its ministry of general oversight and superintendency;

[see 635.1a] b) members in the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board.³²

³² See Judicial Council Decisions 446, 558.

<p>¶ 537. <i>Property</i>— 1. Annual conferences, or sub-units authorized by them, may become several bodies corporate under the law of the countries, states, and territories within whose bounds they are located.³³</p> <p>2. The annual conferences, or sub-units authorized by them, may create boards of trustees, and incorporate property-holding bodies, under the law of the countries, states, and territories within whose bounds they are located, to hold and administer real and personal property, receive and administer church extension and mission funds, and exercise such other powers and duties as may be set forth in its charter or articles of incorporation as authorized by the annual conference, subject to the provisions of chapter 6 on <i>Church Property</i>.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 537.1 = 603.1; 537.2=640+cf. 659.4</p> <p>³³ See Judicial Council Decision 108.</p>	<p>[603.1] ¶ 537. <i>Property</i>—1. Annual conferences, or <u>sub-units authorized by them</u>, may become severally bodies corporate, whenever practicable, under the law of the countries, states, and territories within whose bounds they are located.³³</p> <p>[640] 2. Each <u>The annual conferences, or sub-units authorized by them, may create shall have a board of trustees, and incorporate property-holding bodies, under the law of the countries, states, and territories within whose bounds they are located, to hold and administer real and personal property, receive and administer church extension and mission funds, and exercise such other powers and duties as may be set forth in its charter or articles of incorporation as authorized by the annual conference, subject to the provisions of chapter 6 on <i>Church Property</i>.</u> whose membership and duties are detailed in ¶ 2512.1-8.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>³³ See Judicial Council Decision 108.</p>	
<p>¶ 538. <i>Council on Finance and Administration</i>—1. In each annual conference there shall be a conference council on finance and administration, hereinafter called the council, or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationships. The council shall be amenable and report to the annual conference. >VII: 538.001<</p> <p>2. <i>Purpose</i>— The purpose of the council shall be to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference.³⁴</p> <p>3. <i>Responsibilities</i>— The council shall have</p>	<p>THE CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>[611; 612.6] ¶ 538. <u><i>Council on Finance and Administration-1</i></u>. In each annual conference there shall be a conference council on finance and administration, hereinafter called the council, or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationships (¶ 610.1). <u>The council shall be amenable and report to the annual conference.</u></p> <p>>VII: 538.001<</p> <p>2. Purpose—The council's purpose, membership, organization, and relationships shall be as follows:</p> <p>[612.1] 1. Purpose—The purpose of the council shall</p>	<p>→ BOD612.6</p>

authority and responsibility to perform the following functions, to which others may be added by the annual conference:

a) To recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination budgets of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for all funds that provide for annual conference clergy support, annual conference administrative expenses, and annual conference benevolence and program causes.³⁵

b) To receive, consider, report, and make recommendations to the annual conference regarding the following, prior to final decision by the annual conference: (1) any proposal to raise capital funds for any purpose; (2) funding considerations related to any proposal that may come before the conference; (3) any requests to conduct a special conference-wide financial appeal.

c) To recommend to the annual conference for its action and decision the methods or formulas by which apportionments to churches, charges, or districts for duly authorized funds shall be determined.³⁶

d) To develop policies and practices in the employment and compensation of personnel, in accordance with the Social Principles.

e) To develop policies governing the construction, renovation and managing of church property, in consultation with boards of trustees where they exist.

f) To develop policies governing the investment of conference funds (except for pension funds managed by the applicable board of pensions), in a manner consistent with the preservation of capital, the Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments, and the Social Principles of the Church.

g) To develop policies governing the auditing of the financial records of the conference, its agencies and entities within its boundaries.

be to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference.³⁴

[613.Intro+1+2+3+13+7/new,+5,+617Intro:] 3. Responsibilities-The council shall have authority and responsibility to perform the following functions to which others may be added by the annual conference.

a)1- To recommend to the annual conference for its action and determination budgets of anticipated income and proposed expenditures for all funds that provide for annual conference clergy support, annual conference administrative expenses, and annual conference benevolence and program causes-~~(¶ 614).~~³⁵

b)2- To receive, consider, report, and make recommendations to the annual conference regarding the following prior to final decision by the annual conference: ~~(1)(a)~~ any proposal to raise capital funds for any purpose; ~~(2)(b)~~ funding considerations related to any proposal that may come before the conference; ~~(3)(c)~~ any requests to conduct a special conference-wide financial appeal, ~~whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise in the local churches of the conference.~~

c)3- To recommend to the annual conference for its action and decision the methods or formulas by which apportionments to churches, charges, or districts for duly authorized ~~General, jurisdictional, conference, and district~~ funds shall be determined-~~(¶ 615.4).~~³⁶

d)13- To ~~develop~~ establish ~~uniform and equitable~~ policies and practices in the employment and compensation of personnel, ~~in consultation and cooperation with other conference agencies that employ staff, unless the annual conference has designated another agency to carry this responsibility. These policies and practices shall be in accordance with the Social Principles.~~ ~~(¶ 162 A, E, F, and I).~~In addition, the council

h) To develop policies governing the bonding of conference and conference agency officers and staff whose responsibilities include the custody or handling of conference funds or other negotiable assets:

>VII: 538.002-538.006<

GBOD ¶ 538.1 = 611+612.6; 538.2=612.1; 538.3=613.1-3+13+7+5+617Intro+618Intro

³⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 1054.

³⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 521, 551, 560, 590, 744.

³⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 983.

~~shall recommend that the annual conference provide, effective on and after January 1, 2006, 100 percent vested pension benefits of at least three percent of compensation for lay personnel of the annual conference who work at least 1,040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of permanent service. The annual conference shall have authority to provide such pension benefits through either a denominational pension program administered by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits or another pension program administered by another pension provider.~~

~~e)7. To develop policies governing the construction, renovation and managing of church property, in consultation with boards of trustees where they exist. To advise local churches about making their church buildings, facilities, and programs accessible.~~

~~f)5. To develop policies governing the investment of conference funds (except for pension funds managed by the applicable board of pensions as provided in ¶ 1508), whether in debt or equity, short term or long term instruments, with the aim of maximizing funds available for mission in a manner consistent with the preservation of capital, the Policies Relative to Socially Responsible Investments (¶ 717), and the Social Principles of the Church. A statement of such policies shall be printed in the conference journal at least once in each quadrennium.~~

~~g) To develop policies governing The council shall have the following authority and responsibility with respect to the auditing of the financial records of the conference, and its agencies and entities within its boundaries.:~~

~~h) To develop policies governing The council shall have the following authority and responsibility with respect to the bonding of conference and conference agency officers and staff whose responsibilities include~~

¶ 538.h added from ¶618 Intro

	<p>the custody or handling of conference funds or other negotiable assets: <u>>VII: 538.002-538.006<</u></p> <p>³⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 1054. ³⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 521, 551, 560, 590, 744. ³⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 983.</p>	
<p>¶ 539. <i>Board of Ordained Ministry</i>— 1. <i>Organization</i> – In each annual conference there shall be a Board of Ordained Ministry. In central conferences, the annual conference, upon recommendation of its Board of Ordained Ministry, may create an executive committee of the Board, district committees on ordained ministry, or other appropriate structure, as it serves the need to carry out the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and assign and delegate to such structures the appropriate tasks and responsibilities it chooses. With regard to mandated sub-units of the Board of Ordained Ministry and their respective tasks and responsibilities, jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>. The Board shall be amenable and report to the annual conference. >VII: 539.001-539.002<</p> <p>2. <i>Purpose</i>— The purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be to develop, oversee and administer a comprehensive and coordinated approach to all matters related to the ordained ministry. Concerning all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy it brings recommendations directly to the clergy session of the annual conference.</p> <p>3. <i>Responsibilities</i>— The Board of Ordained Ministry shall have authority and responsibility to perform the following functions, to which others may be added by the annual conference:</p> <p>a) To assume the primary responsibility for the</p>	<p>[635] ¶ 539. <i>Conference Board of Ordained Ministry-1. Organization</i> – <u>In each</u> Each annual conference <u>there shall be at the first session following the General Conference, shall elect for a term of four years</u> a Board of Ordained Ministry. <u>In central conferences, the annual conference, upon recommendation of its Board of Ordained Ministry, may create an executive committee on ordained ministry, or other appropriate structure, as it serves the need to carry out the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and assign and delegate to such structures the appropriate tasks and responsibilities it chooses. With regard to mandated sub-units of the Board of Ordained Ministry and their respective tasks and responsibilities, jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>. This</u>—The Board shall be <u>directly amenable and report</u> to the annual conference. >VII: 539.001-539.002<</p> <p>2. <i>Purpose</i>- <u>The purpose of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be to develop, oversee and administer a comprehensive and coordinated approach to all matters related to the ordained ministry. Concerning all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy it brings recommendations directly to the clergy session of the annual conference.</u></p> <p>3. <i>Responsibilities</i>-<u>2. The duties of the annual conference</u>—Board of Ordained Ministry shall <u>be have authority and responsibility to perform the following functions, to which others may be added by the annual</u></p>	<p>For more parts of this former paragraph see 539.001 – 539.004</p>

enlistment and recruitment of licensed and ordained clergy. It shall, with the assistance of the local church committee on pastor-parish relations, and every clergy of the conference, enlist women and men of all races and ethnic origins for the ordained ministry and guide those persons in the process of education, training, licensing and ordination;

b) To relate to, and develop cooperation with theological institutions and programs approved for the training of United Methodist clergy;

c) To examine and make full inquiry as to the fitness of candidates for: (1) annual election as local pastor; (2) election to associate membership; (3) election to provisional membership; and (4) election to full conference membership.

d) To evaluate and make recommendations concerning character and effectiveness of clergy, and to equip, train, and elect mentors;

e) To evaluate and make recommendations for all elections to, renewal of, and changes concerning certified candidates and conference relationship of clergy;³⁷

f) To keep records of all changes of conference relationship and place a copy in the permanent records of the annual conference, and to ensure confidentiality in relation to the interview and reporting process. There are occasions when the Board of Ordained Ministry would not report privileged information, which in the judgment of the board, if revealed in the clergy session of the annual conference, would be an undue invasion of privacy without adding measurably to the conference's information about the person's qualifications for ordained ministry. However, it is the right of the clergy session of the annual conference to receive all pertinent information, confidential or otherwise, related to the qualifications and/or character of any candidate or clergy member of the conference, subject to the laws of the

conference:

[635.2a] a) To assume the primary responsibility for the enlistment and recruitment of licensed and ordained clergy.

