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GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026

Wednesday, September 2

DAILY JOURNAL

Legislative Committees · Plenary Session
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

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Plenary Session

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Today's Schedule is not included in this edition; no Wednesday schedule had been received at the time of compilation.

CORRECTION TO PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Three petitions reported in yesterday's Daily Journal are corrected below.

Petition 1093 — Clarifying the Powers and Responsibilities of the Connectional Council on Appeals (Report page 442)

- Printed under Individual Consideration as Supported as Original, with a vote of 10 Yes / 2 No / 1 Abstention. That vote was taken in subcommittee and is not an action of the Legislative Committee. The petition remains before the Committee and will be reported when the Committee has acted.

Petition 1331 — Local Authority to Serve Wine Without Requiring Grape Juice (Report page 45)

- Printed on Consent Agenda DS-2A — Petitions Supported. At the request of the Doctrines and Sacraments Legislative Committee it has been removed from that consent agenda and will be taken as an individual consideration. Its committee action is unchanged: Supported as Amended, 50 Yes / 1 No / 1 Abstention.

Petition 1108 — Clarifying the Role of Finance, Administration, Pensions, and Benefits Commission (Report page 526)

- Printed on Consent Agenda CCOF-2A — Petitions Supported, as Supported as Original with a vote of 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions. It has been removed from that consent agenda. The Legislative Committee has since amended and re-adopted the petition, and it appears in today's Petitions for Consideration on Consent Agenda CCOF-3A.

REFERRALS

- **Petition 1172** (page 168) is referred from the Local Church Legislative Committee to the Constitution, Connectional Organization, and Finance Legislative Committee.
- **Petition 1264** (page 525) is referred from the Constitution, Connectional Organization, and Finance Legislative Committee to the Ministry Legislative Committee.
- **Petition 1456** (page 335) is referred from the Superintendency Legislative Committee to the Conferences Legislative Committee.

CORRECTIONS TO COMMITTEE TEXT

- **Petition 1473** (Social Witness): printed under its title as published in the Petition Supplement, "Petition for Specificity Regarding Sexual Sins." The committee's file carries the title of Petition 1472.
- **Petition 1111** (Social Witness): the committee's adopted text reads "all humna life"; printed here as "all human life."

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY SESSION

TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Prior to the Plenary Session, the Conference gathered for worship. Rev. Diane Ury delivered the message, “Holiness Convicts and Converts,” from Isaiah 6:1–8.

Bishop Kenneth Livingston called the plenary session to order at 11:00 AM, presiding for the first time at a General Conference. He told the body that Robert’s Rules of Order is not his heart language, recalled the excuses of Moses in Exodus 4 and God’s answer that Aaron would speak for him, and said that he would turn and ask for information as the session required it: “I have no ego in this matter.”

Norma Morrison (Upper Midwest), chair of the Agenda Committee, presented the day’s agenda. It provided for the report of the Connectional Council, the vote on continuing the connectional commissions required by ¶ 802.2, and such procedural items and legislation as time allowed; lunch at 12:30 PM, with legislative committees for the remainder of the day; committee actions to be completed or submitted at 6:00 PM; and committees that had not finished their work to meet again from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, or to such hour as they determined. Morrison noted that no evening meal would be provided. **The agenda for the day was approved by a showing of hands.**

Rev. Jessica LaGrone (Trinity), chair of the Connectional Council, presented the report of the first Connectional Council of the Global Methodist Church. Framing the report on the body with many parts in 1 Corinthians 12, she described the local church as the living cell of the body and the councils and commissions as the systems that carry nourishment to it, and warned from Ezekiel 37 that a body may be fully assembled and still lifeless without the breath of the Spirit. She reported that the Council has met every other week since the convening General Conference in Costa Rica; that it has established the church’s connectional structures, clarified staffing and operational systems, approved each new annual conference and emerging area in company with the Conferences Commission, overseen the general church budget with the Finance, Administration, Pensions and Benefits Commission, and prepared for this General Conference with the General Conference Commission; and that the Council’s chairs have met online monthly with her and with connectional operations officer Mike Schafer, the Assembly of Bishops, the Council and the commission chairs having also met once in person.

Reporting for the Global Liturgy Task Force, led by Rev. Dr. Tesia Mallory, LaGrone said the writing team began a year ago identifying the liturgies most needed by pastors and churches, and that the drafts were reviewed through a global consultation of pastors, practitioners and congregations, some of them already in use in the worship of this General Conference. **The draft liturgies of the Global Methodist Church will be released on 1 October 2026 in all of the official languages of the church**, opening a three-month period for feedback, with final editing to begin in January and publication anticipated in 2027.

In place of live reports, the chairs of the connectional commissions reported by recorded video: the first budgets of the global church passed and its finances published; new conferences forming in Liberia, Rwanda, Angola and the Nile Valley region, an Indian movement of some 600 congregations organized into an annual conference in under a year, new leaders gathering across Western Europe, and organizing under way in Mexico, Brazil, Peru and other Latin American emerging areas; two white papers sent to the Assembly of Bishops as proposed teaching documents, and the Articles of Faith produced by a writing team co-chaired by Rev. Dr. David F. Watson and Jason Vickers; three defined paths to clergy credentialing, standards for partner institutions and for course-of-study and certified lay ministry programs, the framework for the GMC School of Ministry, and \$1 million distributed in 2026 from the ministerial training fund; a target of 3 percent new churches annually, the Engage missions masterclass, a multilingual library of more than a thousand resources, and the Ablaze Initiative’s trainings in church planting, mission mobilization and disaster response; the addition this year of the Korean Methodist Church to the Methodist Church of Costa Rica as a covenant partner, with Methodists in Venezuela and Fiji having discerned that full membership is their next step; the assignment of the bishops as directed by the 2024 General Conference and the development of a 360-degree evaluation tool; and the work of the General Conference Commission, thirty-three members leading fourteen working teams, which did not recommend a site for the 2032 General Conference, leaving that to the next commission.

LaGrone called the members of the Connectional Council to the platform and asked the members of each body to stand and remain standing — the Finance, Administration, Pensions and Benefits, Conferences, Discipleship, Doctrine and Just Ministry, Ministry and Higher Education, Kingdom Advancement and Ecumenical Relationships Commissions, the Global Episcopacy Committee, the Connectional Council on Appeals, and the General Conference Commission — and the body expressed its appreciation to all of them together.

LaGrone then presented the strategic framework prepared under ¶ 807.4(b), which charges the Connectional Council to engage in proactive global strategizing. She named the core team and stated that the framework is not a legislative proposal, asking delegates to rest their voting devices. Simon Mafunda introduced the conviction at its centre in the words of Bishop Mark Webb — “If your church isn’t willing to multiply disciples and multiply churches, the Global Methodist Church probably isn’t for you.” Eugene Paik and Kathy Rohrs presented the six values of the church as Scriptural, Empowered, Wesleyan, Missional, Global and Connectional. Rev. Gabriella Kopas (Central Europe) presented four areas of shared focus: creating a disciple-making culture, leadership development, the vitalization of existing congregations, and the planting of new faith communities. Bishop Leah Hidde-Gregory presented three spheres — the local church, where mission comes to life; the annual conference, which exists to help local churches flourish; and the global church, which protects the common identity and does together what no local church or annual conference can do alone. Mike Schafer closed on the accountability the framework makes possible at each of the three levels, and on Psalm 133.

Bishop Levingston put the framework to the body not as legislation but as an affirmation of direction, asking those who affirmed it to stand. **The body affirmed the direction of the strategic framework by standing.**

LaGrone stated, twice so that the interpreters might carry it, that the vote on the continuation of the commissions is a vote of the body in this session only and does not negate any legislation still before the legislative committees. Rev. LaGrone then offered the following motion:

Bishop, on behalf of the Connectional Council and in compliance with paragraph 802.2 of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, I move that the existing seven connectional commissions named in paragraph 802.3 be continued subject to any changes being made to them through the petitions process at this general conference.

Bishop Levingston determined the motion came from the Council and required no second, and called for discussion; none was offered. **The seven connectional commissions named in ¶ 802.3 were continued by a showing of hands.**

As the second disciplinary requirement, and describing the Council as the body’s agent between General Conferences, Rev. LaGrone offered the following motion:

So paragraph 208, I move to affirm the actions of the Connectional Council over the last two years.

Rev. Julius Nelson (Grain Coast) was recognized at microphone five. Rev. Nelson moved that the Agenda Committee provide an opportunity for the Global Episcopacy Committee or the Connectional Council to report on the May 30 plenary, for ratification by this General Conference before the election of new bishops, arguing that the body was being asked to affirm the Council’s decisions from Costa Rica to Johannesburg while that action had not been brought for ratification. **Bishop Levingston ruled the motion out of order at that point,** stating that it might be brought back to the body and discussed at a later time.

The actions of the Connectional Council over the last two years were affirmed by a showing of hands.

Rev. Clark Atkins (Trinity), chair of the Conferences Commission, offered the following motion:

On behalf of the Conferences Commission, I move that the actions of the Conferences Commission taken over the past two years, including the convening of new annual conferences who are seated at our general conference today and the processes related to their development, that they be ratified by this general conference per paragraph 814.7 of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

Bishop Levingston determined the motion was properly before the body and called for discussion; none was offered. **The actions of the Conferences Commission, including the convening of the new annual conferences seated at this General Conference, were ratified by a showing of hands.**

Rev. Thadius Sales (Northeast), chair of the Ministry Legislative Committee, reported that the legislative committees have been working through every petition given to the body in a spirit of unity, “striving not to make the Global Methodist Church what we want it to be, but what our risen Lord Jesus Christ wants it to be.” He thanked the officers of his committee — vice chair Rev. Laura Saffell, secretary Bridget Douglas, assistant secretary Jackie Swanik, parliamentarian Catherine Riley and tech assistant Rev. Jeremy Barbee — directed the body to Consent Agenda MIN-1A at page 6 of the Monday Daily Journal, and moved its approval.

Rev. Laura Saffell (Allegheny West) was recognized at microphone three and moved that Petition 1309, Clarifying the Nature of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Relationship to the Church, be removed from the consent calendar. Bishop Levingston ruled that ten further delegates must support the request, called for hands, and found ten. **Petition 1309 was removed from Consent Agenda MIN-1A.** Rev. Saffell then began to move an amendment to the petition, and the chair ruled that she must wait until the pending motion was disposed of. Later in the session the chair ruled the amendment out of order, the petition having been removed from the calendar, and stated that Petition 1309 will be addressed later and returned to the body.

On the chair's confirmation that the calendar now comprised Petition 1229 alone, the question was put to the voting devices. **Consent Agenda MIN-1A was approved, 362 to 6.**

Rev. Beth Ann Cook (Great Lakes), chair of the Conferences Legislative Committee, asked the officers of her subcommittees to stand and be recognized, and brought what she called the first fruits of the committee: Petition 1071, Petition Deleting Outdated References in 700s Paragraphs, reported unanimously and printed as Consent Agenda CONF-1A at page 7 of the Monday Daily Journal. She moved its adoption, describing its effect as the deletion of the word “convening” before “general conference.”

Rev. Mark Vowell (Mid-Texas) was recognized at microphone one and asked whether use of the voting devices is an absolute requirement or the will of the body, observing that a vote by hand would be quicker on a simple majority. Rev. Tom Lambrecht answered that the rules require a count vote on all matters related to petitions, and that procedural matters may be taken on a raised hand: “when it comes to petitions, we need to record the exact count of the vote.” The question on Petition 1071 was put to the voting devices. **Petition 1071 was approved, 363 to 0, with one abstention.**

Rev. Chappell Temple (Trinity) was recognized at microphone six. Rev. Temple offered the following motion:

Bishop, I move to suspend the rules to allow the consideration of voting just by raising our hands on consent calendar items for the remainder of the conference.

Bishop Levingston stated that the motion required a two-thirds vote and put the question to the voting devices. **The motion to suspend the rules was approved, 315 to 49 — 86.5 percent of the 364 votes cast, above the two-thirds required. Consent calendar items may be taken by a showing of hands for the remainder of the conference.**

Bishop Scott Jones introduced and welcomed Matthew Butler, a representative of the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg, present with the Conference for the day, and said that other ecumenical guests would be introduced on Thursday.

Rev. Lambrecht announced that the legislative committees would reconvene at 1:45 PM in their committee rooms and asked that voting devices be left on the seats. He reported that a medical team sent with the support of the Kingdom Advancement Commission to fight cholera in part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been accompanied by a Congolese physician who has himself contracted cholera, and asked prayer for him and for all working in that country against both cholera and Ebola.

Bishop Levingston led the body in prayer for those suffering from cholera and Ebola in the Congo and for all in need of healing, and blessed the meal. Bishop Levingston declared the body in recess for lunch at 12:47 PM.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

IN COVENANT TOGETHER

The Global Methodist Church and The Korean Methodist Church

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for the sake of our shared mission of making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ, The Global Methodist Church and The Korean Methodist Church hereby establish a covenant relationship to the glory of the Triune God. With mutual respect and missional cooperation, we acknowledge each other as self-governing Churches in the Wesleyan tradition, whose doctrine and discipline reflect the historic teachings and practices of that movement.

It is understood that along with prayer and Holy Spirit-inspired discernment, all proper procedures, vetting, and organizational approval from all parties involved have been completed. We are both committed to Christian unity in the spirit of Jesus, who prayed earnestly that “they also may be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21).

We are committed to building structures and relationships to enhance our witness for Christ throughout the world. Toward that end, we commit to the following:

1. We mutually recognize the validity of each other’s baptisms and ordinations and welcome each other in eucharistic fellowship. Both faith communities commit to working toward mutual recognition of ordained ministers, allowing clergy to serve cross-denominationally as they meet the theological and disciplinary requirements.
2. Leaders of our churches will pray for each other by name.
3. A joint covenant commission will be established to encourage and coordinate partnerships between local churches, districts, and conferences when needed. The intention will be to develop shared mission and ministry strategies and initiatives and to collaborate in implementation, including working together on mission projects.
4. In the event that a pastor or congregation affiliated with either GMC or KMC wishes to transfer its affiliation to the other denomination, the congregation or pastor shall notify the appropriate annual conference in advance, and such transfer shall proceed upon mutual consultation and agreement between the relevant conferences, pursuant to the requirements of the receiving conference.
5. Each Church will invite one bishop, one layperson and one clergy to be seated as non-voting delegates with voice at the Church’s General Conference, with expenses to be borne by the person’s own church. If delegates are unable to attend, they can share the minutes of the General Conference or other necessary materials.

This covenant takes effect upon its approval by the General Conference or its authorized body of each Church and remains in effect until either one or both Churches rescind their participation by action of their General Conference or authorized body.

Bathed in prayer, accompanied by deep mutual respect for one another, and symbolizing a deep commitment to unity within the Body of Christ, this Covenant is signed and celebrated during the General Conference of The Global Methodist Church on this 3rd day of September, 2026, at Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Korean Methodist Church

The Global Methodist Church

PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee Actions

Day 3 calendars. In a consent-agenda identifier the digit is the conference day and the letter its disposition, A supported and B rejected. Placement on a consent agenda is permissive, not mandatory. Committee actions taken earlier in the week and reported in previous editions are not repeated here.

Amendments are printed beneath the petitions that carry them, generated from each committee's FINAL rather than typed. Plain underline and strike are the petitioner's own markup; bold underline and strike are the committee's later layer.

