

New Part VII
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Chapter One
THE LOCAL CHURCH

<p style="text-align: center;">GBOD new Part VII, chap. 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finalized draft; renumbered</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GBOD new Part VII, chap. 1</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. [2703]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comments</p>
<p>¶ 205.001- In the definition of a Pastoral Charge according to ¶ 205.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A pastoral charge of two or more churches may be designated a circuit or a cooperative parish. 2. A pastoral charge may be designated by the bishop and cabinet as a “teaching parish” when either a local church with a pastor or a cooperative parish with a director is available to serve as a counseling elder for a provisional, local, or student pastor appointed or assigned to the teaching parish. A teaching parish shall have a demonstrable commitment to a cooperative or team ministry style and the training of pastors. <p>GBOD ¶ 205.001=205.2 and 205.3</p>	<p>¶ 205.001- <u>In the definition of a Pastoral Charge according to ¶ 205.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[205.2] <u>1.</u> A pastoral charge of two or more churches may be designated a circuit or a cooperative parish.</p> <p>[205.3] <u>2.</u> A pastoral charge may be designated by the bishop and cabinet as a “teaching parish” when either a local church with a pastor or a cooperative parish with a director is available to serve as a counseling elder for a provisional, local, or student pastor appointed or assigned to the teaching parish. A teaching parish shall have a demonstrable commitment to a cooperative or team ministry style and the training of pastors.</p>	
<p>¶ 205.002 – In an assignment of a lay person according to ¶ 205.2. the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>When a pastoral charge is not able to be served by an ordained or licensed minister, the bishop, upon recommendation of the cabinet, may assign a qualified and trained layperson, lay minister or lay missionary to do the work of ministry in that charge.</p>	<p>¶ 205.002 – <u>In an assignment of a lay person according to ¶ 205.2. the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[205.4] When a pastoral charge is not able to be served by an ordained or licensed minister, the bishop, upon recommendation of the cabinet, may assign a qualified and trained layperson, lay minister or lay missionary to do the work of ministry in that charge.</p>	

<p>The layperson assigned is accountable to the district superintendent or another ordained or licensed minister appointed to over- see the charge, who will make provision for sacramental ministry. Upon the bishop’s assignment, the layperson will be assigned an additional clergyperson as a guide to provide support in the assignment. If the assignment is to continue longer than one year, within that year the layperson will begin the process of becoming either a certified lay minister or a certified candidate, thus coming under the care of the District Committee on Ministry.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 205.002=205.4</p>	<p>The layperson assigned is accountable to the district superintendent or another ordained or licensed minister appointed to over- see the charge, who will make provision for sacramental ministry. Upon the bishop’s assignment, the layperson will be assigned an additional clergyperson as a guide to provide support in the assignment. If the assignment is to continue longer than one year, within that year the layperson will begin the process of becoming either a certified lay minister or a certified candidate, thus coming under the care of the District Committee on Ministry.</p>	
<p>¶ 208.001 – In Baptism and Professing Membership according to ¶ 208.2. the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. <i>a)</i> Baptized infants and children are to be instructed and nurtured using materials approved by The United Methodist Church.</p> <p><i>b)</i> Youth and adults shall be instructed for baptism using materials approved by The United Methodist Church for that purpose.</p> <p>2. Preparation for the experience of profession of faith and confirmation shall be provided for all people, including adults. Youth who are completing the sixth grade shall normally be the youngest people recruited for such preparation. When younger people, of their own volition, seek enrollment in preparation for profession of faith and confirmation, such preparation shall be at the discretion of the pastor.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 208.001=216.1 and 216.3</p>	<p>¶ 208.001 – <u>In Baptism and Professing Membership according to ¶ 208.2. the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[216.1] <i>1a)</i> Baptized infants and children are to be instructed and nurtured using materials approved by The United Methodist Church.</p> <p><i>1b)</i> Youth and adults shall be instructed for baptism using materials approved by The United Methodist Church for that purpose.</p> <p>[216.3] <u>2.</u> Preparation for the experience of profession of faith and confirmation shall be provided for all people, including adults. Youth who are completing the sixth grade shall normally be the youngest people recruited for such preparation. When younger people, of their own volition, seek enrollment in preparation for profession of faith and confirmation, such preparation shall be at the discretion of the pastor.</p>	
<p>¶ 213.001. In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Servant:</p> <p>1. A certified lay servant is a professing member of a local</p>	<p>¶ 213.001. <u>In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Servant:</u></p> <p>[266]. <i>Certified Lay Servant</i>-1. A certified lay servant is a</p>	

church or charge, or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting, who desires to serve the Church and who knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church and who has received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry.

2. The certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in ways in which his or her witness, leadership, and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The certified lay servant, through continued study and training, should prepare to undertake one or more of the following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church or charge, United Methodist collegiate ministry, or other United Methodist ministry setting:

a) Provide leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church or other United Methodist ministry.

b) Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

c) Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

d) Work with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries.

e) Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion upon request by a pastor.

f) Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

professing member of a local church or charge, or a baptized participant of a recognized United Methodist collegiate ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting, who desires to serve the Church and who knows and is committed to Scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church and who has received specific training to witness to the Christian faith through spoken communication, to lead within a church and community, and to provide caring ministry.

2. The certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in ways in which his or her witness, leadership, and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The certified lay servant, through continued study and training, should prepare to undertake one or more of the following functions, giving primary attention to service within the local church or charge, United Methodist collegiate ministry, or other United Methodist ministry setting:

a) Provide leadership, assistance, and support to the program emphases of the church or other United Methodist ministry.

b) Lead meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

c) Conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries.

d) Work with appropriate committees and teams which provide congregational and community leadership or foster caring ministries.

e) Assist in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion upon request by a pastor.

f) Teach the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

3. One may be recognized as a certified lay servant by the district or conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries after he or she has:

a) Obtained recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.

b) Completed the Lay Servant Ministries BASIC course.

c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course.

d) Applied to and had qualifications reviewed by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3).

4. Recognition as a certified lay servant may be renewed annually by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay servant has:

a) Submitted an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant.

b) Obtained recommendation for renewal from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.

c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years.

5. A certified lay servant may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous district's committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶266.5

6. It is recommended that a service of commitment be held for persons recognized as certified lay servants.

3. One may be recognized as a certified lay servant by the district or conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries after he or she has:

a) Obtained recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.

b) Completed the Lay Servant Ministries BASIC course.

c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course.

d) Applied to and had qualifications reviewed by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure (See ¶668.3).

4. Recognition as a certified lay servant may be renewed annually by the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay servant has:

a) Submitted an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay servant.

b) Obtained recommendation for renewal from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.

c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years.

5. A certified lay servant may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous district's committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶266.5

6. It is recommended that a service of commitment be held for persons recognized as certified lay servants.

<p>7. Lay Servant Ministries courses shall be those recommended by the General Board of Discipleship or alternative advanced courses approved by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries. Courses should be inclusive of language and cultural groups as relevant to the context. Lay Servant Ministries courses are open to all, whether or not a participant desires recognition as a certified lay servant.</p> <p>8. A certified lay servant is a volunteer but an honorarium for pulpit supply is appropriate.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 213.001=266</p>	<p>7. Lay Servant Ministries courses shall be those recommended by the General Board of Discipleship or alternative advanced courses approved by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries. Courses should be inclusive of language and cultural groups as relevant to the context. Lay Servant Ministries courses are open to all, whether or not a participant desires recognition as a certified lay servant.</p> <p>8. A certified lay servant is a volunteer but an honorarium for pulpit supply is appropriate.</p>	
<p>¶ 213.002. In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Speaker:</p> <p>1. A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant whose call has been affirmed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with ¶ 341.1.</p> <p>2. The certified lay speaker serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with ¶ 341.1.</p> <p>3. One may be certified as a lay speaker after he or she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Been certified as a lay servant. b) Obtained recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership. c) Completed a track of study including courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage and polity, and/or other courses as determined by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure. d) Interviewed with and obtained recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, to be submitted to the conference 	<p>¶ 213.002. <u>In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Speaker:</u></p> <p>[267]—Certified Lay Speaker—1. A certified lay speaker is a certified lay servant whose call has been affirmed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure to serve the church in pulpit supply in accordance and compliance with ¶ 341.1.</p> <p>2. The certified lay speaker serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on Lay Servant Ministries, in accordance and compliance with ¶ 341.1.</p> <p>3. One may be certified as a lay speaker after he or she has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Been certified as a lay servant. b) Obtained recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership. c) Completed a track of study including courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, United Methodist heritage and polity, and/or other courses as determined by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure. d) Interviewed with and obtained recommendation from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, to be submitted to the conference 	

<p>committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for approval and certification.</p> <p>4. Recognition as a certified lay speaker may be renewed annually by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay speaker has:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Submitted an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay speaker.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Obtained recommendation for continued recognition as a certified lay speaker from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d) In the last three years, interviewed with and obtained recommendation for renewal as a certified lay speaker from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, and the approval of the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure for re-certification.</p> <p>5. A certified lay speaker may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous district's committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶ 267.5.</p> <p>6. A certified lay speaker is a volunteer but an honorarium is appropriate.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 213.002=267</p>	<p>committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for approval and certification.</p> <p>4. Recognition as a certified lay speaker may be renewed annually by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay speaker has:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Submitted an annual report and renewal application to the charge conference or church council and to the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay speaker.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Obtained recommendation for continued recognition as a certified lay speaker from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church or other United Methodist ministry in which he or she holds membership.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">c) Completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course in the last three years.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d) In the last three years, interviewed with and obtained recommendation for renewal as a certified lay speaker from the district committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, and the approval of the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure for re-certification.</p> <p>5. A certified lay speaker may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous district's committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶ 267.5.</p> <p>6. A certified lay speaker is a volunteer but an honorarium is appropriate.</p>	
<p>¶ 213.003. In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Minister:</p> <p>1. A certified lay minister is a certified lay servant, certified lay</p>	<p>¶ 213.003. <u>In Lay Servant Ministries according to GBOD ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Certified Lay Minister:</u></p> <p>[268]—Certified Lay Minister—1. A certified lay minister is a</p>	

missioner, who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶ 419.2.

2. The certified lay minister serves to enhance the quality of ministry much like a class leader did in early Methodism through service in the local church, circuit or cooperative parish, or by expanding team ministry in other churches and charges. As with lay ministry in early Methodism, the certified lay minister uses his or her spiritual gifts as evidence of God's grace.

3. One may be recognized by the conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, as a certified lay minister after he or she has:

- a) been certified as a lay servant, lay missionary;
- b) obtained written recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership;
- c) completed a track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment as defined by the General Board of Discipleship, or the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in collaboration with the General Board of Discipleship, and the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure;
- d) received a letter of recommendation from his or her district superintendent;
- e) had all requirements for certification, including appropriate screening and assessment as defined by the annual conference, reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be certified lay

certified lay servant, certified lay missionary, who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶ 419.2.

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- a) been certified as a lay servant, lay missionary;
- b) obtained written recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership;
- c) completed a track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment as defined by the General Board of Discipleship, or the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in collaboration with the General Board of Discipleship, and the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure;
- d) received a letter of recommendation from his or her district superintendent;
- e) had all requirements for certification, including appropriate screening and assessment as defined by the annual conference, reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be certified lay

ministers and to make recommendation for certification (see ¶ 666.10). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the candidate, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final certification by that committee.

4. Recognition as a certified lay minister may be renewed every two years by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay minister has:

a) submitted an annual report to the charge conference or church council where membership is held and to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay minister;

b) obtained a ministry review by the committee on pastor-parish relations, church council, or charge conference from the congregation of which he or she is a member, or when under assignment, from the committee on pastor-parish relations, charge conference, or supervisory board of the ministry setting in which he or she is assigned;

c) completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course or approved continuing education event, as defined by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure in the last two years;

d) obtained recommendation for recertification from the district superintendent;

e) had all requirements for recertification reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be renewed as certified lay ministers and to make recommendations for recertification (see ¶ 666.11). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the certified lay minister, the district committee on ordained ministry will

ministers and to make recommendation for certification (see ¶ 666.10). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the candidate, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final certification by that committee.

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a) submitted an annual report to the charge conference or church council where membership is held and to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay minister;

b) obtained a ministry review by the committee on pastor-parish relations, church council, or charge conference from the congregation of which he or she is a member, or when under assignment, from the committee on pastor-parish relations, charge conference, or supervisory board of the ministry setting in which he or she is assigned;

c) completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course or approved continuing education event, as defined by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure in the last two years;

d) obtained recommendation for recertification from the district superintendent;

e) had all requirements for recertification reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be renewed as certified lay ministers and to make recommendations for recertification (see ¶ 666.11). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the certified lay minister, the district committee on ordained ministry will

<p>make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final recertification by that committee.</p> <p>5. A certified lay minister may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶ 268.4.</p> <p>6. A certified lay minister is not eligible for support by equitable compensation funds or pension funds that are provided for clergy. If a certified lay minister is a lay staff member of a church, circuit or cooperative parish, the local congregation is encouraged to provide compensation and withhold taxes appropriate to a layperson.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 213.003=268</p>	<p>make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final recertification by that committee.</p> <p>5. A certified lay minister may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶ 268.4.</p> <p>6. A certified lay minister is not eligible for support by equitable compensation funds or pension funds that are provided for clergy. If a certified lay minister is a lay staff member of a church, circuit or cooperative parish, the local congregation is encouraged to provide compensation and withhold taxes appropriate to a layperson.</p>	
<p>¶ 213.004. In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Lay Missioner: Lay missionaries are committed laypersons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and to work together as a ministry team with their pastor-mentor, in order to develop and lead faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension programs, and engage in congregational development with and into the local community. Lay missionaries are formed according to, and follow the guidelines established by, the National Committee of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, working in conjunction with the annual conference. They are certified jointly by their annual conference and the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. The ministry team is supported by and accountable to the local congregation, district or annual conference entity that assigns it to its mission. The concept of</p>	<p>¶ 213.004. <u>In Lay Servant Ministries according to ¶ 213 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the category of a Lay Missioner:</u> [269]—Lay Missioner—Lay missionaries are committed laypersons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and to work together as a ministry team with their pastor-mentor, in order to develop and lead faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension programs, and engage in congregational development with and into the local community. Lay missionaries are formed according to, and follow the guidelines established by, the National Committee of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, working in conjunction with the annual conference. They are certified jointly by their annual conference and the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. The ministry team is supported by and accountable to the local congregation, district or annual conference entity that assigns it to its mission. The concept of the lay missionary is based</p>	

the lay missionary is based theologically on the ministry of the laity, in order to complement the work of the pastor.¹

A certified lay missionary shall be equivalent to a certified lay servant in the processes of certification as a lay minister (§ 268.3-6); and the Module I-Module II formational sequence and Module IIIs for continuing education of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry shall be equivalent to the track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment, and the advanced course or approved continuing education events described therein.

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 693.

GBOD § 213.004=269

§ 214.001. In membership records according to § 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for admission into the Church for non-local church settings:

Duly appointed clergy of The United Methodist Church, while serving as chaplain of any organization, institution, or military unit, as an extension minister, or as a campus minister, or while otherwise present where a local church is not available, may receive a person into the membership of The United Methodist Church under the conditions of § 216 or § 217. Where possible, before the sacrament of baptism or vows of profession of faith are administered, such appointed minister shall consult with the pastor of the local church (should one be nearby) on the choice of the person concerned; and upon agreement by the pastor, a statement verifying that such sacrament was administered or that such vows were made shall be issued. The pastor thereof on receiving such statement shall duly enroll that person as a baptized or professing member.

GBOD § 2144.001 = 222

theologically on the ministry of the laity, in order to complement the work of the pastor.¹

A certified lay missionary shall be equivalent to a certified lay servant in the processes of certification as a lay minister (§ 268.3-6); and the Module I-Module II formational sequence and Module IIIs for continuing education of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry shall be equivalent to the track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment, and the advanced course or approved continuing education events described therein.

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 693.

§ 214.001. In membership records according to GBOD § 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for admission into the Church for non-local church settings:

~~[222] Non-Local Church Settings~~—Duly appointed clergy of The United Methodist Church, while serving as chaplain of any organization, institution, or military unit, as an extension minister, or as a campus minister, or while otherwise present where a local church is not available, may receive a person into the membership of The United Methodist Church under the conditions of § 216 or § 217. Where possible, before the sacrament of baptism or vows of profession of faith are administered, such appointed minister shall consult with the pastor of the local church (should one be nearby) on the choice of the person concerned; and upon agreement by the pastor, a statement verifying that such sacrament was administered or that such vows were made shall be issued. The pastor thereof on receiving such statement shall duly enroll that person as a baptized or professing member.

¶ 214.002. In membership records according to ¶ 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the General Church Membership Roll:

When a person is baptized or professes his or her Christian faith and is received into the Church by a duly appointed campus minister, a chaplain endorsed by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry or other duly appointed clergy of The United Methodist Church, while serving as a chaplain of any organization, institution, or military unit, or as an extension minister, or while otherwise present where a local church is not available, and said person has no local church to which the membership and records may be sent, the clergy shall send the name, address (if there is one), and related facts to the General Board of Higher Education for recording on the General Church Membership Roll. It is desirable that as soon as possible such people be transferred from the General Church Membership Roll to the membership record of the local United Methodist church of their choice. The name of any professing member who has been on the General Church Membership Roll for more than eight years and for whom a current mailing address cannot be obtained shall be removed from the General Church Membership Roll.

GBOD ¶ 214.002=223

¶ 214.002. In membership records according to ¶ 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the General Church Membership Roll:

~~[223]—General Church Membership Roll—~~When a person is baptized or professes his or her Christian faith and is received into the Church by a duly appointed campus minister, a chaplain endorsed by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry or other duly appointed clergy of The United Methodist Church, while serving as a chaplain of any organization, institution, or military unit, or as an extension minister, or while otherwise present where a local church is not available, and said person has no local church to which the membership and records may be sent, the clergy shall send the name, address (if there is one), and related facts to the General Board of Higher Education for recording on the General Church Membership Roll. It is desirable that as soon as possible such people be transferred from the General Church Membership Roll to the membership record of the local United Methodist church of their choice. The name of any professing member who has been on the General Church Membership Roll for more than eight years and for whom a current mailing address cannot be obtained shall be removed from the General Church Membership Roll.