~~a) To enlist and recruit ministerial leadership for our churches and other ministry settings by working in consultation with the cabinet and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to study and interpret the ordained, licensed, certified, and assigned ministerial leadership needs and resources of the annual conference, with due regard to the inclusive nature of the Church.~~

It shall, with the assistance of the local church committee on pastor-parish relations, ~~conference agencies,~~ and every clergy ordained, licensed, certified, and assigned leader of the conference, enlist women and men of all races and ethnic origins for ministry as a ~~vocation~~ and guide those persons in the process of education, training, licensing and ordination;

~~and It shall assist candidates with discernment of the most appropriate path for their ministry, recommending colleges and schools of theology listed by the University Senate, licensing school, and other approved educational opportunities. Persons recruited should have an understanding of and appreciation for persons of different racial and ethnic heritages.~~

~~b) To renew a culture of call in the church by giving strategic leadership to annual conferences, districts, congregations, campus ministries, camps, and other appropriate ministries, especially among youth and young adults~~

~~c) To seek from a school of theology information about the personal and professional qualities of an applicant for provisional membership or of a provisional member; provided, however, that the applicant or member consent to the provision of such information.~~

~~d) To receive annual reports on the progress made~~

country.³⁸

g) To report in a timely manner any change in the conference relationship of a clergy member of the conference to the applicable board of pension.

h) To be in consultation with the bishop through the chairperson regarding transfers. This consultation is to be at the bishop's initiative.

i) To provide support services for the clergy, including counseling, continuing education, continuing spiritual growth in Christ, evaluating the effectiveness, and assistance in preparation for retirement.

k) To work with and support the Order of Deacon and the Order of Elder, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. >VII: 539.003-539.004<

4. *Membership*— The membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall consist of at least six ordained clergy in full membership and at least one-fifth laypersons. All laypersons shall be professing members of local churches in the annual conference.

>VII: 539.005<

GBOD ¶ 539.1 = 635.1+1b+NEW305.6; 539.2=new; 539.3a=635.2a; 539.3b=new; 539.3c=635.2h; 539.3d=635.new+2f; 539.3e-f=635.2j-m; 539.2g=635.2z; 539h-k-=635.2n-p; 539.4=635.1

³⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 405, 1263.

³⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 406.

~~by each ministerial student enrolled in a theological school and to record credit for work satisfactorily completed.~~

~~e) It shall require a transcript of credits from each applicant before recognizing any of the applicant's educational claims. In case of doubt, the board may submit a transcript to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for evaluation.~~

~~f) The board shall annually appoint and train a sufficient number of mentors in each district in consultation with the district superintendent.~~

~~g) To guide the candidate for ordained ministry who is not enrolled in a theological school and who is pursuing the Course of Study as adopted by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.~~

b) To relate to, and develop cooperation with theological institutions and programs approved for the training of United Methodist clergy;

[635.2h] ~~c)h)~~ To examine all applicants as to their fitness for the ordained ministry and make full inquiry as to the fitness of the candidates for: (1) annual election as local pastor; (2) election to associate membership; (3) election to provisional membership; and (4) election to full conference membership.

d) To evaluate and make recommendations concerning the character and effectiveness of clergy, and [635.2f] to equip, train, and elect mentors;

~~i)h)~~ To provide all candidates for ordained ministry a written statement on the disciplinary and annual conference requirements for the local pastor, provisional, and full membership.

[635.2j] ~~e)j)~~ To evaluate and make interview and report recommendations for all elections to, renewal of, and changes concerning: (1) student local pastors; (2) certified candidates for ordination as deacons; and conference relationship of clergy. ~~(3) certified candidates~~

for ordination as elders.⁸⁰ Judicial Council Decisions 405, 1263.

~~k)l) To assign a board member to serve as liaison to retired clergy in the conference.~~

~~l)j) To interview applicants and make recommendation concerning: (1) changes from the effective relation to a leave of absence or retirement; (2) return to the effective relation from other relations; (3) honorable location; (4) readmission of located persons and persons discontinued from provisional membership; (5) sabbatical leave; (6) medical leave; (7) appointment as a student; (8) termination; and (9) changes to or from less than full time ministry.~~

[635.2j-m] ~~f) To~~ The board shall keep a records of all these changes of conference relationship and the reason behind them and place a copy in the permanent records of the annual conference, and to maintained by the secretary of the conference.