CONFERENCES — 6 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA CONF-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1059 | ¶711.2 | Page 413 Fair and Equal Delegate Representation at General Conference

Not Approved as Original: 1 Yes / 38 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1063 | ¶711.1 | Page 412 Empowerment of Annual Conferences to Support Work and Ministries of the Annual Conference

Not Approved as Original: 1 Yes / 37 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1141 | ¶710.1 | Page 397 Membership of Annual Conference Committees

Rejected in Favor of: 35 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1190 | ¶710.1 | Page 398 Separating the Councils, Boards, and Committees of the Annual Conference into Distinct Paragraphs

Not Approved as Original: 0 Yes / 35 No / 0 Abstentions

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1041 | ¶711.1 | Page 411 Annual Conference Connectional Funding

Not Approved as Original: 5 Yes / 33 No / 2 Abstentions

Petition 1064 | ¶710.4 | Page 401 Financial Audits in Annual Conferences

Supported as Amended: 39 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

4. *Finance and Administration Committee.* The finance and administration committee shall be responsible to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, budgets, procedures, and management services for the annual conference. The committee shall provide for an annual audit of the financial statements of the annual conference, including all funds, organizations, and accounts thereof, and shall make a full and complete report to the annual conference. ~~**The audited financial statements shall be published in a public platform and made available to the members of the annual conference. An audit shall be defined as an independent evaluation of financial reports, records, and internal controls, conducted by a qualified person or persons. Such audit shall be performed to provide reasonable assurance as to the accuracy and reliability of financial reporting; to determine that assets are properly safeguarded; and to ascertain compliance with applicable law and with the policies and procedures of the annual conference.**~~

CONSTITUTION, CONNECTIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND FINANCE — 18 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA CCOF-3A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1004 | ¶449 | Page 449 Local Church Connectional Funding and Benefits

Supported as Amended: 40 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

10. ~~Local churches shall promote that the general welfare of its appointed or assigned pastors are cared for which may include adequate health insurance (for which the means may be determined by the annual conference) pension and life insurance. Local churches shall promote that the general welfare of its appointed or assigned pastors are cared for which may include adequate health insurance (for which the means may be determined by the annual conference) retirement and life insurance.~~

Petition 1067 Page 564 Resolution Establishment of a Global Contextualization Task Force for the Book of Doctrines and Discipline

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1108 | ¶811 | Page 526 Clarifying the Role of Finance, Administration, Pensions, and Benefits Commission

Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

f. The Commission on Finance, Administration, and Benefits shall establish a Benefits Transition Team for the purpose of developing and implementing an orderly transition of health insurance and retirement benefit responsibilities from the general church to the annual conferences by January 1, 2029, if not before.

g. Perform such other responsibilities as are assigned to it by the Connectional Council related to Finance, Administration, and Benefits.

Petition 1248 | ¶1012.9 | Page 559 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Removal of ¶1012.9d

Supported as Original: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1250 Page 561 NEW ¶10XX Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Proposal of a New ¶1014

Supported as Original: 49 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1273 | ¶802 | Page 473 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Rewrite of ¶802

Supported as Original: 41 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

• CONSENT AGENDA CCOF-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1087 | ¶206 | Page 422 Definition of a Local Church

Not Approved as Original: 42 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1208 | ¶1012 | Page 556 Clarify Duty of Charge Conferences to Ratify Requests from Board of Directors

Not Approved as Original: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1257 | ¶813.1 | Page 534 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Elimination of ¶813.1

Not Approved as Original: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1262 | ¶208.1 | Page 436 To Reduce Year for the General Conference and Term of Office for Bishop ¶208 Article VII and ¶604.8

Not Approved as Original: 42 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1272 | ¶802.3 | Page 475 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Rewrite of ¶802.3

Not Approved as Original: 41 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1274 | ¶801 | Page 471 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Rewrite of ¶801

Not Approved as Original: 41 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1282 | ¶804.4 | Page 492 Adding Conference Superintendent to Connectional Commissions

Rejected in Favor of: 41 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1090 | ¶208.1 | Page 435 Clarifying Lay Leadership in the Church

Supported as Original: 42 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1091 | ¶208.5 | Page 437 Clarifying the Power and Authority of the Connectional Council

Supported as Original: 42 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1104 | ¶808 | Page 507 Clarifying the Role of the Kingdom Advancement Commission

Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

2. The commission shall fulfill the strategic plan developed and approved by the Connectional Council by offering resources to local churches, annual conferences, and the general church in the following ministry areas: The commission shall support the strategic plan developed and approved by the Connectional Council by offering resources to local churches, annual conferences, and the general church in the following ministry areas:

a. Evangelism. Train and equip both individuals and congregations to lead others to know Christ and to foster spiritual renewal across the denomination, by developing and recommending resources for evangelism, and encouraging every person and church to engage in evangelism. Connect both individuals and congregations with training and equipping to lead others to know Christ and to foster spiritual renewal across the denomination, by developing and/or promoting resources for evangelism, and encouraging every person and church to engage in evangelism. The commission shall also recommend standards for the ministry and office of evangelist for both laity and clergy, and interpret and advocate for those serving in such appointments to bishops, annual conferences, and local congregations.

b. Church Multiplication. Church multiplication is the fruit of local churches planting churches. The role of the commission is to develop or identify resources, vet and recommend partners that help local churches make disciples, who make disciples and raise up leaders who plant Global Methodist local churches in diverse cultural contexts; consult with bishops, annual conference leaders, and local churches to plan and strategize for planting and multiplying churches; make training resources available to local churches in all aspects of the disciple-making and church multiplication process; and extend the call to plant churches to all clergy and laity. Identify and provide resources for church planting and multiplication in various cultural contexts, consult with bishops, annual conference leaders, and local churches to plan and strategize for planting and multiplying churches, identify, recruit, and train church planters, and encourage the planting and multiplication of churches.

c. Mission Mobilization. Deepen biblical understanding and passion in local churches for mission outreach; promote active mission engagement, multiplying disciples across linguistic, national, and geographic boundaries globally; provide resources and training to equip local churches for effective mission service, and to develop missionally-healthy partnerships; foster connection and partnerships between local churches, districts, and annual conferences with vetted and approved Global Methodist missional partners; develop commissioning standards for the ministry and office of missionary, equipping annual conferences for the recruiting, training, and deploying of GM Church missionaries; consult with bishops, annual conference leaders, churches and missional partners to develop and coordinate strategic mission mobilization; foster holistic mission strategies and gospel-centered community development, addressing both spiritual and physical needs.

Deepen biblical understanding and passion in local churches for mission outreach; promote active mission engagement, multiplying disciples across linguistic, national, and geographic boundaries globally; provide resources and training to equip local churches for effective mission service, and to develop missionally-healthy partnerships; foster connection and partnerships between local churches, districts, and annual conferences with vetted and recommended Global Methodist Church missional partners; develop commissioning standards for the ministry and office of missionary, equipping annual conferences for the recruiting, training, and deploying of Global Methodist Church missionaries; consult with bishops, annual conference leaders, churches and missional partners to develop and coordinate strategic mission mobilization; foster holistic mission strategies and

gospel-centered community development, addressing both spiritual and physical needs; spread awareness and promote missions among unreached people groups.

d. Disaster Response. Collaborate with annual conferences in the development of disaster response, relief, and recovery ministries in the annual conferences; foster connection and partnerships between local churches, districts, and annual conferences with vetted and approved Global Methodist disaster response partners who can train, credential, resource, and equip churches and volunteers to respond to communities affected by disaster; collaborate in deployment of response services when invited by the annual conference, always seeking to empower local churches and volunteers to lead response activities for their communities, aided by the support of the annual conference, extended GMC connection, and approved disaster response partners. Collaborate with annual conferences in the development of disaster response, relief, and recovery ministries in the annual conferences; foster connection and partnerships between local churches, districts, and annual conferences with vetted and recommended Global Methodist Church disaster response partners who can train, credential, resource, and equip churches and volunteers to respond to communities affected by disaster; collaborate in deployment of response services when requested by the annual conference, always seeking to empower local churches and volunteers to lead response activities for their communities, aided by the support of the annual conference, extended Global Methodist Church connection, and recommended disaster response partners.

e. Perform such other responsibilities as are assigned by the Connectional Council related to Evangelism, Church Multiplication, Mission Mobilization and Disaster Response.

Petition 1194 | ¶803 | Page 478 Simplify Nomination & Election Process for All Commissions, Councils, and Committees

Supported as Amended: 41 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶803.1, ¶803.3, ¶803.4, ¶920.5, & ¶605.1, DELETES ¶803.2, 813.2, 814.2 AND ADDS NEW ¶803.2 ¶ 803. MEMBERSHIP OF CONNECTIONAL COMMISSIONS. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR CONNECTIONAL COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS, AND COMMITTEES. MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS FOR CONNECTIONAL COMMISSION, CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL ON APPEALS, AND GLOBAL EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE Except as provided otherwise in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the members of all connectional commissions, councils, and committees shall be elected by the General Conference. Except as provided otherwise in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the members of all connectional commissions, Connectional Council, Council on Appeals and Global Episcopacy Committee shall be elected by the General Conference. Committee shall be elected as specified by the relevant paragraphs in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline 2. Beginning with the 2026 General Conference, persons recommended by the annual conferences shall serve as the pool from which nominees are selected. The term of service for all persons elected or appointed to serve on commissions, councils, and committees shall be six years, with members eligible to be reelected or reappointed once for a total of twelve years.

1. Beginning with the 2026 General Conference, persons recommended by the annual conference delegations shall serve as the pool from which nominees are selected. The term of service for all persons elected or appointed to serve on commissions, Connectional Council, Council on Appeals, and Global Episcopacy Committee shall be six years, with members eligible to be reelected or reappointed once for a total of 12 years.

Persons elected prior to the 2026 General Conference shall be eligible for nomination at the 2026 General Conference and their two-year term shall not count against the above term limits.

Persons elected prior to the 2026 General Conference shall not have their two-year term count against them. Beginning with the 2026 General Conference, the procedure for election shall be as follows:

a. Each annual conference shall nominate, by majority vote of both lay and clergy delegates, up to sixteen persons (clergy or lay, but not bishops) as candidates for connectional commissions with at least half being lay. Each

nominee shall be designated for one or two connectional commissions based on gifts, training, and experience. ~~Each annual conference delegation may nominate, by majority vote of both lay and clergy delegates, up to twenty persons (clergy or lay, but not bishops) as candidates for connectional commissions, councils, and committees. Each annual conference delegation may nominate, by majority vote of both lay and clergy delegates, up to two persons (clergy or lay, but not active bishops) as candidates for each connectional commissions, Connectional Council, Council on Appeals and Global Episcopacy Committee. At least half of the nominees shall be lay. At least half of the total nominees shall be lay.~~ Each nominee shall provide consent to the nomination, then shall be designated by the delegation for one connectional commission, council or committee based on gifts, training, and experience. ~~If less than twenty persons are nominated, the delegation may designate persons for up to two commissions, councils, or committees until the total number of designations equals 20, with at least half of the designations being for lay persons.~~ Care shall be taken to include persons from a broad range of racial, ethnic, tribal, gender, economic, and age characteristics.

c. ~~The General Conference's administrative nominations committee shall, from the list of candidates received from the annual conference delegations, propose a diverse slate of individuals to serve on the connectional commissions, councils, and committees of the church for election by the General Conference, provided that individuals nominated by annual conferences who do not appear on the slate may be nominated from the floor.~~ The General Conference's administrative nominations committee shall, from the list of candidates received from the annual conference delegations, propose a diverse slate of individuals to serve on the connectional commissions, Connectional Councils, Council on Appeals and Global Episcopacy Committee of the church for election by the General Conference, provided that individuals nominated by annual conference delegations who do not appear on the slate may be renominated by their delegation as specified in the Plan of Organization and Covenant of Our Life Together. The slate for each connectional commission shall include the number of members specified by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, as well as the person the committee nominates to serve as the connectional commission chair. ~~The slate for each connectional commission, council, and committee shall include the number of members specified by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. The slate for each connectional commission, Connectional Council, and Global Episcopacy Committee shall include the number of members specified by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline. The committee shall also nominate a person to be the chair of each commission, council, and committee, unless the Book of Doctrines and Discipline specifies a different process for naming chairs.~~

3. The General Conference shall elect two-thirds of the members of each connectional commission. The remaining one-third of the members of each connectional commission shall be elected by the Connectional Council upon nomination by the relevant connectional commission. ~~The General Conference shall elect the specified number of members for each commission, council, and committee by simple majority without discussion or debate. The remaining members of each connectional commission, council, and committee shall be elected by the Connectional Council upon nomination by the relevant connectional commission.~~

~~The General Conference shall elect two-thirds the specified number of the members of each connectional commission. The remaining one-third of the specified members of each connectional commission, not including active bishops shall be elected by the Connectional Council upon nomination by the relevant connectional commissions. If a conference superintendent is not one of initial clergy elected by the Connectional Council a conference superintendent shall be appointed by the Assembly of Bishops to serve with voice only.~~ Persons interested in serving may apply to the relevant connectional commission. Members elected by the Connectional Council are for the purpose of securing greater inclusiveness, experience, or special skills needed for the connectional commission's work. Unless otherwise specified, excluding any active bishop serving on a connectional commission and the chair, the membership of each connectional commission shall be at least one-half lay.

4. With the exception of bishops, no person may serve simultaneously on more than one connectional commission (not including the Connectional Council). ~~With the exception of active bishops, no person may serve simultaneously on more than one connectional commission, council, or committee (not including the Connectional Council).~~

~~Members of connectional commissions, councils, and committees, including the chair, shall serve without remuneration. Members of connectional commissions, Connectional Council, Council on Appeals and Global Episcopacy Committee, including the chair, shall serve without remuneration. Travel and meeting expenses shall be paid for connectional commission, council, and committee members by each connectional commission, council, and committee out of its budget. Travel and meeting expenses shall be paid for connectional commission, Connectional Council, Council on Appeals and Global Episcopacy Committee and members by each connectional commission, council, and committee out of its budget.~~

~~813.2 This commission shall consist initially of eight members elected by the General Conference in addition to the active bishop serving as chair assigned to that commission. The commission shall thereafter propose the number of members up to a maximum of twelve members up to an additional four members plus the chair assigned to the commission, subject to approval of to be elected by the Connectional Council. The chair and members serve until their successors are elected.~~

~~¶ 814.2 This commission shall consist initially of twelve members elected by the General Conference in addition to two active bishops elected by the Assembly of Bishops. The commission shall thereafter propose the number of members up to a maximum of eighteen members plus the two active bishops assigned to the commission, up to six additional members subject to approval of to be elected by the Connectional Council. The chair for the Commission shall be elected as provided for in ¶804.1 and shall not be one of the active bishops. The chair and members serve until their successors are elected.~~

1. The Connectional Council shall receive nominations of persons to serve on the Global Episcopacy Committee and produce a slate of six lay and six clergy nominees diverse with respect to geography, ethnicity, and gender which shall be released publicly thirty days before 2024 *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* 83 the General Conference. Delegates to the General Conference may nominate additional persons from the floor. All nominees, with their consent, shall be included in a balloting process to elect six lay and six clergy members. All delegates shall be empowered to vote for both lay and clergy nominees. A minimum of sixty percent support plus one vote of delegates present and casting valid ballots shall be required for election. No one may serve more than two consecutive six-year terms. Following the conclusion of the election of members by General Conference, the Connectional Council may add two additional clergy members and two additional lay members to the Global Episcopacy Committee to ensure diversity.

Petition 1332 | ¶1002 | Page 552 Seeking Right to Annual Conference to Use 'Trust Clause' Where Deemed Fit for Them

Supported as Amended: 47 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶1002 AND ¶1003 THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶1002 ¶1002. STEWARDSHIP OF ASSETS.~~

~~There is no trust clause for property held by local churches, annual conferences, connectional commissions, or any other entities of the Global Methodist Church. Annual Conferences may wholly own property for the use and benefit of local churches. This shall not be compulsory. Except otherwise agreed by the annual conference to entrust their properties.~~ Each local church, annual conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed of in the event of the entity's dissolution.