¶ 214.003. In membership records according to ¶ 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Membership Outside of Congregational Settings:

Any candidate for church membership who for good reason is unable to appear before the congregation may, at the discretion of the pastor, be received elsewhere in accordance with the Ritual of The United Methodist Church. In any such case lay members should be present to represent the congregation. Names of such persons shall be placed on the church roll, and announcement of their reception shall be made to the congregation.

¶ 214.003. In membership records according to ¶ 214 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Membership Outside of Congregational Settings:

~~[224]—Outside of Congregational Settings—~~Any candidate for church membership who for good reason is unable to appear before the congregation may, at the discretion of the pastor, be received elsewhere in accordance with the Ritual of The United Methodist Church. In any such case lay members should be present to represent the congregation. Names of such persons shall be placed on the church roll, and announcement of their reception shall be made to the congregation.

<p>GBOD ¶ 214.003=224</p>		
<p>¶ 217.001. In Accountability according to ¶ 217 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the event that those efforts fail, then the professing member and the local church may agree to voluntary mediation in which the parties are assisted by a trained, neutral third-party mediator, mediation team, and/or their district superintendent in reaching a settlement or agreement satisfactory to all parties. 2. In the further event that those efforts fail to effect reconciliation and reaffirmation of the vows and covenant of ¶ 217 by the professing member, then the professing members of the church may pursue the procedures set forth in ¶¶ 2702.3, 2706.5, and 2714. <p>GBOD ¶ 217.001=221</p>	<p><u>[221] ¶ 217.001. In Accountability according to ¶ 217 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[221.4] <u>1.</u> In the event that those efforts fail, then the professing member and the local church may agree to voluntary mediation in which the parties are assisted by a trained, neutral third-party mediator, mediation team, and/or their district superintendent in reaching a settlement or agreement satisfactory to all parties.</p> <p>[221.5] <u>2.</u> In the further event that those efforts fail to effect reconciliation and reaffirmation of the vows and covenant of ¶ 217 by the professing member, then the professing members of the church may pursue the procedures set forth in ¶¶ 2702.3, 2706.5, and 2714.</p>	
<p>¶ 218.001. In regards to ¶ 218.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Annual Report of Members Attending Colleges and Universities</i>—The pastor shall report annually the names and contact information for professing and baptized members attending colleges and universities to the district superintendent, the chairperson of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry by one month before the start of the school term and to the charge conference. The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has the responsibility to share the information with the appropriate UM-related campus ministries. 2. Members whose names are removed from professing member status for cause (see ¶ 2714), or who have been transferred, have died, or have withdrawn shall be so noted on the membership record. It shall be the duty of the pastor of the charge or of the membership secretary to keep an accurate record of such changes and reasons and to report them to the charge conference annually. 	<p>¶ 218.001. <u>In regards to ¶ 218.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented.</u></p> <p><u>[232] 1.</u> <i>Annual Report of Members Attending Colleges and Universities</i>—The pastor shall report annually the names and contact information for professing and baptized members attending colleges and universities to the district superintendent, the chairperson of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry by one month before the start of the school term and to the charge conference. The Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has the responsibility to share the information with the appropriate UM-related campus ministries.</p> <p>[235] <u>2.</u> Members whose names are removed from professing member status for cause (see ¶ 2714), or who have been transferred, have died, or have withdrawn shall be so noted on the membership record. It shall be the duty of the pastor of the charge or of the membership secretary to keep an accurate record of such changes and reasons and to report them to the charge conference annually.</p>	

<p>3. <i>Membership Secretary</i>-The charge conference shall name a membership secretary who, under the direction of the pastor, shall keep accurate records of the membership and shall report at least annually to the church council.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 218.001=232, 235, 234</p>	<p>[234] <u>3. <i>Membership Secretary</i></u>-The charge conference shall name a membership secretary who, under the direction of the pastor, shall keep accurate records of the membership and shall report at least annually to the church council.</p>	
<p>¶ 218.002. In regards to ¶ 218.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Permanent Records:</p> <p>1. The basic membership records in each local church shall consist of: a permanent church register and a card index, a loose-leaf book, or a membership record on an electronic information system. All baptism, membership, marriage, and funeral records are the property of the local church and cannot be sold. If the church is discontinued, these records are placed in the care of the Conference Commission on Archives and History.</p> <p>2. The permanent church register shall be kept on either paper-based or electronic media. If it is on a paper medium, it shall be a volume of durable material prepared by The United Methodist Publishing House. The format and content of the record forms contained in it and the manner of its binding shall be as approved by a committee designated by the General Council on Finance and Administration (see ¶ 807.14). If on a paper medium, the names shall be recorded chronologically as each person is received into the fellowship of that church and without reference to alphabetical order. The names shall be numbered in regular numerical order, and the number of each shall appear on the corresponding card, page, or record in the card index, loose-leaf book, or electronic information system membership record. If it is on an electronic medium, it will not be necessary to maintain a chronological number. The number that is assigned automatically by the computer system is sufficient for this purpose. However, the electronic medium shall meet the following criteria:</p> <p>a) It shall contain all of the information required by the</p>	<p>¶ 218.002. <u>In regards to ¶ 218.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Permanent Records:</u></p> <p>[233]—Permanent Records— <u>1.</u> The basic membership records in each local church shall consist of: a permanent church register and a card index, a loose-leaf book, or a membership record on an electronic information system. All baptism, membership, marriage, and funeral records are the property of the local church and cannot be sold. If the church is discontinued, these records are placed in the care of the Conference Commission on Archives and History.</p> <p><u>2.</u> The permanent church register shall be kept on either paper-based or electronic media. If it is on a paper medium, it shall be a volume of durable material prepared by The United Methodist Publishing House. The format and content of the record forms contained in it and the manner of its binding shall be as approved by a committee designated by the General Council on Finance and Administration (see ¶ 807.14). If on a paper medium, the names shall be recorded chronologically as each person is received into the fellowship of that church and without reference to alphabetical order. The names shall be numbered in regular numerical order, and the number of each shall appear on the corresponding card, page, or record in the card index, loose-leaf book, or electronic information system membership record. If it is on an electronic medium, it will not be necessary to maintain a chronological number. The number that is assigned automatically by the computer system is sufficient for this purpose. However, the electronic medium shall meet the following criteria:</p>	

<p>General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>b) Conversion of the information from paper records to an electronic medium shall be followed by a complete audit to ensure the accuracy of the converted records.</p> <p>c) Off-site storage and electronic backup shall be maintained.</p> <p>3. The card index, loose-leaf book, or electronic system membership record shall be kept on a form approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration or, in the case of electronically maintained records, shall contain the same information as required in the approved form with the exception of the sequential number. This record of membership shall be filed in alphabetical order and shall show the number appearing opposite each name on the permanent register. The pastor shall report annually to the annual conference the total professing membership of the local church as shown on the membership records.</p> <p>4. When an electronic information system is used for record keeping, printout copies of the membership records and backup electronic media shall be retained in a secure off-site place.</p> <p>5. Each local church, as it creates or maintains computerized information and data, is strongly encouraged to confer with its annual conference for recommendations and guidelines as it relates to information technology.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 218.002=233, 245</p>	<p>a) It shall contain all of the information required by the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>b) Conversion of the information from paper records to an electronic medium shall be followed by a complete audit to ensure the accuracy of the converted records.</p> <p>c) Off-site storage and electronic backup shall be maintained.</p> <p>3. 2. The card index, loose-leaf book, or electronic system membership record shall be kept on a form approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration or, in the case of electronically maintained records, shall contain the same information as required in the approved form with the exception of the sequential number. This record of membership shall be filed in alphabetical order and shall show the number appearing opposite each name on the permanent register. The pastor shall report annually to the annual conference the total professing membership of the local church as shown on the membership records.</p> <p>4.3. When an electronic information system is used for record keeping, printout copies of the membership records and backup electronic media shall be retained in a secure off-site place.</p> <p>[245] <u>5.</u> Each local church, as it creates or maintains computerized information and data, is strongly encouraged to confer with its annual conference for recommendations and guidelines as it relates to information technology.</p>	
<p>¶ 219.001. In regards to ¶ 219.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for membership records:</p> <p>a) The pastor shall be responsible for seeing that the membership secretary adds the full name of the baptized child to the membership record.</p> <p>b) When the baptized child lives in a community not served by the pastor who administers the sacrament of baptism, the pastor shall ensure this is not a private event (that the body of Christ beyond the immediate family is present in accordance</p>	<p>¶ 219.001. <u>In regards to ¶ 219.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for membership records:</u></p> <p>[226.2b-e] a) b) The pastor shall be responsible for seeing that the membership secretary adds the full name of the baptized child to the membership record.</p> <p>b) e) When the baptized child lives in a community not served by the pastor who administers the sacrament of baptism, the pastor shall ensure this is not a private event (that the body of Christ beyond the immediate family is present in accordance</p>	.

<p>with ¶ 224 of the <i>Discipline</i>), and is responsible for contacting in advance (where possible) and reporting the baptism to a pastor and/or district superintendent who serves in the area where the baptized child lives. The pastor administering the sacrament shall then be responsible for reporting in writing to that pastor or district superintendent the child's name to be entered on the record of a church in that location.</p> <p>c) A pastor of a church who receives notification of a baptism administered elsewhere shall be responsible for entering the required information on that church's record and for notifying the pastor who administered the baptism that the child has been received by transfer. When the pastor of the church in which the child is baptized receives written confirmation that the child's name has been entered on the membership record of another church, a notation may be made on the record of the church where the sacrament was administered that the child has been transferred to another church.</p> <p>d) The pastor shall, at the time of administering the sacrament of baptism and at other appropriate times, admonish members of the congregation of their responsibility for the Christian nurture of the child.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 219.001=226.2b-e</p>	<p>with BOD¶ 224 of the <i>Book of Discipline</i>), and is responsible for contacting in advance (where possible) and reporting the baptism to a pastor and/or district superintendent who serves in the area where the baptized child lives. The pastor administering the sacrament shall then be responsible for reporting in writing to that pastor or district superintendent the child's name to be entered on the record of a church in that location.</p> <p>c) A pastor of a church who receives notification of a baptism administered elsewhere shall be responsible for entering the required information on that church's record and for notifying the pastor who administered the baptism that the child has been received by transfer. When the pastor of the church in which the child is baptized receives written confirmation that the child's name has been entered on the membership record of another church, a notation may be made on the record of the church where the sacrament was administered that the child has been transferred to another church.</p> <p>d) The pastor shall, at the time of administering the sacrament of baptism and at other appropriate times, admonish members of the congregation of their responsibility for the Christian nurture of the child.</p>	
<p>¶ 219.002. In regards to ¶ 219.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. The number of people so identified shall be reported annually, or at such other times as may be requested, to the charge conference or the annual conference. The congregation has ongoing responsibility to nurture baptized children, youth, and adults in the life of discipleship.</p> <p>2. It shall be the duty of the pastor, the parent(s), guardian(s), sponsor(s), or godparent(s), the officers and teachers of the church school, the local church scouting coordinator, and all members of the congregation to provide</p>	<p>¶ 219.002. <u>In regards to ¶ 219.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[226.3-5] <u>1.</u> The number of people so identified shall be reported annually, or at such other times as may be requested, to the charge conference or the annual conference. The congregation has ongoing responsibility to nurture baptized children, youth, and adults in the life of discipleship.</p> <p>2.4. It shall be the duty of the pastor, the parent(s), guardian(s), sponsor(s), or godparent(s), the officers and teachers of the church school, the local church scouting coordinator, and all members of the congregation to provide</p>	

training for the children of the Church throughout their childhood that will lead to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to an understanding of the Christian faith and the meaning of baptism. Building on the preparation that youth have received throughout their childhood, the pastor shall, at least annually, organize them into classes to the end that they may profess their faith and be confirmed (§ 216). This instruction shall be based on materials produced by The United Methodist Church or on other resources that present the mission, history, doctrine, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church for this purpose. When youth so prepared shall give evidence of their own Christian faith, and understanding of the meaning and practice of membership, they may be received as professing members. The God and Me and God and Family portions of the Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) program may be available to elementary children as an additional resource (§ 256.4).

3. Youth who are members of the Church have all rights and responsibilities of membership within the baptismal covenant. (See BOD § 256.3.) It is strongly recommended that each local church offer for all senior high youth continuing instruction in the meaning of the Christian life and discipleship. It is further recommended that this course, taught by or under the guidance of the pastor, or other staff or layperson, emphasize the doctrines of The United Methodist Church and the nature and mission of the Church, leading to continued growth in the knowledge, grace, and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) program may be available to all youth, with the God and Church portion providing study of The United Methodist Church, and the God and Life program challenging the youth to integrate their faith into their daily life (§ 256.4) It shall be the responsibility of the pastor to participate in the growth process through interaction and ministry with youth.

GBOD § 219.002=226.3-5

training for the children of the Church throughout their childhood that will lead to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to an understanding of the Christian faith and the meaning of baptism. Building on the preparation that youth have received throughout their childhood, the pastor shall, at least annually, organize them into classes to the end that they may profess their faith and be confirmed (BOD § 216). This instruction shall be based on materials produced by The United Methodist Church or on other resources that present the mission, history, doctrine, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church for this purpose. When youth so prepared shall give evidence of their own Christian faith, and understanding of the meaning and practice of membership, they may be received as professing members. The God and Me and God and Family portions of the Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) program may be available to elementary children as an additional resource (§ 256.4).

~~3.5.~~ Youth who are members of the Church have all rights and responsibilities of membership within the baptismal covenant. (See § 256.3.) It is strongly recommended that each local church offer for all senior high youth continuing instruction in the meaning of the Christian life and discipleship. It is further recommended that this course, taught by or under the guidance of the pastor, or other staff or layperson, emphasize the doctrines of The United Methodist Church and the nature and mission of the Church, leading to continued growth in the knowledge, grace, and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) program may be available to all youth, with the God and Church portion providing study of The United Methodist Church, and the God and Life program challenging the youth to integrate their faith into their daily life (§ 256.4) It shall be the responsibility of the pastor to participate in the growth process through interaction and ministry with youth.

¶ 220.001. In regards to ¶ 220.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:

1. *Nonresident Members* – Nonresident members should constitute a special group to be served by correspondence. The groups shall be formed and the leaders appointed by the church council upon recommendation of the pastor.

2. *Members Who Move*-If a member of a United Methodist church shall move to another community so far removed from the home church that the member cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, this member shall be encouraged to transfer membership to a United Methodist church in the community of the newly established residence. As soon as the pastor is reliably informed of this change of residence, actual or contemplated, it shall be the pastor's duty and obligation to assist the member to become established in the fellowship of a church in the community of the future home and to send to a United Methodist pastor in such community, or to the district superintendent, a letter of notification, giving the latest known address of the person or persons concerned and requesting local pastoral oversight.

3. *Members Residing at a Distance*-When a pastor discovers a member of The United Methodist Church residing in the community whose membership is in a church so far removed from the place of residence that the member cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, it shall be the duty and obligation of the pastor to give pastoral oversight to such person and to encourage transfer of membership to a United Methodist church in the community where the member resides.

4. *Lay Missionaries in Non-United Methodist Churches*-Laypersons in service outside the United States under the General Board of Global Ministries and assigned to churches other than United Methodist may accept all the rights and privileges, including associate membership, offered them by a local church in their place of residence without impairing their relationship to their home local church.

¶ 220.001. In regards to ¶ 220.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:

[228.2a] 1. *Nonresident Members* – Nonresident members should constitute a special group to be served by correspondence. The groups shall be formed and the leaders appointed by the church council upon recommendation of the pastor.

[236] 2. *Members Who Move*-If a member of a United Methodist church shall move to another community so far removed from the home church that the member cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, this member shall be encouraged to transfer membership to a United Methodist church in the community of the newly established residence. As soon as the pastor is reliably informed of this change of residence, actual or contemplated, it shall be the pastor's duty and obligation to assist the member to become established in the fellowship of a church in the community of the future home and to send to a United Methodist pastor in such community, or to the district superintendent, a letter of notification, giving the latest known address of the person or persons concerned and requesting local pastoral oversight.

[238] 3. *Members Residing at a Distance*-When a pastor discovers a member of The United Methodist Church residing in the community whose membership is in a church so far removed from the place of residence that the member cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, it shall be the duty and obligation of the pastor to give pastoral oversight to such person and to encourage transfer of membership to a United Methodist church in the community where the member resides.