~~m) To~~ ensure confidentiality in relation to the interview and reporting process. ~~The personal data and private information provided through the examinations of and by the Board of Ordained Ministry will not be available for distribution and publication.~~ There are occasions when the Board of Ordained Ministry would not report privileged information, which in the judgment of the board, if revealed in the ~~executive session of clergy session of members in full connection with the annual conference,~~ would be an undue invasion of privacy without adding measurably to the conference's information about the person's qualifications for ordained ministry. However, it is the right of the ~~executive session of the clergy session of the members in full connection with an annual conference~~ to receive all pertinent information, confidential or otherwise, related to the qualifications and/or character of any candidate or clergy member of the conference, subject to the laws of

the country.⁸¹ Judicial Council Decision 406.

[635.2z] ~~g)z) g)~~ To report in a timely manner any change in the conference relationship of a clergy member of the conference to the applicable board of pension.

[635.2n] ~~h)n) h)~~ To be in consultation with the bishop through the chairperson ~~or the executive committee~~ regarding transfers. This consultation is to be at the bishop's initiative and, where possible, to take place prior to transfers into the annual conference.

[635.2o] ~~i)o) i)~~ To provide support services for the clergy all those in ministerial leadership, including ordained, licensed, certified, and assigned; to provide career development, including personal and career counseling, continuing education, formation in servant leadership and continuing spiritual growth in Christ, evaluating the effectiveness, and assistance in preparation for retirement. ~~assistance in preparation for retirement, and all matters pertaining to clergy morale. In providing such support, the board, in cooperation with the cabinet, shall give training and guidance to each local committee on pastor parish relations regarding its work and role.~~

[635.2p] ~~k)p) k)~~ To work with and support the Order of Deacon, and the Order of Elder, and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. >VII: 539.003-539.004<

(see ¶ 323), including

~~k) To work with Deacons, Elders, Local Pastors, and Associate Members, receiving reports, offering financial support, and coordinating these groups' activities with the continuing formation offerings of the board. The board may delegate continuing formation responsibility to the groups by mutual agreement, with final approval, evaluation, and budgeting remaining with the board.~~

~~q) To provide a means of evaluating the effectiveness of ministerial leaders in the annual~~

conference (§§ 604.4, 350). Suggested guidelines will be provided by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry. In cooperation with the cabinet, the board shall develop standards of effectiveness for ministerial leaders, whether ordained, licensed, certified, or assigned, serving as pastors of congregations in that annual conference.

rm) To interpret the high ethical standards of ordained ministry set forth in the *Discipline* and to study matters pertaining to character (§ 605.7).

sn) To recommend to the full members of the annual conference for validation special ministries for which members seek appointment. The appointment to such ministries is the prerogative of the bishop and the cabinet.

to) To provide continuing support and management of consecrated diaconal ministers using the policies described in §§ 301-317 of the 1992 *Book of Discipline*.

up) To care for the administration of professional certification established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through (1) enlisting and recruiting clergy and laity to become certified in Christian education, music, youth, evangelism, and other areas established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; (2) determining whether applicants meet the standards established by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; (3) to recommend to the annual conference board and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; (4) to renew or discontinue professional certification biannually based on a review of their ministry; and (5) to report annually to the annual conference for publication in the conference journal a roster of all persons certified in professional careers for which they have received certification, including places of service address.

~~vg) To report annually to the annual conference for publication in the conference journal a roster of all persons certified as Lay Ministers.~~

~~wr) To administer the portion of the Ministerial Education Fund for use by the annual conference in its programs of enlistment, basic professional educational aid, continuing formation, ethnic ministry and language training, and professional growth of ordained ministers. Priority shall be given to scholarships for seminary students preparing for ordination.~~

~~xs) To cooperate with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and assist in: (1) the interpretation of current legislation concerning ordained ministry; (2) the interpretation and promotion of the Ministerial Education Fund; (3) the promotion and observance of Ministry Sunday; and (4) the supplying of a record of all information, recommendations, and action on each candidate for ordained ministry after each session of the annual conference; (5) the promotion and addition of standards required for certification in specialized ministry careers.~~

~~yt) To promote in the annual conference and/or jurisdictional conference a system of financial aid to ministerial students. A conference transferring a person with less than three years of active service into another conference may require reimbursement either from the person or from the receiving conference for outstanding obligations for theological education financed through conference funds.~~

[635.1+1a] 4. Membership- The membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall consist of at least six ordained clergy elders and deacons in full connection and

[539.004 →Membership] ~~—a) wWhen possible, at least two associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as~~

