


The Beauty of HOLINESS

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GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026

Friday, September 4

DAILY JOURNAL

Legislative Committees · Plenary Session
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

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KUDO



Plenary Session

<https://qrco.de/bgyc5q>

TODAY'S SCHEDULE — FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

6:30 AM – 7:00 AM	GC26 Shuttle Off-Site Lodging
6:45 AM – 9:30 AM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Arrival Break
7:00 AM	Agenda Committee
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Hospitality
7:30 AM	Shuttle pick-up to Clergy & Leadership Training (Mission Experience)
7:45 AM	Consecration Prayer
7:45 AM	Doors open to Worship
8:15 AM – 9:20 AM	Worship • Rev. Mark Sorensen preaching • CHRISTIAN PERFECTION: BEING PERFECTED IN LOVE • Matthew 22:37-40 and Ezekiel 36 (especially 36:24-29)
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Clergy & Leadership Training (Mission Experience)
9:20 AM – 9:30 AM	Transition
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Plenary • Report of the Agenda Committee • Commission Elections
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Plenary • Commission Elections
11:30 AM	Shuttle to Children's Bible Camp (Mission Experience)
11:30 AM	Shuttle to Christian Discipleship Discussions (Mission Experience)
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch provided on-site for those with the meal plan
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
1:00 PM	Shuttle returns from Clergy & Leadership Training
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Children's Bible Camp (Mission Experience)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Christian Discipleship Discussions (Mission Experience)
1:15 PM	Consecration Prayer
1:45 PM – 3:15 PM	Plenary • Commission Elections • Legislative Committee Actions
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Break
3:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Plenary • Sponsor Moment • Legislative Committee Actions
5:00 PM	Shuttle return from Children's Bible Camp
5:00 PM	Shuttle return from Christian Discipleship Discussions
6:00 PM – 10:30 PM	GC26 Shuttle Hotels
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner on own
7:00 PM	Consecration Prayer (if plenary needed)
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Plenary (if needed) • Legislative Committee Actions

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

PETITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Committee Actions

Day 5 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.

DOCTRINE AND SACRAMENTS — 6 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA DS-5B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1231 | ¶106.1 | Page 17 Revised Articles of Faith

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1321 | ¶106.1 | Page 22 Replacing Article VII - "Of Original or Birth Sin" with "Agape Love and Sin"

Rejected in Favor of: 10 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1322 | ¶106.1 | Page 23 Replacing Article VIII - Of Free Will with Article on "Human Nature"

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1323 | ¶106.1 | Page 24 Removing Phrase "original Guilt" from Article II - Of the Word, or Son of God...

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1326 | ¶106.1 | Page 25 Removing "original Sin" from Article XX - Of the One Oblation of Christ...

Rejected in Favor of: 50 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Petition 1446 | ¶106.3 | Page 26 Adopt Clear Doctrinal Standard on Marriage

Rejected in Favor of: 51 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

MINISTRY — 6 PETITIONS

• CONSENT AGENDA MIN-5A — PETITIONS SUPPORTED •

Petition 1129 | ¶810 | Page 519 Ministry and Higher Education Commission

Supported as Amended: 45 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Amendment:

~~Implement the standards and qualifications set for various forms of ministry by General Conference; certify the educational programs for training lay ministers, deacons, and elders; approve ministry training courses; resource annual conference boards of ministry; recommend adequate psychological and background evaluation for candidates; and approve seminaries and theological educational institutions. Implement the standards and qualifications set for various forms of ministry by General Conference; certify the educational programs for deacons, and elders; approve ministry training courses; resource annual conference boards of ministry; recommend adequate psychological and background evaluation for candidates; and approve schools and programs for ordination which meet criteria in 507.2 seminaries and theological educational institutions.~~
~~c. Certified Lay Ministry. Establish standards and guidelines for the certification of annual conference lay ministry programs as described in ¶405. Recommend standards for Annual Conference CLM Programs and approve globally recognized CLM programs.~~

Petition 1407 | ¶518 | Page 300 Leave Update

Supported as Amended: 43 Yes / 4 No / 2 Abstentions

Amendment:

Process. A change in conference status may be granted or terminated by majority vote of the clergy members of the annual conference upon recommendation by two-thirds of the annual conference board of ministry. Between sessions of annual conference, a leave of absence may be granted or terminated by a two-thirds vote of the board of ministry, with the recommendation of the bishop and a two-thirds majority of the presiding elders. ~~Clergy who are appointed will be removed from any leave status except senior status.~~

Conditions. Clergypersons on leave shall have no claim on conference funds but may be eligible to continue in conference benefit programs through their own contributions, except as specified. ~~They may serve on annual conference commissions, committees, or boards, as well as vote for clergy delegates to General Conferences.~~ They may serve on annual conference commissions, committees, or boards. They retain their respective voting status, as well as vote for clergy delegates to General Conferences.

Maternity and Paternity. ~~Any clergy member (including both spouses in a clergy couple) may request maternity or paternity leave for up to three months or for such time as mandated by the laws of the jurisdiction where the church is located, whichever is greater, at the birth or arrival of a child into the home due to adoption or fostering.~~ Any clergy member (including both spouses in a clergy couple) may request maternity or paternity leave for up to three months or for such time as mandated by the laws of the jurisdiction where the church is located, whichever is greater, at the birth or arrival of a child into the home due to adoption or fostering-to-adopt. Such leave shall be granted by the pastor-parish relations committee in consultation with the presiding elder. During the leave, the clergyperson's annual conference status will remain unchanged, and the health and benefit plans will remain in force. ~~Compensation—which may include sick leave, vacation, or other time off—shall be provided by the salary-paying entity for an amount of time determined by the church, not less than two months, or in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction where the church served is located, whichever is greater.~~ Compensation—which may include sick leave, vacation, or other time off—shall be provided by the salary-paying entity for an amount of time determined by the church, not less than two months, or in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction where the church served is located, whichever is greater.

• CONSENT AGENDA MIN-5B — PETITIONS REJECTED •

Petition 1105 | ¶810 | Page 518 Clarifying the Role of Ministry and Higher Education Commission

Rejected in Favor of: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1106 | ¶810.2 | Page 522 Clarifying the Role of Ministry and Higher Education Commission in Ministry Credentials

Rejected in Favor of: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1107 | ¶810.3 | Page 524 Clarifying the Role of Ministry and Higher Education Commission in Approvals

Rejected in Favor of: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

Petition 1266 | ¶810.2 | Page 523 Global Unity, Local Flexibility: Elimination of ¶810.2a

Rejected in Favor of: 46 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions

• PETITION 1131 — REPRINTED IN FULL, NOT A DAY 5 ACTION •

Petition 1131 | ¶507 | Page 263 Educational Requirements for Ordination

Supported as Amended: 31 Yes / 13 No / 4 Abstentions

This text replaces in its entirety any 1131 references in prior daily journals.