[237] 4. *Lay Missionaries in Non-United Methodist Churches*-Laypersons in service outside the United States under the General Board of Global Ministries and assigned to churches other than United Methodist may accept all the rights and privileges, including associate membership, offered them by a local church in their place of residence without impairing their

<p>GBOD ¶ 220.001=228.2, 236, 237, 238</p>	<p>relationship to their home local church.</p>	
<p>¶ 221.001. In Review in Case of Neglect according to ¶ 221 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. a) A written complaint or grievance may be filed against a professing member by serving the complaint or grievance on the professing member, the pastor of the professing member and the district superintendent of the professing member.</p> <p>b). The pastor and district superintendent of the accused professing member shall attempt a just resolution process similar to the supervisory response in ¶ 362.1(b, c) with the professing member’s district superintendent or designee leading the process.</p> <p>c) If the procedures of ¶ 362.1(b, c) do not result in resolution of the matter and if the conduct alleged in the complaint or grievance, if true, would be a chargeable offense found in ¶ 2702.3, then the procedures of ¶ 2701 and following paragraphs are to be implemented unless the accused professing member agrees to use the procedure described in ¶ 228.2b (8) below.</p> <p>d) If the procedures of ¶ 362.1(b, c) do not result in resolution of the matter and if the conduct alleged in the complaint or grievance, if true, would not be a chargeable offense found in ¶ 2702.3, then a group of four persons: the pastor of the accused professing member, the lay leader of the accused professing member’s church, the district lay leader, and the district superintendent, ex officio, without vote but with voice, where the accused professing member’s church is located, shall hear information from the accused professing member and the complainant or grievant and shall determine an unappealable resolution of the matter.</p> <p>e) When a professing member is charged with an offense and wishes to forego trial, the charge conference may permit the member to withdraw (¶ 2719.3). In this case, the notation “Withdrawn under charges” shall be entered alongside</p>	<p>¶ 221.001. <u>In Review in Case of Neglect according to ¶ 221 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [228.2b(5)ff]</p> <p>1.(5) <u>a</u>A written complaint or grievance may be filed against a professing member by serving the complaint or grievance on the professing member, the pastor of the professing member and the district superintendent of the professing member.</p> <p>b).(6) The pastor and district superintendent of the accused professing member shall attempt a just resolution process similar to the supervisory response in ¶ 362.1(b, c) with the professing member’s district superintendent or designee leading the process.</p> <p>c)(7) If the procedures of ¶ 362.1(b, c) do not result in resolution of the matter and if the conduct alleged in the complaint or grievance, if true, would be a chargeable offense found in ¶ 2702.3, then the procedures of ¶ 2701 and following paragraphs are to be implemented unless the accused professing member agrees to use the procedure described in ¶ 228.2b (8) below.</p> <p>d)(8) If the procedures of ¶ 362.1(b, c) do not result in resolution of the matter and if the conduct alleged in the complaint or grievance, if true, would not be a chargeable offense found in ¶ 2702.3, then a group of four persons: the pastor of the accused professing member, the lay leader of the accused professing member’s church, the district lay leader, and the district superintendent, ex officio, without vote but with voice, where the accused professing member’s church is located, shall hear information from the accused professing member and the complainant or grievant and shall determine an unappealable resolution of the matter.</p> <p>e) (9) When a professing member is charged with an offense and wishes to forego trial, the charge conference may permit the member to withdraw (¶ 2719.3). In this case,</p>	

<p>the member's name on the record, along with the date.</p> <p><i>f.)</i> Recognizing that the Church has a continuing moral and spiritual obligation to nurture all persons, it is recommended that a list of names thus removed shall be maintained. It shall then become the responsibility of the church council to provide for the review of this list at least once a year. (See also ¶ 234.) After the review has been made, it is recommended that the pastor and/or the commission on evangelism contact those whose names appear on this list, either in person or by other means, in the most effective and practical manner. The names and addresses of those who have moved outside the local church's area should be sent to local churches in their new communities that those churches may visit and minister to them.</p> <p>2. The pastor, along with other adult workers with youth and young adults in the local church and beyond (¶ 634.4c[4]), shall disseminate information about United Methodist-related Campus Ministry to college/university students or potential college/university students who are baptized members, professing members, or other constituents of the congregation. They shall also nurture, counsel, and guide young people as they explore United Methodist and non-United Methodist colleges and universities and non-college vocation options in light of their faith.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 221.001=228.2</p>	<p>the notation "Withdrawn under charges" shall be entered alongside the member's name on the record, along with the date.</p> <p><i>f.)</i> (10) Recognizing that the Church has a continuing moral and spiritual obligation to nurture all persons, it is recommended that a list of names thus removed shall be maintained. It shall then become the responsibility of the church council to provide for the review of this list at least once a year. (See also ¶ 234.) After the review has been made, it is recommended that the pastor and/or the commission on evangelism contact those whose names appear on this list, either in person or by other means, in the most effective and practical manner. The names and addresses of those who have moved outside the local church's area should be sent to local churches in their new communities that those churches may visit and minister to them.</p> <p><u>2.e)</u> The pastor, along with other adult workers with youth and young adults in the local church and beyond (¶ 634.4c[4]), shall disseminate information about United Methodist-related Campus Ministry to college/university students or potential college/university students who are baptized members, professing members, or other constituents of the congregation. They shall also nurture, counsel, and guide young people as they explore United Methodist and non-United Methodist colleges and universities and non-college vocation options in light of their faith.</p>	
<p>¶ 222.001. In regards to ¶ 222.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>Certificates of transfer shall be accompanied by two official forms. A "Notice of Transfer of Membership" is to be sent to the member by the pastor who transfers the membership. An "Acknowledgment of Transfer of Membership" is to be sent to the former pastor by the pastor who receives the transferred member.</p>	<p>¶ 222.001. <u>In regards to ¶ 222.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[239] Certificates of transfer shall be accompanied by two official forms. A "Notice of Transfer of Membership" is to be sent to the member by the pastor who transfers the membership. An "Acknowledgment of Transfer of Membership" is to be sent to the former pastor by the pastor who receives the transferred member.</p>	

<p>In case the transfer is not made effective, the pastor shall return the certificate to the pastor of the sending church.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 222.001=239</p>	<p>In case the transfer is not made effective, the pastor shall return the certificate to the pastor of the sending church.</p>	
<p>¶ 222.002. In regards to ¶ 222.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: For the transfer of a member of The United Methodist Church to a church of another denomination, an official “Transfer of Membership to Another Denomination” form shall be used.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 222.002=240</p>	<p><u>¶ 222.002. In regards to ¶ 222.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [240] For the transfer of a member of The United Methodist Church to a church of another denomination, an official “Transfer of Membership to Another Denomination” form shall be used.</p>	
<p>¶ 226.001. In the basic organizational plan according to ¶ 226.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. Each local congregation shall provide a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach, and witness, along with leadership training, and the planning and administration of the congregation’s organizational and temporal life, in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.001=244</p>	<p><u>¶ 226.001. In the basic organizational plan according to ¶ 226.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [244 Intro] 1. Each local congregation shall provide a comprehensive program of nurture, outreach, and witness, along with leadership training, and the planning and administration of the congregation’s organizational and temporal life, in accordance with the mission of The United Methodist</p>	
<p>¶ 226.002. In the modification of the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor, when a pastor has been appointed (see ¶ 205.4), shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶ 243 are observed. Such other circumstances may include, but not be limited to, alternative models for the conception of a local church, such as coffee house ministries, mall ministries, outdoor ministries,</p>	<p><u>¶ 226.002. In the modification of the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [247.2] The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor, when a pastor has been appointed (see ¶ 205.4), shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶ 243 are observed. Such other circumstances may include, but not be limited to, alternative models for the conception of a local church, such as coffee house ministries, mall ministries, outdoor ministries,</p>	

<p>retirement home ministries, restaurant ministries, and other emergent ways in which people can gather in God’s name to be the church.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.002=247.2</p>	<p>retirement home ministries, restaurant ministries, and other emergent ways in which people can gather in God’s name to be the church.</p>	
<p>¶ 226.003. In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Organizing a New Church:</p> <p>1. A new local church or mission congregation shall be established only with the consent of the bishop in charge and the cabinet and with due consideration of the conference entity assigned the responsibility for congregational development. The bishop shall designate the district within whose bounds the church or mission congregation shall be organized. The district superintendent of that district, or his or her designee, shall be the agent in charge of the project and shall recommend to the district board of church location and building (¶ 2519) the method of organization, and whether a specific site shall be selected or an area of organization be designated. The district superintendent shall avail him/herself of existing demographic, lifestyle and ethnographic information in the process of establishing a new congregation and its location, or shall recommend to the board of trustees of a selected local church that they share their facility with the proposed congregation. If there is a city or district missionary organization, or if funds for the project are anticipated from a conference organization, those bodies shall also be asked to approve the method of organization and location for a new congregation.</p> <p>a) A mission congregation may be designated when any of the following conditions exist: 1) Membership opportunities and resources are limited and not likely to result in a chartered congregation for an extended period of time. 2) A strategic demographic, cultural, or language opportunity for serving a limited population is present. 3) It is expected that long-term sustaining funding from sources outside the congregation will</p>	<p>¶ 226.003. <u>In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Organizing a New Church:</u></p> <p>[259] 1. A new local church or mission congregation shall be established only with the consent of the bishop in charge and the cabinet and with due consideration of the conference entity assigned the responsibility for congregational development. The bishop shall designate the district within whose bounds the church or mission congregation shall be organized. The district superintendent of that district, or his or her designee, shall be the agent in charge of the project and shall recommend to the district board of church location and building (¶ 2519) the method of organization, and whether a specific site shall be selected or an area of organization be designated. The district superintendent shall avail him/herself of existing demographic, lifestyle and ethnographic information in the process of establishing a new congregation and its location, or shall recommend to the board of trustees of a selected local church that they share their facility with the proposed congregation. If there is a city or district missionary organization, or if funds for the project are anticipated from a conference organization, those bodies shall also be asked to approve the method of organization and location for a new congregation.</p> <p>a) A mission congregation may be designated when any of the following conditions exist: 1) Membership opportunities and resources are limited and not likely to result in a chartered congregation for an extended period of time. 2) A strategic demographic, cultural, or language opportunity for serving a limited population is present. 3) It is expected that long-term sustaining funding from sources outside the congregation will</p>	

be necessary to enable the congregation to exist, and the assumption of full connectional support items by the congregation is unlikely. 4) It is probable that the annual conference will need to provide long-term administrative guidance, including attention to the distinctive property needs of the congregation. When any of these conditions exist, the cabinet, in consultation with the congregational development area of the annual conference, may designate an entity a mission congregation. The mission congregation may be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any local church.

2. The bishop may appoint a pastor to launch a new local church, or with the bishop's approval the district superintendent may authorize a local church or group of local churches to launch a new church by gathering interested people in small groups for Bible study, outreach, community building, and worship at a site in an area approved by the district board of church location and building.

3. A pastor of The United Methodist Church, while serving as the pastor of a new church prior to the convening of a constituting conference (§ 259.7), may receive a person into the membership of The United Methodist Church under the conditions of § 217. When a person is received as either a baptized or a professing member, the pastor shall send the name, address, and related facts to the annual conference secretary for recording on a general membership roll. These names shall be transferred as soon as possible to the roll of the new church, when constituted, or to another church upon the member's request. If the new church is being sponsored by an existing church, membership may be recorded on the roll of that church.

4. Each annual conference or its equivalent may determine the minimum number of members and other criteria required for the organization of a local United Methodist church.

5. When the number of people interested in being charter members of the new church reaches the number necessary as

be necessary to enable the congregation to exist, and the assumption of full connectional support items by the congregation is unlikely. 4) It is probable that the annual conference will need to provide long-term administrative guidance, including attention to the distinctive property needs of the congregation. When any of these conditions exist, the cabinet, in consultation with the congregational development area of the annual conference, may designate an entity a mission congregation. The mission congregation may be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any local church.

2. The bishop may appoint a pastor to launch a new local church, or with the bishop's approval the district superintendent may authorize a local church or group of local churches to launch a new church by gathering interested people in small groups for Bible study, outreach, community building, and worship at a site in an area approved by the district board of church location and building.

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4. Each annual conference or its equivalent may determine the minimum number of members and other criteria required for the organization of a local United Methodist church.

5. When the number of people interested in being charter members of the new church reaches the number necessary as

set by the conference to charter a new church, the district superintendent shall call the interested people to meet at an appointed time for the purpose of organizing them into a chartered (organized) local church, or may by written authorization designate an elder in the district to call such a meeting. The district superintendent or the designated elder shall preside and shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of the meeting. Following a time of worship, opportunity shall be given to those in attendance to present themselves for membership.

6. People desiring to become professing members by transfer or on profession of their faith in Christ shall also be given opportunity to present themselves for membership. Any who have not been baptized shall receive the sacrament of baptism, profess their faith and be received as members. Other baptized people are to be received as baptized members.

7. Those who will be members of the constituting church conference shall be those received into the professing membership.

8. The constituting church conference shall then be called to order by the district superintendent or by an elder whom the superintendent designates (see ¶ 246.5). A committee on nominations, elected on nominations from the floor as the conference may determine, shall nominate members of the proposed church council. The chairperson of the committee on nominations shall be the appointed pastor (see ¶ 258.1c). When the members have been chosen, the district superintendent or the designated elder shall declare the church properly constituted.

9. The district superintendent or an elder whom the superintendent designates shall then adjourn the constituting church conference and call to order the charge conference of the pastoral charge. The membership of the charge conference shall be those newly elected, and any others entitled to membership. The charge conference shall then elect such officers of the church as the *Discipline* requires, including

set by the conference to charter a new church, the district superintendent shall call the interested people to meet at an appointed time for the purpose of organizing them into a chartered (organized) local church, or may by written authorization designate an elder in the district to call such a meeting. The district superintendent or the designated elder shall preside and shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of the meeting. Following a time of worship, opportunity shall be given to those in attendance to present themselves for membership.

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9. The district superintendent or an elder whom the superintendent designates shall then adjourn the constituting church conference and call to order the charge conference of the pastoral charge. The membership of the charge conference shall be those newly elected, and any others entitled to membership. The charge conference shall then elect such officers of the church as the *Discipline* requires, including

<p>trustees of church property, and shall organize its structure as provided in the <i>Discipline</i>. When such officers have been duly elected and such structure put in place, the church is duly organized, and from this point its work shall proceed as described in the <i>Discipline</i>, provided that when a newly organized church is attached to a circuit, the charge conference shall not be held until such time as representatives from all the churches of the charge can be properly assembled for that purpose.</p> <p>10. The charge conference may take action, at its discretion, authorizing and directing the newly elected trustees to incorporate the newly organized church in accordance with local laws and the provisions of the <i>Discipline</i>.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.003=259</p>	<p>trustees of church property, and shall organize its structure as provided in the <i>Discipline</i>. When such officers have been duly elected and such structure put in place, the church is duly organized, and from this point its work shall proceed as described in the <i>Discipline</i>, provided that when a newly organized church is attached to a circuit, the charge conference shall not be held until such time as representatives from all the churches of the charge can be properly assembled for that purpose.</p> <p>10. The charge conference may take action, at its discretion, authorizing and directing the newly elected trustees to incorporate the newly organized church in accordance with local laws and the provisions of the <i>Discipline</i>.</p>	
<p>¶ 226.004 In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Cooperative Parishes:</p> <p>1. Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may enhance their witness to one another and to the world by showing forth the love of Jesus Christ through forms of mutual cooperation.</p> <p>2. Annual conferences shall implement a process of cooperative parish development through which cooperative parish ministries are initiated and developed in both urban and town- and-country situations. Where cooperative parish ministries already exist in an annual conference, the conference shall direct the appropriate conference boards and agencies to develop strategies designed to make use of cooperative ministries as means of creating greater effectiveness in the nurture, outreach, and witness ministries of urban, suburban, and town-and-country situations; and the annual conference shall prepare and adopt a formal written policy concerning cooperative parish ministries, including a plan for financial support. Parish development is an intentional plan of enabling congregations, church-related agencies, and pastors in a defined geographic area to develop a relationship of trust and mutuality that results in coordinated church programs and ministry, supported by</p>	<p>¶ 226.004 <u>In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Cooperative Parishes:</u></p> <p>[206] 1. Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may enhance their witness to one another and to the world by showing forth the love of Jesus Christ through forms of mutual cooperation.</p> <p>2. Annual conferences shall implement a process of cooperative parish development through which cooperative parish ministries are initiated and developed in both urban and town- and-country situations. Where cooperative parish ministries already exist in an annual conference, the conference shall direct the appropriate conference boards and agencies to develop strategies designed to make use of cooperative ministries as means of creating greater effectiveness in the nurture, outreach, and witness ministries of urban, suburban, and town-and-country situations; and the annual conference shall prepare and adopt a formal written policy concerning cooperative parish ministries, including a plan for financial support. Parish development is an intentional plan of enabling congregations, church-related agencies, and pastors in a defined geographic area to develop a relationship of trust and mutuality that results in coordinated church programs and ministry, supported by</p>	

appropriate organizational structures and policy. A superintendent or director of parish development may be appointed to work with the cabinet(s) in the implementation of these ministries in a conference or an area. In addition, district superintendents shall submit recommendations annually regarding those churches in their districts that would benefit from being included in a cooperative ministry.

3. Cooperative ministries may be expressed in one or more of the forms contained in the following categories.

a) Beginning and Exploratory Forms: (1). *Cluster Groups*—a group of churches located in the same geographic area with a loosely knit organization that allows the participating congregations and pastoral charges to engage in cooperative programs in varying degrees. A district may be divided into cluster groups for administrative purposes. (2). *Probe Staff*—composed of the pastors and other staff assigned to a geographic area to explore possibilities for cooperation and developing strategies for improving ministry. (3). *Group Ministry*—a loosely organized group of two or more pastoral charges in which pastors are appointed or assigned to charges. The pastors and/or lay council representing all churches may designate a coordinator.

b) Structured Forms: (1). *Multiple Charge Parishes*—intentionally organized group of two or more pastoral charges in which each church continues to relate to its charge conference on the organizational level and also participates in a parish-wide council. The pastors are appointed or assigned to the charges and also to the parish, and a director or coordinator is appointed or assigned by the bishop.²

(2) *Larger Parish*—a number of congregations working together using a parish-wide council and other committees and work groups, as the parish may determine which provides representation on boards and committees from all churches; guided by a constitution or covenant and served by a staff appointed or assigned by the bishop and involving a director.

(3). *Blended Ministry*—the merging of the organizations and memberships of churches spread throughout a defined geographical area into one congregation that intentionally develops two or more worship/program centers, and for which there is one charge conference and one set of

appropriate organizational structures and policy. A superintendent or director of parish development may be appointed to work with the cabinet(s) in the implementation of these ministries in a conference or an area. In addition, district superintendents shall submit recommendations annually regarding those churches in their districts that would benefit from being included in a cooperative ministry.

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(2) *Larger Parish*—a number of congregations working together using a parish-wide council and other committees and work groups, as the parish may determine which provides representation on boards and committees from all churches; guided by a constitution or covenant and served by a staff appointed or assigned by the bishop and involving a director.

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committees and other groups, guided by a covenant and served by a staff and a director appointed or assigned to the parish by the bishop.

c) Specialized Forms: (1). *Enlarged Charge*—two or more congregations, usually on the same charge and of relatively equal size that work as a unit with the leadership of one or more pas- tors. There may be a charge council and appropriate committees.

(2). *Extended or Shared Ministry*—a larger membership church sharing ministry with a smaller membership church, usually served by the pastor(s) of the larger church. (3). *Cooperative Ecumenical Parish*—two or more local churches of different Christian traditions including a United Methodist congregation, working together. Either of the above forms may be utilized. (4). *Shared Facilities*—two or more congregations, one of which shall be United Methodist, sharing a building, office equipment, etc., such as congregations which use different languages or which are of different racial/ethnic/cultural groups. The congregations may enter into a covenant that ensures representation and preserves the autonomy of each congregation on such bodies as church councils, boards of trustees and other committees and work groups. The congregations may negotiate a financial agreement about the use of the facility in order to provide appropriate financial support.

4. Each general board and agency shall arrange for its directors and staff to be trained in cooperative ministry concepts better to provide support resources for annual conferences and local churches.

5. Bishops, district superintendents, conference staff, and other leaders shall become familiar through training with the benefits of cooperative ministries. They shall provide leadership and training opportunities for pastors and local church leaders as to the value of cooperative ministries in moving toward excellence in nurture, outreach, and witness ministries. They are to explore and develop meaningful ministries to persons in congregations, communities, and the global community.