~~¶1003. PROCESS OF DISAFFILIATION. After at least a 90-day period of discernment and prayer, a congregation of the Global Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination by a majority vote of its church or annual conference. After at least a 90-day period of discernment and prayer, a congregation of the Global Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination by a majority vote of its church conference. After at least a 90-day period of discernment and prayer, a congregation of the Global Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination by a majority vote of its church conference or annual conference.~~

~~¶1003. PROCESS OF DISAFFILIATION. After at least a 90-day period of discernment and prayer, a congregation of the Global Methodist Church may disaffiliate from the denomination by a majority vote of its church conference.~~

¶ 1002. STEWARDSHIP OF ASSETS. There is no trust clause for property held by local churches, annual conferences, connectional commissions, or any other entities of the Global Methodist Church. **Annual Conferences may wholly own property for the use and benefit of local churches; however, no local church shall be compelled to place its property in trust with its annual conference. This shall not be compulsory.** Each local church, annual conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed of in the event of the entity's dissolution. **Each local church, annual conference, or connectional commission shall designate in its corporate records how its property shall be disposed in the event of the entity's dissolution.**

DOCTRINES AND SACRAMENTS — 3 PETITIONS

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1409 | ¶103 | Page 6 Covenantal Connections

Supported as Amended: 51 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

Delete ¶ 103 and replace it with the following:

¶ 103. PRINCIPLES OF OUR COVENANT LIFE TOGETHER. Wesley said, “the gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness.” By referring to “social holiness,” Wesley meant that the road to holiness is one that we cannot travel alone, but rather involves the community of faith at every step along the way. We are a covenant people who are bound together by our shared faith in Christ from which flows our shared mission. We are an expression of the Church, both locally and denominationally, that: 1. Is rooted and grounded in the Scriptures and in the historic teachings of the Christian church as defined in the historic creeds, and our Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith (Articles of Faith if adopted) allowing us to remain centered in our Wesleyan understanding of the faith. 2. Introduces all people to a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. We are committed to participating with the triune God in carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as seen in the gospels. As a part of this great commission, Jesus calls us to go to all nations to make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that he has taught us. We recognize that the mission in which we are engaged has eternal consequences. 3. Leads all those who experience new birth in Jesus to deepen in the faith and to grow in their relationship with him, accepting Him as Lord in all aspects of life, pursuing entire sanctification as evidenced by both spiritual fruit and gifts that are manifested in their lives to the glory of God. We move towards this sanctification through discipleship and accountability groups, such as Wesleyan class and band meetings, and utilize all the other means of grace. 4. Eagerly desires the spiritual gifts listed in scripture, including but not limited to: prophecy, healing, tongues, words of knowledge, signs, and wonders. We seek to fully proclaim the Gospel of Christ in word and deed through the power of the Holy Spirit. 5. Loves the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and loves our neighbors as ourselves; submits ourselves (clergy, churches, and all believers) to regular accountability for living; leads and teaches this covenant life together; worships God in spirit and in truth; and watches over one another in love until perfected in love, the church experiences the fullness of God's restored Kingdom as Christ's new creation. 6. Recognizes the laity as the people of God and a royal priesthood who are called, chosen, and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the work of God in this world through their baptism; encourages and equips the laity to fulfill their commitment to strengthen the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness; affirms the participation and leadership of men and women of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, abilities, and ages in the Body of Christ; and understands that laity are in full partnership with our clergy. 7. Encourages and affirms the call of God in the lives of clergy who are grounded in the authoritative witness of the Scripture, set apart by the church, and recognized to possess the necessary gifts and graces for ministry in alignment with and accountable to our doctrines and discipline. We understand that these individuals never lose their initial calling as laity even as they pursue a call of ordained servant leadership. 8. Celebrates that we, as Global Methodists, are joined together in mission and ministry. We support our

connectional organization and structure which holds us accountable to the work of the Holy Spirit and binds us together in holy love.

9. Displays a “catholic spirit” to the Church universal, cherishing our place within the greater Body of Christ through mutual partnership and shared mission with others whenever possible. We envision a global church in which all work together, resourcing and learning from one another to fulfill the tasks given by Christ to His church. We continue the Kingdom work started during His earthly ministry including proclaiming the good news, releasing the captives, healing the sick, and standing up for the weak, disadvantaged, and oppressed. ¶ 101. Our Heritage of Faith 5. Through the labors of many Methodists in the British Isles, especially through the efforts of John and Charles Wesley, an organization and body of literature emerged, giving rise to a distinctly Methodist articulation of the Christian faith and life. To illustrate, Methodism placed particular emphasis on the universal work of grace, justification by faith, the new birth, and the fullness of salvation, otherwise known as entire sanctification or Christian perfection. Methodists created structures and covenantal communities (societies, bands, and classes), alongside the established church to facilitate the mission “to reform the nation, particularly the church, and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.”

Petition 1434 | ¶108 | Page 29 Locate Revised General Rules in Foundational Principles Section of BDD

Supported as Amended: 52 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

[Amendment not shown: this petition relocates ¶108 into a new ¶404 and renumbers the paragraphs that follow. A relocation cannot be represented as a marked redline, and the paragraph diff returns only fragments. The committee's action stands as recorded above; consult the petition's file for the text.]

Petition 1441 | ¶106 | Page 12 Articles of Faith of the Global Methodist Church

Supported as Amended: 56 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

¶106. The *Articles of Faith* of the Global Methodist Church. The *Articles of Faith* prescribe the normative doctrinal standards of the Global Methodist Church. ~~To that end, they are both consistent with the creedal tradition of the church universal and express our church's particular Wesleyan Methodist emphases and concerns, as well as our theological heritage of faith. To that end, they affirm the creedal tradition of the church universal, express our~~ Protestant theological heritage of faith, and articulate our church's particular Wesleyan Methodist emphases and concerns. While the Articles of Faith articulate our commitment to Christian orthodoxy, we recognize that the original language of the Nicene Creed (381) stated that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father, and that many churches across the world and within the Global Methodist Church have not adopted the additional declaration that the Spirit also proceeds from the Son. Reflecting its worldwide nature, Global Methodists are already free to include or leave out the phrase “and the Son” in the use of the Nicene Creed both in worship and for instruction in the faith (¶105). In keeping with this practice regarding the Nicene Creed, Global Methodists may omit “and the Son” from the first sentence of Article III, “The Holy Spirit.” The Articles of Faith are affirmed by Scripture and shall be taught in our churches. They are constitutive standards that declare the “faith once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 3) and serve as a guard against false teaching by providing a basis for the praise and honor of God in faithful instruction that orients us toward a life of service to God's kingdom.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son. He is of the same substance as the Father and the Son and is coequal with them in majesty, power, and glory. As very and eternal God, he is worthy of our worship and praise. The Spirit convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He testifies to Jesus Christ, leads us to faith in him, ~~and incorporates us into the Church, and sanctifies us through His indwelling presence. With the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit distributes gifts and empowers the Church with everything needed to fulfill its mission in the world.~~ **With the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit distributes gifts and empowers the Church with everything needed to fulfill God's mission in the world.** A deposit guaranteeing the glory to come, he comforts and sustains the faithful and guides us into all truth, bearing witness with our spirits that we are children of God.

We believe in the divine inspiration and authority of the Old and New Testaments in their entirety. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New, for Christ offers us everlasting life in both. ~~Scripture is without error in all it affirms and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.~~ **Scripture is true and entirely trustworthy and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.** It contains all things necessary to salvation. Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be taught as essential to salvation.

~~We believe Baptism marks entrance into the visible Church and the New Covenant in Christ. Baptism is a sign and seal of our incorporation into the household of faith in union with Christ's death and resurrection.~~ **We believe in one Baptism, which marks entrance into the visible Church and the New Covenant in Christ.** Baptism is a sign and seal of our incorporation into the household of faith in union with Christ's death and resurrection. Baptism signifies repentance, cleansing from sin, and new birth in the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the promises of the New Covenant include the children of believers, making infants proper and acceptable subjects for Christian baptism, which should not be denied. It is the Church's special responsibility to nurture and lead baptized children to the confirmation of their baptism as their public profession of faith and personal commitment to lifelong discipleship.

We believe that Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the wicked to eternal condemnation and the righteous to eternal life in God's new creation.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION — 1 PETITIONS

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1130 Page 584 Part IX / JPP Consolidating the Judicial Administration Process (BDD and JPP)

Supported as Amended: 32 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

¶ 901. ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CHURCH. ~~Founded in the call to faithfulness and holiness in the Old and New Testaments, Global Methodist Church judicial administration seeks to honor God in all things. It is grounded in the ministry of reconciliation given to the Church by Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18).~~ **Founded in the call to faithfulness and holiness in the Old and New Testaments, the Global Methodist Church judicial administration seeks to honor God in all things. It is grounded in the ministry of reconciliation given to the Church by Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18).** Its purpose is to protect the integrity of individuals and the Church and to restore the unity of the body (Proverbs 25:9-10; Galatians 6:1-2). Through their membership and ordination vows, laity and clergy enter into a sacred trust of accountability with one another, committing to live in accordance with the covenant of grace, guided by biblical truth and the witness of the Holy Spirit (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Colossians 3:16). The purpose of any complaint or appeal is the pursuit of justice that leads to repentance, forgiveness, and restoration (Galatians 6:1-2). ~~All who participate in these processes shall do so as Christ's servants—valuing wisdom, impartiality, confidentiality, transparency of process, and love—seeking to speak the truth in love and to watch over one another in faithfulness (Ephesians 4:15; James 1:26).~~ **All who participate in these processes shall do so as Christ's servants—valuing wisdom, fairness, confidentiality, transparency of process, and love—seeking to speak the truth in love and to watch over one another in faithfulness (Ephesians 4:15; James 1:26).** Through such discipline exercised in grace, the Church bears witness to God's righteousness, mercy, and redeeming work in the world.

3. Confidentiality. ~~All formal complaints and supporting evidence shall be treated by all parties involved including those persons or entities who receive notification of the complaint as confidential except for those persons that may be directly involved in the complaint process (e.g. witnesses to the applicable events) or as may be permitted by the person leading the process, or as otherwise provided in The Book of Doctrines and Discipline.~~ **All persons leading and processing a formal complaint shall treat supporting evidence and documents with confidentiality.**

5. Process chair. The person charged with handling and directing the complaint process will be called the process chair. The process chair shall be:

- a. the chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee if the respondent is an active bishop.
- b. the respondent's bishop if the respondent is a conference superintendent. If the complainant is the respondent's bishop, the process chair will be designated by the Assembly of Bishops.
- c. the clergy person's conference superintendent if the respondent is clergy not serving as an active bishop.
- d. the local church's conference superintendent if the respondent is a local church member.

The person charged with handling and directing the complaint process will be called the process chair. The process chair shall be designated as follows:

a) If the respondent is an active bishop, the process chair shall be the chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee or a member of the Global Episcopacy Committee designated by the chair.

b) If the respondent is the conference superintendent, the process chair shall be a conference superintendent nominated by the respondent's bishop and approved by the Assembly of Bishops.

c) If the respondent is the conference superintendent and the complainant is the respondent's bishop, the process chair shall be a conference superintendent assigned by the Assembly of Bishops.

d) If the respondent is clergy not serving as an active bishop, the process chair shall be the clergy person's conference superintendent.

e) If the respondent is a local church member, the process chair shall be the local church's conference superintendent.

Jurisdiction means the authority and responsibility granted by Part Nine to an officer or body to direct, hear, decide, or otherwise act upon the complaint at a particular stage. Except where Part Nine expressly provides for retained or concurrent jurisdiction, only one officer or body shall exercise primary jurisdiction at a time.

Jurisdiction begins when the designated officer or body receives the complaint, record, referral, appeal, or charging document required for that stage and ends upon final disposition or when the next officer or body receives jurisdiction. Each body assigned to investigate, review, recommend, decide, or hear an appeal shall exercise the authority and independent judgment entrusted to it by The Book of Doctrines and Discipline. No process chair, bishop, conference superintendent, presiding elder, cabinet, or person who participated in an earlier stage may direct or control the deliberations or decision of a later body. This restriction shall include clergy voting in clergy session.

1. All complaints shall be submitted to the duly authorized recipient. ~~In the case of an administrative complaint against clergy not serving as an active bishop, the duly authorized recipient shall confirm the local church's Pastor-Parish Relations Committee attempted to find a resolution.~~ **In the case of an administrative complaint against clergy not serving as an active bishop, and serving under appointment in a local church, the duly authorized recipient shall confirm the local church's Pastor-Parish Relations Committee attempted to find a resolution.** If they have not, the complaint shall be referred to the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee to seek resolution prior to formal complaint. If the issue(s) cannot be resolved at the local church, the duly authorized recipient shall formally receive the complaint.

~~c. If the respondent is a local church member, the process chair must notify the church council chairperson or equivalent of the respondent's local church, the senior pastor of the respondent's local church, and the conference superintendent that an administrative or judicial complaint has been received against the respondent.~~ **If the respondent is a local church member, the process chair must notify the church council chairperson or equivalent of the respondent's local church, the senior pastor of the respondent's local church, and the conference superintendent that a judicial complaint has been received against the respondent.** The process chair must keep all of these parties apprised of the complaint's process.

4. Multiple Complainants and Respondents. In all proceedings under Part Nine, to provide for judicial economy and efficiency:

a. Multiple individuals who have allegedly been harmed by the same or comparable event or action by the same respondent may join together to file a single complaint against the respondent. In that event, the multiple parties filing the single complaint shall select one representative to serve as the complainant for all the parties who signed the complaint, and that complainant shall have the right to select the support person for the complaint process.

b. In the event multiple complaints are filed against the same respondent based on the same or substantially the same claims, conduct or circumstances, the process chair may, but shall not be required to, combine the multiple complaints for administration during the complaint process. In that event, the parties filing the multiple complaints shall select one of the complaining parties to serve as the complainant for all the parties who signed a separate complaint, and that designated complainant shall have the right to select the support person for the complaint process.

c. If the multiple parties who filed one complaint, or the several persons who filed multiple complaints as described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, are not combined by the process chair, as set forth above, all parties who joined in the complaint or complaints shall have the right to be present and to speak at any and all stages of the complaint process and each shall be entitled to have a support person.

d. In the case of multiple respondents to a single complaint, each respondent shall have the same right to be present and speak at any and all stages of the complaint process.

e. Any party to a complaint involving multiple complainants or respondents, or any party named in multiple complaints against the same respondent involving the same claims, conduct or circumstances has the right to request a bifurcation (division) of the claims listed in the complaint, and the matter may be bifurcated by the process chair or presiding officer upon a showing of just cause.

f. The dismissal of a combined complaint, or of any individual complaint within a consolidated proceeding on procedural or technical grounds shall not bar any individual complaint whose claim(s) were not subject to the same procedural deficiency from their original complaint continuing based on their individual circumstances.

5. If the complaint is declared valid, the respondent may submit a written response, which must be provided to the process chair and the complainant at least five (5) days before the supervisory response meeting. As the complaint process progresses, the process chair shall keep the complainant and respondent apprised of any developments in processing the complaint in a timely fashion.

6. The process chair may extend all designated time limitations one-time for thirty (30) days, at the request of either party or upon the process chair's own motion. In addition to other extensions provided for in Part Nine, further extensions must be approved by all parties. All minimum time requirements in the process may be waived on a case-by-case basis with the written consent of all parties and the process chair.

7. The complainant may withdraw the complaint in writing at any point during the process prior to final disposition. Notice of withdrawal shall be provided to all informed parties. The complainant may not refile a withdrawn complaint for the same alleged offenses and same set of facts.

2. In the event of a just resolution agreement involving a multiple party complaint as described in ¶903.4, all original complainants must be notified and become parties to the just resolution agreement. If any such party after notice, opts out of the just resolution agreement then such party's complaint may proceed individually.

11. Multiple Complainants and Respondents. In all proceedings under Part Nine, to provide for judicial economy and an opportunity for all complainants and respondents to be heard:

a. Multiple individuals who have allegedly been harmed by an action or event may join together to file a single complaint, and all shall have the right to be present and to speak at any and all stages of the complaint process.