	<p>members of the board with voice and vote. Each annual conference shall elect at least one-fifth laypersons, which <u>Lay members of the board</u> may include diaconal ministers, and <u>the board</u> may at its discretion elect further lay members, up to one third of the membership of the board.</p> <p>All laypersons shall be professing members of local churches in the annual conference. The chairpersons of the Orders of Deacons, the chair of the Order of Elders, and the chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members shall be members of the Board of Ordained Ministry (§ 1c) and its executive committee.</p> <p><u>>VII: 539.005<</u></p> <p>³⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 405, 1263. ³⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 406.</p>	
<p>Section VI. Provisional Annual Conferences</p> <p>¶ 541. <i>Purpose</i>— A provisional annual conference shares the same purpose with an annual conference, but because of its limited membership, does not qualify for annual conference status. The creation of a provisional annual conference is part of a missional development which should lead to an annual conference within twelve years.</p> <p><u>>VII: —<</u> GBOD ¶541=580</p>	<p>Section VI. Provisional Annual Conferences</p> <p>[580] ¶ 541. <i>Purpose Definition</i>—A provisional annual conference <u>shares the same purpose with an annual conference, but is a conference that</u>, because of its limited membership, does not qualify for annual conference status. <u>The creation of a provisional annual conference is part of a missional development which should lead to an annual conference within twelve years.</u></p> <p><u>>VII: —<</u></p>	
<p>¶ 542. <i>Powers and Duties</i>— 1. Any mission established under the provisions of the <i>Discipline</i>, and any geographical part of an annual conference may be constituted as a provisional annual conference by the General Conference, upon recommendation by the central conference or provisional central conference, within which it is located, and in consultation with the General</p>	<p>[581] ¶ 542. <i>Powers and Duties Provisions</i>—1. <u>Any missionary conference or mission established under the provisions of the <i>Discipline</i> and any geographical part of an annual conference</u> may be constituted as a provisional annual conference by the General Conference, <u>upon recommendation by in consultation with</u> the central conference, <u>or provisional central conference,—or</u></p>	

Board of Global Ministries and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, provided that:

a) No provisional annual conference shall be organized with fewer than ten elders in provisional or full connection, or be continued, after completion of the initial quadrennium, with fewer than six elders in full connection.

b) Membership, worship attendance, leadership development, and financial contributions have shown a reasonable progress during the previous quadrennium and give evidence for continued growth towards becoming an annual conference.

2. A provisional annual conference shall be organized in the same manner and have the same powers and functions as an annual conference, subject to the approval of the bishop in charge.

3. If a provisional annual conference, after three quadrennia, does not show progress towards becoming an annual conference, the following session of the central conference shall review said conference, consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and recommend to the following General Conference on continuation or discontinuation as a provisional annual conference. The provisional annual conference shall only be continued with sufficient missional, geographical, and contextual reasons.

>VII: —<

GBOD ¶ 542.1+a+b = 581Intro+1+3; 542.2=582Intro;
542.3=new

~~jurisdictional conference within which it the missionary conference or mission is located, and in consultation with the General Board of Global Ministries and the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, provided that:~~

~~a)1. No provisional annual conference shall be organized with fewer than ten elders in provisional or full connection, ~~clergy members~~ or be continued with fewer than six elders in full connection. ~~clergy members~~.~~

~~2. The total financial support from the General Board of Global Ministries, including the Advance, shall not exceed an appropriate percentage as determined in consultation with the board.~~

~~b)3. The membership, worship attendance, leadership development, and financial contributions and contributions of the conference have shown a reasonable progress increase during the previous quadrennium and give evidence of ~~an aggressive program~~ for continued growth towards becoming an annual conference. ~~progress in both areas~~.~~

~~[582Intro] 2. A provisional annual conference shall be organized in the same manner and have the same powers and functions as an annual conference, subject to the approval of the presiding bishop in charge; and its members shall share *pro rata* in the proceeds of The United Methodist Publishing House with members of the annual conferences, with the following exceptions:~~

~~[new] 3. If a provisional annual conference, after three quadrennia, does not show progress towards becoming an annual conference, the following session of the central conference shall review said conference, consult with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and recommend to the following General Conference on continuation or discontinuation as a provisional annual conference. The provisional annual conference shall only be continued with sufficient~~

	<p><u>missional, geographical, and contextual reasons.</u></p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 543. <i>Membership</i>— A provisional annual conference shall be organized with the same provisions for membership as an annual conference.</p> <p>>VII: —< GBOD ¶ 543 = new</p>	<p>¶ 543. <u><i>Membership</i></u> – A provisional annual conference shall be organized with the same provisions for membership as an annual conference.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 544. <i>Conference Session</i>— 1. A provisional annual conference shall be organized with the same provisions for a conference session as an annual conference insofar as they are considered applicable by the bishop in charge.</p> <p>2. The bishop in charge may appoint a superintendent to whom may be committed specific responsibility as liaison to the General Board of Global Ministries.</p> <p>3. In a provisional annual conference receiving major funding from the General Board of Global Ministries, the assigned staff of the board shall provide consultation and guidance in setting up the annual budget and Advance projects within the conference, aiming to increase self-support.</p> <p>4. A provisional annual conference shall elect one clergy and one layperson as delegates to the General Conference. Delegates to central conferences shall be elected in accordance with ¶ 513.1.</p> <p>>VII: —< GBOD ¶ 544.1 = new; 544.2=582.1; 544.3=582.3; 544.4=582.4</p>	<p>[582] ¶ 544. <u><i>Conference Session—Organization</i></u>—A provisional annual conference shall be organized in the same manner and have the same powers and functions as an annual conference, subject to the approval of the presiding bishop; and its members shall share <i>pro rata</i> in the proceeds of The United Methodist Publishing House with members of the annual conferences, with the following exceptions:[→GBOD542.2]</p> <p>1. A provisional annual conference shall be organized with the same provisions for a conference session as an annual conference insofar as they are considered applicable by the bishop in charge.</p> <p>2.1. The bishop in charge having episcopal supervision of a provisional annual conference in a foreign or a home mission field may appoint a representative as superintendent; to whom may be committed specific responsibility as liaison to for the representation of the General Board of Global Ministries, in its relation to the indigenous church and also in cooperation with other recognized evangelical missions. Such duties shall be exercised so as not to interfere with the work of the district superintendent. This superintendent may also be a district superintendent, provided the superintendent is a member of the said conference. The superintendent shall be responsible directly to the bishop appointed to administer the work in</p>	