6. Cabinets shall give priority in the appointment process to appointing directors and clergy staff of cooperative ministries, especially cooperative parish ministries, who

committees and other groups, guided by a covenant and served by a staff and a director appointed or assigned to the parish by the bishop.

c) Specialized Forms: (1). *Enlarged Charge*—two or more congregations, usually on the same charge and of relatively equal size that work as a unit with the leadership of one or more pas- tors. There may be a charge council and appropriate committees.

(2). *Extended or Shared Ministry*—a larger membership church sharing ministry with a smaller membership church, usually served by the pastor(s) of the larger church. (3). *Cooperative Ecumenical Parish*—two or more local churches of different Christian traditions including a United Methodist congregation, working together. Either of the above forms may be utilized. (4). *Shared Facilities*—two or more congregations, one of which shall be United Methodist, sharing a building, office equipment, etc., such as congregations which use different languages or which are of different racial/ethnic/cultural groups. The congregations may enter into a covenant that ensures representation and preserves the autonomy of each congregation on such bodies as church councils, boards of trustees and other committees and work groups. The congregations may negotiate a financial agreement about the use of the facility in order to provide appropriate financial support.

4. Each general board and agency shall arrange for its directors and staff to be trained in cooperative ministry concepts better to provide support resources for annual conferences and local churches.

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6. Cabinets shall give priority in the appointment process to appointing directors and clergy staff of cooperative ministries, especially cooperative parish ministries, who

<p>have been trained in cooperative ministry concepts and who have demonstrated effective ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The cabinet shall develop and implement strategies designed to enable and equip pastors presently appointed to cooperative parish ministries to provide effective ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness.</p> <p>7. Annual conferences and cabinets are urged to assist in the development and strengthening of cooperative ministries by pursuing funding assistance from general Church, annual conference, and other sources for each cooperative ministry, including cooperative parish ministries.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.004=206 2. See Judicial Council Decision 556.</p>	<p>have been trained in cooperative ministry concepts and who have demonstrated effective ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The cabinet shall develop and implement strategies designed to enable and equip pastors presently appointed to cooperative parish ministries to provide effective ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness.</p> <p>7. Annual conferences and cabinets are urged to assist in the development and strengthening of cooperative ministries by pursuing funding assistance from general Church, annual conference, and other sources for each cooperative ministry, including cooperative parish ministries.</p> <p>2. See Judicial Council Decision 556.</p>	
<p>¶ 226.005 In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Ecumenical Shared Ministries:</p> <p>1. Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may respond to opportunities for ecumenical resource sharing in their communities by creating ecumenical shared ministries, working with local congregations of other Christian churches to enhance ministry, make wise stewardship of limited resources, and live out the ecumenical spirit in creative ways responsive to the needs of God’s peoples as well as to opportunities for expanded mission and ministry.</p> <p>2. <i>Definition</i>—Ecumenical shared ministries are ecumenical congregations formed by a local United Methodist church and one or more local congregations of other Christian traditions. Forms of ecumenical shared ministries include: (a) a federated church, in which one congregation is related to two or more denominations, with persons choosing to hold membership in one or the other of the denominations; (b) a union church, in which a congregation with one unified membership roll is related to two or more denominations; (c) a merged church, in which two or more congregations of different denominations form one congregation that relates to only one of the constituent denominations; (d) a yoked parish, in which congregations of different denominations share a pastor.</p>	<p>¶ 226.005 <u>In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Ecumenical Shared Ministries:</u></p> <p>[207]. 1. Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may respond to opportunities for ecumenical resource sharing in their communities by creating ecumenical shared ministries, working with local congregations of other Christian churches to enhance ministry, make wise stewardship of limited resources, and live out the ecumenical spirit in creative ways responsive to the needs of God’s peoples as well as to opportunities for expanded mission and ministry.</p> <p>[208] 2. <i>Definition</i>—Ecumenical shared ministries are ecumenical congregations formed by a local United Methodist church and one or more local congregations of other Christian traditions. Forms of ecumenical shared ministries include: (a) a federated church, in which one congregation is related to two or more denominations, with persons choosing to hold membership in one or the other of the denominations; (b) a union church, in which a congregation with one unified membership roll is related to two or more denominations; (c) a merged church, in which two or more congregations of different denominations form one congregation that relates to only one of the constituent denominations; (d) a yoked parish,</p>	

<p>3. <i>Covenanting</i>—Congregations entering into an ecumenical shared ministry shall develop a clear covenant of mission, set of bylaws, or articles of agreement that address financial and property matters, church membership, denominational askings and apportionments, committee structure and election procedures, terms and provisions of the pastorate, reporting procedures, relationship with the parent denominations, and matters related to amending or dissolving the agreement. Ministries shall notify the district superintendent of any amending of the covenant agreement and shall consult with the district superintendent prior to dissolving the covenant agreement. In the formation of an ecumenical shared ministry, ¶¶ 243 and 247.1-.2 shall be followed in its organization. In an interdenominational local church merger, ¶¶ 2547 and 2548 shall be followed. In the case of federated and union churches, ¶ 2548 shall be followed.</p> <p>4. <i>Connectional Responsibilities</i>—Cabinets, conference staff and other leaders shall be expected to work with ecumenical shared ministries at their inception as well as in maintaining avenues of vital relationship and connection to The United Methodist Church, while recognizing that such avenues must also be maintained with the denominational partners in ministry.</p> <p>5. <i>Cabinet Priority</i>—Cabinets shall be urged to give priority in the appointment process to the providing of ecumenical shared ministries with pastoral leaders who have demonstrated commitment to ecumenism and who exhibit a clear appreciation for a variety of denominational expressions and polities.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.005=207-211</p>	<p>in which congregations of different denominations share a pastor.</p> <p>[209] 3. <i>Covenanting</i>—Congregations entering into an ecumenical shared ministry shall develop a clear covenant of mission, set of bylaws, or articles of agreement that address financial and property matters, church membership, denominational askings and apportionments, committee structure and election procedures, terms and provisions of the pastorate, reporting procedures, relationship with the parent denominations, and matters related to amending or dissolving the agreement. Ministries shall notify the district superintendent of any amending of the covenant agreement and shall consult with the district superintendent prior to dissolving the covenant agreement. In the formation of an ecumenical shared ministry, ¶¶ 243 and 247.1-.2 shall be followed in its organization. In an interdenominational local church merger, ¶¶ 2547 and 2548 shall be followed. In the case of federated and union churches, ¶ 2548 shall be followed.</p> <p>[210] 4. <i>Connectional Responsibilities</i>—Cabinets, conference staff and other leaders shall be expected to work with ecumenical shared ministries at their inception as well as in maintaining avenues of vital relationship and connection to The United Methodist Church, while recognizing that such avenues must also be maintained with the denominational partners in ministry.</p> <p>[211] 5. <i>Cabinet Priority</i>—Cabinets shall be urged to give priority in the appointment process to the providing of ecumenical shared ministries with pastoral leaders who have demonstrated commitment to ecumenism and who exhibit a clear appreciation for a variety of denominational expressions and polities.</p>	
<p>¶ 226.006 In the organizational plan according to GBOD¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Churches in Transitional Communities:</p> <p>1. Since many of the communities in which the local church is located are experiencing transition, special attention must be given to forms of ministry required in such communities. The local church is required to respond to the changes that are</p>	<p>¶ 226.006 <u>In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Churches in Transitional Communities:</u></p> <p>[212] 1. Since many of the communities in which the local church is located are experiencing transition, special attention must be given to forms of ministry required in such communities. The local church is required to respond to the</p>	

occurring in its surrounding community and to organize its mission and ministry accordingly.

2. When the communities where the church is located experience transition especially identified as economic and/or ethnic, the local church shall engage in deliberate analysis of the community change and alter its program to meet the needs and cultural patterns of the new residents. The local church shall make every effort to remain in the community and develop effective ministries to those who are newcomers, whether of a cultural, economic, or ethnic group different from the original or present members.

3. In communities in transition, the local church shall be regarded as a principal base of mission from which unjust structures of society shall be confronted, evangelization shall occur, and a principal witness to the changing community, including ministry with the poor, shall be realized.

4. It is recommended that decisions concerning ministry in transitional communities be made after thorough consultation has taken place between structures and agencies in the connection.

5. It is recommended that the commitment of resources in terms of money and personnel to ministries in transitional communities be of sufficient longevity to allow for experimentation, evaluation, and mid-course corrections to ensure an adequate effort in ministry in those situations. Evaluations shall involve those on the local level as well as those at the funding level.

6.- The ministry of the local church in transitional areas may be enhanced by review and possible development of some form of cooperative ministry.

7. Every effort should be made to educate the congregation on the changes in the surrounding community. The local church has always been called to “minister to persons in the community where the church is located” (¶ 202), so in times of transition the membership should understand that the Church’s mission is to serve their surrounding community.

GBOD ¶ 226.006=212

changes that are occurring in its surrounding community and to organize its mission and ministry accordingly.

~~2.~~ 1. When the communities where the church is located experience transition especially identified as economic and/or ethnic, the local church shall engage in deliberate analysis of the community change and alter its program to meet the needs and cultural patterns of the new residents. The local church shall make every effort to remain in the community and develop effective ministries to those who are newcomers, whether of a cultural, economic, or ethnic group different from the original or present members.

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~~5.~~ 4. It is recommended that the commitment of resources in terms of money and personnel to ministries in transitional communities be of sufficient longevity to allow for experimentation, evaluation, and mid-course corrections to ensure an adequate effort in ministry in those situations. Evaluations shall involve those on the local level as well as those at the funding level.

~~6.~~ 5. The ministry of the local church in transitional areas may be enhanced by review and possible development of some form of cooperative ministry.

~~7.~~ 6. Every effort should be made to educate the congregation on the changes in the surrounding community. The local church has always been called to “minister to persons in the community where the church is located” (¶ 202), so in times of transition the membership should understand that the Church’s mission is to serve their surrounding community.

¶ 226.007 In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential:

1. Since every congregation is located in a community in some type of transition, every local church is encouraged to study their congregation's potential. Upon the request of the congregation the district superintendent shall appoint a study task force to assist in an extensive study of the past, present, and potential ministry of that local church. Alternatively, the district superintendent may appoint such a task force when the future viability of the congregation is in question or whenever he or she deems it necessary for other reasons. The task force shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergypersons and shall include persons from that congregation.

2. This study shall include, but not be limited to: *a)* unique missional opportunities and needs of the community; *b)* present ministries of the congregation; *c)* number of leaders and style of leadership; *d)* growth potential of the surrounding community; *e)* fiscal and facilities needs; *f)* distance from other United Methodist churches; *g)* number and size of churches of other denominations in the community; *h)* other items that may impact the church's ability to fulfill the mission of the Church as stated in Chapter One, Section I.

3. The findings shall be published and presented to the congregation with recommendations as to how best to fulfill the local church's call to ministry and to optimize the stewardship of the ministry resources available. The recommendations shall explore options for serving the community with nurture, outreach, and witness ministries as an organized church (¶¶ 201-204) or cooperative parish ministries (¶ 206) or ecumenical shared ministries (¶ 207); or give special attention to redevelopment, relocation, or discontinuance. Those invited to the presentation shall include: the members of the congregation, the pastor(s), the district superintendent, and members of the district board of church location and building (¶ 2519).

4. -*a)* The members of the local church shall consider the recommendations and develop goals and a ministry action

¶ 226.007 In the organizational plan according to ¶ 226.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential:

~~[213] -A Process for Assessment of Local Church Potential—~~

1. Since every congregation is located in a community in some type of transition, every local church is encouraged to study their congregation's potential. Upon the request of the congregation the district superintendent shall appoint a study task force to assist in an extensive study of the past, present, and potential ministry of that local church. Alternatively, the district superintendent may appoint such a task force when the future viability of the congregation is in question or whenever he or she deems it necessary for other reasons. The task force shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergypersons and shall include persons from that congregation.

~~2.~~ This study shall include, but not be limited to: *a)* unique missional opportunities and needs of the community; *b)* present ministries of the congregation; *c)* number of leaders and style of leadership; *d)* growth potential of the surrounding community; *e)* fiscal and facilities needs; *f)* distance from other United Methodist churches; *g)* number and size of churches of other denominations in the community; *h)* other items that may impact the church's ability to fulfill the mission of the Church as stated in Chapter One, Section I.

~~3.~~ The findings shall be published and presented to the congregation with recommendations as to how best to fulfill the local church's call to ministry and to optimize the stewardship of the ministry resources available. The recommendations shall explore options for serving the community with nurture, outreach, and witness ministries as an organized church (¶¶ 201-204) or cooperative parish ministries (¶ 206) or ecumenical shared ministries (¶ 207); or give special attention to redevelopment, relocation, or discontinuance. Those invited to the presentation shall include: the members of the congregation, the pastor(s), the district superintendent, and members of the district board of church location and building (¶ 2519).

<p>plan in response to the recommendations. The district superintendent shall report the results of the study and the congregation's response to the cabinet, with recommendations for the allocation of conference staff, resourcing, financial support, or other resources needed to undergird the congregation's efforts to reach its recommended potential. Such annual conference support shall be committed no longer than three years. <i>b)</i> For any church that has been through this process, the district superintendent may convene a special session of the conference to take action concerning the ministry recommendations. In addition to the local church charge conference membership, the members of the District Board of Church Location and Building will be present with voice only.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 226.007=213</p>	<p>4. 3-<i>a)</i> The members of the local church shall consider the recommendations and develop goals and a ministry action plan in response to the recommendations. The district superintendent shall report the results of the study and the congregation's response to the cabinet, with recommendations for the allocation of conference staff, resourcing, financial support, or other resources needed to undergird the congregation's efforts to reach its recommended potential. Such annual conference support shall be committed no longer than three years. <i>b)</i> For any church that has been through this process, the district superintendent may convene a special session of the conference to take action concerning the ministry recommendations. In addition to the local church charge conference membership, the members of the District Board of Church Location and Building will be present with voice only.</p>	
<p>¶ 227.001 <u>In the transfer of a local church according to GBOD¶ 227 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> In each case a two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall remain effective unless and until rescinded prior to the completion of the transfer by a vote of a majority of those present and voting.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 227.001=</p>	<p>¶ 227.001 <u>In the transfer of a local church according to GBOD¶ 227 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> In each case a two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall remain effective unless and until rescinded prior to the completion of the transfer by a vote of a majority of those present and voting.</p>	
<p>¶ 228.001 <u>In the General Provisions according to GBOD¶ 228 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> 1. The membership of the charge conference shall include retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership in said charge conference. 2. The charge conference may make provision for recognition of the faithful service of members of the church council by electing them honorary members. An honorary member shall be entitled to all the privileges of a member, except the right to vote. 3. A charge conference shall be conducted in the language of</p>	<p>¶ 228.001 <u>In the General Provisions according to GBOD¶ 228 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> <u>1.</u> The membership of the charge conference shall include retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership in said charge conference. 2. 3- The charge conference may make provision for recognition of the faithful service of members of the church council by electing them honorary members. An honorary member shall be entitled to all the privileges of a member, except the right to vote. 3. 9- A charge conference shall be conducted in the</p>	

<p>the majority, with adequate provision being made for translation.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 228.001= 246</p>	<p>language of the majority, with adequate provision being made for translation.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.001 In regards to ¶ 229.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the make-up of the council so that all segments of the congregation are represented.</p> <p>2. In those instances where there are two or more churches on a pastoral charge, the charge conference may elect a chargewide or parish committee on nominations and leadership development, a chargewide or parish committee on pastor-parish relations, a chargewide or parish committee on finance, and a chargewide or parish board of trustees in such instances where property is held in common by two or more churches of the charge. All churches of the charge shall be represented on such chargewide or parish committees or boards. Chargewide or parish organization shall be consistent with disciplinary provisions for the local church.</p> <p>3. In instances of multiple church charges, the charge conference shall provide for an equitable distribution of parsonage maintenance and upkeep expense or adequate housing allowance (if annual conference policy permits) among the several churches.</p> <p>4. When authorized by the district superintendent and the district board of church location and building, the charge conference may provide for the sponsoring of satellite congregations.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.001=247</p>	<p>¶ 229.001 <u>In regards to GBOD¶ 229.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[247.6] <u>1.</u> Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the make-up of the council so that all segments of the congregation are represented.</p> <p>[247.18] <u>2.</u> In those instances where there are two or more churches on a pastoral charge, the charge conference may elect a chargewide or parish committee on nominations and leadership development, a chargewide or parish committee on pastor-parish relations, a chargewide or parish committee on finance, and a chargewide or parish board of trustees in such instances where property is held in common by two or more churches of the charge. All churches of the charge shall be represented on such chargewide or parish committees or boards. Chargewide or parish organization shall be consistent with disciplinary provisions for the local church.</p> <p>[247.19] <u>3.</u> In instances of multiple church charges, the charge conference shall provide for an equitable distribution of parsonage maintenance and upkeep expense or adequate housing allowance (if annual conference policy permits) among the several churches.</p> <p>[247.22] <u>4.</u> When authorized by the district superintendent and the district board of church location and building, the charge conference may provide for the sponsoring of satellite congregations.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.002 In regards to ¶ 229.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>When there is only one local church on a charge, the</p>	<p>¶ 229.002 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[247.4] When there is only one local church on a charge,</p>	

<p>secretary of the church council shall be the secretary of the charge conference. When there is more than one church on a charge, one of the secretaries of the church councils shall be elected by the charge conference to serve as its secretary.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.002=247.4</p>	<p>the secretary of the church council shall be the secretary of the charge conference. When there is more than one church on a charge, one of the secretaries of the church councils shall be elected by the charge conference to serve as its secretary.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.003 In regards to ¶ 229.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the district committee on ordained ministry, faithfully adhering to the provisions of ¶ 308.1, candidates for licensed or ordained ministry. who have been professing members in good standing of The United Methodist Church for at least one year; whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and call to the ministry clearly establish them as candidates; and who have met the educational requirements. It is out of the faith and witness of the congregation that men and women respond to God’s call to licensed or ordained ministry. Every local church should intentionally nurture candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, providing for spiritual and financial support, as well as supporting the Ministerial Education Fund, for their education and formation as servant leaders for the ministry of the whole people of God.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.003=247.8</p>	<p>¶ 229.003 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [247.8] The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the district committee on ordained ministry, faithfully adhering to the provisions of ¶ 310.1e<u>308.1</u>, candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, who have been professing members in good standing of The United Methodist Church for at least one year; whose gifts, evidence of God’s grace, and call to the ministry clearly establish them as candidates; and who have met the educational requirements. It is out of the faith and witness of the congregation that men and women respond to God’s call to licensed or ordained ministry. Every local church should intentionally nurture candidates for licensed or ordained ministry, providing for spiritual and financial support, as well as supporting the Ministerial Education Fund, for their education and formation as servant leaders for the ministry of the whole people of God.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.004 In regards to ¶ 229.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the responsible Church agency any candidates for Church-related vocations. 2. The charge conference shall recommend .to the district and/or conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries those persons who have met the standards set forth for a local church lay servant and/or for certified lay servant and certified lay</p>	<p>¶ 229.004 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [247.10] <u>1.</u> The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the responsible Church agency any candidates for Church-related vocations. [247.11] <u>2.</u> The charge conference shall recommend .to the district and/or conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries those persons who have met the standards set forth for a local church lay servant and/or for certified lay servant and certified</p>	