Full text as amended, in its entirety:

THIS PETITION AMENDS ¶507 AND ALL SUBPARAGRAPHS

¶507. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION. *1. Educational Objectives.* Following the admonition of John Wesley to unite both knowledge and vital piety, candidates for ordination as a deacon or elder within the

Global Methodist Church must fulfill basic educational requirements as a part of their preparation process. ~~As a global church, the specific requirements may vary in different regions of the world (§507.2), but all shall be aimed at ensuring that our clergy everywhere have studied to “present themselves to God as one approved, as workers who do not need to be ashamed and who correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).~~ As a global church, the specific requirements may vary in different regions of the world (§507.2), but all shall be aimed at ensuring that our clergy everywhere meet the requirements of §505 and have studied to “present themselves to God as one approved, as workers who do not need to be ashamed and who correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

2. Pathways to Ordination. While educational programs and opportunities may be different based upon geography and life circumstances, those wishing to serve God’s people through ordination within the Global Methodist Church should pursue the highest level of learning and preparation possible. The historic degree in North American settings, designed to prepare an elder for a lifetime of ministry, is generally the Master of Divinity (MDiv), though an equivalent education is possible through such degrees as a Master of Arts (MA) in biblical studies, a Master’s in Ministry (MMin), a Master’s in Theology (MTh), or, for persons residing other than in the United States and Europe, a Bachelor’s degree (BA) in the practice of ministry including biblical studies. In addition, individuals whose setting, age, or life circumstances make such formal academic degree programs difficult or impracticable may, with a secondary diploma, complete a nondegree certificate of pastoral studies from an educational program or programs approved by the Commission on Ministry, requiring the completion of at least the core classes outlined below. a. The Global Methodist Church expects those called to serve God’s people through ordination to pursue the highest level of learning and preparation possible, in accordance with educational systems throughout the world. **Prior to pursuing education for clergy credentialing, the candidate for ordained ministry shall have completed at least a secondary education or its equivalent.**

b. Once certified by the annual conference board of ministry (§506.3), the candidate for ministry will share in writing with the board of ministry their planned pursuit of education requirements. The Board of Ministry shall maintain a connection with the candidate for educational and formative progress annually.

c. Three recognized approved programs of study fulfill the needed educational requirements for credentialing as an ordained clergy person: (1) DEGREED educational programming, (2) COURSE OF STUDY certificate programming, or (3) GLOBAL METHODIST SCHOOL OF MINISTRY programming as stipulated in §507.7.b.

d. All programming in §507.2.c. (degreed, course of study, and school of ministry) shall include the prescribed courses toward ordination as stipulated in §507.3 for deacon and also §507.4 for elder. All programs approved to train candidates for ordination shall be designated as such by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission upon recommendation of its Committee on Approval, according to §810.

~~A list of approved schools or programs for ministry education will be maintained by the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education. Beginning January 1, 2026, candidates for ordination are required to choose from the list of approved institutions or programs to complete educational requirements for ordination.~~ A listing of approved schools and programs for ministry education will be maintained by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission. As of January 1, 2026, students beginning their studies are required to choose from the list of approved institutions or programs to complete educational requirements for ordination. Students who have completed their studies or enrolled prior to January 1, 2026, are not required to complete their studies at an approved school.

The Global Methodist Church will accept courses, singly or in combination, from any of the above listed degree or certificate programs, so long as the required courses are successfully completed for the level of ordination being pursued.

Students who are engaged in or have completed a theological degree or its equivalent prior to joining the Global Methodist Church will have their transcripts audited by the Board of Ministry for equivalency. All such students should be expected to take additional courses for theological and polity congruence. *3. Deacons’ Educational Requirements.* A total of ten courses (approximately thirty credit hours) are required for those ordained as deacons. A total of 10 courses are required for those ordained as deacons. These ten courses are:

- Introduction to Old Testament
- Introduction to New Testament
- Systematic Theology
- Wesleyan Theology and Doctrine
- Methodist History and Polity of the Global Methodist Church
- Basics of Preaching
- Pastoral Care
- Evangelism and Mission
- Wesleyan Understanding of the Sacraments and Worship
- Inductive Bible Study or Hermeneutics

4. *Elders' Educational Requirements.* ~~Individuals who have been previously ordained as a deacon in the Global Methodist Church may be eligible to be ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church following the completion of at least ten additional courses, including eight required courses as follows:~~ **Individuals who have been previously ordained as a deacon in the Global Methodist Church may be eligible to be ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church following the completion of at least ten additional courses, including eight required courses listed below.** ~~Individuals who have been previously ordained as a deacon in the Global Methodist Church may be eligible to be ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church following the completion of at least ten additional courses, including nine required courses listed below.~~ **Individuals who have been previously ordained as a deacon in the Global Methodist Church may be eligible to be ordained as an elder in the Global Methodist Church following the completion of at least ten additional courses, including nine required courses listed below.** Courses may be combined/distributed by approved schools and programs.

- History of Christianity Through the Reformation
- History of Christianity, Reformation to the Present
- Apologetics
- Wesleyan Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
- Christian Leadership and Conflict Resolution
- An additional Old Testament Class
- An additional New Testament Class
- Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Church Finance and Administration

Remaining Elective Courses may be chosen from among the following areas:

- Mission of the Church and Church Renewal
- Cross-Cultural Ministry and Evangelism
- Advanced Preaching
- Hebrew or Greek language studies
- Pastoral Counseling
- **Church Finance and Administration**
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in a hospital or similar setting
- Philosophy of Religion

- Field Study in Israel
- Theology Electives
- Theology of Worship
- Children or Youth Ministry
- Gospel Vision for Justice
- Media and Modern Applications
- Directed Internship or independent study

~~Under rare exceptions, candidates may petition the Board of Ministry to exercise discretion to grant equivalency to these requirements based on applicable life experience or education. These exceptions shall not exceed 20% of the overall education requirements. Under rare exceptions, cCandidates may petition their local Board of Ministry for equivalency credit based upon applicable life experience or education regarding course of study requirements. Requests for course of study equivalency may only be made in the areas of leadership, church administration, or pastoral care and may not exceed more than 10% of the total the Course of Study requirements. The Ministry and Higher Education commission shall provide guidelines to local Boards of Ministry regarding equivalency by May 1, 2027. Candidates are encouraged to consult with Global Methodist approved educational partner to discern if their prior education including undergraduate course work may satisfy credit requirements toward a degree program which will help them attain a higher level of learning and formation for ministry. The Board of Ministry to exercise discretion to grant equivalency to these requirements based on applicable life experience or education. These exceptions shall not exceed 20% of the overall education requirements. An Annual Conference Board of Ministry may grant exceptions to the educational requirements for Deacons or Elder defined in paragraph 507 for a Conference certified candidate for ministry. Such an exception would require a 3/4 majority recommendation from the Board of Ministry to the Annual Conference Clergy Session.~~

5. Global Education Committee. A Global Education Committee shall be formed as part of the Commission on Ministry and Higher Education that shall serve to encourage and connect Wesleyan theological education in the varying regions around the world, ensuring consistent standards for training clergy that align with the missional and theological aims of the Global Methodist Church.

