

1 Total Number of Pages: 13
2 Suggested Title: A More Equitable Worldwide Connection
3 *Discipline* Paragraph Numbers: ¶ 16, 23, 28, 30-31, 37-40, 512, 540, 542-543, 560, 563, 565-566
4 General Church Budget Implications: Yes
5 Global Implications: Yes
6

7 ***Amend ¶ 16. Article IV. as follows:***

8 ¶ 16. Article IV.

9 ...3 To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual
10 conferences, missionary conferences and missions, jurisdictional conferences,
11 ~~and of~~ central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational
12 meetings. {See Judicial Council Decision 411.}

13 4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church
14 ~~outside the United States of America~~ around the world. {See Judicial Council Decision 182;
15 amended 1976.}

16 ...10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional
17 conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by central conferences
18 when central conferences are not divided into jurisdictional conferences. {See Judicial Council
19 Decisions 598, 735.}

20 ...13. To establish jurisdictional conferences within central conferences upon the
21 recommendation of a majority of the annual conferences in the central conference.

22 ***Renumber the remaining subparagraphs sequentially.***

23

24 ***Amend ¶ 23. Article I. as follows:***

25 ¶ 23. Article I.—The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives
26 from the annual conferences and missionary conferences {Amended 1976} as shall be

27 determined by a uniform basis established by the General Conference, provided that no
28 jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall
29 be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article. {Amended 1976}

30

31 ***Amend ¶ 28. Article I. as follows:***

32 Section V. Central Conferences

33 ¶ 28. Article I.—There shall be central conferences for the work of the Church ~~outside the United~~
34 ~~States of America~~⁵⁰ with such duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. All
35 central conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits
36 fixed by the Constitution. The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be
37 determined by ~~the Uniting Conference~~. ~~Subsequently~~ the General Conference shall have
38 authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences
39 shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.

40

41 ***Amend ¶30. Article III. as follows:***

42 ¶ 30. Article III.—The central conferences ~~shall~~ may meet within the year succeeding the
43 meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the
44 preceding respective central conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General
45 Conference. The date and place of the ~~first meetings succeeding the Uniting Conference~~ shall be
46 fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be
47 determined by the General Conference.

48

49 ***Amend ¶ 31. Article IV. as follows:***

50 ¶ 31. Article IV.

51 ...2. In central conferences not divided into jurisdictional conferences, a) to elect the bishops for
52 the respective central conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a
53 basis fixed by the General Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the
54 support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference. {See Judicial Council
55 Decision 370.}, and b) to determine the number and boundaries of the annual conferences within
56 their respective areas.

57 ...4. ~~To determine the boundaries of the annual conferences within their respective areas.~~

58 ***Renumber the remaining subparagraphs sequentially.***

59

60 ***Reorder and Renumber ¶¶ 37-38 and Amend as follows:***

61 ~~¶ 38. Article II.—~~ **¶ 37. Article I.**— The work of the Church ~~outside the United States of~~
62 ~~America may~~ shall be formed into central conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall
63 be determined by ~~the Uniting Conference,~~ the General Conference ~~having authority subsequently~~
64 ~~to make changes in the number and boundaries.~~

65

66 ~~¶ 37. Article I.—~~ **¶ 38. Article II.**— The United ~~Methodist Church States~~ Central Conference

67 shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows: ...

68

69 ***Amend ¶ 39. Article III. as follows:***

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

73 involved. {See Judicial Council Decisions 55, 56, 85, 215.}

74

75 *Delete ¶ 40. Article IV.*

76

77 *Amend ¶ 511 as follows:*

78 ...1. Membership—a) The voting members of the commission shall be elected quadrennially by

79 the General Conference and shall consist of twenty-five members as follows: ~~two~~ one persons

80 from each jurisdiction, one person from each ~~the~~ central conferences without jurisdictional

81 conferences of each continent of Africa, Asia, and Europe, one young adult, the chairperson of

82 the host committee, and ~~ten~~ additional members. ~~The additional members~~ who shall be allocated

83 to reflect the proportionate membership of jurisdictional conferences membership and central

84 conferences without jurisdictional conferences based upon combined clergy and lay membership

85 of the church...