that episcopal area and shall make adequate reports of the work and needs of the field to the bishop and to the secretaries of the General Board of Global Ministries immediately concerned.

2. A provisional annual conference shall meet annually at the time appointed by the bishop. If there is no bishop present, the superintendent shall preside. In the absence of both, the presidency shall be determined as in an annual conference (§ 603.6). The conference or a committee thereof shall select the place for holding the conference.

3. In a provisional annual conference receiving major funding from the General Board of Global Ministries, the assigned staff of the board shall provide consultation and guidance in setting up the annual budget and Advance projects within the conference, aiming to increase self-support, and in the promotion of new mission projects. The conference, in making requests for appropriations for support, including grants and loans for building projects, shall submit to the General Board of Global Ministries a statement of the proposed annual budget and proposed financial plan for new mission and building plans. Items involving increased appropriations from the General Board of Global Ministries or increased askings from the Advance shall be subject to modifications by the General Board of Global Ministries.

4. A provisional annual conference shall elect one ordained minister and one layperson as delegates with full voting and other rights to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional conference. Delegates to central conferences shall be elected in accordance with GBOD § 541.1 513.1.

[583] GBOD544.001. *Board of Global Ministries* In a provisional annual conference in the United States or the Virgin Islands, there shall be a conference board of

§ 583 is no longer needed as there are no provisional annual conferences in these

	<p>global ministries constituted as in an annual conference and having the same duties and powers.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	territories
<p>Section VII. District Conferences</p> <p>¶ 551. <i>District Conferences</i>— Each central conference shall establish provisions for organizing within annual conferences District Conferences, district administrative structures, and district agencies, or delegate such power to the annual conferences within its boundaries. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>.</p> <p>>VII: 551.001-551.007<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 551 = new, cf. 658+659.1</p>	<p>Section VII.X. The District Conferences</p> <p>Upon approval of the annual conference, the term <i>subdistrict</i> may be used in the references to district in ¶¶ 658-672.</p> <p>[new; cf. 658+659.1] ¶ 551 <i>District Conferences</i>— <u>Each central conference shall establish provisions for organizing within annual conferences District Conferences, district administrative structures, and district agencies, or delegate such power to the annual conferences within its boundaries. Jurisdictional conferences shall follow the procedures in Part VII of the <i>Discipline</i>.</u></p> <p>>VII: 551.001-551.007<</p>	
<p>Section VIII. Missions</p> <p>¶ 561. <i>Purpose</i> -1. The purpose of a mission is to provide and develop ministry with a particular group or region whose potential and need cannot be met within the existing structures and resources of annual or district conference(s). A mission may also be the initial stage in moving toward the formation of a provisional annual conference.</p> <p>2. In accordance with the Wesleyan ecumenical spirit, in all phases of mission development, the initiating United Methodist entities will consult with, and where possible create cooperative relationships with Wesleyan communions. They will promote relationships with other denominations serving in the area, and with interdenominational and ecumenical organizations. Where appropriate, they will engage in dialogue with</p>	<p>Section VIII. Missions</p> <p>[590] ¶ 561 <i>Purpose</i>-1. The purpose of a mission is to provide and develop ministry with a particular group or region whose potential and needs cannot be met within the existing structures and resources of annual or district conference(s). A mission may also be the initial stage in moving toward the formation of a provisional annual conference.</p> <p>2. In accordance with the Wesleyan ecumenical spirit, in all phases of mission development, the initiating United Methodist entities will consult with, and where possible create cooperative relationships with, Wesleyan communions. They will promote relationships with other denominations serving in the area, and with interdenominational and ecumenical organizations. Where appropriate, they will engage in dialogue with</p>	