5. Assessments. In addition to the written requirements and Board of Ministry interviews, Deacon and Elder ordination candidates shall demonstrate their competency through a written or oral examination developed by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission. The examinations shall be evaluated by the Annual Conference Board of Ministry using rubrics produced by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission.

6. Continuing Education for Clergy. Following ordination as a deacon or elder, clergy are expected to continue learning throughout their lifetimes by means of classes, retreats, seminars, and study leaves on at least an annual basis wherever possible. Time in continuing education shall not be counted as vacation or personal time.

7. Certification of Classes and Nondegree Certificate of Pastoral Studies Programs. The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education will determine whether courses at a given institution meet the requirements listed in this paragraph. Each annual conference board of ministry shall certify that the courses taken by a person correspond sufficiently to these areas. The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education will recommend competencies and courses for ministerial training, as well as establish standards for and supervise approved nondegree certificate of pastoral studies programs in conjunction with the annual conference boards of ministry. a. The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Approval, will determine whether courses at a given institution meet the requirements listed in this paragraph. The Ministry and Higher Education Commission will recommend competencies and courses for ministerial training, as well as establish standards for and supervise approved degree and non-degree certificate of pastoral studies programs in conjunction with the

annual conference boards of ministry. These standards shall be listed on the Global Methodist Church website annually.

b. The Global Methodist Church takes into consideration the exceptional circumstances of distance from approved theological institutions, language barriers or technological challenges which prevent the completion of theological education. Provided these exceptional circumstances exist, those pursuing educational credentialing may pursue fulfillment of their educational requirements at a Global Methodist School of Ministry approved by the Ministry and Higher Education Commission.

8. *Changes in Requirements.* In the event of a change in educational requirements within the Global Methodist Church, candidates in process shall be allowed to complete their educational program as per the requirements specified in the Book of Doctrine and Disciplines (including the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline) in effect at the time they began their studies, provided that the candidate demonstrates adequate progress toward the completion of their education. In the event of a change in educational requirements and/or institutional approval within the Global Methodist Church, candidates in process shall be allowed to complete their educational program in the institution in which they began their program, provided it received either full or provisionl status at the time of their matriculation as per the requirements specified in the Book of Doctrine and Disciplines (including the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline) in effect at the time they began their studies, provided that the candidate demonstrates adequate progress toward the completion of their education.

9. *Review of Courses.* The Commission on Ministry and Higher Education shall complete a review of the courses required for ordination in consultation with the Advisory Committee to the Committee on Approval and representatives from the boards of ministry and bring recommendations to the 2026 General Conference. The Ministry and Higher Education Commission shall complete a review of the courses required for ordination in consultation with the Advisory Committee to the Committee on Approval and representatives from the boards of ministry and bring recommendations to the General Conference.

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

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

This text replaces in its entirety any 1130 references in prior daily journals.

TITLE:

Consolidating The Judicial Administration Process (BDD and JPP)

RATIONALE:

Several members of the 2024 Judicial Administration legislative committee met independently to address missing elements, conflicts, and unclear portions of Part Nine and the JPP. • Our guiding principles were a judicial process that is Biblical, clear, simple, and practical. • Part Nine and the JPP are combined here for clarity and ease of use. • Additionally, the process has been revised for a simplified process, uniform treatment, and use of common terminology where practical. • We worked with representatives from numerous stakeholders. The addition of ¶ 710.2.e at the end is made necessary by the wide implications of the proposed changes in Part Nine.

TEXT (selected paragraphs):

¶ 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.

¶ 902. DEFINITIONS.

1. Complainant. The person filing a formal complaint will be called the complainant.
2. Respondent. The person against whom the complaint is filed will be called the respondent.
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.
4. Duly authorized recipient. The duly authorized recipient of a formal complaint 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.

c. the clergy person's presiding elder or conference superintendent if the respondent is clergy serving as neither an active bishop nor a conference superintendent.

d. the local church's presiding elder if the respondent is a local church member.

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.

6. Designee. The process chair may designate another person to administer one or more of the phases of the complaint process, including, but not limited to, the supervisory response stage. If the process chair is the chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee only a member of the Global Episcopacy Committee may serve as designee. If the process chair is the conference superintendent, only a member of the cabinet may serve as designee.

7. Meetings. For purposes of the complaint process, a meeting or hearing may be conducted in person or via electronic means so long as all persons participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, with in-person or video conferencing being the preference if at all possible. A person participating in a meeting by such means shall be considered present in person at the meeting.

8. Presiding Officer. The duly authorized officer presiding over a trial court. See ¶ 914.11 for proper designations.

Section I. Complaints

¶ 903. COMPLAINTS. The complaint process is initiated by a formal complaint being filed. A complaint is a written and signed statement specifying alleged misconduct as defined in ¶ 908 (a judicial complaint) or unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties as defined in ¶¶ 906, 907 (an administrative complaint). All time calculations under Part Nine commence on the date the process chair forwards an administrative complaint or judicial complaint to the respondent. The process chair must make every effort to confirm the respondent received the complaint.

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.

2. The duly authorized recipient shall forward the complaint to the appropriate process chair and the respondent immediately. The complaint shall be handled by the process chair throughout the process.