86

87 *Amend ¶ 512 as follows:*

88 Section II. The Jurisdictional Conference

89 ¶ 512. Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy—1. There shall be an Interjurisdictional

90 Committee on Episcopacy elected by the General Conference consisting of the persons

91 nominated by ~~their~~ annual conference delegations to serve on the several jurisdictional

92 committees on episcopacy and the members of the Central Conference Committees on the

93 Episcopacy in those central conferences without jurisdictional conferences. {See Judicial

94 Council Decision 472.} The committee shall meet not later than the fifth day of the conference

95 session and at the time and place set for their convening by the president of the Council of

96 Bishops and shall elect from their number a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The
97 function of this joint committee shall be to discuss the possibility of transfers of bishops across
98 jurisdictional or across central conference lines at the forthcoming jurisdictional and central
99 conferences for residential and presidential responsibilities in the ensuing quadrennium; and to
100 review on the basis of missional needs an application from a jurisdiction or central conference
101 without jurisdictions which, by number of its church members as provided in ¶ 404, would
102 experience a reduction in the number of its bishops, and recommend the number of bishops to
103 which that jurisdiction or central conference without jurisdictional conferences should be entitled
104 to the General Conference for determination by the General Conference.

105 It shall elect an executive committee consisting of the officers named above and two clergy and
106 two laypersons ~~from the nominees to each jurisdictional committee~~, elected by that committee to
107 conduct consultations with bishops and others interested in possible episcopal transfers. The
108 executive committee shall be responsible to the interjurisdictional committee.

109 2. A bishop may be transferred across jurisdictional or central conference lines only when that
110 bishop has consented to such transfer and has served at least one quadrennium in or under
111 assignment by the jurisdiction or central conference in which the bishop was elected. Such a
112 transfer shall be concluded when the committee on episcopacy of each jurisdiction involved has
113 approved the transfer(s) by a majority vote of those present and voting, insofar as the transfer(s)
114 affects those jurisdictions or central conference . (See ¶ 49, Article V.) {See Judicial Council
115 Decision 745.}

116 3. The Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy shall be recognized as the official body
117 through which cross-jurisdictional or cross central conference transfers shall be arranged. Should
118 a bishop request a transfer, the bishop has the option to identify the receiving jurisdiction or

119 central conference. A jurisdiction or central conference may request that a specific bishop be
120 transferred or may indicate a willingness to accept a bishop transferring from another jurisdiction
121 or central conference. Request for transfer from either a bishop or jurisdictional or central
122 conference committees on episcopacy shall be received by the Interjurisdictional Committee on
123 Episcopacy by April 1 of the year preceding the year of jurisdictional or central conferences. The
124 Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will arrange consultation between bishop(s)
125 requesting transfer and the appropriate jurisdictional or central conference committee(s) on
126 episcopacy by January 1 of the year of jurisdictional or central conference(s). Once the impacted
127 jurisdictional and central conference committee(s) on episcopacy ~~has~~ have taken action,
128 jurisdictional and central conference secretaries shall inform the Interjurisdictional Committee on
129 Episcopacy not later than August 1 following jurisdictional and central conferences. {See
130 Judicial Council Decision 745.}...

131

132 *Amend ¶ 540 as follows:*

133 Section III. Central Conferences

134 ¶ 540. Authorization—1. ~~In territory outside the United States, a~~ Annual conferences, provisional
135 annual conferences, missionary conferences, mission conferences, and missions, in such numbers
136 as the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine, may be organized by the General
137 Conference into central conferences or provisional central conferences, with such duties,
138 privileges, and powers as are hereinafter set forth and as the General Conference by a two-thirds
139 vote shall prescribe. {See Judicial Council Decision 549.}

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

142 ...h) United States Central Conference: United States, Bermuda, and the territories of the United
143 States in the Pacific region...