<p>minister (§§ 266-269).</p> <p>3. The charge conference shall receive reports annually on all local church organized Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) teams, and the total number of local church participants in any UMVIM team, and shall forward the combined report to the annual conference and the general church through the regular annual local church statistical report.</p> <p>4. The charge conference shall receive a report on the names and addresses of college students to send to the United Methodist campus ministers and chaplains.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.004=247</p>	<p>lay minister (§§ 266-269).</p> <p>[247.12] 3. The charge conference shall receive reports annually on all local church organized Volunteer In Mission (UMVIM) teams, and the total number of local church participants in any UMVIM team, and shall forward the combined report to the annual conference and the general church through the regular annual local church statistical report.</p> <p>[247.16] 4. The charge conference shall receive a report on the names and addresses of college students to send to the United Methodist campus ministers and chaplains.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.005 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.7 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>As soon as practicable after the session of annual conference, each district superintendent or designated agent shall notify each local church in the district what amounts have been apportioned to it for World Service, conference benevolences and other general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference funds. In the event that the conference uses an apportionment formula whereby the local church contributes a specified percentage of its current income and/or expenses, the specified percentage may be used in lieu of an actual dollar amount. In preparation for and at the charge conference, it shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, and the lay member(s) of the annual conference and/or the church lay leader(s) to interpret to each charge conference the importance of these apportioned funds, explaining the causes supported by each of them and their place in the total program of the Church. The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs for the mission and ministry of the Church. Conference benevolences represent the minimum needs for</p>	<p>¶ 229.005 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.7 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[247.14] As soon as practicable after the session of annual conference, each district superintendent or designated agent shall notify each local church in the district what amounts have been apportioned to it for World Service, conference benevolences and other general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference funds. In the event that the conference uses an apportionment formula whereby the local church contributes a specified percentage of its current income and/or expenses, the specified percentage may be used in lieu of an actual dollar amount. In preparation for and at the charge conference, it shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, and the lay member(s) of the annual conference and/or the church lay leader(s) to interpret to each charge conference the importance of these apportioned funds, explaining the causes supported by each of them and their place in the total program of the Church. The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs for the mission and ministry of the Church. Conference benevolences represent the minimum needs for</p>	

<p>mission and ministry in the annual conference. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.³</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.005=247.14 ³ See Judicial Council Decision 1054.</p>	<p>mission and ministry in the annual conference. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church-(¶ 812).³</p> <p>³ See Judicial Council Decision 1054.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.006 In regards to ¶ 229.11 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>1. The responsibilities of the historian are to keep the historical records up to date; serve as chairperson of the committee on records and history, if any; cooperate with the annual conference commission on archives and history; provide an annual report on the care of church records and historical materials to the charge conference; and also provide, with the pastor and the committee on records and history, if any, for the preservation of all local church records and historical materials no longer in current use. Records and historical materials include all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, reports, letters, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, or any other documentary material, regardless of form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to any provisions of the <i>Discipline</i> in connection with the transaction of church business by any local church of The United Methodist Church or any of its constituent predecessors. The church historian may be a member of the church council. This person may also hold another elected position on the council.</p> <p>2.. There may be a local church committee on records and history, chaired by the church historian, to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.006=247.5</p>	<p>¶ 229.006 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.11 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>[247.5] <u>1.-a)</u> The responsibilities of the historian are to keep the historical records up to date; serve as chairperson of the committee on records and history, if any; cooperate with the annual conference commission on archives and history; provide an annual report on the care of church records and historical materials to the charge conference; and also provide, with the pastor and the committee on records and history, if any, for the preservation of all local church records and historical materials no longer in current use. Records and historical materials include all documents, minutes, journals, diaries, reports, letters, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books, audiovisuals, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, or any other documentary material, regardless of form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to any provisions of the <i>Discipline</i> in connection with the transaction of church business by any local church of The United Methodist Church or any of its constituent predecessors. The church historian may be a member of the church council. This person may also hold another elected position on the council.</p> <p><u>2..b)</u> There may be a local church committee on records and history, chaired by the church historian, to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities.</p>	
<p>¶ 229.007 In regards to ¶ 229.12 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p>	<p>¶ 229.007 <u>In regards to ¶ 229.12 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p>	

<p>The charge conference shall in consultation with the district superintendent set the compensation of the pastor and other staff appointed by the bishop.⁴</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 229.007=247.13</p> <p>⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 213, 252, 461, 1014, 1123</p>	<p>[247.13] The charge conference shall in consultation with the district superintendent set the compensation of the pastor and other staff appointed by the bishop.⁴</p> <p>⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 213, 252, 461, 1014, 1123</p>	
<p>¶ 230.001 On Church Conference according to ¶ 230 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: The church conference may be called at the discretion of the district superintendent or following a written request to the district superintendent by one of the following: the pastor, the church council, or 10 percent of the professing membership of the local church. In any case a copy of the request shall be given to the pastor. Additional regulations governing the call and conduct of the charge conference as set forth in ¶¶ 246-247 shall apply also to the church conference. A joint church conference for two or more churches may be held at the same time and place as the district superintendent may determine. A church conference shall be conducted in the language of the majority with adequate provision being made for translation. (For church local conference see ¶ 2527.)</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 230.001=</p>	<p><u>¶ 230.001 On Church Conference according to ¶ 230 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> <u>The church conference</u> It may be called at the discretion of the district superintendent or following a written request to the district superintendent by one of the following: the pastor, the church council, or 10 percent of the professing membership of the local church. In any case a copy of the request shall be given to the pastor. Additional regulations governing the call and conduct of the charge conference as set forth in ¶¶ 246-247 shall apply also to the church conference. A joint church conference for two or more churches may be held at the same time and place as the district superintendent may determine. A church conference shall be conducted in the language of the majority with adequate provision being made for translation. (For church local conference see ¶ 2527.)</p>	
<p>¶ 231.001 On Elections according to ¶ 231 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. In all elections special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, persons over sixty-five years of age, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.001=249.7</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.001 On Elections according to ¶ 231 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [249.7] <u>1. In all elections special attention shall be given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, persons over sixty-five years of age, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons.</u></p>	
<p>¶ 231.002 In regards to ¶ 231.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. The church council chairperson shall be elected by the charge conference annually and shall have the following</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.002 In regards to ¶ 231.1 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [251.3] <u>1. The church council chairperson shall be elected by the charge conference annually and shall have the following</u></p>	

<p>responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) leading the council in fulfilling its responsibilities (see ¶ 249); b) preparing and communicating the agenda of the council meetings in consultation with the pastor(s), lay leader, and other appropriate persons; c) reviewing and assigning responsibility for the implementation of actions taken by the council; d) communicating with members of the council and others as appropriate to permit informed action at council meetings; e) coordinating the various activities of the council; f) providing the initiative and leadership for the council as it does the planning, establishing of objectives and goals, and evaluating; g) participating in leadership training programs as offered by the annual conference and/or district. <p>2. The chairperson is encouraged to attend annual conference.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.002=251.3</p>	<p>responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) leading the council in fulfilling its responsibilities (see ¶ 249); b) preparing and communicating the agenda of the council meetings in consultation with the pastor(s), lay leader, and other appropriate persons; c) reviewing and assigning responsibility for the implementation of actions taken by the council; d) communicating with members of the council and others as appropriate to permit informed action at council meetings; e) coordinating the various activities of the council; f) providing the initiative and leadership for the council as it does the planning, establishing of objectives and goals, and evaluating; g) participating in leadership training programs as offered by the annual conference and/or district. <p><u>2.</u> The chairperson is encouraged to attend annual conference.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.003 In regards to ¶ 231.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Committee on nominations and leadership development:</p> <p>Members of the committee shall engage in and be attentive to developing and enhancing their own Christian spiritual life in light of the mission of the Church (Part VI, Chapter One, Section 1).</p> <p>In conducting its work, the committee shall engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church. It shall provide a means of identifying the spiritual gifts and abilities of the membership. The committee shall work with the church council, or alternative administrative bodies, to determine the diverse ministry tasks of the congregation and</p>	<p>¶ 231.003 <u>In regards to ¶ 231.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Committee on nominations and leadership development:</u></p> <p>[258.1] Members of the committee shall engage in and be attentive to developing and enhancing their own Christian spiritual life in light of the mission of the Church (Part VI, Chapter One, Section 1).</p> <p>In conducting its work, the committee shall engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church. It shall provide a means of identifying the spiritual gifts and abilities of the membership. The committee shall work with the church council, or alternative administrative bodies, to determine the diverse ministry tasks of the congregation and</p>	

the skills needed for leadership.

1. The committee on nominations and leadership development shall serve throughout the year to guide the church council, or alternative structure, on matters regarding the leadership (other than employed staff) of the congregation so as to focus on mission and ministry as the context for service; guide the development and training of spiritual leaders; recruit, nurture, and support spiritual leaders; and assist the church council, or alternative structure, in assessing the changing leadership needs.

2. This committee is to be composed of not more than nine persons, in addition to the pastor and the lay leader. At least one young adult elected by the charge conference shall serve as a member of the committee. One or more members elected by the charge conference may be youth. A layperson elected by the committee on nominations and leadership development shall serve as the vice chairperson of the committee.

3. In order to secure experience and stability, the membership shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. To begin the process of rotation where such has not been in place, in the first year, one class shall be elected for one year, one class for two years, and one class for three years. Each year's new class, and vacancies at the time of charge conference, shall be elected from nominees, from the floor of the charge conference and/or through the recommendation of the committee on nominations and leadership development. Retiring members of the committee shall not succeed themselves. Only one person from an immediate family residing in the same household shall serve on the committee. When vacancies occur during the year, nominees shall be elected by the church council, or alternative church structure, with the permission of the district superintendent.

4. In the identification and selection process, care shall be given that the leadership of ministries reflects inclusivity

the skills needed for leadership.

~~1.e)~~ The committee on nominations and leadership development shall serve throughout the year to guide the church council, or alternative structure, on matters regarding the leadership (other than employed staff) of the congregation so as to focus on mission and ministry as the context for service; guide the development and training of spiritual leaders; recruit, nurture, and support spiritual leaders; and assist the church council, or alternative structure, in assessing the changing leadership needs.

~~2.e)~~ This committee is to be composed of not more than nine persons, in addition to the pastor and the lay leader. At least one young adult elected by the charge conference shall serve as a member of the committee. One or more members elected by the charge conference may be youth. ~~The pastor shall be the chairperson.~~ A layperson elected by the committee on nominations and leadership development shall serve as the vice chairperson of the committee.

~~3.e)~~ In order to secure experience and stability, the membership shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. To begin the process of rotation where such has not been in place, in the first year, one class shall be elected for one year, one class for two years, and one class for three years. Each year's new class, and vacancies at the time of charge conference, shall be elected from nominees, from the floor of the charge conference and/or through the recommendation of the committee on nominations and leadership development. Retiring members of the committee shall not succeed themselves. Only one person from an immediate family residing in the same household shall serve on the committee. When vacancies occur during the year, nominees shall be elected by the church council, or alternative church structure, with the permission of the district superintendent.

~~4.e)~~ In the identification and selection process, care shall be given that the leadership of ministries reflects

<p>and diversity.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.001=258.1</p>	<p>inclusivity and diversity.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.004 In regards to ¶ 231.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Committee on pastor-parish relations:</p> <p>1. Its members shall be professing members of the local church or charge or associate members (¶ 227). People serving on this committee must be engaged in and attentive to their Christian spiritual development so as to give proper leadership in the responsibilities with which the committee is entrusted.</p> <p>2. In conducting its work, the committee shall identify and clarify its values for ministry. It shall engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church.</p> <p>The committee shall reflect biblically and theologically on the role and work of the pastor(s) and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. The committee shall assist the pastor(s) and staff in assessing their gifts, maintaining health holistically and work-life balance, and setting priorities for leadership and service. It is the responsibility of the committee to communicate with the committee on nominations and leadership development and/or the church council when there is a need for other leaders or for employed staff to perform in areas where utilization of the gifts of the pastor(s) and staff proves an inappropriate stewardship of time.</p> <p>3. a) One of the members shall be a young adult and one member may be a youth.</p> <p>b) In order to secure experience and stability, the membership shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. The lay member of the annual conference and the lay leader are exempt from the three-year term. To begin the process of rotation where such a process has not been in place, on the first year</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.004 In regards to ¶ 231.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Committee on pastor-parish relations:</u></p> <p>[258.2] <u>1. Its members shall be professing members of the local church or charge or associate members (¶ 227). People serving on this committee must be engaged in and attentive to their Christian spiritual development so as to give proper leadership in the responsibilities with which the committee is entrusted.</u></p> <p><u>2. In conducting its work, the committee shall identify and clarify its values for ministry. It shall engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church.</u></p> <p>The committee shall reflect biblically and theologically on the role and work of the pastor(s) and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. The committee shall assist the pastor(s) and staff in assessing their gifts, maintaining health holistically and work-life balance, and setting priorities for leadership and service. It is the responsibility of the committee to communicate with the committee on nominations and leadership development and/or the church council when there is a need for other leaders or for employed staff to perform in areas where utilization of the gifts of the pastor(s) and staff proves an inappropriate stewardship of time.</p> <p><u>3. a) One of the members shall be a young adult and one member may be a youth.</u></p> <p>b) In order to secure experience and stability, the membership shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. The lay member of the annual conference and the lay leader are exempt from the three-year term. To begin the process of rotation where such a process has not been in place, on the first year</p>	

one class shall be elected for one year, one class for two years, and one class for three years. Members of the committee shall be able to succeed themselves for one three-year term. When vacancies occur during the year, nominees shall be elected at the church council (or alternative church structure).

c) In those charges where there is more than one church, the committee shall include at least one representative and the lay leader from each local church.

d) The committees on pastor-parish relations of charges that are in cooperative parish ministries shall meet together to consider the professional leadership needs of the cooperative parish ministry as a whole.

e) The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the district superintendent, the pastor, any other person accountable to the committee, or the chairperson of the committee. The pastor shall be present at each meeting of the committee on pastor-parish relations or staff-parish relations except where he or she voluntarily excuses himself or herself.

The committee may meet with the district superintendent without the pastor or appointed staff under consideration being present. However, the pastor or appointed staff under consideration shall be notified prior to such meeting with the district superintendent and be brought into consultation immediately thereafter.

f) In the event that only one congregation on a charge containing more than one church has concerns it wishes to share, its member(s) in the committee may meet separately with the pastor or any other person accountable to the committee or the district superintendent, but only with the knowledge of the pastor and/or district superintendent.

g) The duties of the committee shall include the following:

(1) To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their family(s).

(2) To promote unity in the church(es).

one class shall be elected for one year, one class for two years, and one class for three years. Members of the committee shall be able to succeed themselves for one three-year term. When vacancies occur during the year, nominees shall be elected at the church council (or alternative church structure).

c) In those charges where there is more than one church, the committee shall include at least one representative and the lay leader from each local church.

d) The committees on pastor-parish relations of charges that are in cooperative parish ministries shall meet together to consider the professional leadership needs of the cooperative parish ministry as a whole.

e) The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the district superintendent, the pastor, any other person accountable to the committee, or the chairperson of the committee. The pastor shall be present at each meeting of the committee on pastor-parish relations or staff-parish relations except where he or she voluntarily excuses himself or herself.

The committee may meet with the district superintendent without the pastor or appointed staff under consideration being present. However, the pastor or appointed staff under consideration shall be notified prior to such meeting with the district superintendent and be brought into consultation immediately thereafter.

f) In the event that only one congregation on a charge containing more than one church has concerns it wishes to share, its member(s) in the committee may meet separately with the pastor or any other person accountable to the committee or the district superintendent, but only with the knowledge of the pastor and/or district superintendent.

g) The duties of the committee shall include the following:

(1) To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their family(s).

(2) To promote unity in the church(es).

(3) To confer with and counsel the pastor(s) and staff on the matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry; relationships with the congregation; the pastor's health and self-care, conditions that may impede the effectiveness of ministry; and to interpret the nature and function of the ministry.

(4) To confer with, consult, and counsel the pastor(s) and staff on matters pertaining to priorities in the use of gifts, skills, and time and priorities for the demands and effectiveness of the mission and ministry of the congregation.

(5) To provide evaluation at least annually for the use of the pastor(s) and staff in an ongoing effective ministry and for identifying continuing educational needs and plans.

(6) To communicate and interpret to the congregation the nature and function of ministry in The United Methodist Church regarding open itinerancy, the preparation for ordained ministry, and the Ministerial Education Fund.

(7) To develop and approve written job descriptions and titles for associate pastors and other staff members in cooperation with the senior pastor. The term *associate pastor* is used as a general term to indicate any pastoral appointment in a local church other than the pastor in charge (see BOD ¶ 339). Committees shall be encouraged to develop specific titles for associate pastors that reflect the job descriptions and expectations.

(8) To consult with the pastor and staff concerning continuing education, work-life balance, dimensions of personal health and wellness, and spiritual renewal, to arrange with the church council for the necessary time and financial assistance for the attendance of the pastor and/or staff at such continuing education, self-care, and spiritual renewal events as may serve their professional and spiritual growth, and to encourage staff members to seek professional certification in their fields of specialization.

(9) To enlist, interview, evaluate, review, and recommend annually—to the charge conference lay preachers

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(9) To enlist, interview, evaluate, review, and recommend annually—to the charge conference lay preachers

and-persons for candidacy for ordained ministry (see ¶¶ 247.8 and 310), and to enlist and refer to the General Board of Global Ministries persons for candidacy for missionary service, recognizing that The United Methodist Church affirms the biblical and theological support of persons regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, or disabilities for these ministries. Neither the pastor nor any member of the committee on pastor-parish relations shall be present during the consideration of a candidacy application or renewal for a member of their immediate family. The committee shall provide to the charge conference a list of students from the charge who are preparing for ordained ministry, diaconal ministry, and/or missionary service, and shall maintain contact with these students, supplying the charge conference with a progress report on each student.