~~In the case of multiple respondents to a single complaint, each shall likewise have the same right to be present and speak at any and all stages of the complaint process.~~

~~b. Multiple complaints based on the same or substantially the same claims or circumstances may be combined at the suggestion of the process chair into one or more complaints, upon the consent of all complainants.~~

~~c. Any party to a complaint involving multiple complainants or respondents has the right to request a bifurcation (division) of the matter, and the matter may be bifurcated upon a showing of just cause.~~

~~12. Protection from Retaliation. During or after the complaint process, an active bishop respondent shall not alter the appointment of a clergy complainant or related party to a complaint except with the approval of the Assembly of Bishops.~~ 11. Protection From Retaliation. After a complaint is filed against an active bishop or conference superintendent, the next appointive change for the complainant shall be approved by 2/3 support of the Assembly of Bishops unless the respondent is no longer serving in appointive relationship with the complainant.

12. Reputation and Communication. When a complaint or charge is dismissed or overturned on appeal, the process chair shall communicate in writing to all parties where communication was previously required stating that the matter has been resolved.

~~b. Investigative Response. A committee on investigation of the board of ministry shall convene to investigate the allegations of the complaint (See ¶ 910).~~ A committee on administrative investigation of the board of ministry shall convene to investigate the allegations of the complaint (See ¶ 910). The purpose of the investigative response is to, so far as possible, establish facts, consider circumstances and explanations, determine if there is an issue that merits action, and arrive at a plan of addressing any unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties. The committee shall have access to all relevant materials related to the allegations and shall be able to interview witnesses. When witnesses are interviewed, the respondent and complainant, along with their support persons shall be entitled to be present and ask questions.

3. The committee may find the allegations are substantiated and recommend an involuntary status change, such as surrender of credentials, administrative location, involuntary leave of absence, or involuntary retirement. This outcome may be determined by three-quarters vote of the committee and ratification by a majority of the board of ministry, ~~as well as a majority of the clergy session.~~ as well as the approval of the clergy session in accordance with paragraph 518.

~~c. Administrative Review. The conference administrative review committee shall review the report of the investigative response and the entire process used by the board of ministry in the investigative response to determine whether it followed the requirements of ¶ 906, and fair process (¶ 905). The committee shall have no authority to review the facts of the case or the merits of the decision. The committee shall issue a report on the process and its compliance with *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, which report shall be given to the respondent, the complainant, the conference superintendent, the cabinet, and the board of ministry, and clergy session prior to any action by those bodies on the investigative response. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error or decide the error is harmless. Whether remedial action is taken shall factor into the response by the board of ministry and clergy session. The administrative review committee shall complete its report within thirty (30) days of receiving the matter.~~

c. Administrative Review and First Appeal. Upon receipt of the report and record of the investigative response, and any timely notice and statement of grounds of appeal filed under ¶ 917, the conference administrative review committee shall have jurisdiction of the administrative complaint for purposes of administrative review and the first level of appeal. The committee shall review the report of the investigative response and the process used by the committee on investigation to determine whether the requirements of ¶ 906, the principles of fair process in ¶ 905, and other applicable provisions of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline* were followed. The committee shall have no authority to retry the facts of the case, receive new evidence, or review the merits

of the decision. Its review shall be based upon the record of the administrative process and shall address each ground of appeal raised by the appellant.

The administrative review committee shall issue a written report organized, as applicable, under the following headings: (1) Summary; (2) Statement of Facts, limited to the procedural facts necessary to decide the issues presented; (3) Jurisdiction; (4) Grounds of Appeal and Issues Presented; (5) Analysis and Rationale; and (6) Decision and Conclusions. The report shall separately identify and address each ground of appeal and shall state whether an error of church law or procedure occurred, whether any such error was harmless or substantially affected the recommendation or action of the committee on investigation, and what remedial action, if any, is required or recommended. The report shall not substitute the committee's judgment for findings on the merits made by the committee on investigation.

The report shall be given to the respondent, the complainant, the conference superintendent, the cabinet, the full board of ministry, and the clergy session before action is taken by those bodies on the investigative response. If the administrative review committee determines that an error has occurred, it may direct or recommend, within the authority granted by this Part, that the appropriate person or body take prompt action to remedy the error, or it may determine that the error is harmless. Whether remedial action is taken shall be reflected in any subsequent review or appeal. The administrative review committee shall complete its report within thirty (30) days of receiving jurisdiction of the matter.

d. The Global Episcopacy Committee's decision shall be final. Such decision shall be appealable to the Connectional Council of Appeals.

g. Relationships and/or behavior that undermine the ministry of a Global Methodist pastor or clergy person; ~~or,~~

h. Engaging in sexual activities outside the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (only applies to laity if they are employed by or hold a leadership position in the church at the time of the offense); or i. Abuse, exploitation, or endangerment of a child.

c) When respondent is a layperson – A vote to adopt any charge or specification shall require a simple majority vote. ~~Any bill of charges and specifications adopted by the committee shall be sent within five (5) days to the respondent, the complainant, the conference superintendent, the lay leader of the respondent's local church, counsel for the Church, the pastor(s), and the presiding elder. Any bill of charges and specifications adopted by the committee shall be sent within five (5) days to the respondent, the complainant, the conference superintendent, the church council chairperson or equivalent of the respondent's local church, counsel for the Church, the pastor(s), and the presiding elder.~~

~~¶ 916. APPEAL OF QUESTIONS OF LAW.~~

~~1. Appeals on questions of law shall be automatically appealed as follows:~~

~~a. From the decision of the presiding elder presiding in the charge or district conference to the bishop presiding in the annual conference. Upon the filing of an appeal, the bishop's ruling may be further appealed to the Connectional Council on Appeals;~~

~~b. From the decision of the bishop or conference superintendent presiding in the annual conference to the Connectional Council on Appeals; and c. From the bishop presiding in the General Conference to the Connectional Council on Appeals.~~

~~2. When a question of law is raised in writing during a session of a conference, it shall be the secretary's duty to see that an exact statement of the question submitted and the ruling of the chair thereon shall be entered in the journal and minutes of the conference. The secretary shall then make and certify a copy of the question and ruling and transmit the same to the person or body to which an appeal is taken.~~

¶ 916. QUESTIONS OF LAW. Questions of Law may be presented in writing during a regular business session of an annual, district, or charge conference. The Presiding Officer must provide a written decision on all duly posed

questions of law within 30 days.

1. Questions and decisions of law shall be recorded by the secretary in the minutes of the conference where the question was presented. The secretary shall also transmit the question and decision to the appropriate persons or bodies for review and appeal. Decisions of law shall be automatically appealed as follows:

a. Charge or District Conference. The bishop presiding in the respective annual conference shall review in writing all decisions of law made by an elder presiding in a charge or district conference session or a conference superintendent presiding in an annual conference session. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall affirm, modify, or reverse the decision. The decision and review shall not be authoritative, except in the pending case, until it shall have been decided by the Connectional Council on Appeals.

b. Annual or General Conference. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall affirm, modify, or reverse all decisions of law made by a bishop presiding in an annual or general conference session. The decision shall not be authoritative, except in the pending case, until it shall have been decided by the Connectional Council on Appeals.

a. ~~From the decision of the board of ministry investigative committee to the annual conference administrative review committee; From the decision of the committee on administrative investigation to the annual conference administrative review committee;~~

4. Ineligibility. ~~Members of the Connectional Council on Appeals shall be ineligible to serve as delegates to the General Conference, or to serve on any general church or annual conference board or commission. Members of the Connectional Council on Appeals shall be ineligible to serve as delegates to the General Conference, members of any general church committee, commission, or as Conference Superintendents. Members may serve on annual conference, district, or local church boards, councils, or committees subject to the provisions of ¶ 9XX regarding recusals, conflicts of interest, and ex parte communication.~~

5. ~~Nominations. In advance of the General Conference, the administrative Nominations Committee shall nominate by majority vote a total of twenty-one (21) persons representing the church's geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity in the appropriate lay and clergy categories. On the first day of the General Conference, nominations of clergy or laity may be made from the floor. Name, annual conference membership, and biographical information not to exceed 100 words shall be published for review by delegates to the General Conference at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time of election. Election shall occur without discussion or debate, by ballot and majority vote. Nominations and Elections. Nomination and election of members and alternates to the Connectional Council on Appeals shall follow the process outlined for election of connectional commission members in Part Eight.~~

1. Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall provide its own rules of practice and procedure not in conflict with the provisions of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, including the election of a president, vice president, and secretary of the council, who shall be elected by the members of the council. **Such Rules of Practice and Procedure shall be public and remain published on the website or equivalent of the Connectional Council on Appeals.**

5. Public Access. All materials properly filed with the Connectional Council on Appeals pursuant to the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* are matters of public record and are to be made available to clergy and members of the Global Methodist Church. Upon a majority vote of the Connectional Council on Appeals, confidential information may be redacted from otherwise public record. ~~The deliberations of the Council are private. The deliberations of the Council as to pending matters are private.~~ **All other deliberations or discussions of the Council shall be recorded in minutes of the Council and such minutes shall be published on the website or equivalent of the Connectional Council on Appeals.** The Council may schedule a hearing open to the public for the presentation of oral argument in any matter.

¶ 921. Duties and Responsibilities of the Members of the Connectional Council on Appeals *Purpose.* Members of

the Connectional Council on Appeals shall conduct themselves with impartiality and shall avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, bias, or appearance of impropriety that could undermine confidence in the Church's judicial process. This policy governs all participation in any appeal, review, or other matter that may come before the Council.

Prohibition on Ex Parte Communications and Pre-Decisional Participation.

No member of the Connectional Council on Appeals shall give advice, counsel, or opinion to any person or entity concerning any matter that is or may reasonably be expected to come before the Council as an appeal, request for declaratory decision, or other judicial proceeding.

No member shall participate in any discussion, meeting, correspondence, or other communication—formal or informal—about any such matter with any party, counsel, annual conference official, or other interested person outside the formal proceedings of the Council.

This prohibition applies from the time a matter is filed or reasonably anticipated to be filed until the Council has issued its final decision and any rehearing period has expired.

, , If a member inadvertently participates in a discussion or receives material information about a matter that later comes before the Council, the member shall immediately disclose in writing the circumstances of the communication and the substance of the communication to the chair (or, if the chair is the affected member, to the vice-chair or the full Council).

Financial and Personal Conflicts of Interest. A conflict of interest exists whenever a member, or a member of the member's immediate family (spouse, parent, child, sibling, or any person residing in the member's household), has:

a direct or indirect financial interest (including compensation, investment, ownership, or potential gain or loss) in any entity, contract, grant, or outcome affected by the matter; or any other personal, professional, relational, or prior involvement that could reasonably be expected to impair the member's objectivity. In such cases, the member shall fully disclose the conflict in writing and shall recuse himself or herself from all discussion, deliberation, and voting on the matter. Recusal shall be recorded in the minutes.

Annual Conference-Specific Matters. A member of the Connectional Council on Appeals who is a clergy member, lay member, or resident of a particular annual conference shall not participate in any discussion, deliberation, or vote on any matter that specifically and uniquely affects only that annual conference (including, but not limited to, appeals arising from disciplinary actions, constitutional questions, funding decisions, or administrative reviews limited to that conference). This provision does not apply to matters of general application across the connection including a decision of law from an annual conference whose subject matter applies beyond the annual conference from which it arose. The member shall recuse himself or herself, and the recusal shall be recorded in the minutes.

Duty of Disclosure. Before any meeting or consideration of a docketed matter, each member shall disclose fully and promptly any actual or potential conflict or ex parte involvement.

Procedure for Recusal and Quorum.

Recusal is the primary responsibility of the individual member, but any member may raise a question of conflict of interest or ex parte involvement concerning another member. The chair (or the Council in the chair's absence) shall rule on the question, subject to appeal to the full Council. The appeal shall require a majority vote of the remaining members and shall be final. If the chair is the subject of the inquiry, the full Council shall rule on the question.

A recused member shall be replaced by an alternate for that docket item.

The secretary shall maintain a public record (subject to appropriate confidentiality) of all disclosures, recusals, and related votes.

¶ 921¶ 922. JURISDICTION.

a. Affirm, modify, remand or reverse any decisions of a trial court regarding the trial of a clergy member or an active bishop (¶ 915.8).

b. Affirm or remand for a new hearing or trial any appealed decision of a committee on investigation or trial court when appealed by the Church (¶ 915.10).

a. Dismiss, affirm, modify, remand, or reverse any appealed decisions of a trial court regarding the trial of a clergy member or an active bishop (¶ 915.1.h).

b. Dismiss, affirm, or remand for a new hearing or trial any appealed decision of a committee on investigation or trial court when appealed by the Church (¶ 915.1.i).

¶ 922¶ 923. CERTIORARI. ~~Certiorari is a request to re-examine a previous decision by another body. It is discretionary and is granted upon the affirmative vote of three members of the Connectional Council on Appeals.~~ **Certiorari is discretionary and is granted upon the affirmative vote of three members of the Connectional Council on Appeals.**

¶ 923¶ 924. DECISIONS. All decisions of the Connectional Council on Appeals are final. Decisions shall immediately be delivered to the parties of interest in each matter and be published electronically for public review.

¶ 924¶ 925. PRECEDENTIAL VALUE. ~~The decisions of predecessor Methodist bodies such as the Judicial Councils of The Methodist Church and of The United Methodist Church may be cited in arguments before the Connectional Council on Appeals but shall only have precedential value to the extent determined by the Connectional Council on Appeals.~~

PRIMARY SOURCE OF LAW. The Holy Bible and the Book of Doctrines and Discipline are the primary sources of law for all judicial and administrative proceedings authorized under this Part.

¶ 925¶ 926. TIMELINES AND DEADLINES.

¶ 926¶ 927. Recognizing our denomination is global in its reach and membership, any party in a process outlined under this Part Nine, may, due to cultural differences or restrictions and a showing of extreme hardship, make application to the Connectional Council for a limited variance of any process, timeline, or deadline hereunder. Such variance may only be granted on a case-by-case basis and not as an ongoing variance for any region or annual conference. Any such variance should be as limited as possible to achieve the aim of fair administration of church law and policy. The Connectional Council on Appeals is granted jurisdiction to hear any appeal of any such decision of the Connectional Council. Any variance application and appeal shall suspend the complaint process and all timelines and deadlines until a ruling is made.

928. “GOOD STANDING.” Service in any elected or appointed capacity at any level of the Global Methodist Church shall require that the person be in good standing. Christian leaders are required to be “above reproach,” “have a good reputation with outsiders,” and “be worthy of respect” (1 Timothy 3:2, 7, 8, 11). Certain paragraphs in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline require someone to be “in good standing” to qualify to serve.

A person is in good standing for a particular right, privilege, office, or service when the person’s current membership or clergy status permits the exercise of that right or privilege. Good standing for that purpose is lost only when The Book of Doctrines and Discipline expressly provides that the person’s membership or clergy status does not carry, or removes, the applicable right or privilege.

The filing or referral of a complaint, the failure to reach a just resolution, an investigation, a recommendation of an investigative body, the filing of charges, the pendency of a trial, or the exercise of an appeal shall not, by itself, temporarily suspend or terminate any right or privilege of good standing. A pending administrative or judicial process shall affect the rights or privileges of good standing only when and to the extent that The Book of Doctrines and Discipline makes an underlying membership or clergy status change effective and expressly attaches the loss or limitation of that right or privilege to that status. When an appeal stays a status change

under The Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the rights and privileges of the prior status shall continue during the appeal. Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit an interim suspension or other protective measure expressly authorized by The Book of Doctrines and Discipline, but such a measure shall have only the consequences expressly provided by The Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

A just resolution agreement shall not, by itself, cause the loss of any right or privilege of good standing. A just resolution shall affect good standing only if the agreement expressly provides for a change in membership or clergy status authorized by The Book of Doctrines and Discipline, and then only as to those rights and privileges that The Book of Doctrines and Discipline expressly limits or removes as a consequence of that status.