144

145 *Amend ¶ 542 as follows:*

146 ¶ 542. Organization—...2. Each central conference ~~shall~~may meet within the year succeeding
147 the session of the General Conference at such time and place as the central conference itself or
148 its bishops may determine, with the right to hold such adjourned sessions as it may determine...

149

150 *Amend ¶ 543 as follows:*

151 ¶ 543. Powers and Duties—1. To a central conference shall be committed for supervision and
152 promotion, in harmony with the Discipline and interdenominational contractual agreements, the
153 missionary, educational, evangelistic, industrial, publishing, medical, and other connectional
154 interests of the annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, provisional annual conferences,
155 missionary conferences, and missions within its territory and such other matters as may be
156 referred to it by said bodies or by order of the General Conference; and it shall provide suitable
157 organizations for such work and elect the necessary officers for the same.

158 2. ~~A central conference~~, ~~W~~hen authorized by a specific enabling act of the General Conference,
159 those central conferences without jurisdictions may elect one or more bishops from among the
160 traveling elders of The United Methodist Church. Such elections shall be conducted under the
161 same general procedure as prevails in the jurisdictional conferences for the election of bishops.

162 The number of bishops to be elected ~~by~~ to serve within each central conference shall be
163 determined from time to time by the General Conference.

164 3. ~~When a central conference shall have been authorized to elect bishops, such elections shall be~~
165 ~~conducted under the same general procedure as prevails in the jurisdictional conferences for the~~
166 ~~election of bishops.~~ A central conference shall have power to fix the tenure of bishops elected by
167 ~~the said~~ to serve within the central conference. {See Judicial Council Decisions 311, 430.}

168 4. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the apportionment
169 amounts for the annual conferences of the central conferences for the succeeding quadrennium
170 based on calculation methodology approved by the General Conference upon recommendation
171 by the Council. This determination shall be informed by consultation with the Council of
172 Bishops and the bishops serving within each central conference.

173 5. ~~For a~~ A central conference without jurisdictions, the Central Conference Committee on the
174 Episcopacy, or an alternate structure, in consultation with the bishops of that central conference,
175 shall fix the episcopal areas and residences and make assignments to them of the bishops who are
176 to reside in that central conference. The bishops of a central conference shall arrange the plan of
177 episcopal visitation within its bounds...

178 ...7. A central conference shall have power to make such changes and adaptations of the Book of
179 Discipline as the special conditions and the mission of the church in the area require, especially
180 concerning the organization and administration of the work on local church, district, ~~and~~ annual,
181 and jurisdictional conference levels, provided that no action shall be taken that is contrary to the
182 Constitution and the General Rules of The United Methodist Church, and provided that the spirit
183 of connectional relationship is kept between the local and the general church. Subject to this
184 restriction, a central conference may delegate to jurisdictional conference or an annual
185 conference within its boundaries the power to make one or the other of the changes and

186 adaptations referred to in this paragraph, upon the request of such a jurisdictional or annual
187 conference. {See Judicial Council Decision 313.}

188 8. A central conference without jurisdictional conferences shall fix the boundaries of the annual
189 conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within its
190 bounds, proposals for changes first having been submitted to the annual conferences concerned
191 as prescribed in the Discipline of The United Methodist Church...

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

196 11. A central conference shall have authority to examine and acknowledge the journals of the
197 jurisdictional, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences, and
198 missions located within its bounds and to make rules for the drawing up of the journals as may
199 seem necessary...

200

201 *Add New ¶ 549:*

202 ¶ 549. Central Conference Committee on Episcopacy—1. In those central conferences without
203 jurisdictions, there may be central conference committee on episcopacy consisting of one clergy
204 and one lay delegate to the central conference from each annual conference elected by the central
205 conference upon nomination of their respective annual conference delegations.

206 The committee shall be convened by the president of the College of Bishops at the close of the
207 central conference to which the delegates have been elected. It shall serve through the
208 succeeding central conference.

209 The committee shall elect from its members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary. It
210 shall meet at least biennially.