3. Upon receipt of the complaint, the process chair shall designate the complaint as an administrative or judicial complaint, forward a copy of the complaint to the respondent, and refer the parties to Part Nine and specifically ¶ 925 for explanation of the complaint process in writing within ten (10) days of receiving the complaint. If a judicial complaint does not state a specific violation of church law, the process chair may declare the complaint invalid.

a. If the respondent is an active bishop, the process chair must notify the Global Episcopacy Committee, the Assembly of Bishops, all superintendency committees in the episcopal area, and the area episcopal committee of the respondent. The process chair must keep all of these parties apprised of the complaint's process.

b. If the respondent is clergy not serving as an active bishop, the process chair must notify the chairperson of their Pastor-Parish Relations Committee or equivalent and their conference superintendent (or the chair of the conference superintendency committee if the respondent is a conference superintendent) that an administrative or judicial complaint has been received against the respondent. The process chair must keep all of these parties apprised of the complaint's process.

~~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.

¶ 904. JUST RESOLUTION AGREEMENT. Complaints may be resolved at any stage by a just resolution agreement. A just resolution agreement is one that focuses on repairing any harm to people and communities, achieving real accountability, making things right in so far as possible, and bringing healing to all the parties. With the agreement of all parties to the complaint, the assistance of a trained, impartial third-party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) may be utilized to seek a just resolution satisfactory to all parties. Special attention should be given to ensuring that cultural, racial, ethnic, and gender contexts are valued throughout the process in terms of their understandings of fairness, justice, and restoration. A resolution of the complaint at any stage shall involve a written statement of the allegations, a list of all parties to the complaint, determination of facts, elucidation of context, and plan of action or agreed penalty to address the allegations, including follow-up accountability. Any just resolution agreement for a complaint that involves an allegation of disobedience to a provision of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline* shall include a commitment by the respondent to abide by all applicable disciplinary requirements. A just resolution agreement shall not be imposed but must be voluntarily agreed to and signed by all parties to the complaint, including as a minimum: the complainant, the respondent, and the person presiding over the current stage of the process. A just resolution agreement shall be a final disposition of the related complaint. If future requirements are included in the just resolution agreement, repercussions for failure to comply must also be included. The process chair and their oversight body (Global Episcopacy Committee, if respondent is an active bishop or the cabinet otherwise) shall be responsible for verifying completion of any future requirements and administering any prescribed punitive measures if necessary.

1. All parties receiving a copy of a just resolution agreement shall treat the agreement as confidential. The just

resolution agreement shall be placed in the respondent's personnel file if clergy. A just resolution agreement shall not be disseminated or distributed except to those persons or entities given access in *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. All just resolution agreements shall include this paragraph from *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*.

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.

¶ 905. PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PROCESS. As a part of the Holy Covenant that exists within the membership and organization of the Global Methodist Church, the following procedures protect the rights of individuals and the church in administrative and judicial processes. The principles set forth in this paragraph shall be followed whenever there is an administrative or judicial complaint. Special attention shall be given to the timely disposition of all matters and consideration should be given to racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the committees dealing with complaints.

1. Right to Be Heard. The process chair, the complainant, and the respondent shall have a right to be heard before any final action is taken at any stage in the process.
2. Right to Notice. The respondent and complainant have the right to notice of any hearing with sufficient detail to allow the respondent to prepare a response. Notice shall be given not less than thirty (30) days prior to any hearing. This time may be shortened by the express consent of the complainant, respondent, and the process chair.
3. Right to Presence and Accompaniment. The respondent and the complainant shall have a right to be present at all hearings and the right to be accompanied to any hearing by a support person with the right to speak on their behalf. The support person shall be a member of the Global Methodist Church. A designated translator will not be considered a support person. Under no circumstances shall the church award compensation for or reimbursement of any expenses or fees associated with the respondent's or complainant's use of an attorney.
4. Access to Records. The respondent shall have access, at least thirty (30) days prior to any hearing, to all records to be relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the process, including the written texts of the complaints themselves.
5. Ex Parte Communication. Once the supervisory response process has concluded, under no circumstances shall one party, in the absence of the other party, discuss substantive issues with members of the body hearing the pending matter with the exception of ¶ 905.6. Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body, with the answers shared with all parties.
6. Failure to Respond. In the event that a respondent fails to appear for supervisory interviews, refuses mail, refuses to communicate personally with the process chair, or otherwise fails to respond to supervisory requests or requests from official committees, such actions or inactions shall not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay any church processes, and such processes may continue without the participation of such individual.
7. Healing. As a part of the accountability process, the bishop and cabinet, in consultation with the presiding officer of any hearing, trial, or appellate body hearing the pending matter, shall provide resources for healing if there has been significant disruption to a congregation, annual conference, or ministry context by the matter. Resources for healing shall include communication about the process. Release of information must not compromise the process or confidentiality as defined above.
8. Double Jeopardy. No person shall be subject to double jeopardy. No complaint shall be accepted for the same alleged offenses based on the same set of facts, when a similar complaint has already been adjudicated via just resolution agreement or final action by an administrative or judicial body. This does not preclude filing a new complaint for new instances of the same offense. The counsel for the Church or respondent may appeal a decision regarding double jeopardy directly to the Connectional Council on Appeals (¶ 921.9.c) within ten (10) days of the decision with notice to all parties. Such appeal shall suspend the complaint process and all timelines and deadlines

until a ruling is made.

9. Immunity From Prosecution. To preserve the integrity of the church's process and ensure full participation at all times, the chair of the Global Episcopacy Committee, the bishop, conference superintendent, cabinet, board of ministry, witnesses, support persons, counsel, administrative review committee, clergy voting in executive session, and all others who participate in the church's process shall have immunity from prosecution of complaints brought against them related to their role in a particular process, unless they have committed a chargeable offense in conscious and knowing bad faith. The complainant/plaintiff in any proceeding against any such person related to their role in a particular judicial process shall have the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that such person's actions constituted a chargeable offense committed knowingly in bad faith. The immunity set forth in this provision shall extend to civil court proceedings, to the fullest extent permissible by civil laws.

10. Counsel for the Church. No person who was a member of the Global Episcopacy Committee, cabinet, conference staff, board of ministry, or committee on investigation on or after the date of the alleged offense shall be appointed counsel for the Church or serve as counsel for the respondent or any of the persons bringing complaints in a case. By agreeing to serve, the counsel for the Church signifies his or her willingness to uphold the requirements of church law and *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. Counsel for the Church shall represent the interests of the church in pressing the claims of the person making the complaint.

~~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.

¶ 906. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING CLERGY NOT SERVING AS AN ACTIVE BISHOP. An administrative complaint involves allegations of the unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties through incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform such duties. Allegations of professional or personal misconduct shall not be handled through an administrative complaint but through the provisions of ¶ 908. Administrative complaints may be filed by laypersons who are within the scope of a respondent's ministry, other clergy familiar with the respondent's ministry, the presiding elder, the conference superintendent, or the bishop. The complaint shall contain specific examples of unsatisfactory performance, including approximate dates and times (if appropriate).