¶ 710.2.e For administrative complaints described in ¶ 906, the board of ministry shall appoint from among its own members, a committee on investigation that includes at least one lay member. For administrative complaints described in ¶ 906, the board of ministry shall appoint from among its own members, a committee on administrative investigation that includes at least one lay member.

LOCAL CHURCH — 69 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA LC-3A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1079 | ¶442.4 | Page 163 Clarification for Membership Standards for Alternative Forms of Governance

Supported as Original: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1099 | ¶456 | Page 217 Clarifying the Process for a Local Church Joining the Global Methodist Church in Areas Where an Annu

Supported as Original: 49 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1146 | ¶426 | Page 113 Clarification of How to Join the Church Through a Non-Local Setting

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1147 | ¶428 | Page 116 Clarification of Location of the Membership List, Church Records, and Other Property After a Church

Supported as Original: 49 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1149 | ¶431 | Page 122 Replace Requirement to Report College Students with Encouragement to Attend a Local Church or ...

Supported as Amended: 47 Yes / 3 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

If a member of a local church moves to another community to attend school, college, or university, the pastor shall encourage the member to participate in the worship and ministries of a nearby Global Methodist church. If no Global Methodist church exists in the area near the school, the pastor shall **may** assist the student to find a suitable church or campus ministry to participate in.

Petition 1151 | ¶434 | Page 128 Simplify Process to Transfer to Other Denomination

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1164 | ¶438.9 | Page 139 Clarify the Regulations About Church Conferences

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1165 | ¶440 | Page 150 Clarify Terms of Local Church Leaders

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

¶ 440. ELECTION OF LEADERS. The charge or church conference shall elect by simple majority vote leaders who shall be professing members of the Global Methodist Church in the local church where they would be serving as needed to fulfill the mission of the church. The charge or church conference shall elect by simple majority vote all leaders needed to fulfill the mission of the church. **In filling the offices of the church, special attention should be**

~~given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, persons over sixty-five years of age, persons with disabilities, and persons of various racial, ethnic, or tribal identities. Special attention should be given to the inclusion of women, men, youth, young adults, persons over sixty-five years of age, persons with disabilities, and persons of various racial, ethnic, or tribal identities.~~ Local church offices may be shared between two persons.

Petition 1166 | ¶441 | Page 152 Clarify Terms of Local Church Leaders

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

If a leader or officer who has been elected by the charge conference is unable or unwilling to perform the duties reasonably expected of such a leader or officer, the presiding elder may call a special session of the charge conference. The purpose of such special session shall be stated as "Consideration for the removal of person(s) from office and the election of person(s) to fill vacancy(ies)." ~~The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee or another group charged with that responsibility 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.~~

~~**In preparation for the charge conference, the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee or another group charged with that responsibility shall propose person(s) who may be elected if vacancy(ies) occur at the charge conference.**~~

~~**In preparation, for the charge conference, the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee or another group charged with that responsibility, shall propose person(s) who may be elected if vacancy(ies) occur at the charge conference for election at the charge conference to fill any vacancy(ies).**~~

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. ~~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.~~ When a local church trustee is under consideration for removal and the pastoral charge consists of two or more churches, a local charge or church conference shall be called instead of a charge conference.

Petition 1176 | ¶450 | Page 207 Clarify Requirements for Organizing a New Church

Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

1. With the sponsorship of a Global Methodist local church or group of churches, a new local church may be planted by any lay person or clergyperson of the Global Methodist Church. ~~A sponsoring local church, or group of local churches or group of churches shall provide accountability for the project. A sponsoring local church or group of churches shall provide accountability for the~~ **church plant.** In the absence of a sponsoring church or group of churches, an annual conference, through its designated leadership, may authorize the planting of a new local church and provide accountability.

Petition 1178 | ¶452 | Page 208 Closure of Local Church

Supported as Original: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1179 | ¶452.2 | Page 210 Clarify Creation of Cooperative Parishes

Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~**2. The cabinet may create appropriate policies and procedures to organize cooperative parishes as fits their ministry context.**~~

~~**2. The cabinet may create appropriate policies and procedures to organize for cooperative parishes as fits their ministry context.**~~

Petition 1181 | ¶456 | Page 218 Clarify Process for Churches to Join the GMC

Supported as Amended: 49 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

¶ 456. CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS ALIGNING WITH THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH. 1. Christian congregations may align with the Global Methodist Church through a majority vote of the professing members of the congregation present and voting at a duly called congregational meeting to endorse the doctrinal standards and Social Witness (¶¶ 101-108; 301-302) in this Book of Doctrines and Discipline and express a desire to be connected and accountable to the Global Methodist Church. ~~The church council shall forward their decision to the annual conference connectional council (or its equivalent) of the annual conference to which the local church seeks to relate.~~ The church council (or its equivalent) shall forward their decision to the annual conference connectional council (or its equivalent) of the annual conference to which the local church seeks to relate. It is the responsibility of the annual conference connectional council (or its equivalent) to verify the legality of the process used by the local congregation and the congregation's viability prior to their request being approved. The effective date of alignment shall be established by the annual conference connectional council (or its equivalent).

Petition 1199 | ¶409 | Page 92 Clarify Definition of Pastoral Charge

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶409.1 ¶409.2 & ¶409.3 ¶ 409. DEFINITION OF A PASTORAL CHARGE. 1. A pastoral charge shall consist of one or more churches ~~that are~~ organized under and subject to the Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church, with a charge conference, and to which a pastor is appointed or assigned to serve.

2. A pastoral charge of two or more churches may be designated a circuit or a cooperative parish.

3. 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 to do the work of ministry in that charge. The layperson is accountable to the presiding elder or another ordained minister appointed to oversee the charge, who will make provision for sacramental ministry. If the assignment is to continue longer than one year, the layperson will begin the process of becoming a certified candidate for ministry, coming under the care of the conference board of ministry. The layperson assigned is also accountable to the policies and procedures of the annual conference where assigned.

~~2. When a pastoral charge is not able to be served by an appointed clergyperson, the bishop, upon recommendation of the cabinet, may assign a qualified and trained lay minister, as defined by the conference board of ministry, to do the work of ministry in that charge. The assigned lay minister shall be accountable to the presiding elder or another elder designated by the presiding elder, who shall oversee the charge and make provision for sacramental ministry. The lay minister shall immediately be encouraged to begin the process of becoming a certified candidate for ministry. Lay ministers shall not be assigned to a charge for more than two years unless they have begun the process of becoming a certified candidate for ministry. The assigned lay minister shall be accountable to the policies and procedures of the annual conference where assigned.~~

2. When a pastoral charge is not able to be served by an ordained or licensed minister, the bishop may assign a qualified and trained layperson to serve under the supervision of the presiding elder, who will ensure provision for sacramental ministry. The layperson shall be encouraged to pursue appropriate training and development for ministry in accordance with the policies of the annual conference.

Petition 1200 | ¶439.2 | Page 141 Clarify Membership and Duty of the Charge Conference

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1201 | ¶439.4 | Page 142 Electing a Secretary for the Charge Conference

Supported as Original: 49 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1203 | ¶439.5 | Page 144 Clarify Power of the Charge Conference over Church Committee Membership

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

5. Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the makeup of the council so that all segments of the congregation are represented. ~~Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the makeup of all boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces so that all segments of the congregation are represented.~~ Each charge is encouraged to be inclusive in the makeup of all **official administrative bodies boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces** so that all segments of the congregation are represented.

6. The charge conference may establish a limit to the consecutive terms of office for any or all of the elected or appointed officers of the local church, unless the Book of Doctrines and Discipline sets a specific limit. ~~The charge conference may establish a limit to the consecutive terms of office for any or all of the elected or appointed officers of the local church, which does not exceed the limit for that office specified in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.~~ **The charge conference may establish a limit to the consecutive terms of office for any or all of the elected or appointed officers of the local church not to exceed the limit for that office specified in the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.** It is recommended that no officer serve more than three consecutive years in the same office.

Petition 1204 | ¶439.7 | Page 145 Clarify Responsibility of the Charge Conference in Candidacy

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

7. The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the board of ministry, faithfully adhering to the provisions of this Book of Doctrines and Discipline, candidates for ordained ministry who have been professing members in good standing of the Global Methodist Church or its predecessors 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. ~~The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the board of ministry candidates for ordained ministry who meet the requirements in ¶505 and ¶506.1.~~ **The charge conference shall examine and recommend to the board of ministry candidates for ordained ministry in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline.** It is out of the faith and witness of the congregation that men and women respond to God's call to ordained ministry. Every local church should intentionally nurture candidates for ordained ministry, providing for spiritual and financial support, and for their education and formation as servant leaders for the ministry of the whole people of God.

Petition 1205 | ¶439.10 | Page 147 Clarifying Reports at the Charge Conference

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1206 | ¶439.11 | Page 148 Clarify Power of the Charge Conference to Set Pastoral Compensation

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1209 | ¶445.1 | Page 175 Clarify Membership of PPRC

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1210 | ¶445.5 | Page 177 Clarify Meetings of PPRC

Supported as Amended: 49 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

6. ~~The committee shall meet at least quarterly. The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the presiding elder, the pastor, any other person accountable to the committee, or the chairperson of the committee. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the conference superintendent, the presiding elder, the pastor in charge, any other person accountable to the committee, or the chairperson of the committee. The committee shall meet only with the knowledge of the pastor. The committee shall meet only with the knowledge of the pastor in charge. The pastor shall be present at each meeting of the committee, except where he or she voluntarily excuses himself or herself. The pastor in charge shall be present at during each meeting of the committee, except where he or she the pastor voluntarily excuses himself or herself withdraws.~~ The committee may meet with the presiding elder without the appointed clergy under consideration being present. However, the appointed clergy under consideration shall be notified prior to

such meeting with the presiding elder and be brought into consultation immediately thereafter. The committee shall meet at least quarterly. It shall meet additionally at the request of the bishop, the presiding elder, the pastor, any other person accountable to the committee, or the chairperson of the committee. Other than the pastor in charge, any person accountable to the committee may be excluded from a meeting at any time. Other persons than the pastor in charge, any person accountable to the committee may be excluded from a meeting at any time. The committee may meet with the ~~bishop, conference superintendent,~~ presiding elder, or their designee, without the pastor in charge being present. However, any pastor under consideration shall be notified prior to such meeting and be brought into consultation immediately thereafter. The committee shall meet in closed session and information shared in the committee shall be confidential.

Petition 1211 | ¶445.8 | Page 179 Clarify Duties of PPRC

Supported as Amended: 46 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

To provide evaluation at least annually for the use of the pastor(s) and staff to enhance their effective ministry and to identify continuing educational needs and plans. ~~To provide for annual evaluation of the pastor(s) and staff to enhance their effectiveness in ministry and to identify continuing educational needs and plans.~~ To provide for annual evaluation of the pastor(s) and staff to enhance their effectiveness in ministry and to identify continuing educational and development needs and plans. The evaluation of the pastor(s) shall be shared with the Presiding Elder upon completion.

To develop and approve written job descriptions and titles for associate pastors and other staff members in cooperation with the senior pastor. ~~To develop and approve written job descriptions and titles for associate pastors and other staff members in cooperation with the pastor in charge. 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. Committees are encouraged to develop specific titles for associate pastors that reflect the job descriptions and expectations.~~

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/or pastor(s) will be served by a change of pastor(s). The committee shall cooperate with the pastor(s), the presiding elder, and the bishop in securing clergy leadership. Its relationship to the presiding elder, and the bishop shall be advisory only (¶610.7). The committee shall not recommend to the presiding elder or bishop a change of pastor(s) without first discussing its concerns with the pastor(s) involved. ~~To confer with the pastor in charge and/or associate pastor(s) if it should become evident that the best interests of the charge and/or pastor(s) will be served by a change of pastor(s). The committee shall cooperate with the pastor(s), the presiding elder, the conference superintendent, and the bishop in securing pastoral leadership. Its relationship to the presiding elder, the conference superintendent, and the bishop shall be consultative (¶610.7). The committee shall not recommend a change of pastor(s) without first discussing its concerns with the pastor(s) involved. Before requesting a pastoral change, the committee shall discuss its concerns with the pastor involved and provide a written summary of those concerns to the pastor and presiding elder. Any request for a pastoral change shall be made in writing and approved by at least two-thirds of the committee members present and voting.~~

Petition 1212 | ¶446.1 | Page 187 Membership and Purpose of the Board of Trustees

Supported as Amended: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Should a trustee withdraw from the membership of the local church or be removed therefrom, trusteeship therein shall automatically cease from the date of such withdrawal or removal. A trustee who ceases to be a professing member of the local church shall automatically cease to serve as a trustee.~~ Should a trustee of a local church be unable to carry out their responsibilities, or refuse to execute properly a legal instrument relating to any property of the church when directed to do so by the charge conference, the charge conference may by majority vote declare the trustee's membership on the Board of Trustees vacated and elect by majority vote a member of the church to fill the unexpired term. A vacancy other than those caused by withdrawal or removal that occurs ad interim may be filled until the next charge conference by the church council.

Petition 1298 | ¶442.3 | Page 162 Establishing Term Limits for Church Council Chair

Supported as Amended: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

3. The church council or governing board chairperson shall be elected by the charge conference annually. ~~The church council or governing board chairperson is eligible to be elected for no more than six consecutive years at which point the person would need to vacate the office for at least one year before being eligible to again be elected as the church council or governing board chairperson.~~ The chairperson shall be a professing member of the Global Methodist Church in the local church where he or she would be serving, and shall have the following responsibilities:

The church council or governing board chairperson shall be elected by the charge conference annually for no more than six consecutive years. ~~The church council or governing board chairperson is eligible to be elected for no more than six consecutive years at which point the person would need to vacate the office for at least one year before being eligible to again be elected as the church council or governing board chairperson.~~ The chairperson shall be a professing member of the Global Methodist Church in the local church where he or she would be serving, and shall have the following responsibilities:

Petition 1303 | ¶442.2 | Page 160 Remove Membership Duration from Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

Supported as Original: 41 Yes / 4 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1341 | ¶453.3 | Page 213 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Connectional Responsibilities

Supported as Original: 46 Yes / 2 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1363 | ¶401 | Page 81 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Methodological and Explanatory Language

Supported as Amended: 51 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

As Christ draws all people to himself, we participate in that work through our evangelism, worship, preaching, teaching, sacramental practice, works of mercy, works of piety, and fellowship. ~~While it is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of individuals, ours is the task of sharing the good news of God as we respond to the summons of Christ in Matthew 28: "As you are going, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you," even as Christ has promised to remain with us always, "even to the end of the age."~~

As Christ draws all people to himself, we participate in that work through our evangelism, worship, preaching, teaching, sacramental practice, works of mercy, works of piety, and fellowship. While it is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of individuals, ours is the task of sharing the good news of God as we respond to the summons of Christ in Matthew 28: 18-20. ~~"As you are going, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you," even as Christ has promised to remain with us always, "even to the end of the age."~~

Petition 1365 | ¶402 | Page 83 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Historical and Narrative Language

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~John Wesley famously declared in his journal on June 11, 1739: "I look upon all the world as my parish. John Wesley famously declared in his journal on June 11, 1739: "I look upon all the world as my parish. Therefore, ;thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation." Since that time~~ **Methodists have recognized that at the core of our church's mission is ensuring that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared around the globe. Methodists have we recognize that at the core of our church's mission is ensuring that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared around the globe world. From Britain to the Americas, to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia, the Methodists who came before us shared Jesus's message of salvation. Today our mission receives this rich inheritance and moves forward boldly into a new chapter. Today our mission receives this rich inheritance and moves forward boldly into a new**

chapter.