211 Should there be a vacancy in an annual conference's elected representation on the central
212 conference committee on episcopacy by death, resignation, election to the episcopacy, cessation
213 of membership in the annual conference from which one is elected, or for other reasons that the
214 annual conference delegation may determine, the annual conference delegation shall nominate
215 another person to fill the vacancy. That person may begin to serve on the committee as a
216 nominee until the central conference can elect.

217 2. The central conference shall provide funding for the expenses of the central committee on
218 episcopacy.

219 3. The central conference committee on episcopacy shall:

220 a) Review and evaluate the work of the bishops, pass on
221 their character and official administration, and report such evaluations and other findings to the
222 central conference for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its
223 constitutional warrant of power. The evaluation shall include those areas
224 of responsibility outlined in ¶ 414 and ¶ 415, as well as the bishop's leadership in the payment of
225 apportionments.

226 b) Recommend boundaries of the episcopal areas and the assignments of the bishops. {See
227 Judicial Council Decision 394.}

228 c) Be available to the Council and College of Bishops for consultation on matters of mutual
229 concern.

230 d) Determine the number of effective bishops eligible for assignment.

231 e) Receive and act upon requests for possible voluntary and involuntary retirement of bishops.

232 f) Consult with the conference committees on episcopacy with respect to the needs for episcopal
233 leadership and how best they can be fulfilled.

234 g) Establish a consultation process with each bishop regarding his or her episcopal assignment.

235 h) Prepare a report of its decisions, activities, and recommendations to be transmitted to its
236 successor through the office of the secretary of the central conference. The report shall be made
237 available to delegates of the central conference prior to the central conference.

238 4. Those central conferences without jurisdictional conferences may choose an alternate structure
239 to perform the functions of Central Conference Committee on Episcopacy. Such an alternate
240 structure must have both lay and clergy members from the annual conferences of the central
241 conference.

242

243 *Amend ¶ 560 as follows:*

244 Section IV. Provisional Central Conferences

245 ¶ 560. Authorization—Annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary
246 conferences, and missions ~~outside the United States~~ that are not included in central conferences
247 or in the territory of affiliated autonomous churches and that, because of geographical, language,
248 political, or other considerations, have common interests that can best be served thereby, may be
249 organized into provisional central conferences as provided in ¶ 540.1. {See Judicial Council
250 Decision 525.}

251

252 *Amend ¶ 563 as follows:*

253 ¶ 563. Ad Interim Provisions—In the interval between General Conferences, the General Board
254 of Global Ministries, upon the recommendation of the bishops in charge and after consultation

255 with the jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences,
256 missionary conferences, and missions concerned, may make changes in the boundaries of a
257 provisional central conference and may grant to a provisional central conference or to any of its
258 component parts any of the powers of a central conference except that of electing bishops. All
259 changes in boundaries and all grants of powers authorized by the General Board of Global
260 Ministries shall be reported to the ensuing session of the General Conference and shall expire at
261 the close of that session unless renewed by the General Conference.

262

263 ***Amend ¶ 565 as follows:***

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

272

273 ***Amend ¶ 566 as follows:***

274 ¶ 566. Episcopal Supervision—The General Conference shall make provision for the episcopal
275 supervision of work in the territory ~~outside the United States~~ that is not now included in central
276 conferences.

277

278 Rationale: Recognizing that we are becoming a worldwide church that hasn't dealt effectively
279 with the residual and persistent colonialism in our connectionalism; this petition addresses these
280 issues and creates a more equitable approach in structure and policy making, so that together
281 ministry might be enhanced globally.

282

283 Date: September 26, 2011

284 Signature of the Petitioner: Rev. Steven C. Clunn

285 Identification of the Petitioner: Coalition Coordinator for the Methodist Federation for Social

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291 Other Signers: Rev. Vicki Woods, Retired New England Annual Conference and Co-President of
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293 Member of Dumbarton UMC (Washington, DC) and MFSA Board Member; Tracy Merrick, Lay
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301 Asian American UM; Jennifer Southworth, , Wesley Theological Seminary Student; and, Jill A.
302 Warren, Lay Member of the Detroit Annual Conference and the Executive Director of MFSA.