1. Processing of an administrative complaint shall include an administrative supervisory response, which shall, if warranted, be followed by an investigative response, an administrative review, and an appeal.

a. Supervisory Response – The first step in resolving an administrative complaint is a required meeting of the complainant, the respondent, and the process chair. Both parties and the process chair are all entitled to have a support person with them who may speak on their behalf in the meeting. The participants in the meeting shall be informed a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled meeting, and the written complaint shall be presented to the respondent at least thirty (30) days prior to any supervisory response meeting. The purpose of the supervisory 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 the unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties (if any).

The supervisory response shall result in one of three possible outcomes:

- 1) The process chair may dismiss a complaint if it lacks a basis in fact, church law, or both. Such dismissal requires a majority affirming vote of the cabinet (or when the respondent is an active bishop, a majority affirming vote of the Global Episcopacy Committee). In such a case, the process chair shall provide a written rationale for dismissing the complaint, which shall be placed in the respondent's personnel file and copies shall be provided to the complainant and respondent.
- 2) A just resolution agreement is agreed to by all parties, signed, and placed in the respondent's personnel file.
- 3) A just resolution agreement is not signed, and the process chair determines that the allegations may have a basis in fact and church law to merit a response. In such cases, the complaint shall be forwarded to a committee on investigation of the board of ministry for an examination and investigative process.

The supervisory response shall be completed within sixty (60) days of the process chair sending the complaint to the respondent, with the possibility of a one-time 30-day extension at the request of either party at the discretion of the process chair, and any additional extensions according to ¶ 903.5.

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.

When the committee has finished its investigation, it shall hold a closed hearing, with the respondent and complainant and their support persons entitled to be present. The evidence regarding the allegations shall be presented. The respondent shall also have the opportunity to present evidence, ask questions of witnesses, and make statements to the committee. A verbatim record of the hearing shall be made and kept in the respondent's personnel file. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee shall enter into executive session for the purpose of resolving the allegations. The committee's investigation shall be completed and the hearing held within sixty (60) days of the referral of the complaint to the committee on investigation, with the possibility of a one-time 30-day extension if agreed upon by both the respondent and the complainant. A written report of the committee's decision, including rationale, shall be placed in the respondent's personnel file and copies given to the respondent and complainant.

The investigative response shall result in one of three outcomes:

- 1) The committee may find the allegations are without sufficient basis to take action and dismiss the complaint. This outcome may be determined by majority vote of the committee and reported to the board of ministry.
- 2) The committee may find the allegations are substantiated and mandate a course of remedial action(s), with appropriate benchmarks and follow-up, subject to regular oversight by the board of ministry and annual review, including but not limited to:

- a) Program of continuing education;
- b) Personal counseling or therapy;
- c) Program of career evaluation;
- d) Peer support and supervision;

This outcome may be determined by majority vote of the committee and reported to the board of ministry.

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. Appeal. The respondent and complainant both have the right to appeal the investigative response of the board of ministry. The appeal shall be first heard by the full board of ministry (with no members of the committee on investigation voting as part of the full board action) and then may be appealed to the clergy session. Both bodies shall have access to the full report of the investigative response, and additional evidence, testimony, and statements may be presented by both sides during the appeal. The decision of the board of ministry is final unless notice of appeal is filed with the bishop, with a copy to other parties to the administrative complaint within thirty (30) days of the release of the decision. The decision of the clergy session is final, with no further appeal.

e. Expenses. All expenses for the administrative process for clergy shall be borne by the annual conference, except for travel and other expenses of the respondent and their support person.

2. Every annual conference shall seat an administrative review committee. The composition of this committee is defined in ¶ 710.7. The committee's only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for resolving a substantiated administrative complaint are properly followed as per the requirements of this Part.

¶ 907. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING ACTIVE BISHOPS. An administrative complaint involves allegations of the unsatisfactory performance of ministerial duties through incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform such duties. Allegations of professional or personal misconduct shall not be handled through an administrative complaint but through the provisions of ¶ 908. Administrative complaints may be filed by laypersons, clergy, and presiding elders within the episcopal area in which the bishop is serving, the conference superintendency committee, or another active bishop. The complaint shall contain specific examples of unsatisfactory performance, including approximate dates and times (if appropriate). The process for an administrative complaint against an active bishop shall be:

1. When the respondent is an active bishop, the administrative process outlined in ¶ 906 shall be adhered to, with the following distinctions:

a. The Global Episcopacy Committee shall appoint a committee on investigation in accordance with ¶ 910.1.

b. Any involuntary status change of an active bishop must be recommended by a three-fourths vote of the investigative committee and approved by the Global Episcopacy Committee by a two-thirds vote (¶¶ 615, 605).

c. The administrative review committee of the annual conference where the complaint originated shall examine the administrative process and issue its report prior to any action by the Global Episcopacy Committee.

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

2. Expenses. All expenses for the administrative process for complaints involving bishops shall be borne by the general church.

¶ 908. JUDICIAL COMPLAINTS. A judicial complaint involves allegations of misconduct as enumerated in the chargeable offenses below. Such complaints may be filed by any layperson or clergy person, a presiding elder, a conference superintendent, or an active bishop. The complaint shall contain at least one (1) violation of a chargeable offense, as set forth below, and shall contain specific allegations and factual basis of such misconduct, including approximate dates and times (if appropriate).

1. Chargeable Offenses. An active bishop, clergy not serving as an active bishop (including in senior status, honorable location, or administrative location), or a professing member of a local church may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations as specified in ¶ 908.3) with one or more of the following offenses:

a. Conviction or admission of guilt in criminal activities except minor traffic infractions;

b. Fiscal malfeasance or financial misconduct;

c. Racial, gender, or sexual discrimination;

d. Harassment;

- e. Promoting or engaging in doctrines or practices, conducting or participating in ceremonies or services that are not in accord with those established by the Global Methodist Church;
- f. Disobedience to a specific provision of the order and discipline of the Global Methodist Church;
- 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.**

2. Statute of Limitations. No judicial complaint or charge shall be considered for any alleged occurrence that shall not have been committed within six years immediately preceding the filing of the original complaint. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of allegations of sexual or child abuse or crime involving allegations of sexual or child abuse, there shall be no statute of limitation. Time spent on leave of absence shall not be considered as part of the six years.