Petition 1371 | ¶442.2 | Page 161 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Representation to Annual Conference

Supported as Original: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1384 | ¶432 | Page 125 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Membership Transfer and Pastoral Oversight

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

When a member of a local church resides in a community where they cannot regularly participate in the worship and life of their home church, the member should be encouraged to transfer membership to a Global Methodist church in that community. ~~Pastors shall assist such persons in establishing connection with a local congregation and ensure appropriate pastoral oversight. The pastor of the home church shall also notify the pastor or Presiding Elder of a Global Methodist church in the member's new community, providing contact information for the member and requesting local pastoral oversight. If no Global Methodist Church exists, pastors shall assist such persons in establishing connection with a local congregation.~~

Petition 1386 | ¶430 | Page 121 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Membership Reporting

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1387 | ¶429.6 | Page 120 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Reporting in Shared Congregations

Supported as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1395 | ¶424 | Page 110 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Affiliate and Associate Membership

Supported as Amended: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Local churches may provide for affiliate or associate membership for persons who temporarily reside within their community, in accordance with the policies of the annual conference.~~

AFFILIATE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. Local churches may provide for affiliate or associate membership as follows:

1. Affiliate Member. A professing member of the Global Methodist Church or of another Methodist-related church that has a formal relationship with the Global Methodist Church who temporarily resides away from their home church may be enrolled as an affiliate member of a local Global Methodist church. Primary membership remains in the home church, which shall be notified of the affiliate enrollment.

2. Associate Member. A member of another Christian denomination who temporarily resides away from their home church may be enrolled as an associate member of a local Global Methodist Church. Primary membership remains in the home church and denomination.

3. Participation. Affiliate and associate members shall be entitled to the fellowship, pastoral care, and ministries of the local church. The local church may permit them to serve in local church leadership, but they may not serve as lay members to the annual conference. They shall not be counted as professing members of the local church in which affiliate or associate membership is held.

4. Duration. Affiliate or associate membership continues while the member resides in the area and may be ended at the request of the member or by the local church.

• CONSENT AGENDA LC-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1080 | ¶445 | Page 174 Require Written Statement and Vote for Pastoral Change

Rejected in Favor of: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1145 | ¶425 | Page 111 Definition of the Constituency Roll

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1150 | ¶432 | Page 124 Clarify Procedure for Members Who Move

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1167 | ¶442 | Page 153 Clarify Duties of Local Church Leaders

Not Approved as Original: 42 Yes / 3 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1246 | ¶445.8 | Page 182 Clarifying Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Duties

Rejected in Favor of: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1299 | ¶409.3 | Page 94 Clarification of Facilitating over Doing the Ministry of a Charge

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1301 | ¶445.8 | Page 184 SPRC/Presiding Elder Cooperation on Local Church Pastor Evaluations

Rejected in Favor of: 48 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1304 | ¶455.2 | Page 216 Flexibility Regarding Bishop Participation

Not Approved as Original: 49 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1344 | ¶453.1 | Page 211 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Ecumenical Congregation Definition

Not Approved as Original: 44 Yes / 4 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1359 | ¶401 | Page 79 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Clarifying Vision Statement Language

Not Approved as Original: 45 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1360 | ¶445.6 | Page 178 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Committee Meeting Requirements

Rejected in Favor of: 49 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1362 | ¶445.1 | Page 176 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Pastor-Parish Relations Structure

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1364 | ¶401 | Page 82 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Historical and Non-Directive Language

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1373 | ¶402 | Page 84 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Clarifying Global Church Identity

Not Approved as Original: 51 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1374 | ¶440 | Page 151 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Election of Church Leaders

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1376 | ¶402 | Page 85 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Aspirational and Explanatory Language

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1377 | ¶439.7 | Page 146 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Clarifying Candidate Recommendation Process

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1378 | ¶408 | Page 87 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying the Definition of the Local Church

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1379 | ¶439.4 | Page 143 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Charge Conference Record-Keeping

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1380 | ¶409.1-2 | Page 93 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Clarifying the Structure of a Pastoral Charge

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1383 | ¶433 | Page 126 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Membership Transfer Between Churches

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1385 | ¶431 | Page 123 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Non-Enforceable Reporting Provision

Rejected in Favor of: 46 Yes / 3 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1388 | ¶429 | Page 118 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Redundant Roll Listings

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1389 | ¶409.3 | Page 95 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Clarifying Lay Assignment and Development

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1390 | ¶429.1 | Page 119 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Membership Record Requirements

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1391 | ¶428 | Page 117 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Simplifying Transfer from Discontinued Local Churches

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1392 | ¶427 | Page 115 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Membership Reception Outside Congregational Settings

Not Approved as Original: 49 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1393 | ¶426 | Page 114 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Membership in Nonlocal Church Settings

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1394 | ¶425 | Page 112 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Removing Prescriptive Constituency Roll Requirements

Not Approved as Original: 49 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1416 | ¶438.9 | Page 140 Charge Conference Authority and Church-wide Votes

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1138 | ¶409 | Page 88 Elders for All Churches

Not Approved as Original: 50 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1296 | ¶442.1 | Page 158 Establishing Term Limits for Local Church Lay Leader

Not Approved as Original: 35 Yes / 11 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1342 | ¶453.2 | Page 212 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Covenant Requirements for Ecumenical Congregations

Not Approved as Amended: 41 Yes / 7 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Congregations forming an ecumenical congregation shall establish a written agreement governing their shared ministry, in consultation with the presiding elder.~~

Congregations forming an ecumenical congregation shall establish a written agreement governing their shared ministry, ~~in consultation with the~~ consent of the presiding elder.

Petition 1345 | ¶452.1 | Page 209 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Simplifying Cooperative Parish Structure

Supported as Amended: 42 Yes / 5 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~A cooperative parish may be formed by the presiding elder, with the approval of the bishop and the consent of the local churches, to enable shared ministry among two or more congregations.~~

A cooperative parish consists of two or more local churches that agree to share pastoral leadership and cooperate in mission and ministry. The pastors and staff shall serve as a unified ministry team. Each local church shall retain its church council. The participating charge conferences may establish shared councils, committees, or other arrangements as needed. The presiding elder, with the approval of the bishop, may form a cooperative parish with the consent of the charge conferences concerned.

Petition 1361 | ¶401 | Page 80 Global Unity, Local Clarity: Removing Redundant Theological Statements

Supported as Amended: 40 Yes / 5 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~The mission of the church is an extension of the mission of God.~~ The mission of the church is an extension of the mission of God. All those of every age and station stand in need of the grace that God has promised to extend to others through his body, the church.

MINISTRY — 20 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA MIN-3A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1033 | ¶521 | Page 307 Charge Conference Connection for All Clergy

Supported as Amended: 55 Yes / 4 No / 2 Abstentions

Amendment:

Each clergy shall submit a report of their ministry to the charge conference in which they are connected.

Petition 1083 | ¶512 | Page 287 Change of Name from Supply Pastor to Parish Pastor

Supported as Amended: 56 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

2. In recognition of the scriptural principle of the “priesthood of all believers,” and in order to provide the means of grace for the spiritual needs of those within all of our churches, after a supply pastor completes a training by the annual conference board of ministry on the theology and practice of the sacraments in the Global Methodist Church, he or she may preside over the sacraments of baptism and holy communion under the direction of the presiding elder or another elder appointed by the presiding elder. The presiding elder may assign the supply pastor’s candidacy mentor to this role where appropriate. The board of ministry may consider any courses taken in the theology of the sacraments within the Methodist tradition as meeting the requirement of the training. ~~In recognition of the scriptural principle of the “priesthood of all believers,” and in order to provide the means of grace for the spiritual needs of those within all of our churches, a presiding elder may extend sacramental authority to a parish pastor who has satisfactorily completed a training by the annual conference board of ministry on the theology and practice of the sacraments in the Global Methodist Church.~~ In recognition of the scriptural principle of the “priesthood of all believers,” and in order to provide the means of grace for the spiritual needs of those within all of our churches, a bishop may extend sacramental authority to a parish pastor who has satisfactorily completed a training by the annual conference board of ministry on the theology and practice of the sacraments in the Global Methodist Church. The board of ministry may also consider any courses completed in an approved institution or program on the theology of the sacraments within the Methodist tradition as meeting the requirement of the training. This sacramental authority shall be exercised under the oversight and authority of the presiding elder or another elder appointed by the presiding elder and shall be limited to the appointed ministry setting of the parish pastor.

Petition 1112 | ¶506 | Page 254 Clarity in Process of Candidacy and Entrance to Ministry

Supported as Amended: 49 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

1. Persons who hear a call to ordained ministry should meet with their local pastor or presiding elder to inquire about candidacy. ~~They must have held membership in a local Global Methodist church for at least two years and~~

~~have a secondary school diploma or equivalent. They must have held membership in a local Global Methodist church for at least one year and have a secondary school diploma or equivalent. They must have held membership in a local Global Methodist church for at least one year. Each Board of Ministry of Annual Conference may add more years if they seem necessary, and have a secondary school diploma or equivalent. Persons who hear a call to ordained ministry who reside in geographic areas where there does not exist a local Global Methodist church or are attending college or are attending seminary should meet with the presiding elder or Board of Ministry chairperson (or their designee) for the annual conference to which they wish to join. They must have held membership in a local church or for those enrolled in college or seminary been active in a campus/chapel ministry for at least one year. They must demonstrate theological alignment with the Global Methodist Church and receive approval from the presiding elder, Board of Ministry chairperson (or their designee). They shall fulfill all other requirements as stated in this paragraph and must be approved by the Board of Ministry for consideration as a recommended candidate for ministry.~~

d. A potential candidate who began a candidacy journey in another denomination can request that the Board of Ministry affirm some of their previous work towards this candidacy process.

a. *Inquiring Candidate* – an inquiring candidate is a person sensing a call to ordained ministry in the Global Methodist Church. This candidate should contact their local pastor and presiding elder to discuss the process and requirements of ¶ 506.

b. *Recommended Candidate* – a recommended candidate is a person who has completed the following requirements

- i. Be interviewed by and recommended by a two-thirds secret ballot of the pastor- parish relations committee or equivalent.

- iii. ~~Completed a background and credit check contracted by the local church or —annual conference; outside the United States the background and credit check is determined by the board of ministry. Completed a background and credit check contracted by the local church or Annual C onference. For any Annual Conference where a background and/or credit check is not available, evaluation is determined by the Board of Ministry.~~

- ii. ~~Undergo a psychological evaluation contracted by the annual conference; outside the United States the evaluation is determined by the board of ministry. Undergo a psychological evaluation contracted by the Annual Conference. For any Annual Conference where psychological evaluation is not available, evaluation is determined by the Board of Ministry.~~

Petition 1413 | ¶509 | Page 276 Covenantal Connections: Deacons

Supported as Amended: 57 Yes / 0 No / 3 Abstentions

Amendment:

4. ~~Deacons may be appointed to serve as part of a ministry team in a local church (including as a pastor) or another ministry setting by the bishop, or they may secure their own position with the approval and appointment of the bishop. Deacons may be appointed to serve as part of a ministry team in a local church (including as a pastor) or another ministry setting by the bishop, or they may secure their own position with the approval and appointment of the bishop.~~

~~Deacons may be appointed by the bishop to serve as part of a ministry team in a local church, submitting to the elder appointed to oversee the local church. This appointment may include an additional ministry setting beyond the local congregation.~~

~~Deacons considering a call to ordination as an elder, or in whom the gifts and graces for the ministry of elder are recognized by a bishop or presiding elder, may be appointed to the office of pastor in a local church under the servant spiritual leadership of an appointed elder, either as the appointed pastor or through the oversight of a Supervising or Presiding Elder. Deacons considering a call to ordination as an elder, or in whom the gifts and graces for the ministry of elder are recognized by a bishop or presiding elder, may be appointed to the office of pastor in a local church under the servant spiritual leadership of an appointed elder, either as the appointed~~

~~pastor or through the oversight of a Supervising or Presiding Elder.~~

~~ally waived course.~~

Petition 1415 | ¶510 | Page 280 Covenantal Connections: Elders

Supported as Amended: 61 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

Elders are clergy members in full connection of the annual conference with full voice and vote on all matters as long as they continue to maintain covenant accountability under the guidelines of their annual conference board of ministry. ~~Elders may be appointed by the bishop as a presiding elder, to local ministry as pastor in charge, to the staff of a local church, as the elder over other local congregations that have an appointed deacon, supply pastor, or assigned certified lay minister, as a chaplain, as an evangelist, or to other ministry settings.~~ Elders may be appointed by the bishop as a presiding elder, to local ministry as pastor in charge, to the staff of a local church, as the elder over other local congregations that have an appointed deacon, supply pastor, or assigned certified lay minister, as a chaplain, as an evangelist, or to other ministry settings. Elders are eligible to be elected to the office of bishop.

~~¶ 608. SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT. An elder in full connection and living in covenant fellowship may be appointed to lead a district (or its equivalent) by the bishop as a presiding elder upon recommendation by the conference superintendent. A presiding elder is appointed annually after evaluation for effectiveness. A presiding elder may not serve more than twelve years in the aggregate, unless extended annually by the annual conference connectional council (or equivalent) and approved by the conference superintendent. In the selection of presiding elders, bishops and conference superintendents shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness of the Global Methodist Church (¶ 406).~~

~~¶ 613. STATUS OF BISHOPS EMERITI.~~

~~3. A bishop emeritus shall be a clergy member of the annual conference of their choice, subject to the annual conference guidelines for maintaining covenant fellowship, and may serve in any capacity allowed for senior clergy (¶ 520).~~

~~¶ 908. JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS.~~

~~1. Chargeable Offenses — A bishop or clergy member of an annual conference, including senior clergy and clergy on honorable or administrative location, may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with one or more of the following offenses:~~

~~e. Disobedience to the order and discipline of the Global Methodist Church;~~

~~f. forsaking the covenant fellowship (¶ 505 & ¶ 506).~~

~~(renumber afterwards)~~

[One paragraph withheld: the FINAL carries a co-signer copy page footer at this point, which is a file artifact and not part of the committee's action.]

• CONSENT AGENDA MIN-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1001 | ¶502.2 | Page 229 Certified Lay Ministers - Clarity of Approved Training

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1003 | ¶506 | Page 252 Entrance into Ordained Ministry Traditional and Alternative Pathways

Rejected in Favor of: 56 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1008 | ¶505.8 | Page 250 Statement Opposing the Ordination of Homosexuality

Rejected in Favor of: 55 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1009 | ¶505.9 | Page 251 Opposition to Ordination of Transgendered People

Rejected in Favor of: 55 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1022 | ¶505.2 | Page 249 Clarifying Ordination Standards in Light of the Church's Teaching on Sexual

Rejected in Favor of: 55 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1295 | ¶506.1 | Page 257 Provide Flexibility in Transitioning Pastors from Other Denominations

Rejected in Favor of: 56 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1297 | ¶502.2 | Page 230 Clarifying CLM Course Requirements

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1337 | ¶502.2 | Page 231 Certified Lay Minister Background Check

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1338 | ¶502.2 | Page 232 Certified Lay Minister Qualifications

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1339 | ¶502.1 | Page 228 Certified Lay Minister Areas of Work

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1343 | ¶502.2 | Page 233 Local Administration of Certified Lay Minister Formation and Certification

Rejected in Favor of: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1460 | ¶506.1 | Page 258 Permit Nomination of Candidates for Ordination by a Presiding Elder or Conference Superintendent

Rejected in Favor of: 56 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1096 | ¶502 | Page 220 / ¶405 Certified Lay Ministers

Supported as Amended: 57 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

Delete ¶405 and Replace with the following:

¶ 502. CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS.

1. A certified lay minister (CLM) is a professing member of a local congregation who has received special training to be equipped for the work of God in the Global Methodist Church. Within the Global Methodist Church, CLMs are raised up by their local churches and are encouraged to pursue this path by their pastor, the pastor-parish relations committee, and the charge conference.