(10) To interpret preparation for ordained ministry and the Ministerial Education Fund to the congregation.

(11) To confer with the pastor and/or other appointed members of the staff if it should become evident that the best interests of the charge and pastor(s) will be served by a change of pastor(s). The committee shall cooperate with the pastor(s), the district superintendent, and the bishop in securing clergy leadership. Its relationship to the district superintendent and the bishop shall be advisory only.⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 701 (See ¶¶ 425-428, 430.)

(12) To recommend to the church council, after consultation with the pastor, the professional and other staff positions (whether employee or contract) needed to carry out the work of the church or charge. The committee and the pastor shall recommend to the church council a written statement of policy and procedures regarding the process for hiring, contracting, evaluating, promoting, retiring, and dismissing staff personnel who are not subject to episcopal appointment as ordained clergy. Until such a policy has been adopted, the committee and the pastor shall have the authority to hire, contract, evaluate, promote, retire, and dismiss nonappointed

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personnel. When persons are hired or contracted, consideration shall be given to the training qualifications and certification standards set forth by the general Church agency to which such positions are related. The committee shall further recommend to the church council a provision for adequate health and life insurance and severance pay for all lay employees. In addition, the committee shall recommend that the church council provide, effective on and after January 1, 2006, 100 percent vested pension benefits of at least three percent of compensation for lay employees of the local church who work at least 1040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of permanent service. The church council 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.

(13) To recommend to the charge conference, when the size of the employed staff of the charge makes it desirable, the establishment of a personnel committee. This committee shall be composed of such members of the committee on pastor-parish relations as it may designate and such additional members as the charge conference may determine.

(14) To educate the church community on the value of diversity of selection in clergy and lay staff and develop a commitment to same.

(15) Members of the committee on pastor-parish relations (or staff-parish relations) shall keep themselves informed of personnel matters in relationship to the Church's policy, professional standards, liability issues, and civil law. They are responsible for communicating and interpreting such matters to staff. Committee members should make themselves available for educational and training opportunities provided by the conference, district, and/or other arenas that will enable them to be effective in their work.

(16) To consult on matters pertaining to pulpit supply, proposals for compensation, travel expense, vacation,

personnel. When persons are hired or contracted, consideration shall be given to the training qualifications and certification standards set forth by the general Church agency to which such positions are related. The committee shall further recommend to the church council a provision for adequate health and life insurance and severance pay for all lay employees. In addition, the committee shall recommend that the church council provide, effective on and after January 1, 2006, 100 percent vested pension benefits of at least three percent of compensation for lay employees of the local church who work at least 1040 hours per year, are at least 21 years of age, and have at least one year of permanent service. The church council 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.

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(16) To consult on matters pertaining to pulpit supply, proposals for compensation, travel expense, vacation,

<p>health and life insurance, pension, housing (which may be a church-owned parsonage or housing allowance in lieu of parsonage if in compliance with the policy of the annual conference), and other practical matters affecting the work and families of the pastor and staff, and to make annual recommendations regarding such matters to the church council, reporting budget items to the committee on finance. The parsonage is to be mutually respected by the pastor's family as the property of the church and by the church as a place of privacy for the pastor's family. The committee will follow up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health of the pastor or pastor's family. The chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the chairperson of the board of trustees, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance and to give immediate resolution to parsonage issues affecting the family's health and well-being.</p> <p>(17) To encourage, monitor, and support clergy and lay staff pursuit of health and wholeness</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.004=258.1</p>	<p>health and life insurance, pension, housing (which may be a church-owned parsonage or housing allowance in lieu of parsonage if in compliance with the policy of the annual conference), and other practical matters affecting the work and families of the pastor and staff, and to make annual recommendations regarding such matters to the church council, reporting budget items to the committee on finance. The parsonage is to be mutually respected by the pastor's family as the property of the church and by the church as a place of privacy for the pastor's family. The committee will follow up to assure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting the health of the pastor or pastor's family. The chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the chairperson of the board of trustees, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to assure proper maintenance and to give immediate resolution to parsonage issues affecting the family's health and well-being.</p> <p>(17) To encourage, monitor, and support clergy and lay staff pursuit of health and wholeness</p>	
<p>¶ 231.005 In regards to ¶ 231.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the committee on finance:</p> <p>1. There shall be a committee on finance, elected annually whose membership shall additionally include the chairperson of the church council; the chairperson or representative of the committee on pastor-parish relations; a representative of the trustees to be selected by the trustees; the chairperson of the ministry group on stewardship; the lay leader; the financial secretary; the treasurer; the church business administrator; and other members to be added as the charge conference may determine. It is recommended that the chairperson of the committee on finance shall be a member of the church council. The financial secretary, treasurer, and church business administrator, if paid employees, shall be members without</p>	<p>¶ 231.005 <u>In regards to ¶ 231.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the committee on finance:</u></p> <p>[258.4] <u>1. There shall be a committee on finance, elected annually whose membership shall additionally include the chairperson of the church council; the chairperson or representative of the committee on pastor-parish relations; a representative of the trustees to be selected by the trustees; the chairperson of the ministry group on stewardship; the lay leader; the financial secretary; the treasurer; the church business administrator; and other members to be added as the charge conference may determine. It is recommended that the chairperson of the committee on finance shall be a member of the church council. The financial secretary, treasurer, and church business administrator, if paid employees, shall be</u></p>	

vote.

2. The committee on finance shall give stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year. It may delegate the responsibility to either a sub-group or task force that would plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of local churches and beyond. It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, find creative ways to turn their congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity. All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the committee on finance. The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

a) The committee shall designate at least two persons not of the immediate family residing in the same household to count the offering. They shall work under the supervision of the financial secretary. A record of all funds received shall be given to the financial secretary and treasurer. Funds received shall be deposited promptly in accordance with the procedures established by the committee on finance. The financial secretary shall keep records of the contributions and payments.

b) The church treasurer(s) shall disburse all money contributed to causes represented in the local church budget, and such other funds and contributions as the church council may determine. The treasurer(s) shall remit each month to the conference treasurer all World Service and conference benevolence funds then on hand. Contributions to benevolence shall not be used for any cause other than that to which they have been given. The church treasurer shall make regular and detailed reports on funds received and expended to the committee on finance and the church council.⁵

The treasurer(s) shall be adequately bonded.

c) The committee on finance shall establish written

members without vote.

2. The committee on finance shall give stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year. It may delegate the responsibility to either a sub-group or task force that would plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of local churches and beyond. It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, find creative ways to turn their congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity. All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the committee on finance. The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council.

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The treasurer(s) shall be adequately bonded.

c) The committee on finance shall establish written

financial policies to document the internal controls of the local church. The written financial policies should be reviewed for adequacy and effectiveness annually by the committee on finance and submitted as a report to the charge conference annually.

d) The committee shall make provision for an annual audit of the financial statements of the local church and all its organizations and accounts. The committee shall make a full and complete report to the annual charge conference. A local church audit is defined as an independent evaluation of the financial reports and records and the internal controls of the local church by a qualified person or persons.

The audit shall be conducted for the purpose of reasonably verifying the reliability of financial reporting, determining whether assets are being safeguarded, and determining compliance with local law, local church policies and procedures, and the *Discipline*.

The audit may include: 1) a review of the cash and investment reconciliations; 2) interviews with the treasurer, financial secretary, pastor(s), finance committee chair, business manager, those who count offerings, church secretary, etc., with inquiries regarding compliance with existing written financial policies and procedures; 3) a review of journal entries and authorized check signers for each checking and investment account; and 4) other procedures requested by the committee on finance.

The audit shall be performed by an audit committee composed of persons unrelated to the persons listed in (2) above or by an independent certified public accountant (CPA), accounting firm, or equivalent.

e) The committee shall recommend to the church council proper depositories for the church's funds. Funds received shall be deposited promptly in the name of the local church.

f) Contributions designated for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the intent of

financial policies to document the internal controls of the local church. The written financial policies should be reviewed for adequacy and effectiveness annually by the committee on finance and submitted as a report to the charge conference annually.

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The audit shall be conducted for the purpose of reasonably verifying the reliability of financial reporting, determining whether assets are being safeguarded, and determining compliance with local law, local church policies and procedures, and the *Book of Discipline*.

The audit may include: 1) a review of the cash and investment reconciliations; 2) interviews with the treasurer, financial secretary, pastor(s), finance committee chair, business manager, those who count offerings, church secretary, etc., with inquiries regarding compliance with existing written financial policies and procedures; 3) a review of journal entries and authorized check signers for each checking and investment account; and 4) other procedures requested by the committee on finance.

The audit shall be performed by an audit committee composed of persons unrelated to the persons listed in (2) above or by an independent certified public accountant (CPA), accounting firm, or equivalent.

e) The committee shall recommend to the church council proper depositories for the church's funds. Funds received shall be deposited promptly in the name of the local church.

f) Contributions designated for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the intent of

<p>the donor and shall not be used for any other purpose.⁶</p> <p>g) After the budget of the local church has been approved, additional appropriations or changes in the budget must be approved by the church council.</p> <p>h) The committee shall prepare annually a report to the church council of all designated funds that are separate from the current expense budget.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.005=258.4</p> <p>⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 63, 320, 539.</p> <p>⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 976.</p>	<p>the donor and shall not be used for any other purpose.⁶</p> <p>g) After the budget of the local church has been approved, additional appropriations or changes in the budget must be approved by the church council.</p> <p>h) The committee shall prepare annually a report to the church council of all designated funds that are separate from the current expense budget.</p> <p>⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 63, 320, 539.</p> <p>⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 976.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.006 In regards to ¶ 231.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the board of trustees:</p> <p>There shall be a board of trustees, whose membership and duties are detailed in ¶¶ 2525-2551.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.006=258.3</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.006 In regards to GBOD ¶ 231.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the board of trustees:</u></p> <p>[258.3] There shall be a board of trustees, whose membership and duties are detailed in ¶¶ 2525-2551.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.007 In regards to ¶ 231.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the lay leader:</p> <p>1. The lay leader shall serve as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general Church (to be better equipped to comply with this responsibility, it is recommended that a lay leader also serve as a lay member of annual conference);</p> <p>2. continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the Church’s reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the Church’s mission;</p> <p>3. assisting in advising the church council of opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective ministry of the church through its laity in the community;</p> <p>4. Informing the laity of training opportunities provided by the annual conference. Where possible, the lay leader shall</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.007 In regards to ¶ 231.6 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the lay leader:</u></p> <p><u>[251.1c)-f)]</u> 1. The lay leader shall serve as an interpreter of the actions and programs of the annual conference and the general Church (to be better equipped to comply with this responsibility, it is recommended that a lay leader also serve as a lay member of annual conference);</p> <p><u>2.d)</u> continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the Church’s reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the Church’s mission;</p> <p><u>3.e)</u> assisting in advising the church council of opportunities available and the needs expressed for a more effective ministry of the church through its laity in the community;</p> <p><u>4.f)</u> informing the laity of training opportunities provided by the annual conference. Where possible, the lay</p>	

<p>attend training opportunities in order to strengthen his or her work. The lay leader is urged to become a certified lay servant.</p> <p>5. In instances where more than one church is on a charge, the charge conference shall elect additional lay leaders so that there will be one lay leader in each church. Associate lay leaders may be elected to work with the lay leader in any local church.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.007=251.c.f</p>	<p>leader shall attend training opportunities in order to strengthen his or her work. The lay leader is urged to become a certified lay servant.</p> <p>5. In instances where more than one church is on a charge, the charge conference shall elect additional lay leaders so that there will be one lay leader in each church. Associate lay leaders may be elected to work with the lay leader in any local church.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.008 In regards to ¶ 231.7 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the lay member of the annual conference:</p> <p>The lay member(s) of the annual conference and alternates shall be elected annually or quadrennially as the annual conference directs.⁷ If the charge’s lay representative to the annual conference shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, an alternate member in the order of election shall serve in place. No local pastor shall be eligible as a lay member or alternate.⁸</p> <p>United Methodist churches that become part of an ecumenical shared ministry shall not be deprived of their right of representation by a lay member in the annual conference. The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.008=251.2</p> <p>7. See Judicial Council Decisions 170, 305, 342, 469, 495. 8. See Judicial Council Decision 328.</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.008 In regards to ¶ 231.7 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the lay member of the annual conference:</u></p> <p><u>[251.2] 2.</u>The lay member(s) of the annual conference and alternates shall be elected annually or quadrennially as the annual conference directs.⁷ If the charge’s lay representative to the annual conference shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, an alternate member in the order of election shall serve in place. No local pastor shall be eligible as a lay member or alternate.⁸</p> <p>United Methodist churches that become part of an ecumenical shared ministry shall not be deprived of their right of representation by a lay member in the annual conference. The lay member(s) of the annual conference, along with the pastor, shall serve as an interpreter of the actions of the annual conference session. These persons shall report to the local church council on actions of the annual conference as soon as possible, but not later than three months after the close of the conference.</p> <p>7. See Judicial Council Decisions 170, 305, 342, 469, 495. 8. See Judicial Council Decision 328.</p>	
<p>¶ 231.009 In regards to ¶ 231.8 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the financial secretary and the church treasurer:</p>	<p><u>¶ 231.009 In regards to ¶ 231.8 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the financial secretary and the church treasurer:</u></p>	

<p>1. There shall be an election of the financial secretary and the church treasurer(s) if not paid employees of the local church; and the trustees as provided in BOD¶¶ 2526-2528, unless otherwise required by state law.</p> <p>2. The positions of treasurer and financial secretary should not be combined and held by one person, and the persons holding these two positions should not be immediate family members.</p> <p>These restrictions on immediate family members of any appointed clergy would apply only to the church or charge where the clergy serves.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 231.009=249.4 and 258.4</p>	<p>[249.4] 1. There shall be an election of the financial secretary and the church treasurer(s) if not paid employees of the local church; and the trustees as provided in BOD¶¶ 2526-2528, unless otherwise required by state law.</p> <p>[258.4] 2. The positions of treasurer and financial secretary should not be combined and held by one person, and the persons holding these two positions should not be immediate family members.</p> <p>These restrictions <u>on immediate family members of any appointed clergy</u> would apply only to the church or charge where the clergy serves.</p>	
<p>¶ 232.001 On Removal of Officers and Filling of Vacancies according to GBOD¶ 232 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</p> <p>The committee on nominations and leadership development (¶¶ 258.1, 247.18) shall meet as soon as possible after the special session of the charge conference has been announced and shall propose person(s) who may be elected if vacancy(ies) occur at the charge conference. If the charge conference votes to remove a person or persons from office, the vacancy(ies) shall be filled in the manner prescribed for elections in accordance with ¶ 249. When a local church trustee is under consideration for removal and the pastoral charge consists of two or more churches, a church local conference shall be called instead of a charge conference, in accordance with BOD¶ 2526.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 232.001=</p>	<p>¶ 232.001 <u>On Removal of Officers and Filling of Vacancies according to ¶ 232 the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u></p> <p>The committee on nominations and leadership development ¶¶ 258.1, 247.18) shall meet as soon as possible after the special session of the charge conference has been announced and shall propose person(s) who may be elected if vacancy(ies) occur at the charge conference. If the charge conference votes to remove a person or persons from office, the vacancy(ies) shall be filled in the manner prescribed for elections in accordance with ¶ 249. When a local church trustee is under consideration for removal and the pastoral charge consists of two or more churches, a church local conference shall be called instead of a charge conference, in accordance with BOD¶ 2526.</p>	
<p>¶ 233.001 On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Age-Level, Family, and Specialized-Ministries Coordinators: The charge conference may elect annually a coordinator of children’s ministries, a coordinator of youth ministries, a coordinator of adult ministries, and a coordinator of family</p>	<p>¶ 233.001 <u>On Missional Potential according to GBOD¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Age-Level, Family, and Specialized-Ministries Coordinators:</u> [253] (see also ¶ 252) The charge conference may elect annually a coordinator of children’s ministries, a coordinator of youth ministries, a coordinator of adult ministries, and a</p>	

<p>ministries. Where young adult and specific age-level ministries would be enhanced, coordinators of young adult and/or older adult ministries may be elected. Where camps and retreats are part of faith formation across the age span, a coordinator of camp and retreat ministries may be elected. Where there are civic youth-serving agencies or scouting ministry units present there may be elected a scouting coordinator. Where needs for specialized areas of ministry arise (for example, single adults or persons with addictions, mental illness or disabilities), coordinators of these areas of ministry may be elected.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 233.001=225</p>	<p>coordinator of family ministries. Where young adult and specific age-level ministries would be enhanced, coordinators of young adult and/or older adult ministries may be elected. Where camps and retreats are part of faith formation across the age span, a coordinator of camp and retreat ministries may be elected. Where there are civic youth-serving agencies or scouting ministry units present there may be elected a scouting coordinator. Where needs for specialized areas of ministry arise (for example, single adults or persons with addictions, mental illness or disabilities), coordinators of these areas of ministry may be elected.</p>	
<p>¶ 233.002 On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Other Ministry Group Coordinators:</p> <p>In order to fulfill the mission of the local church, the charge conference may elect annually a coordinator or ministry group chairperson for any or all of these areas: Christian unity and interreligious relationships, church and society, community volunteers, education, evangelism, higher education and campus ministry, missions, prayer advocacy, religion and race, status and role of women, earth advocacy, stewardship, worship, advocacy for persons with special needs, and church media resources. Every local United Methodist Church may have a campus ministry coordinator, who may have membership on the church council. A primary responsibility of the campus ministry coordinator shall be to report the names and contact information (i.e., addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) of all college students from their local church each semester to the appropriate United Methodist Campus ministry, such as the Wesley Foundation. The campus ministry coordinator shall be encouraged to contact every college student from their church each semester by letter, e-mail, or phone and encourage the student's active participation in United Methodist student ministry. The campus ministry coordinator in every church shall also</p>	<p>¶ 233.002 <u>On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Other Ministry Group Coordinators:</u></p> <p>[254] In order to fulfill the mission of the local church, the charge conference may elect annually a coordinator or ministry group chairperson for any or all of these areas: Christian unity and interreligious relationships, church and society, community volunteers, education, evangelism, higher education and campus ministry, missions, prayer advocacy, religion and race, status and role of women, earth advocacy, stewardship, worship, advocacy for persons with special needs, and church media resources. Every local United Methodist Church may have a campus ministry coordinator, who may have membership on the church council. A primary responsibility of the campus ministry coordinator shall be to report the names and contact information (i.e., addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses) of all college students from their local church each semester to the appropriate United Methodist Campus ministry, such as the Wesley Foundation. The campus ministry coordinator shall be encouraged to contact every college student from their church each semester by letter, e-mail, or phone and encourage the student's active participation in United Methodist student ministry. The campus ministry coordinator in every church</p>	