3. Time of Offense. A person shall not be charged with an offense that was not a chargeable offense at the time it is alleged to have been committed. Any charge filed shall be in the language of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline* in effect at the time the offense is alleged to have occurred, except in the case of sexual or child abuse or crime involving sexual or child abuse. Then it shall be in the language of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline* in effect at the time the charge was filed. Any charge must relate to an action listed as a chargeable offense in *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*.

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¶ 912. COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES.

4. Hearing before the Committee on Investigation

f. Bill of Charges and Specifications, Deliberations, Vote, and Referral ...

2) Finding of Reasonable Grounds by Committee and Referral of Bill of Charges and Specifications for Trial.

a) When respondent is an active bishop – A vote to adopt any charge or specification shall require a simple majority vote. Any bill of charges and specifications adopted shall be sent within five (5) days to the respondent, the complainant, the General Conference Secretary, the chair and members of the Global Episcopacy Committee, counsel for the Church, and the chairperson of the conference superintendency committee (if any).

b) When respondent is clergy not serving as an active bishop – A vote to adopt any charge or specification shall require a simple majority vote. Any bill of charges and specifications adopted by the committee on investigation shall be sent by the chairperson within five (5) days to the respondent, the complainant, the annual conference secretary, the board of ministry chair, the counsel for the Church, their presiding elder, and the conference superintendent (or the chair of the conference superintendency committee if the respondent is a conference superintendent).

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.**

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¶ 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.

¶ 917. APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS (see ¶ 906).

1. The order of appeals on procedures in an administrative process shall be as follows:

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;~~

b. From the administrative review committee to the full board of ministry; and

c. From the full board of ministry to the clergy session.

d. Questions of law arising from an administrative process should be raised in the clergy session for ruling by the bishop and review by the Connectional Council on Appeals.

2. In all cases of such an appeal, the appellant shall within thirty (30) days give written notice of appeal and at the same time furnish to the officer receiving such notice a written statement of the grounds of appeal, and the hearing in the appellate body shall be limited to the grounds set forth in such statement.

3. The appellate body shall return to the convening officer of the administrative hearing and to the appellant a written statement of the grounds of its action, which shall also be placed in the appellant's personnel file.

4. An appeal shall not be allowed in any case in which the respondent has failed or refused to be present in person or by counsel during the administrative hearing. Appeals shall be heard by the proper appellate body unless it shall appear to the said body that the appellant has forfeited the right to appeal by misconduct; by withdrawal from the church; by failure to appear in person or by counsel to prosecute the appeal; or, prior to the final decision on appeal, by resorting to suit in the civil courts against any of the parties connected with the ecclesiastical administrative process.

5. The right to appeal, when once forfeited by neglect or otherwise, cannot be revived by any subsequent appellate body.

6. The right to prosecute an appeal shall not be affected by the death of the person entitled to such right. Heirs or legal representatives may prosecute such an appeal as the appellant would be entitled to do if living.

7. The records and documents of the administrative process, including any evidence, and these only, shall be used in the hearing of any appeal.

8. The appellate body shall determine one question only: Were there such errors of church law or procedure as to substantially affect the recommendation and/or action of the administrative body? The records of the

administrative process and the arguments of the official representatives of all parties shall determine this question. The appellate body shall in no case hear witnesses. It may have legal counsel present for the sole purpose of providing advice to the appellate body.

9. If the appellate body determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action. The appellate committee shall not reverse the judgment nor remand the case for a new hearing on account of error plainly not affecting the result. All decisions of the appellate committee shall require a majority vote.

10. In all cases, the right to present evidence shall be exhausted when the case has been heard once on its merits in the proper administrative hearing body, but the decision of the administrative hearing body may be appealed as outlined herein. Questions of church law may be raised in the clergy session and carried on appeal to the Connectional Council on Appeals.

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¶ 919. MEMBERSHIP.

1. The Connectional Council on Appeals is the highest judicial body in the Global Methodist Church. The council shall be composed of seven members. Members elected at the 2024 convening General Conference shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Persons elected at the 2024 convening General Conference shall be eligible for nomination at the 2026 General Conference and their two-year term shall not count against the term limit specified herein. At the 2026 General Conference four members shall be clergy and three members shall be laity. A member's term of office shall be six years. A member may serve a maximum of two consecutive six-year terms. The number of clergy and laity shall alternate every six years so that the clergy have the four members during one six-year term and the laity have the four members during the next six-year term. Members shall be professing members of the Global Methodist Church (clergy or laity). Bishops shall be ineligible for election to the council.

2. Alternates. Clergy and laity shall be elected to serve as alternates in a number equal to the number to serve on the Connectional Council on Appeals during the ensuing six-year term. Alternates shall serve in their category at any session of the council in the absence of a member of the council in the order of their election. In the event a member of the council cannot serve the balance of a term, the next elected alternate in the category impacted shall serve the balance of the term and such service shall not count against the maximum time of serving.

3. Expiration of Term. The term of office of the members of the Connectional Council on Appeals and of the alternates shall expire upon the adjournment of the General Conference at which their successors are elected.

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.~~

¶ 920. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE.

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.**
2. Time and Place of Meeting. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of the General Conference and shall continue until the adjournment of that body, at least one other time in each calendar year, and at other times as the council may deem appropriate, and at such places as it deems appropriate from time to time. Where necessary due to international or local conditions that prevent the physical assembling of the Council, it may, by a two-thirds vote, decide to meet via electronic or other digital means.
3. Quorum. Seven members or alternates duly seated shall constitute a quorum. One lay and one clergy alternate shall attend the meeting to be available in case of illness or recusal. An affirmative vote of at least five members or duly seated alternates shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On all other matters, a majority vote of the entire Connectional Council on Appeals shall be sufficient to arrive at a decision.
4. Docket. The secretary of the Connectional Council on Appeals shall publish a list of the matters which will be decided at any session at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for submission of briefs. The description of each matter pending shall be sufficient to enable persons who might file briefs to know the subject of the pending matter.
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.

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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.

1-9211 922. JURISDICTION.

1. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall determine whether any act of the General Conference is in compliance with this Book of Doctrines and Discipline upon an appeal of one-fifth of the members of the General Conference present and voting, or by a majority of the Assembly of Bishops.
2. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall determine whether any proposed legislation is in conflict with this Book of Doctrines and Discipline when such a declaratory decision is requested by one-fifth of the members of the General Conference presenting and voting, or by a majority of the Assembly of Bishops.
3. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall determine whether any act of an annual conference is in compliance with this Book of Doctrines and Discipline upon an appeal by one-fifth of the delegates present and voting to that annual conference.
4. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall determine the legality of any action taken by any body created or authorized by the General Conference or by any body created or authorized by an annual conference upon appeal by one-fifth of the delegates present and voting of such General or annual conference wherein the action was

taken, or one-third of the governing members of the created or authorized body present and voting, or a majority of the Assembly of Bishops.