2. Qualifications. Persons desiring to be certified lay ministers must fulfill the following qualifications:

a) ~~Professing member of a local Global Methodist congregation (or its predecessor) for at least one year.~~ Professing member of a local Global Methodist congregation (or its predecessor) for at least one year.

b) Satisfactory completion of an equipping pathway for lay ministry, developed by the Annual Conference that meets the standards approved by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission. Globally recognized programs must be recommended by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission. The Ministry and Higher Education Commission will identify standards that include instruction sufficient to develop disciples, have sound doctrine, demonstrate competent ministry practice, and lead in the care of God's people.

c) National background check. (or regional equivalent where applicable).

d) Written recommendation by the pastor and endorsement by 2/3 majority vote of the pastor parish relations committee and the charge conference.

e) Interview and approval by the annual conference board of ministry. A public service of commitment recognizing the certification is recommended.

3. Renewal of Certification. Certification for lay ministry may be renewed every three years by the annual conference board of ministry based on the following:

a) An annual report to the charge conference and annual conference board of ministry outlining what ministry was done during the year.

b) Endorsement by majority vote of the charge conference annually.

c) Written recommendation for renewal by the pastor.

d) Completion of an additional national background check every three years (or regional equivalent where applicable).

e) Satisfactory completion of ongoing training in consultation with the Annual Conference Board of Ministry.

4. The work of a Certified Lay Minister beyond their local church. As laity, a certified lay minister is subject to the annual conference board of ministry. While only clergy are appointed by the bishop, the CLM may be requested to serve an assignment in a ministry capacity outside his or her own local church. 5. Transferring CLM Credentials: Upon relocating, a CLM may request recognition of their CLM credentials to the Annual Conference Board of Ministry of their new Annual Conference and, upon review by the Board of Ministry in accordance with ¶ 502.2, be received as a CLM in the Annual Conference. Those who have satisfactorily been certified through an equipping pathway in a Globally recognized CLM program should not be expected to complete additional coursework unless renewal coursework is required. Those certified in a program not currently Globally recognized may be asked to complete additional coursework by the Annual Conference Board of Ministry to satisfactorily complete Board of Ministry expectations. All subsequent renewal of CLM credentials in that new annual conference shall remain in accordance with ¶ 502.3.

6. Transition to Clergy. Any person certified as a CLM who later discerns a call to ordained ministry may, at the discretion of the annual conference Board of Ministry, be granted equivalency of some or all steps in the ordination candidacy process.

Petition 1412 | ¶505 | Page 245 Covenantal Connections: Clergy

Supported as Amended: 42 Yes / 8 No / 4 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~8. Be persons of integrity who have shown themselves to be faithful to the covenant fellowship of their local congregation and willing to submit to increased standards of covenantal fellowship among clergy.~~

~~9. Be persons who demonstrate holy lives.~~

(NEW) ¶ 506. CLERGY COVENANT FELLOWSHIP. ~~This clergy covenant fellowship is defined by the annual conference board of ministry and shall include at minimum a contextual understanding of the following: This clergy covenant fellowship is defined by the annual conference board of ministry and may include a contextual understanding of the following:~~

~~1. Reporting to one another annually, through our charge conference of record, how we are living out our faith.~~

~~2. Submitting ourselves to peer review for living, leading, and teaching this covenant life together at least once in every six-year period.~~

~~3. Living in covenant accountability with one another through Wesleyan classes and bands.~~

3. Living in covenant accountability with one another through Wesleyan classes and bands.

4. Living as faithful members of our covenant fellowship by using our gifts, talents, and resources to strengthen the ministries of our annual conference.

~~5. Living lives of holiness as we seek to protect the vulnerable among us, taking serious the need for appropriate policies, procedures, training, and covenant protections to be in place when these policies and procedures break down or fail (where applicable by national or local laws, all clergy serving in any capacity in the Global Methodist Church shall insure themselves with a package of insurance coverage of professional liability and misconduct. Each clergy person shall annually submit a certificate of insurance.~~

Living lives of holiness as we seek to protect the vulnerable among us, taking serious the need for appropriate policies, procedures, training, and covenant protections. ~~to be in place when these policies and procedures break down or fail (where applicable by national or local laws, all clergy serving in any capacity in the Global Methodist Church shall insure themselves with a package of insurance coverage of professional liability and misconduct. Each clergy person shall annually submit a certificate of insurance.~~

~~6. Submitting to the spiritual leadership at least annually for accountability (including but not limited to bishops, conference superintendents, presiding elders, and supervising elders).~~ Submitting to the spiritual leadership, as defined by the Book of Doctrines and Discipline, at least annually for accountability ~~(including but not limited to bishops, conference superintendents, presiding elders, and supervising elders).~~

7. Seeking to attain the highest level of training and learning appropriate to their office-including participating in regular opportunities for spiritual growth and annual continuing education.

~~(renumber afterwards)~~

~~To further align the Book of Doctrines and Discipline with these proposed changes, the following changes are needed for clarity and congruency.~~

~~¶ 517. APPOINTMENT OF CLERGY FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS.~~

~~1. Upon recommendation of the board of ministry and affirmation by the clergy session of the annual conference, a bishop may appoint clergy in good standing in other Christian denominations to serve appointments or ecumenical ministries while retaining their denominational affiliation. Their appointment shall be as a Valid Deacon or Valid Elder as long as they continue to maintain accountability to the covenant fellowship under the guidelines of their annual conference board of ministry. Clergypersons retaining their affiliation with other denominations while receiving appointment in the Global Methodist Church shall meet the following criteria:~~

~~Complete an application prepared by the board of ministry, including the following:~~

~~Testimony to their Christian faith and call to ministry.~~

~~Permission and release of any required psychological tests, a criminal background and credit check, reports of sexual misconduct or child abuse.~~

~~Either a notarized statement certifying that the candidate has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor or accused in writing of sexual misconduct or child abuse, OR a notarized statement detailing any convictions for felony or misdemeanor or written accusations of sexual misconduct or child abuse.~~

~~A statement agreeing to teach, support and maintain Global Methodist Church doctrine.~~

~~Give evidence through an interview with the board of ministry that they have read the Book of Doctrine and Discipline and will support and maintain Global Methodist Church discipline and polity.~~

~~Present suitable credentials as an ordained clergy person from another Christian denomination. Present evidence of completion of education equivalent to that required for deacons in the Global Methodist Church. Clergypersons holding ordination from another denomination or congregation, but not meeting the required educational standards of the Global Methodist church may be appointed provisionally, with full educational requirements for deacon to be completed within three years of the start of the appointment. Progress toward completion of educational requirements shall be shown annually.~~

~~2. Clergy affirmed as Valid Deacons or Valid Elders may be accorded the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except the following:~~

~~Clergy affirmed as Valid Deacons or Valid Elders may be accorded the right to vote in the annual conference, as long as they continue to maintain accountability to the covenant fellowship under the guidelines of their annual conference board of ministry, on all matters except the following:~~

~~constitutional amendments;~~

~~election of delegates to General or annual conferences; and all matters of ordination character, and conference relations of ministers. Valid Deacons and Valid Elders may serve on any board, commission or committee of the annual conference, except the board of ministry and the board of trustees. Valid Deacons and Valid Elders may not be elected as delegates to General or annual conferences.~~

~~3. Between conference sessions, the board of ministry may approve such persons for appointment pending their approval at the next regular clergy session of the annual conference. The bishop may make ad interim appointments of such persons once approved by the board of ministry. In every case, prior examination and on-going review shall be made of such person's understanding, acceptance, and willingness to support and maintain the doctrine, discipline, and polity of the Global Methodist Church. Such individuals must show willingness to submit to and maintain accountability to the covenant fellowship under the guidelines of their annual conference board of ministry as a requirement of receiving the appointment by the bishop.~~

~~¶ 908. JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS.~~

~~1. Chargeable Offenses – A bishop or clergy member of an annual conference, including senior clergy and clergy on honorable or administrative location, may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations listed below) with one or more of the following offenses:~~

~~e. Disobedience to the order and discipline of the Global Methodist Church;~~

~~f. forsaking the covenant fellowship (¶ 505 & ¶ 506).~~

~~(renumber afterwards)~~

Petition 1459 | ¶ 514 | Page 291 Refined Qualifications of Lay and Clergy Evangelists, and the Appointing of Clergy Evangelists

Supported as Amended: 54 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

Delete Paragraph ¶ 514-515 and Replace With:

Evangelism is the persuasive communication of the good news of Jesus Christ and his present and coming Kingdom in word, deed, and sign as an invitation to repent and believe in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus, the one true and living God. The Holy Spirit's work, effective evangelism leads people to call on Jesus as Savior and Lord and experience the new birth (Mark 1:15; Luke 24:19-32; Acts 2:22-47; Rom. 10:9;

John 3:3-8). While every follower of Jesus is commanded to go and share the good news of Jesus Christ, God also calls and gives to the church some who are specifically anointed and gifted as evangelists (Eph. 4:11-13). These lay and clergy persons are effective at leading 8 people to saving faith and equipping others in the body of Christ to evangelize and accelerate the spread of the 9 Gospel. All believers need to be connected to a local church to be sanctified and formed into disciples who can 10 make disciples (Matt. 4:19, 16:13-19, 28:18-20; Acts 8:4-40, 21:8; Eph. 4:11-13). 11 1. Qualifications of Lay and Clergy Evangelists The Global Methodist Church recognizes and celebrates both lay and clergy evangelists. As ambassadors for Christ, evangelists are uniquely gifted to serve the world through the local church. Evangelists must work closely with local churches in a team approach to evangelistic ministry so that new Christians are formed as mature disciples of Jesus Christ who also make disciples.

2. Process for endorsement as Evangelist A. Persons seeking endorsement as an evangelist must be a member of a Global Methodist Church for at least one year before starting the process. They must embrace and affirm the Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church with a commitment to the practices of spiritual disciplines and patterns of holiness consistent with the General Rules.

B. Persons experiencing a call to ministry as an Evangelist shall complete the following requirements 1. Meet with the Staff/Parish Relations Committee or equivalent for an interview to discuss the following questions:

a) Their conversion to Christ;

b) Their call to the ministry of an evangelist;

c) How do they effectively communicate the good news of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God?

d) Where do their lives bear fruit, showing that God has empowered them with gift to lead others to saving faith in Christ and to make disciples of Jesus Christ?

2. To receive the endorsement of the local Church, the person must a) Be recommended by 2/3 secret ballot of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee or equivalent to the Church/Charge Conference.

b) Be endorsed by of his or her local church/charge conference by a majority vote c) and receive the approval of the annual conference evangelism committee or the equivalent.

3. Continuing endorsement as Lay Evangelist A. The endorsed evangelist must submit an annual ministry report to their church/charge conference, including any continuing education completed.

4. Appointment of Deacons and Elders as Evangelists A. Evangelists who meet the criteria as a deacon or elder may be appointed as an evangelist according to the requirements of ¶ 610.10.

B. Clergy appointed as evangelists to positions outside and beyond the ministry of the local church shall be confirmed annually by the clergy session of the annual conference.

SOCIAL WITNESS — 22 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA SW-3A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1020 | ¶302.7 | Page 66 Clarifying the Church's Doctrine on Christian Marriage and Sexual Holiness

Supported as Amended: 35 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

7. We affirm that marriage is God's holy gift instituted by God in creation affirmed by our Lord Jesus Christ and intended as a lifelong covenant of mutual love fidelity and support between one man and one woman ~~(Gen-1:27-28; 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:31-32).~~ Sexual intimacy belongs only within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. ~~Therefore all other forms of human sexuality are incompatible with the Bible and traditional Christian teachings.~~

(Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:31-32).

Petition 1111 | ¶302.3 | Page 56 Supplying Language to Further Protect the Unborn and the Mother

Supported as Amended: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶804.3 3. We believe that all human life, regardless of level of development or ability, is sacred. The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion. The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion. ~~except in~~ In the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the well-being of the mother and the child are at stake, premature delivery may be necessary with the baby cared for as a separate patient. In the cases of tragic conflict of life against life when the mortality of the mother or the child is at stake, premature delivery may be necessary with the baby cared for as a separate patient. We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of life to prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources We call upon all Christians, as disciples of the Lord of Life, to prayerfully support mothers and fathers facing unintended or unwanted pregnancies by prayerfully providing them with care, counsel, and resources. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 9:5-7, 22:22-23; Exodus 22:22-23, Ps. 139:13-16; James 1:27.) (Ex. 22:22-23; Ps. 139:13-16; James 1:27).

Petition 1125 | ¶302.4 | Page 61 Against Assisted Suicide

Supported as Amended: 33 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Just as we resist the practice of abortion, we also reject the involuntary or a voluntary euthanizing of any person. Further, we reject the deliberate termination of human life through the practice euphemistically called MAID, or Physician-Assisted Death (PAD) and its subset, Practitioner (Physician)-Assisted Suicide (PAS). We believe that all human life, regardless of the level of development or ability, is sacred, therefore, we oppose the euthanizing of any person. This is not a condemnation of the removal of life support from terminally ill patients with no hope of recovery and facing near-term death, but a rejection of the practice of terminating life directly or through the facilitation of their suicides, rather than allowing their lives to end in natural death. This is not a condemnation of the removal of life support from terminally ill patients with no medical expectation of recovery and facing near-term death, but a rejection of the practice of terminating life directly or through the facilitation of their suicides, rather than allowing their lives to end in natural death. (Genesis 1:26-27, Job 12:10, Psalm 139:13-16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).~~

Petition 1127 | ¶302.8 | Page 70 Sex and Gender Identity

Supported as Amended: 36 Yes / 3 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

We recognize as sinful all expressions of sexual behavior that seek to exploit, abuse, objectify, or degrade others. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: adultery, pedophilia, pornography, polygamy, promiscuity, and sex slavery. These activities diminish both the abuser and the abused, in that God's intentional design for persons is their fulfillment and flourishing as distinct humans with meaningful identity as males and females. The proper expression of sexual behavior is the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (¶ 302.7).

Necessarily, then, we affirm there are two sexes. We acknowledge the ambiguity caused by the rare exceptions of intersex people, but we do not understand their condition to undermine the normative categories of male and female. Such is a disordered condition – as is any illness or disabling condition – and in those cases the person is to be valued as imago Dei, not for the sake of the disordered state but beyond it. ~~Further, while surgically and/or pharmaceutically altering ones' secondary sexual characteristics as an adult is morally wrong, to do so to those underaged must be considered physical child abuse.~~

We affirm the sacred worth of every child as created in the image of God and oppose practices, policies, or interventions that encourage or assist minors in seeking to alter their God-given sex through social, medical, or surgical transition.

Petition 1307 | ¶302.4 | Page 63 Clarification to Be More Broad in Supporting the Voice of the Worker

Supported as Amended: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~We believe that all should have the right to work in safe conditions with fair compensation and free of grinding toil or exploitation by others. We believe that all should have the right to work in safe conditions with fair compensation and free of grinding toil or exploitation by others. We respect the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining to protect their welfare. We respect the right of workers to negotiate wages and benefits with their employers, individually or collectively. We pray that all should be allowed to freely follow their vocations, especially those who work on the frontiers of truth and knowledge and those who may enrich the lives of others with beauty and joy. We acknowledge that science and technology are gifts of God intended to improve human life and we encourage dialogue between faith and science as mutual witnesses to God's creative power (Deut. 5:12-14; Luke 10:7; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim. 5:18). (Genesis 2:15; Deut. 5:12-14; Luke 10:7; Colossians 3:17; 1 Tim. 5:18).~~

Petition 1308 | ¶302.5 | Page 64 Removing Accusation of Source of Poverty

Supported as Original: 39 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• CONSENT AGENDA SW-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1006 | ¶302.7 | Page 65 Human Sexuality and Marriage

Rejected in Favor of: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1007 | ¶302.8 | Page 68 Expressions of Unholy Forms of Sexual Behaviors and Gender Identifications

Rejected in Favor of: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1021 | ¶302.8 | Page 69 Clarifying the Church's Doctrine on Christian Marriage and Sexual Holiness

Rejected in Favor of: 38 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1044 | ¶302.3 | Page 55 Petition to Amend Paragraph 302.3 from the Book of Doctrines and Discipline.