<p>promote financial and other support of United Methodist Campus ministries, such as the Wesley Foundations, within their local church.</p> <p>Where desirable, the charge conference may combine coordinators' or ministry group chairpersons' assignments. Each coordinator or ministry group chairperson, if elected, shall work with the church council (or other appropriate body), pastor(s), and other church leaders to address the needs and opportunities of the particular area, utilizing all appropriate resources and relationships of the district, annual conference, and/or general church.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 233.002=254</p>	<p>shall also promote financial and other support of United Methodist Campus ministries, such as the Wesley Foundations, within their local church.</p> <p>Where desirable, the charge conference may combine coordinators' or ministry group chairpersons' assignments. Each coordinator or ministry group chairperson, if elected, shall work with the church council (or other appropriate body), pastor(s), and other church leaders to address the needs and opportunities of the particular area, utilizing all appropriate resources and relationships of the district, annual conference, and/or general church.</p>	
<p>¶ 233.003 On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Church-School Superintendent and Small-Group Coordinator: The charge conference may elect: (1) a superintendent of the church school or Sunday school, and/or a coordinator of small-group ministries, who shall be responsible for helping to organize and supervise the total program for nurturing faith, building Christian community, and equipping people of all ages for ministry in daily life through small groups in the church; (2) a health-and-welfare ministries coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its people in being involved in direct service to persons in need; and (3) a communications coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its members with communication tasks by making available ideas, resources, and skills.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 233.003=255</p>	<p>¶ 233.003 <u>On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Church-School Superintendent and Small-Group Coordinator:</u> [255] The charge conference may elect: (1) a superintendent of the church school or Sunday school, and/or a coordinator of small-group ministries, who shall be responsible for helping to organize and supervise the total program for nurturing faith, building Christian community, and equipping people of all ages for ministry in daily life through small groups in the church; (2) a health-and-welfare ministries coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its people in being involved in direct service to persons in need; and (3) a communications coordinator, who shall assist the local church and its members with communication tasks by making available ideas, resources, and skills.</p>	
<p>¶ 233.004 On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Program Ministries: The ministries of the local church are offered so that people encounter God's redeeming love for the world and respond by participating in God's action in the world. To achieve this</p>	<p>¶ 233.004 <u>On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Program Ministries:</u> [256] The ministries of the local church are offered so that people encounter God's redeeming love for the world and respond by participating in God's action in the world. To</p>	

ministry, people need to be involved in a variety of small-group settings. Some will be formed by the church council. Others will emerge with the approval of this body. Another type is historical, expressing itself in organizational structures that are related to counterparts in annual conferences and the general Church. These are referred to as program ministries and are related to the church council.

1. *The Church School and Small-Group Ministries*-In each local church there shall be a variety of small-group ministries, including the church school, for supporting the formation of Christian disciples focused on the transformation of the world. These small groups may concentrate on teaching and learning, fellowship, support, community ministries, and accountability. Members of small groups will build their knowledge of the Bible, the Christian faith, The United Methodist Church, and the societal context in which the church finds itself. In addition, small groups, including the church school, shall provide people with opportunities for practicing skills for faithful discipleship, including but not limited to worship, faith sharing, the creation of new faith communities, spiritual discernment, Bible study, theological reflection, prayer, community building, service with the poor and marginalized, and advocacy for peace and justice. Local churches or charges are strongly encouraged to develop policies and procedures to provide for the safety of the infants, children, youth and vulnerable adults entrusted to their care.

a) *The Church School*-In each local church there shall be a church school for the purpose of accomplishing the church's educational ministry.

The church school is challenged to create communities in which people of all ages experience God's active presence in their lives; foster healthy, nonviolent relationships within the congregation and community; testify to the reconciling love of God through Christ; and live out their faith in the world as witnesses to the coming reign of God.

b) *Accountable Discipleship*-Historically class leaders

achieve this ministry, people need to be involved in a variety of small-group settings. Some will be formed by the church council. Others will emerge with the approval of this body. Another type is historical, expressing itself in organizational structures that are related to counterparts in annual conferences and the general Church. These are referred to as program ministries and are related to the church council.

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b) *Accountable Discipleship*-Historically class leaders

provided lay pastoral leadership, and classes and class meetings were the basic structural means of Christian spiritual formation in the early Methodist societies.

Class leaders may be commissioned and classes may be organized within the local congregation for the purpose of forming persons as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through mutual accountability and support for witnessing to him in the world and for following his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (See ¶ 104, “The Nature, Design, and General Rules of Our United Societies” [page 75], and ¶ 1117.)

c) Mission and Ministry Groups-Christian discipleship is patterned after the servanthood of Jesus, who cared for the sick, fed the hungry, and befriended the outcast. People may participate in small groups in order to serve the needs of the poor and marginalized, advocate for social justice, and demonstrate their faith in all their relationships and whatever setting they find themselves in.

d) Support Groups-Where needed, the local church may organize small groups to support particular needs of congregation and community members, including but not limited to care and prayer groups, divorce recovery, grief recovery, parenting groups, and support for people who are suffering from chronic illness, including persons with mental illnesses and their families.

2. Children’s Ministries-Children’s ministries-for, with, and by children-include all ministries involving children within the life of the congregational community, including but not limited to Sunday school, vacation Bible school, nursery ministries, children’s choir and music ministries, fellowship groups, support groups, short-term study groups, children’s worship experiences, mission education experiences, intergenerational activities, and all weekday programs for children of all ages.

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a) If there is a coordinator of children’s ministries, the coordinator shall be responsible for assuring that children are

considered and included within the life of the congregation. The coordinator will lead the children's council, when organized, and will work closely with clergy and other program-related staff. The coordinator will vision, plan, and advocate for children, particularly in the areas of faith development, safety, and discipleship. The coordinator will work with other leaders in the congregation to assure that policies and procedures are in place to help keep all children and the adults who care for and work with them safe. These policies and procedures include such things as background checks, having at least two adults per group, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first-aid training. The coordinator will also advocate for mission education for children, including The United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission.

b) If there is a children's council, it shall be responsible for planning, visioning, and advocating for children within the congregation, the community, and the world. The council will set policies and procedures related to children, oversee the planning of short-term experiences, consider children's ministry needs within the whole of the congregation's ministries, and communicate with parents and the congregation. The children's council will work closely with the coordinator of children's ministries and church staff responsible for ministry with children, including children's choirs and weekday ministries. The children's council is accountable to the group responsible for the local church's educational ministry.

c) Weekday Ministry Board-The term weekday ministry applies to any regularly planned ministry for children. When appropriate, one or more weekday ministry boards may be organized to oversee the weekday ministry programs of the congregation. The board's membership should be mostly professing members of the congregation, with parent, church staff, and weekday ministry staff representatives. The board will set policies consistent with the congregation's policies,

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state mandates, and sound business practices. The board will guide weekday ministries as appropriate opportunities for faith development, mission outreach, Christian education, evangelism, and safety. They will advocate for inclusion of children from various socioeconomic, cultural, and racial/ethnic backgrounds. Weekday ministry board(s) accountability should be placed within the local church organizational structure with consideration to the group responsible for the congregation's education ministry.

3. *Young People's Ministries*-The term *young people* is inclusive of all persons from approximately twelve through thirty years of age in the United States and thirty-five in the central conferences. The term encompasses both youth and young-adult ministries and allows for age flexibility given the different age definitions for young people in various cultures around the world. The term *youth ministry* is an inclusive title, encompassing all the concerns of the Church and all activities by, with, and for youth. The youth ministry of The United Methodist Church shall include all persons from approximately twelve through eighteen years of age in the United States and up to twenty-four in the central conferences, taking into account the grouping of youth in the public schools, who are currently or potentially associated with the church or any of its activities. Youth who are professing members of the church have all rights and responsibilities of church membership except voting on matters prohibited by state law (see ¶ 226.5). The term *young-adult ministry* is an inclusive title, encompassing all the concerns of the Church and all activities by, with, and for young adults. The young-adult ministry of The United Methodist Church shall include all persons from approximately eighteen through thirty in the United States and twenty-four through thirty-five in the central conferences who are currently or potentially associated with the church or any of its activities. Young adults who are professing members of the church have all rights and responsibilities of church membership.

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a) The coordinator/staff for youth ministries and the youth leadership team, when organized, shall be responsible for recommending to the church council activities, program emphases, and settings for youth. The coordinator/staff and the leadership team shall use available resources and means to inform youth concerning the Youth Service Fund and shall cultivate its support, provided that prior to this cultivation or as a part of it, the youth shall have been challenged to assume their financial responsibilities in connection with the total program and budget of the local church.

b) The local church may organize settings for ministries with young people as appropriate in their ministry context.

c) In each charge conference where there are at least five youth, there may be a youth leadership team.

(1) The leadership team shall be made up of no less than one-half youth. Nominations for members of the leadership team (both youth and adults) may come from the youth group (or related structure). The nominations will then be sent to the committee on nominations and leadership development for approval and then to the charge conference for approval.

The council shall be composed of:

(a) The coordinator/staff for youth ministries and other related leaders as ex officio members with voice but not vote.

(b) Any youth serving on a district, conference, jurisdictional, or general Church board or agency.

(c) Any adult serving on a district, conference, jurisdictional, or general Church organization on youth ministry.

(2) There shall be co-chairs with one adult and one youth to lead the meetings. Other officers may be a mix of adults and youth depending on the skills, gifts, and needs of the leadership team.

(3) The leadership team shall meet at least

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(3) The leadership team shall meet at least

semiannually. It may meet additionally at the request of the pastor, coordinator/staff for youth ministries or any member of the committee.

Responsibilities:

(a) To assist the coordinator/staff for youth ministry and other related leaders in planning and developing activities, program emphases, and settings for youth in the local church.

(b) To develop a program budget for their youth ministry

(c) To assist the coordinator/staff for youth ministry in finding and encouraging qualified adults and interns to work with youth in the local church.

(d) To develop a covenant for all adult volunteer youth workers.

(e) To encourage and facilitate the furthering of education for the coordinator/staff for youth ministries and others in leadership with youth.

(f) To be informed of and follow the conference child safety policies, procedures, and requirements to be followed by the local church.(g) To encourage and educate youth on possible careers in professional ministry and how to consider any vocational calling and opportunity to serve.

(h) To be a resource for other churches interested in starting or revitalizing youth ministry within their own local churches.

(i) To further educate youth and adults on The United Methodist Church as a connectional church by encouraging and supporting the participation of youth and adults in district, annual, jurisdictional, and central conferences, and other general Church ministries.

(j) To promote and educate persons about the Youth Service Fund.

(k) To promote the camping and retreat ministries within the local church.

(l) To promote, introduce, and encourage youth

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(l) To promote, introduce, and encourage youth

and young adults to become active in United Methodist campus ministry when they attend a college or university.

(m) To empower youth to be full participants and active leaders in The United Methodist Church.

(n) To consult with the pastor/staff parish relations committee in: 1) developing written job descriptions; 2) nominating; 3) evaluating the job performance of the coordinator/staff for of youth ministries and any other volunteer and paid staff related to youth ministry in the local church.

(m) It is strongly recommended that the council develop a program budget for their ministry.

d) The coordinator/staff for young-adult ministries and the young adult leadership team, when organized, shall be responsible for recommending to the church council the activities, program emphases, and settings for young adults, gather the names and addresses of all college students to send to the campus minister or chaplain of the college or university the students are attending, encourage college students to participate in United Methodist campus ministry, and recommend opportunities for the congregation to support and participate with annual conference campus ministries and annual conference related colleges and universities.

4. Scouting ministry through civic youth-serving agencies offer another setting for ministry to children, youth, their leaders, and their families. The Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) award program is available to all appropriate age-level participants of the local church education program including the church school, youth ministry, and scouting ministry.

a) Each local church may have a local church scouting coordinator who shall relate to the church council, the superintendent of the church school, the coordinator of children's ministries, the coordinator of youth ministries, and all the various youth-serving agency structures. The local church scouting coordinator may relate to the district scouting

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coordinator and annual conference scouting coordinator who are resource and training advisors. All churches shall be encouraged to have a signed partnership agreement with all the units of these agencies which are part of their ministry.

5. *United Methodist Women*-In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women. The following is the authorized constitution:

Article 1. Name-The name of this organization shall be United Methodist Women.

Article 2. Relationships-The unit of United Methodist Women in the local church is directly related to the district and conference and national organizations of United Methodist Women.

Article 3. Purpose-The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.

Article 4. Membership-Membership shall be open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the Church through United Methodist Women. The pastor(s) shall be an ex officio member of the local unit and of its executive committee.

Article 5. Officers and Committees-The local unit shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a committee on nominations. Additional officers and committees shall be elected or appointed as needed, in accordance with the plans of the United Methodist Women's national organization as set forth in the bylaws for the local unit of United Methodist Women.

Article 6. Funds-a) The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall secure funds for the fulfillment of its purpose.

b) All funds from whatever source secured by the unit of United Methodist Women belong to the organization and shall be disbursed only in accordance with its constitution and by its

~~central conferences equivalent~~) may relate to the district scouting coordinator and annual conference scouting coordinator who are resource and training advisors. All churches shall be encouraged to have a signed partnership agreement with all the units of these agencies which are part of their ministry.

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Article 2. Relationships-The unit of United Methodist Women in the local church is directly related to the district and conference and national organizations of United Methodist Women.

Article 3. Purpose-The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.

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Article 6. Funds-a) The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall secure funds for the fulfillment of its purpose.

b) All funds from whatever source secured by the unit of

order.

c) The total budget secured and administered by the organized unit in the local church shall include: (1) pledges and other money for the programs and responsibilities of the United Methodist Women's national organization to be directed through regular channels of finance of United Methodist Women; and (2) funds to be used in mission locally, which shall include amounts for administration and membership development.

d) The organized unit in the local church shall make an annual pledge to the total budget of the district or conference organization of United Methodist Women.

e) All undesignated funds channeled to the United Methodist Women's national organization shall be appropriated by the organization.

Article 7. Meetings-The organized unit in the local church shall hold such meetings for implementing the purpose and transacting its business as the unit itself shall decide.

Article 8. Relationship in the Local Church-The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall encourage all women to participate in the total life and work of the Church and shall support them in assuming positions of responsibility and leadership.

Article 9. Amendments-Proposed amendments to this constitution may be sent to the recording secretary of the United Methodist Women's national organization before the last annual meeting of the organization in the quadrennium.

Note: For a description of the United Methodist Women's national organization and its subsidiary organizations, see ¶¶1901-1918.

6. *United Methodist Men*-Each church or charge shall have an organized unit of United Methodist Men chartered and annually renewed through the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Other organized men's ministry groups in a local United Methodist Church shall annually report to the charge conference and be resourced through the General

United Methodist Women belong to the organization and shall be disbursed only in accordance with its constitution and by its order.

c) The total budget secured and administered by the organized unit in the local church shall include: (1) pledges and other money for the programs and responsibilities of the United Methodist Women's national organization to be directed through regular channels of finance of United Methodist Women; and (2) funds to be used in mission locally, which shall include amounts for administration and membership development.

d) The organized unit in the local church shall make an annual pledge to the total budget of the district or conference organization of United Methodist Women.

e) All undesignated funds channeled to the United Methodist Women's national organization shall be appropriated by the organization.

Article 7. Meetings-The organized unit in the local church shall hold such meetings for implementing the purpose and transacting its business as the unit itself shall decide.

Article 8. Relationship in the Local Church-The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall encourage all women to participate in the total life and work of the Church and shall support them in assuming positions of responsibility and leadership.

Article 9. Amendments-Proposed amendments to this constitution may be sent to the recording secretary of the United Methodist Women's national organization before the last annual meeting of the organization in the quadrennium.

Note: For a description of the United Methodist Women's national organization and its subsidiary organizations, see ¶¶1901-1918.

6. *United Methodist Men*-Each church or charge shall have an organized unit of United Methodist Men chartered and annually renewed through the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Other organized men's ministry groups in a

Commission on United Methodist Men. All local church men's organizations shall provide a dedicated ministry for building men spiritually and involving men in the total ministry of the Church (§ 2302).

a) Local church resource material for supporting effective men's ministries shall be provided by the district, conference, and jurisdictional organizations of United Methodist Men and the General Commission on United Methodist Men (§ 2302).

b) United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. Men's ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. This purpose is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

c) Individual and group strategies form the foundation of United Methodist Men ministry.

(1) Enhance Evangelism, Mission, and Spiritual Life (EMS), as men become servant leaders.

(2) Advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries including prayer, missions, stewardship, and civic/youth serving ministries.

(3) Forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.

(4) Enhance organizational strength through effective leadership, resources, membership growth, and financial accountability.

(5) Assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles, and responsibilities in the family setting, workplace, and society.

(6) Understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.

(7) Fulfill the membership vows through the commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness in congregational life.

(8) Fulfill the Great Commission with and through

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(6) Understand the organization, doctrines, and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.

(7) Fulfill the membership vows through the commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness in

The United Methodist Church as one part of the body of Christ.

d) Men seeking membership in a local unit of United Methodist Men will be asked to subscribe to the major strategies listed in § *c* above and to these personal objectives:

(1) To engage daily in Bible study and prayer.

(2) To bear witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and actions.

(3) To engage in Christian service.

e) United Methodist Men may be organized in one or more components within a local church as needed. Multiple local churches may also form a single unit of United Methodist Men according to their needs.

f) Membership shall be open to any man who indicates his desire to belong and to participate in the ministry of the church through United Methodist Men.

g) The appointed clergy of the local church or charge shall be ex officio member(s) of the unit and its executive committee

h) The organized unit of United Methodist Men shall secure funds for the fulfillment of its purpose. All funds from whatever source secured by the United Methodist Men's unit belong to the organization and shall be disbursed only in accordance with its constitution and/or by-laws and by its order.

(1) United Methodist Men's unit may have their own bank accounts.

(2) The UM Men's unit shall have an annual financial audit.