5. The Connectional Council on Appeals may grant certiorari to determine the legality of any action taken by a body or agency created or authorized by the General or annual conference upon petition for certiorari by one fifth of the delegates present and voting of any annual conference.

6. The Connectional Council on Appeals may grant certiorari to render a declaratory decision as to the meaning, application, or effect of *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline* or any portion thereof or the legality, meaning, application, or effect of any act or legislation of an annual conference. Petitions for certiorari may be filed by:

- a. The General Conference upon the vote of one fifth of the delegates present and voting;
- b. The Assembly of Bishops upon the vote of a majority of the bishops present and voting;
- c. Any body created or authorized by the General Conference or an annual conference on matters relating to or affecting the work of such body upon the vote of a majority of the body's governing entity present and voting; or
- d. An annual conference upon the vote of one-fifth of its delegates present and voting.

7. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall affirm, modify, or reverse the decisions of law made by bishops in annual or General Conference. No such episcopal decision of law shall be authoritative, except in the conference where it is made, until review by the council has been completed.

8. The Connectional Council on Appeals may grant certiorari to review a decision of an ad hoc conference appeals committee of any annual conference if it should appear that such decision may be at variance with *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, a prior decision of the Connectional Council on Appeals, or a decision of a committee on appeals of another annual conference on a question of church law.

9. The Connectional Council on Appeals may rule on any matter referred to it in accordance with Part Nine.

10. The Connectional Council on Appeals shall:

~~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).

c. Rule on a respondent's appeal of an adverse double jeopardy ruling of an investigative body (§ 905.8).

~~§ 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.

• • •

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.

• • •

AMEND BY ADDITION:

¶ 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.

JA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ONE

Petitioner: Legislative Committee on Judicial Administration

Text:

¶ 210. Article IX. The Judiciary—~~The General Conference shall create a Connectional Council on Appeals, determining the number, terms, and qualifications of its members, as well as their method of election and the filling of any vacancies.~~ **The General Conference shall create a Connectional Council on Appeals, determining the number, terms, and qualifications of its members, as well as their method of election, the filling of any vacancies, and/or their removal.** All decisions of the Council shall be final. The Council shall have the following authority and responsibility: ...

This amendment will become effective immediately upon passage by the General Conference.

JA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TWO

Petitioner: Legislative Committee on Judicial Administration

Text:

Upon passage of JA Constitutional Amendment 1 by the General Conference, the following implementing legislation shall be passed by the General Conference: Paragraph 921.8 to read as follows:

Violations and Remedies. Any knowing violation of this policy, including failure to disclose or recuse, shall be reported immediately to the chair and to the Connectional Council. Upon reporting the alleged violation to the Connectional Council, the Connectional Council shall investigate the relevant facts. The Connectional Council may vote, by a 2/3 vote, to remove the Connectional Council on Appeals member in question. The member shall have the right to offer a defense to the full Connectional Council.

Vote: 28/0/0 in favor.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE NOMINEES

** indicates a current member*

Bold italic indicates someone recommended by the Nominations Committee

CONNECTIONAL COUNCIL

Elect 4 clergy and 4 lay, officers chosen by the Council

Additional 4 members will be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Jeremy Barbee – West Plains

Ryan Barnett – Mid-Texas

Tyler Best – Great Lakes

John Beyers – North Georgia

Artie Cadar – Trinity

Todd Chancey – Mid-South

Kim Collins – North Carolina

Luciano da Silva – Panama

Gabriella Kopas – Central Europe

Jessica LaGrone – Trinity*

Henriette Okele – Democratic Republic of Congo*

Scott Pattison – Great Lakes

Daniel Topalski – Bulgaria

Jimmy Towson – South Georgia

Laity

Gene Floore – Alabama Emerald Coast*

Juliet Jere – Malawi

Eugene Paik – Korean-American

Mack Parker – North Carolina

Sheela Shankar – India

Tammy Stott – North Carolina

COUNCIL ON APPEALS

Elect 4 clergy and 3 laity from the total list, with an equal number of alternates

Officers chosen by the Council

Clergy

Zawdie “Doc” Abiade – Great Lakes*

Yon Taek Bae

Steven Bell – Trinity*

Ebenezer Belleh – Grain Coast

Elliot Chikwenjere – Zimbabwe

Daniel Fulton – Mid-South

Paul Idi – Northeast Nigeria

Richard Jones – West Plains*

John Kalambo – Zambia

Sungwon Nam – Korean-American

Stanislav Prokhorov – Central Russia

Jay Therrell – Florida

Robert Zilhaver – Allegheny West

Laity

James Bannister – South Carolina

Ron Enns – West Plains*

Marcel Kakudji Faliola – Democratic Republic of Congo

Sheryl Gadia – Mega Manila

Beatrice Iliya – Northern Nigeria

Sherlin James – India

Vicky Johnson – Trinity*

Claudette Kon Kand – Democratic Republic of Congo

Curtis Kurhajec – Mid-Texas

Martina Lukic – Central Europe

Esther Mwaniki – Kenya

Gideon Salatan – Covenant Philippines*

David Smalley – Alabama Emerald Coast

CONFERENCES

Elect 6 clergy and 6 laity

No additional members to be added

Clergy

Clark Atkins, Jr. – Trinity*

John Howard – North Carolina

Jonathan Lee – Upper Midwest

Michael Morrissey, Jr. – Mid-South

Washington Emmanuel Mtende – Malawi

Wilton Odongo – Kenya

Keihwan Kevin Ryoo – Korean-American

Alban Amour Gonda Yagozo – Central African Republic*

Laity

Kirsten Mains – Great Lakes

James Massaquoi – Grain Coast

Brayan George Mwakalinga – Tanzania

Pauline Ntombura – Afrika Makarishi

Lori Smith – Mississippi-West Tennessee*

Frankie Watson – Trinity

Mickey Wheeler – Mid-Texas*

DISCIPLESHIP, DOCTRINE, AND JUST MINISTRY

Elect 10, at least half laity

Additional 5 members can be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Kenneth Collins – Mid-South
David De Silva – Florida
Michael Dillon – Great Lakes
Cali Eck – Heartland
Drew Holland – Mississippi-West Tennessee
Jack Jackson – Florida
Theddius J. Kim - Korean-American