interfaith agencies and organizations. >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 561 = 590	interfaith agencies and organizations. <u>>VII: —<</u>	
<p>¶ 562. <i>Powers and Duties</i>— 1. A mission is an organizational body for a field of work inside, outside, or across the structures of annual conferences, or provisional annual conferences.</p> <p>2. A mission may be established by the General Board of Global Ministries, or by a central or annual conference in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries.</p> <p>3. The boundaries for a mission established by a central or annual conference(s) in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries are to be determined by the central or annual conference(s) and the General Board of Global Ministries. If a mission is established by the General Board of Global Ministries outside territories of a central or provisional central conference, the General Board of Global Ministries will establish the boundaries.</p> <p>4.a) When the mission lies within the bounds of one episcopal area, the resident bishop shall preside over the mission.</p> <p>b) When the mission crosses the boundaries of one or more episcopal areas, central or jurisdictional conferences, the College(s) of Bishops, in consultation with the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, shall assign a bishop to the mission.</p> <p>c) When the mission lies outside the bounds of an established episcopal area in central or jurisdictional conferences, the Council of Bishops, in consultation with the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, will assign a bishop to be its presiding officer.</p> <p>5. The entity or entities establishing a mission, in collaboration with the assigned bishop will seek a cooperative agreement with an annual conference which</p>	<p>[591] ¶ 562. <i>Powers and Duties</i>—1. A mission is an organizational body for a field of work inside, outside, or across the structures of annual conferences, or provisional annual conferences.</p> <p>2. A mission may be established by the General Board of Global Ministries, or by a central or annual conference in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries.</p> <p>3. The boundaries for a mission established by a central or annual conference(s) in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries are to be determined by the central or annual conference(s) and the General Board of Global Ministries. If a mission is established by the General Board of Global Ministries outside territories of <u>a central or provisional central</u> conferences, the General Board of Global Ministries will establish the boundaries.</p> <p>4.(a) When the mission lies within the bounds of one episcopal area, the resident bishop shall preside over the mission.</p> <p>(b) When the mission crosses the boundaries of one or more episcopal areas, <u>central or jurisdictional jurisdictions, or central</u> conferences, the College(s) of Bishops, in consultation with the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, shall assign a bishop to the mission.</p> <p>(c) When the mission lies outside the bounds of an established episcopal area in <u>central or jurisdictional jurisdictions or central</u> conferences, the Council of Bishops, in consultation with the general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, will assign a bishop to be its presiding officer.</p>	

<p>will serve as the correspondent annual conference to the mission for the purposes of ordination and conference membership as well as for local pastor licensing.</p> <p>6. The annual meeting of the mission shall have the power to certify candidates for the ordained ministry, to receive and to examine mission pastors and local elders in mission, and to recommend to an annual conference proper persons for provisional or full membership and ordination.</p> <p>7. The entity or entities initiating a mission shall be responsible for its administration and development and for making sure that the mission sets up, organizes and implements the necessary mechanisms and processes to fulfill the functions of the mission.</p> <p>8. Neither the mission nor its officers shall assume financial obligations or make financial commitments on behalf of the General Board of Global Ministries without the board's written authorization.</p> <p>9. Recommendations for a change of status of a mission shall be made by the entity or entities which established the mission.</p> <p>>VII: —< GBOD ¶ 562 = 591</p>	<p>5. The entity or entities establishing a mission, in collaboration with the assigned bishop, will seek a cooperative agreement with an annual conference which will serve as the correspondent annual conference to the mission for the purposes of ordination and conference membership as well as for local pastor licensing.</p> <p>6. The annual meeting of the mission shall have the power to certify candidates for the ordained ministry, to receive and to examine mission pastors and local elders in mission, and to recommend to an annual conference proper persons for provisional or full membership and ordination.</p> <p>7. The entity or entities initiating a mission shall be responsible for its administration and development and for making sure that the mission sets up, organizes and implements the necessary mechanisms and processes to fulfill the functions of the mission.</p> <p>8. Neither the mission nor its officers shall assume financial obligations or make financial commitments on behalf of the General Board of Global Ministries without the board's written authorization.</p> <p>9. Recommendations for a change of status of a mission shall be made by the entity or entities that established the mission.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
<p>¶ 563. <i>Membership</i> - 1. A mission shall be made up of all regularly appointed missionaries, both lay and clergy, local elders in mission, mission pastors, and other lay members. The mission shall determine the number of lay members and the method of their selection. In so doing, it shall ensure that all aspects of the mission's work are represented.³⁹</p> <p>2. In territories outside the boundaries of central or annual conferences, the bishop assigned to the mission</p>	<p>[592] ¶ 563. <i>Membership</i>—1. A mission shall be made up of all regularly appointed missionaries, both lay and clergy, local elders in mission, mission pastors, and other lay members. The mission shall determine the number of lay members and the method of their selection. In so doing, it shall ensure that all aspects of the mission's work are represented.³⁹</p> <p>2. In territories outside the boundaries of central or annual conferences, the bishop assigned to the mission</p>	