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1238 | ¶302.3 | Page 57 Adopt a Clearly Pro-Life Stance on Abortion

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1258 | ¶302.4 | Page 62 The Unborn - Awareness, Education, and Action

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1305 | ¶302.3 | Page 58 Affirming the Sacred Worth of Persons with Disabilities

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1306 | ¶302.3 | Page 59 Including the Denunciation of Eugenics as Means of Birth Control

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1448 | ¶302.3 | Page 60 Abortion is Contrary to God's Will and Should Always Be Opposed by the Church

Rejected in Favor of: 37 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1457 | ¶302.9 | Page 72 Biblical Anthropology and Sanctification in Sexuality and Gender

Not Approved as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1467 | ¶302.7 | Page 67 The Celebration of Holy Marriage

Rejected in Favor of: 35 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1468 | ¶302.8 | Page 71 The Celebration of Holy Marriage

Rejected in Favor of: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1472 | ¶302.7 | Supplement p. 2 Petition for Fuller Theology of Marriage

Rejected in Favor of: 35 Yes / 2 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1473 | ¶302.8 | Supplement p. 3 Petition for Specificity Regarding Sexual Sins

Rejected in Favor of: 36 Yes / 0 No / 2 Abstentions

Petition 1474 | ¶302.9 | Supplement p. 4 Petition for Accountability Regarding Sexual Sin

Not Approved as Original: 35 Yes / 1 No / 1 Abstention

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1466 Page 73 Resolution The Racial Theology of the GMC

Not Approved as Amended: 29 Yes / 12 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Be it resolved that the Global Methodist Church collectively renounces the worldly framework of race. While we can and do acknowledge the ways in which class, culture, nationality, and geography can often work against the full inclusion of all persons, we reject racial quotas and metrics as a valid or helpful measure of our success or failure as a beloved community. We also reject any efforts to segregate parts of the church from one another based on any worldly differences, especially race. Moreover, we reject worldly redistributive neo-marxist understandings of race. Specifically, the framework of antiracism, which teaches that current discrimination must be practiced in order to remedy past discrimination.~~

~~Be it further resolved that the GMC commits to uphold and practically live out a biblical lifestyle of universal inclusion of all people groups into all levels of ministry in the denomination, on the condition that all persons entering into and serving within the church desire to flee from the wrath to come and be saved from their sins. We must resolve not to be a body that continues to prefer our own in-groups rather than other faithful covenant partners. Any who repeatedly rely on affinity rather than merit or gifting to elevate others will be shown the door. Our leadership must commit to habitually, as a way of life, build relationships with people of different ethnicities, classes, cultures, and nationalities. The GMC will not be a happy home for people who want to stick with their own worldly identifiers.~~

~~It is our belief that, as we refuse to give power to the worldly constructs that divide us, we will one day look around and find that we accomplished what worldly bodies are, by nature, unable to. We will seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, trusting that God will add to us all people of all ages, ethnicities, and nations.~~

Be it resolved that the Global Methodist Church affirms that every person is created in the image of God and possesses equal dignity and worth: “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). Our ultimate identity is therefore found not in worldly divisions, but in our relationship with God and, for the Church, our unity in Jesus Christ.

We reject ideologies and systems that segregate people primarily by race or class, make group conflict fundamental to human relationships, or place earthly authority above God. We likewise reject racial quotas and metrics as measures of the Church’s faithfulness and oppose racial segregation, prejudice, discrimination, and oppression.

Instead, we affirm a biblical understanding of society that respects the God-given dignity and freedom of every person and seeks reconciliation and justice under God. The GMC will aspire to bring all people into the life in Christ and fellowship in the Church.

We will seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, building relationships across worldly divisions and trusting God to form one Church from all peoples and nations, united under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

SUPERINTENDENCY — 25 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA SUP-3A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1014 | ¶608 | Page 333 Clarifying the Role and Scope of Presiding Elders

Supported as Amended: 41 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

¶ 608. SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT. An elder in full connection may be appointed to lead a district (or its equivalent) by the bishop as a presiding elder upon recommendation by the conference superintendent. ~~A presiding elder is appointed annually after evaluation for effectiveness, and ordinarily serves in a pastoral and supervisory role that supports the ministry of clergy and congregations within the district (or its equivalent). This role is typically a co-vocational position exercised in addition to a pastoral appointment or other responsibilities, unless otherwise determined by the annual conference. The presiding elder serves in a pastoral and supervisory role that supports the ministry of clergy and congregations within the district (or its equivalent). This role is typically a co-vocational position exercised in addition to a pastoral appointment or other responsibilities, unless otherwise determined by the annual conference.~~ A presiding elder may not serve more than twelve years in the aggregate, unless extended annually by the annual conference connectional council (or equivalent) and approved by the conference superintendent. ~~In the selection and assignment of presiding elders, bishops and conference superintendents shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness and the global and connectional character of the Global Methodist Church (¶ 406). In the selection and assignment of presiding elders, bishops and conference superintendents shall give due consideration to the inclusiveness and the global~~

and connectional character of the Global Methodist Church (§ 406). The responsibilities, scope of authority, and patterns of service of presiding elders may vary according to the cultural, missional, organizational, and contextual needs of the annual conference (or its equivalent), while remaining accountable to the doctrine, discipline, and mission of the Church. ~~To assist Presiding Elders in their responsibilities, each Annual Conference shall encourage and support a lay leadership structure, led by the Conference Lay Leader or equivalent, to strengthen and equip lay leadership throughout the Annual Conference.~~

Petition 1035 | ¶610.10 | Page 356 Keeping Extension Ministries Connected

Supported as Amended: 43 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

~~Upon the recommendation of the conference superintendent and cabinet bishops may appoint endorsed ministers, deacons and elders to extension ministries outside the local church upon approval of the setting by the board of ministry. Upon the recommendation of the conference superintendent and cabinet, bishops may appoint endorsed clergy to extension ministries outside the local church upon approval of the setting by the board of ministry.~~ The appointment should reflect the nature of ordained ministry meeting needs in the world in keeping with the mission of the church (§ 401). A process of consultation shall be available to persons in appointments beyond the local church as needed and appropriate. Such persons remain active clergy and shall be assigned a Presiding Elder for support and supervision.

Petition 1051 | ¶603.5 | Page 313 Presiding over the General and Annual Conferences

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1078 | ¶605.4 | Page 327 Petition Deleting Outdated References in 600s Paragraphs

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1222 | ¶610.9 | Page 354 Clarifying Interim Appointments

Supported as Original: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1247 | ¶610.7 | Page 353 Consultation Appointment Process

Supported as Amended: 41 Yes / 2 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

7. Consultation is both a continuing process and a more intense involvement during the period of a change in appointment. ~~Whenever possible, churches may be given two or three pastoral candidates to preview for potential pastoral interviews. Whenever possible, at the discretion of the cabinet churches may be given more than one pastoral candidate to preview for potential pastoral interviews. A church may suggest potential candidates to the presiding elder. The Pastor-parish relations committee or equivalent may suggest potential candidates to the presiding elder. Churches and pastors have the right to decline a proposed appointment without malice. Churches and pastors may choose to decline a proposed appointment without malice.~~ Final interviews shall not be scheduled without the following: the approval of the pastor(s) being considered, the presiding elder, and the conference superintendent.

Petition 1335 | ¶610.5 | Page 346 Accountability for Open Itinerary

Supported as Original: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1433 | ¶612 | Page 361 Adding a Possible Reason for Vacancy

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1436 | ¶613 | Page 362 Removing Emeritus Status for Those Removed by Trial Court

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1438 | ¶614 | Page 363 Removing Unnecessary Redundancy in Leaves

Supported as Original: 39 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1439 | ¶615 | Page 364 Properly Placing Complaint Information in Section 9

Supported as Original: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• CONSENT AGENDA SUP-3B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1024 | ¶610.7 | Page 347 The Process of Appointment-Making

Rejected in Favor of: 40 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1034 | ¶605 | Page 323 Simplifying Vote Percentages

Rejected in Favor of: 40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1076 | ¶604.8 | Page 320 Petition Deleting Outdated References in 600s Paragraphs

Rejected in Favor of: 44 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1184 | ¶608 | Page 334 Clarifying the Annual Evaluation of Presiding Elders

Rejected in Favor of: 38 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1198 | ¶604.5 | Page 319 Amend Paragraph 604.5 to Indicate That at Least 75% Support Shall Be Required to Elect a Bishop

Rejected in Favor of: 42 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1221 | ¶610.7 | Page 351 Clarifying Appointment Making

Rejected in Favor of: 40 Yes / 0 No / 2 Abstentions

Petition 1223 | ¶610.10 | Page 357 Clarifying Extension Ministry Appointments

Rejected in Favor of: 43 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1260 | ¶604.1 | Page 316 To Change the Nature of Nomination of Bishops

Rejected in Favor of: 47 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1261 | ¶604.3 | Page 318 To Reduce the Number of Annual Conference per Bishop ¶604.3

Rejected in Favor of: 41 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1263 | ¶604.8 | Page 321 To Reduce Year for the General Conference and Term of Office for Bishop ¶208 Article VII and ¶604.8

Rejected in Favor of: 43 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1292 | ¶604.1 | Page 317 Make Election of AEC Members Voted on by Annual Conference

Rejected in Favor of: 42 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1336 | ¶604.8 | Page 322 Election of Bishops

Rejected in Favor of: 43 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION — NOT ON A CONSENT AGENDA •

Petition 1285 | ¶610 | Page 341 Allowing Conference Superintendents to Fix Appointments

Rejected in Favor of: 43 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1451 | ¶604 | Page 314 Election and Assignment of Bishops

Supported as Amended: 35 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Amendment:

Amend ¶604.2 as follows: “The Global Episcopacy Committee shall compile and publish a list of all nominees to the episcopacy no later than ninety days prior to the opening session of a regularly scheduled General Conference. A listing of bishops eligible and willing to stand for reelection shall also be published. The lists shall identify the annual conference of which each person is or has been a clergy member.”

Amend ¶604.3 as follows: “Within ninety days of the opening session of General Conference, a plenary body composed of all those selected to serve on area committees on episcopacy shall convene to define episcopal areas based on the number of bishops recommended by the Global Episcopacy Committee, with the guideline being areas composed of six to eight annual conferences each. The chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee shall serve as chair. The Global Episcopacy Committee shall recommend to the plenary body proposed episcopal areas, seeking to avoid, when possible, contiguous conferences in their composition. Episcopal areas need not be geographically contiguous and may be international in composition. Each recommended episcopal area shall be international in composition with at least one annual conference located on a different continent

~~than the other conferences. No recommended episcopal area shall contain all of the annual conferences located in a particular country. In developing its recommended episcopal areas, the Global Episcopacy Committee shall consider the relative financial strength of the annual conferences and ensure that each proposed episcopal area includes annual conferences of diverse financial capacity. Active bishops and members of the Global Episcopacy Committee may participate in the plenary body with voice but not vote. The plan for episcopal areas shall be approved by simple majority vote of the plenary gathering of area committees on episcopacy. The plan for episcopal area alignment shall be revisited at each gathering of the plenary prior to General Conference.~~

Amend ¶ 604.4 as follows: ~~“Individual area episcopacy committees shall convene, elect their own leadership, and conduct interviews with episcopal candidates as desired. Each individual area episcopacy committee shall not include in its list of candidates interviewed any nominee or bishop subject to reelection who has been a clergy member of an annual conference in the episcopal area or who has served within the bounds of this area within a previous denomination. Each area episcopacy committee shall produce a ranked list of up to five candidates that best match the leadership needs of the episcopal area and the Global Methodist Church. These ranked lists may include actively serving bishops so long as the actively serving bishop has not been or is not a clergy member of an annual conference in the episcopal area. To assist in this process, area committees on episcopacy shall have access to relevant confidential documentation released to them by the Global Episcopacy Committee. If the same candidate is the top choice of more than one area episcopacy committee, the Global Episcopacy Committee may issue a statement offering guidance to the General Conference delegates prior to the balloting process.~~

Amend ¶ 604.5 as follows: ~~“Bishops shall be elected to each defined episcopal area by the full body of the General Conference, except that a person may not be elected as bishop to a defined episcopal area in which there is an annual conference of which they have been or are a clergy member. Delegates may not vote for the same candidate for more than one episcopal area on the same ballot. At least 60 percent support shall be required to elect a bishop to an episcopal area. If a single candidate is the top choice for more than one episcopal area on the same ballot, the Global Episcopacy Committee may issue guidance to the delegates prior to the next ballot. [This amendment to ¶ 604.5 shall be immediately effective upon adoption.]~~ ¶ 604. ELECTION OF BISHOPS. The following provisions guide the election of bishops in the Global Methodist Church:

1. Duly elected annual conference delegations may nominate up to one clergy from their conference to the episcopacy and nominate up to one clergy from outside their conference to the episcopacy. These nominations shall not include actively serving bishops. Nominations shall be submitted to the chairperson of the Global Episcopacy Committee no later than 180 days prior to the opening of a regularly scheduled General Conference.

2. Each bishop eligible to stand for reelection shall report to the chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee their willingness to stand for reelection no later than 180 days prior to the open of a regularly scheduled General Conference. The Global Episcopacy Committee shall compile and publish a list of episcopal nominees, including all nominees to the episcopacy and bishops eligible and willing to stand for reelection no later than 120 days prior to the opening session of a regularly scheduled General Conference. Each nominee shall provide supporting materials as directed by the Global Episcopacy Committee.

3. Within 120 days of the opening session of General Conference, a plenary body composed of all those elected to serve on area committees on episcopacy shall convene to define episcopal areas based on the number of bishops established by the Global Episcopacy Committee, with the guideline being areas composed of six to eight annual conferences each. The Global Episcopacy Committee may offer guidance in the episcopal area alignment to the plenary body through a consultative process. The chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee shall serve as chair. Episcopal areas need not be geographically contiguous and shall be international in composition. Active bishops and members of the Global Episcopacy Committee may participate with voice but not vote. The plan for episcopal areas shall be approved by a simple majority of the plenary gathering of area committees on episcopacy.

4. Individual area committees on episcopacy shall convene, elect their own leadership, review nominee

materials provided by the Global Episcopacy Committee including relevant confidential documents, conduct interviews with episcopal nominees as desired, and prayerfully discern who the Lord is calling to the episcopacy. The Area Committee on the Episcopacy shall solicit feedback and discernment from their respective delegations to aid in their discernment, without sharing confidential information. Each area committee on episcopacy shall produce a list of nominees equivalent to the total number of episcopal areas who best match the leadership needs of the Global Methodist Church. These lists shall be shared with the delegates to the General Conference by the Global Episcopacy Committee at least thirty days prior to the General Conference.

5. Bishops shall be elected by the full body of the General Conference. At least 60% support shall be required to elect a bishop.

6. Those elected to the office of bishop shall be consecrated at General Conference according to the historic manner.

7. The actual term of service for bishops begins the first day of the second full month following the adjournment of the General Conference, unless determined otherwise by the General Conference. After the General Conference adjourns, but prior to the term of service of bishops begins, the Area Committees on the Episcopacy shall meet and interview each of the newly elected bishops. After interviewing each bishop, the Area Committees on the Episcopacy shall prepare a confidential ranked list of their top three choices for a bishop to serve their episcopal area. The Global Episcopacy Committee shall receive the ranked lists and make assignments of bishops to episcopal areas using the rankings as guidance.

8. A bishop may serve a maximum of two six-year terms, except those that served in the office of bishop prior to the 2026 General Conference and are elected at the 2026 General Conference shall not be eligible to serve an additional term.



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