Martin Longanga – Democratic Republic of Congo

John Wayne McMann – Trinity

Suzanne Nicholson – Mid-South*

Dennis Obadiah – Southern Nigeria

Virgilio Olonan – Covenant Philippines

Shea Reyenga – Mid-Texas

David Ryu (Sung-Soo) - Korean-American

Travis Stevick – Upper Midwest

Vladimir Zhelezov – Bulgaria

Laity

Pau Ayi-Bonte – Eastern Russia-Central Asia

Gregg Benefiel – Mid-South

Jill Davis – Great Lakes

Nikki Dillard – West Plains

Kathleen Engleman – Great Lakes

Jonathan S. Jeon - Korean-American

Elena Melnikova – Central Russia

Krista Pettit – Northeast

Kathy Rohrs – Allegheny West*

Nolizwi Stofela – South Africa

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Elect 4 clergy and 4 laity, a bishop chairs the commission

No additional members to be added

Clergy

Dissashi Omba Djamba – Democratic Republic of Congo

Rick LaDue – Northeast

Samson Muzengeza – Zimbabwe

Debo Onabanjo – Allegheny West

Sakiusa Vakadewatabua, Jr. – Heartland*

Vatroslav Zupancic – Central Europe*

Laity

Bridget Douglas – Great Lakes

Linda Ishee – Mississippi-West Tennessee

Kankolongo Johnson – Democratic Republic of Congo

Colleen Leath – Great Lakes

Debbie Smalley – Alabama Emerald Coast*

Kiho D. Sohn - Korean-American

Elena Sokolova – Northwest Russia-Belarus

Sid Strebek – West Plains

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, PENSION, AND BENEFITS

Elect 10 members, at least one-half laity

Additional 5 members can be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Harrison Bell – Alabama Emerald Coast*

Richard Monga Kamuyombo – Democratic Republic of Congo

Sung-Soo Kim - Korean-American

Vivian Kinnear – Trinity*

Michael Lindsay – Mississippi-West Tennessee

Dan Lyons – North Carolina

James Noble – Mid-Texas*

Matthew Seel – Mid-South*

Elizabeth Winger – Heartland

Laity

Sherry Austin – Great Lakes*

Olandor Boyce – Grain Coast*

Lindsey Clark – North Carolina

Renea Clevenger – Great Lakes

Richard Croll – Heartland*

Dave Elyea – Florida

Tom Finley – Great Lakes

Sam Gregory – West Plains*

Gisele Kabezya Nyota – Democratic Republic of Congo

Joy Perry – Allegheny West*

Luvo Thwethwa – South Africa*

Kevin Vaughn – Florida

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION

Elect 16 members, at least one-half laity

Additional 8 members can be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Yon Taek Bae - Korean-American

Beth Ann Cook – Great Lakes*

Mbingeleli Diko – South Africa*

Mike Grant – Allegheny West*

Joy Griffin – North Georgia*

Ben Huebner – Mid-Texas

Ilyoung William Kim - Korean-American

Charles Puno – Mega Manila*

David Ryu (Sung-Soo) - Korean-American

Nicolas Munongo Sukisa – Democratic Republic of Congo*

Laity

Elizabeth Fink – Trinity
Dana Gilliam – North Alabama
Ephraim Ibrahim Jen – Southern Nigeria
Inna Kim – Central Russia
Bridget Kirk – Heartland*
Muriel Nelson – Grain Coast
Walter Oduke – Kenya
Giftson Rajan – India
Stacy Taylor – Northeast*
Mandy White – West Plains

GLOBAL EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE

Elect 6 laity and 6 clergy by a 60 percent vote

Officers elected by the committee, no additional members to be added

Clergy

Jason Burnham – Trinity*
Ilyoung William Kim - Korean-American
Theddius J. Kim - Korean-American
Robin Parr – North Georgia
Chris Ritter – Great Lakes*
Joanne Turmalip Valenzuela – Mega Manila*
Aaron Opa Yankee – Grain Coast*
Sarah Wanck – Great Lakes*
Kira Yufereva – Central Russia

Laity

Don Bourland – Mississippi West Tennessee*
Alan Campbell – Upper Midwest
Patrick Chibhagidhi – Zimbabwe
Brad Folsom – South Georgia
Tyson Heins – Heartland*
Sergei Kim – Central Russia
Sarah Maher – Allegheny West*
Nhoris Mbayo Ngoyi – Democratic Republic of Congo
Ievgenii Semashko – Bulgaria
Kiho D. Sohn - Korean-American

KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT

Elect 6 laity and 5 clergy

Additional 6 members can be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Failuma Afeaki – Western States
Wes Griffin – North Georgia*
Joshua Johnson – Heartland
Patrick Magaqa – South Africa

Kabah Mwenze – Democratic Republic of Congo*

Phil Rogers – Upper Midwest

Laura Saffell – Allegheny West

Sherri Tabaka-Morrissey – Mid-South

Tim Turner – Trinity

Martin Kasongo Wakubatwa – Democratic Republic of Congo

Greg West – Virginia*

Laity

Diana Briselli – Northeast

Bill Brown – Heartland

Daniel Buck – Great Lakes

David Doty – Great Lakes

Jim Flury – Florida

Jeff Jernigan – North Georgia*

Robby Kalitongi – Zambia

Yoonhee Kang - Korean-American*

Elena Lyovushkina – Southern Russia

Mariela Mihaylova-Siderova – Bulgaria*

Angelo Perez – Covenant Philippines

MINISTRY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Elect 5 clergy and 5 laity

Additional 5 members can be added by the Connectional Council for expertise and balance

Clergy

Dalma Cribb – North Carolina

Brad Dush – Heartland

Daniel Gildner – Allegheny West*

Kora Mujinga – Democratic Republic of Congo

Sungwon Nam - Korean-American

Sergei Nikolaev – Central Russia

Burt Palmer – Trinity

Lauren Porter – Mississippi-West Tennessee

Thadius Sales – Northeast

Travis Stevick – Upper Midwest

Margarita Todorova – Bulgaria

Leslie Tomlinson – Mid-Texas (chair)*

Jaimie Willis – Heartland

Christopher Wise – Great Lakes

Laity

Diana Cabauatan – Covenant Philippines*

Jane Finley – North Georgia*

Audra Gaines – Mississippi-West Tennessee

Ellen Harbin – Great Lakes

Jonathan S. Jeon - Korean-American

Leesa Judd – South Carolina

Kelvin Kofi – Eastern Russia-Central Asia

Daniella Ngoy Masangu – Democratic Republic of Congo
Nicodeme Katokolo Ndomba – Democratic Republic of Congo
Catherine Sullivan – Trinity



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