7. Supplemental Ministries—In view of the fact that the needs of women and men are complex, dynamic, and unique in every congregation, local churches are encouraged to develop a variety of supplemental ministry programs for women and men, in addition to United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

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(8) Fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the body of Christ.

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(3) To engage in Christian service.

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f) Membership shall be open to any man who indicates his desire to belong and to participate in the ministry of the church through United Methodist Men.

g) The appointed clergy of the local church or charge shall be ex officio member(s) of the unit and its executive committee

h) The organized unit of United Methodist Men shall secure funds for the fulfillment of its purpose. All funds from whatever source secured by the United Methodist Men's unit belong to the organization and shall be disbursed only in accordance with its constitution and/or by-laws and by its order.

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<p>¶ 233.005 On Missional Potential according to ¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Other Age-Level Councils: Where the size of the church and the extent of the program indicate the need, the work of the church council (or other appropriate body) may be facilitated by one or more age-level councils and/or a family council, or such other means as fit the needs of the congregation. The membership of these councils shall be elected by the church council (or other appropriate body).</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 233.005 =257</p>	<p>¶ 233.005 <u>On Missional Potential according to GBOD¶ 233 the following additional regulations shall be implemented for Other Age-Level Councils:</u> [257] Where the size of the church and the extent of the program indicate the need, the work of the church council (or other appropriate body) may be facilitated by one or more age-level councils and/or a family council, or such other means as fit the needs of the congregation. The membership of these councils shall be elected by the church council (or other appropriate body).</p>	
<p>¶ 234.001 In regards to GBOD¶ 234.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Mission and Ministry: 1. The leadership development and resourcing ministries shall give attention to the ongoing preparation and development of lay and clergy leaders for the ministry of the church (¶ 258.1). 2. The nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities shall include consideration of (i) the election of a prayer coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the local church to pray, (ii) establishing a prayer room or designated place for prayer and prayer resources, and (iii) encouraging intentional prayer for the pastoral leadership of the local church.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.001 =252.2.d</p>	<p>¶ 234.001 <u>In regards to GBOD¶ 234.2 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Mission and Ministry:</u> [252.2d)-e)] <u>1.e)</u> The leadership development and resourcing ministries shall give attention to the ongoing preparation and development of lay and clergy leaders for the ministry of the church (¶ 258.1). <u>2.e)</u> The nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities shall include consideration of (i) the election of a prayer coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the local church to pray, (ii) establishing a prayer room or designated place for prayer and prayer resources, and (iii) encouraging intentional prayer for the pastoral leadership of the local church.</p>	
<p>¶ 234.002 In regards to ¶ 234.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Meetings: In order for the council to give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first agenda item at each meeting be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The administrative and</p>	<p>¶ 234.002 <u>In regards to ¶ 234.3 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Meetings:</u> [252.3.b)] In order for the council to give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first agenda item at each meeting be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The</p>	

<p>supportive responsibilities of the church will then be given attention. It is recommended that the council use a consensus/discernment model of decision-making.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.002 =252.3.b</p>	<p>administrative and supportive responsibilities of the church will then be given attention. It is recommended that the council use a consensus/discernment model of decision-making.</p>	
<p>¶ 234.003 In regards to ¶ 234.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Other Responsibilities: Review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations regarding provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the same to the charge conference for approval. Housing provisions shall comply with the annual conference housing policy and parsonage standards. Housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration except to the extent provided for in denominational pension and benefit plans.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.003 =252.4.e</p>	<p>¶ 234.003 <u>In regards to ¶ 234.4 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Other Responsibilities:</u> [252.4.e)] Review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations regarding provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the same to the charge conference for approval. Housing provisions shall comply with the annual conference housing policy and parsonage standards. Housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration except to the extent provided for in denominational pension and benefit plans.</p>	
<p>¶ 234.004 In regards to ¶ 234.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Membership: 1. Members of the church council shall be involved in the mission and ministry of the congregation as defined in ¶ 252.2. The membership of the council may consist of as few as eleven persons or as many as the charge conference deems appropriate. The council shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the church as outlined in ¶ 243. 2. The membership shall additionally include but not be limited to the following: a) the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee; b) the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance; c) the chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees; d) the church treasurer;</p>	<p>¶ 234.004 <u>In regards to ¶ 234.5 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Membership:</u> [252.5] <u>1.</u> Members of the church council shall be involved in the mission and ministry of the congregation as defined in ¶ 252.2. The membership of the council may consist of as few as eleven persons or as many as the charge conference deems appropriate. The council shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the church as outlined in ¶ 243. <u>2.</u> The membership shall <u>additionally</u> include but not be limited to the following: <u>a)e)</u> the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee; <u>b)d)</u> the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance; <u>c)e)</u> the chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees; <u>d)f)</u> the church treasurer;</p>	

<p>e) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men; f) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Women; g) a young adult representative h) a representative of the United Methodist Youth;</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.004 =252.5</p>	<p>e/h) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men; f/j) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Women; g/j) a young adult representative h/k) a representative of the United Methodist Youth;</p>	
<p>¶ 234.005 On Church Council according to ¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Special Sundays: The special Sundays in The United Methodist Church intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church are celebrated annually. The special Sundays are placed on the calendar to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs. Six churchwide special Sundays provide for churchwide offerings to express our commitment: Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday. Four special Sundays are without offering: Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, and Men’s Ministry Sunday. Four churchwide Sundays-Christian Education, Golden Cross, Disability Awareness, and Rural Life-provide opportunities for annual conference offerings. The special Sundays approved by General Conference shall be the only Sundays of churchwide emphasis. The program calendar of the denomination shall include only the special Sundays approved by General Conference, special Sundays approved by ecumenical agencies to which The United Methodist Church officially relates, and the days and seasons of the Christian Year.</p>	<p><u>¶ 234.005 On Church Council according to ¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Special Sundays:</u> [262] The special Sundays in The United Methodist Church intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church are celebrated annually. The special Sundays are placed on the calendar to make clear the calling of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs. Six churchwide special Sundays provide for churchwide offerings to express our commitment: Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, World Communion Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday. Four special Sundays are without offering: Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, and Men’s Ministry Sunday. Four churchwide Sundays-Christian Education, Golden Cross, Disability Awareness, and Rural Life-provide opportunities for annual conference offerings. The special Sundays approved by General Conference shall be the only Sundays of churchwide emphasis. The program calendar of the denomination shall include only the special Sundays approved by General Conference, special Sundays approved by ecumenical agencies to which The United Methodist Church officially relates, and the days and seasons of the Christian Year.</p>	

<p>GBOD ¶ 234.005 =262</p>	<p>Because the central conferences represent a diversity of history and heritages, they shall not be required to observe all of the special days listed below. The central conferences are authorized to observe other special days appropriate to their unique history and heritages</p>	
<p>¶ 234.006 On Church Council according to GBOD¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on General Provisions Regarding Churchwide Special Sundays With Offering: <i>Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.</i> <i>Purpose</i>-General Conference shall determine the purpose of the churchwide offerings upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table. The purpose of these offerings shall remain constant for the quadrennium, and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration (see BOD¶ 805.6). The General Commission on Communication shall promote these offerings in cooperation with the agencies responsible for the administration of these funds. (See BOD¶¶ 824.7 & 1806.12.) Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full, except where noted differently below, to the General Council on Finance and Administration within thirty days of receipt in the office of the annual conference treasurer. 1. <i>Human Relations Day</i>-Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. Congregations are to observe Human Relations Day on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God’s light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing</p>	<p>¶ 234.006 <u>On Church Council according to GBOD¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on General Provisions Regarding Churchwide Special Sundays With Offering:</u> [263] <i>Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.</i> <i>Purpose</i>-General Conference shall determine the purpose of the churchwide offerings upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table. The purpose of these offerings shall remain constant for the quadrennium, and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration (see BOD¶ 805.6). The General Commission on Communication shall promote these offerings in cooperation with the agencies responsible for the administration of these funds. (See BOD¶¶ 824.7 & 1806.12.) Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full, except where noted differently below, to the General Council on Finance and Administration within thirty days of receipt in the office of the annual conference treasurer. 1. <i>Human Relations Day</i>-Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. Congregations are to observe Human Relations Day on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God’s light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing</p>	

their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations.

In connection with Human Relations Day the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be allocated on ratio by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, to the administering agencies:

- a) *Community Developers Program*: 57 percent (General Board of Global Ministries);
- b) *United Methodist Voluntary Services Program*: 33 percent (General Board of Global Ministries) and;
- c) *Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program*: 10 percent (General Board of Church and Society).

2. *UMCOR Sunday*-Historically, UMCOR Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Congregations are to observe UMCOR Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. Lent is the season of repentance, self-examination, and awareness of the hurts of the peoples of the world. UMCOR Sunday calls the Church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. In connection with UMCOR Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, General Board of Global Ministries. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Board of Global Ministries.

3. *World Communion Sunday*-Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. Congregations are to observe World Communion Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. World Communion Sunday calls the church to be the catholic inclusive church. In

their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations.

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connection with World Communion Sunday the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Each local church shall be requested to remit as provided in BOD¶ 824.8a all of the communion offering received on World Communion Sunday and such portion of the communion offering received at other observances of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the local church may designate.

Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be divided on ratio by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agencies:

- a) World Communion Scholarships: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States;
- b) Ethnic Scholarship Program: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and
- c) Ethnic In-Service Training Program: 15 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

4. *United Methodist Student Day*-Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. Congregations are to observe United Methodist Student Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. United Methodist Student Day calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund. In connection with United Methodist Student Day, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agency.

5. *Peace with Justice Sunday*-Historically, Peace with

connection with World Communion Sunday the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Each local church shall be requested to remit as provided in BOD¶ 824.8a all of the communion offering received on World Communion Sunday and such portion of the communion offering received at other observances of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the local church may designate.

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- a) World Communion Scholarships: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States;
- b) Ethnic Scholarship Program: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and
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5. *Peace with Justice Sunday*-Historically, Peace with

Justice Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the First Sunday After Pentecost. Congregations are to observe Peace with Justice Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit calling for God's shalom. Peace with Justice witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. In connection with Peace with Justice Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Church and Society.

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

b) The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the receipts to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agency for Peace with Justice ministries.

6. *Native American Ministries Sunday*-Historically, Native American Ministries Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. United States congregations are to observe Native American Ministries Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday serves to remind the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. In connection with Native American Ministries Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

a) The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the receipts to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference, to be

Justice Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the First Sunday After Pentecost. Congregations are to observe Peace with Justice Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit calling for God's shalom. Peace with Justice witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. In connection with Peace with Justice Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Church and Society.

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

b) The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the receipts to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agency for Peace with Justice ministries.

6. *Native American Ministries Sunday*-Historically, Native American Ministries Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. United States congregations are to observe Native American Ministries Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday serves to remind the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. In connection with Native American Ministries Sunday, the General Commission on Communication shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

a) The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the receipts to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference, to be

<p>administered by the annual conference committee on Native American ministry.</p> <p>Should there be no Native American ministries within the annual conference, the annual conference treasurer shall remit this 50 percent to the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>b) The annual conference treasurer shall report gross receipts and remit the remaining 50 or 100 percent of the receipts as applicable to the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>c) Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agencies: (1) Scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and schools of theology approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church: 50 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry). (2) Strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries and communities: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries) : 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries).</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.006 =263</p>	<p>administered by the annual conference committee on Native American ministry.</p> <p>Should there be no Native American ministries within the annual conference, the annual conference treasurer shall remit this 50 percent to the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>b) The annual conference treasurer shall report gross receipts and remit the remaining 50 or 100 percent of the receipts as applicable to the General Council on Finance and Administration.</p> <p>c) Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agencies: (1) Scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and schools of theology approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church: 50 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry). (2) Strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries and communities: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries) : 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries).</p>	
<p>¶ 234.007 On Church Council according to ¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on General Provisions Regarding Special Sundays Without Churchwide Offerings: [Five special Sundays without churchwide offering shall be approved by General Conference upon recommendation of the Connectional Table after consultation with the Council of Bishops. The program functions assigned to the general agencies are carried out by the respective agencies through normal programmatic channels. Special Sundays are not needed for these program functions to be implemented.</p> <p>1. <i>Heritage Sunday</i>-Heritage Sunday shall be observed on Aldersgate Day (May 24), or the Sunday preceding that date</p>	<p>¶ 234.007 <u>On Church Council according to ¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on General Provisions Regarding Special Sundays Without Churchwide Offerings:</u> [264]-Five special Sundays without churchwide offering shall be approved by General Conference upon recommendation of the Connectional Table after consultation with the Council of Bishops. The program functions assigned to the general agencies are carried out by the respective agencies through normal programmatic channels. Special Sundays are not needed for these program functions to be implemented.</p> <p>1. <i>Heritage Sunday</i>-Heritage Sunday shall be observed on Aldersgate Day (May 24), or the Sunday preceding that date</p>	

(see Historical Statement, page 12). The day provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how it understands itself as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing. Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God. The observance of Heritage Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Commission on Archives and History. Any general agency of the Church which desires to recommend a theme for a given year for this Sunday may do so one year prior to the observance for which the recommendation is made. This recommendation is to be made to the General Commission on Archives and History, and the decision of the annual theme of this Sunday shall be made by the voting members of the General Commission on Archives and History.

2. *Laity Sunday*-Laity Sunday shall be observed annually, preferably on the third Sunday in October. Laity Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the ministry of all lay Christians, as their lives are empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit. The observance of Laity Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Discipleship. The Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders will recommend themes for an entire quadrennium to the General Board of Discipleship two years before the beginning of a new quadrennium.

3. *Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday*-Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday shall be observed annually, preferably on the second Sunday in November since the date is close to Thanksgiving and is viewed as a time to come together around the issues of life and Thanksgiving. Congregations are encouraged to support Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday by including the topic in their worship services. The General Board of Church and Society will have responsibility for the supervision and promotion of the observance of this special Sunday. Worship resource materials are available at all of the not-for-profit donor programs in the United States.

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<p>4. <i>Men's Ministry Sunday</i>-Men's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is to celebrate the men's ministry within and beyond the local church. This includes: organized (chartered or unchartered) units of United Methodist Men; male Emmaus reunion communities; work teams; prayer groups; Bible studies; study and enrichment groups; and other places and organizations where men of The United Methodist Church join together for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach. Resources for this observance shall be provided by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.</p> <p>5. <i>Women's Ministry Sunday</i>—Women's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is designed to celebrate a variety of women's ministries, women's history and the contribution of women within and beyond the local church. This includes, but is not limited to, organized (chartered or unchartered) units of United Methodist Women; women Emmaus communities; work teams; prayer groups; Bible studies; study and enrichment groups; MOPS groups; and other places and organizations where women of The United Methodist Church join together for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach. Resources for this observance may be available through a variety of organizations or may be developed through the local church depending on the groups that choose to participate.</p> <p>GBOD ¶ 234.007 =264</p>	<p>4. <i>Men's Ministry Sunday</i>-Men's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is to celebrate the men's ministry within and beyond the local church. This includes: organized (chartered or unchartered) units of United Methodist Men; male Emmaus reunion communities; work teams; prayer groups; Bible studies; study and enrichment groups; and other places and organizations where men of The United Methodist Church join together for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach. Resources for this observance shall be provided by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.</p> <p>5. <i>Women's Ministry Sunday</i>—Women's Ministry Sunday may be observed annually on a Sunday designated by the local congregation. The day is designed to celebrate a variety of women's ministries, women's history and the contribution of women within and beyond the local church. This includes, but is not limited to, organized (chartered or unchartered) units of United Methodist Women; women Emmaus communities; work teams; prayer groups; Bible studies; study and enrichment groups; MOPS groups; and other places and organizations where women of The United Methodist Church join together for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach. Resources for this observance may be available through a variety of organizations or may be developed through the local church depending on the groups that choose to participate.</p>	
<p>¶ 234.008 On Church Council according to GBOD¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Approved Sundays for Annual Conference Observance: Five special Sundays approved by General Conference provide opportunities for annual conference offerings. Local church treasurers shall remit the receipts of the following four offerings to the annual conference treasurer, and receipts will</p>	<p>¶ 234.008 <u>On Church Council according to ¶ 234 the following additional regulations shall be implemented on Approved Sundays for Annual Conference Observance:</u> [262] Five special Sundays approved by General Conference provide opportunities for annual conference offerings. Local church treasurers shall remit the receipts of the following four offerings to the annual conference treasurer, and receipts will</p>	

be acknowledged in accordance with the procedure of the annual conference. Local churches shall report the amount of the offering in the manner indicated in the local church report to the annual conference.

1. *Christian Education Sunday*-Christian Education Sunday shall be observed on a date determined by the annual conference. It calls the Church as the people of God to be open to growth and learning as disciples of Jesus Christ. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received for Christian education within the annual conference. The observance of Christian Education Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Discipleship.

2. *Golden Cross Sunday*-Golden Cross Sunday shall be observed annually on a date determined by the annual conference. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received for health and welfare ministries in the annual conference. The observance of Golden Cross Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries.

3. *Rural Life Sunday*-Rural Life Sunday shall be observed on a date to be determined by the annual conference. Rural Life Sunday shall call the Church to celebrate the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church, to recognize the ongoing crisis occurring in rural areas of the nation and the world today, and to affirm the interdependence of rural and urban communities. The observance of Rural Life Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries. Anyone who desires to recommend a Rural Life Sunday theme for a given year may do so one year before the observance for which the recommendation is made. Recommendations are to be made to the General Board of Global Ministries, and the voting members of the board shall determine the annual theme of this Sunday. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received to strengthen the nurture, outreach, and witness of congregations in town and rural areas.

4. *Disability Awareness Sunday*-Disability Awareness

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4. *Disability Awareness Sunday*-Disability Awareness

Sunday shall be observed annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference. Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and the funds used by the annual conference to promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches. The observance of Disability Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries.

5. *Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday*—Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday shall be observed annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference. UMVIM Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference volunteer in mission program. The observance of UMVIM Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of General Board of Global Ministries Mission Volunteers.

Annual conferences may determine other special Sundays with or without offering. Special Sundays with offering shall be approved by the annual conference upon recommendation of the conference council on ministries in consultation with the conference council on finance and administration. Special Sundays without offering shall be approved by the conference upon recommendation of the conference council on ministries. Local church treasurers shall remit the receipts of all annual conference special Sundays with offering to the conference treasurer, and receipts will be acknowledged in accordance with procedures of the annual conference. Local churches shall report the amount of the offering in the manner indicated in the Local Church Report to the annual conference.

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GBOD ¶ 234.008=262		
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