<p>and the General Board of Global Ministries recommend the educational requirements for local elders in mission and mission pastors. Such recommendations and requirements shall be approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.</p> <p>a) Local elders in mission are ordained members of the mission and are not members of an annual conference. Local elders in mission are limited in their itineration and sacramental authority to the bounds of the mission and as such are not eligible to transfer their credentials to another annual conference.</p> <p>b) Mission pastors are members of the mission without being members of an annual conference. The mission shall determine the requirements for a mission pastor in order to most effectively utilize the indigenous leadership. Mission pastors are limited in their itineration to the bounds of the mission.</p> <p>>VII: —< GBOD ¶ 563=592; ³⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 341.</p>	<p>and the General Board of Global Ministries recommend the educational requirements for local elders in mission, and mission pastors. Such recommendations and requirements shall be approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.</p> <p>a) Local elders in mission are ordained members of the mission and are not members of an annual conference. Local elders in mission are limited in their itineration and sacramental authority to the bounds of the mission and as such are not eligible to transfer their credentials to another annual conference.</p> <p>b) Mission pastors are members of the mission without being members of an annual conference. The mission shall determine the requirements for a mission pastor in order to most effectively utilize the indigenous leadership. Mission pastors are limited in their itineration to the bounds of the mission.</p> <p>>VII: —< ³⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 341.</p>	
<p>¶ 564. <i>Annual Meeting</i>— 1. A mission shall meet annually at the time and place designated by the bishop in charge, who shall preside. In the absence of the bishop, a superintendent of the mission shall preside. The presiding officer shall bring forward the regular business of the meeting and arrange the work.</p> <p>2. The assigned bishop, in consultation with the entity or entities establishing the mission, may appoint one or more superintendents of the mission.</p> <p>3. At the annual meeting, the bishop shall assign the missionaries, local elders in mission, and mission pastors to the several charges for the ensuing year; provided that transfer of missionaries related to the General Board of Global Ministries shall be completed only after</p>	<p>[593] ¶ 564. <i>Missions</i>—<i>Annual Meeting</i>—1. A mission shall meet annually at the time and place designated by the bishop in charge, who shall preside. In the absence of the bishop, a superintendent of the mission shall preside. The presiding officer shall bring forward the regular business of the meeting and arrange the work.</p> <p>2. The assigned bishop, in consultation with the entity or entities establishing <u>the</u> a-mission, may appoint one or more superintendents of the mission.</p> <p>3. At the annual meeting, the bishop shall assign the missionaries, local elders in mission, and mission pastors to the several charges for the ensuing year; provided that transfer of missionaries related to the General Board of</p>	

<p>consultation with the board.</p> <p>4. A mission related to a central conference is authorized to elect and send one lay and one clergy to the central conference as its representative, with voice but not vote.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 564 = 593</p>	<p>Global Ministries shall be completed only after consultation with the board.</p> <p>4. A mission related to a central conference is authorized to elect and send one lay and one clergy to the central conference as its representative, with voice but not vote.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
<p>Section IX. Joining The United Methodist Church</p> <p>¶ 571. <i>Joining The United Methodist Church -1.</i> A church outside the United States may join The United Methodist Church when all of the following requirements are fulfilled:</p> <p>a) Said church shall accept and approve the Constitution, Articles of Faith, <i>Discipline</i>, and polity of The United Methodist Church.</p> <p>b) Said church, if it is within the boundaries of a central or provisional central conference, shall apply for membership in that conference. Such application shall be reviewed and recommended by the central or provisional central conference. In the event that said church is not within the boundaries of an existing central or provisional central conference, then its membership application shall be reviewed and recommended by the Council of Bishops.</p> <p>c) Said church shall declare that, upon consummation of becoming an integral part of The United Methodist Church, its former constitution and church order becomes null and void.</p> <p>2. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall advise and assist said church in the process of joining The United Methodist Church and prepare the necessary enabling act for approval by the General Conference, including necessary adjustments in the organization of the central or provisional central</p>	<p>Section IX. Joining The United Methodist Church</p> <p>JOINING THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>[575] ¶ 571. <i>Joining The United Methodist Church-</i></p> <p>1. A church outside the United States may join The United Methodist Church when all of the following requirements are fulfilled:</p> <p>a)1. Said church shall accept and approve the Constitution, Articles of Faith, <i>Discipline</i>, and polity of The United Methodist Church.</p> <p>b)2. Said church, if it is within the boundaries of a central or provisional central conference, shall apply for membership in that conference. Such application shall be <u>reviewed and recommended</u> approved by the central or provisional central conference and by the General Conference. In the event that said church is not within the boundaries of an existing central or provisional conference, then its membership application shall be reviewed <u>and recommended</u> by the Council of Bishops. and shall be approved by the General Conference.</p> <p>c)3. Said church shall declare <u>that, upon consummation of becoming an integral part of The United Methodist Church,</u> its own constitution and church order <u>becomes</u> null and void.</p> <p>2.4. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall advise and assist said church in <u>their</u> process <u>of joining The United Methodist Church</u> and prepare the necessary enabling act for approval by the</p>	

<p>conferences. >VII: —< GBOD ¶ 571.1 = 575Intro+.1-3; 571.2=575.4-5</p>	<p>General Conference, <u>including</u> :- 5. The General Conference shall approve legislation authorizing the necessary adjustments in the organization of the central or provisional central conferences involved. In the event that said church is not within the boundaries of an existing central or provisional central conference, then legislation shall be approved to either change boundaries of a contiguous conference or to establish a new central or provisional central conference. 6. The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall assist said church in the process of becoming a part of The United Methodist Church, determine when all requirements are met, and report to the General Conference.</p> <p>>VII: —<</p>	
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