

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 7

SUGGESTED TITLE: Proposal to Restructure the Global UMC - Global Connectional Conference

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶¶ 8, 13, 14, 15, 16

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Yes

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

Amend ¶ 8 by revision as follows:

¶ 8. *Article I.*—There shall be a ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** for the entire Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth...

Amend ¶ 13 by revision as follows:

Section II. ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**

¶ 13. *Article I.*—1. The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 delegates, one-half of whom shall be clergy and one half lay members, to be elected by the annual conferences. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

2. Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. **The same formula shall be used to determine the number of delegates of all annual conferences and missionary conferences, provided that no annual conference or missionary conference shall have fewer than two delegates.**

3. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall approve concordats with such other

autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's legislative conferences.

3. ~~4.~~ In the case of The Methodist Church in Great Britain, mother church of Methodism, provision shall be made for The United Methodist Church to send two delegates annually to the British Methodist Conference, and The Methodist Church in Great Britain to send four delegates quadrennially to The United Methodist ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**, the delegates of both conferences having vote and being evenly divided between clergy and laity.

Amend ¶ 14 by revision as follows:

¶ 14. *Article II.*—1. The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall meet ~~in the month of April or May~~ once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** or by its duly authorized committees.

A special session of the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the ~~General Conference~~

Global Connectional Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.

Amend ¶ 15 by revision as follows:

¶ 15. *Article III.*—The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall fix the ratio of representation in the ~~General~~ **Global, connectional, jurisdictional, and central** **and regional** conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** and also in the **connectional and** ~~jurisdictional or central~~ **regional** conferences.

Amend ¶ 16 by revision as follows:

¶ 16. *Article IV.*—The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, **except for those powers constitutionally delegated to the connectional conferences,** and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:

1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.

2. To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply ~~preachers~~ **pastors**, local ~~preachers~~ **pastors**, ~~exhorters~~, deaconesses, and home missionaries, **which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.**
3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of ~~central conferences~~, **connectional conferences, regional conferences,** district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.
4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church ~~out the United States of America~~ **around the globe.**
5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops. ~~to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability.~~
6. To provide and revise the ~~hymnal and~~ ritual of the Church ~~and to regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship~~, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules.
7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the church, except as herein otherwise prescribed.
8. To initiate and to direct all **global** connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.
9. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the Church.
10. To ~~fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by the central conferences~~ **regional**

conferences.

11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee, provided that the bishops shall select from their own number the presiding officer of the opening session.

12. To change the number and the boundaries of ~~jurisdictional~~ conferences **connectional** **conferences** upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each ~~jurisdictional~~ **connectional** conference involved.

13. To establish such commissions for the ~~general~~ **global** work of the Church as may be deemed advisable.

14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all **global** agencies, programs, and institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender, or status.

15. To allow the annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission, other mandated structures notwithstanding.

16. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Constitution of the Church

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The actual incremental costs of this proposal will be dependent upon the global structure finally adopted by General Conference.

There will probably be some additional costs related to connectional conferences, committees, etc., but these costs may be offset by a possible reduction in costs related to the meeting of the Global Connection. If the business of the North America connection is removed from the agenda of the Global Connectional Conference, the duration of that meeting will be less than the current General Conference, perhaps by three or four days, resulting in a reduction in costs for that meeting.

The most significant increase in costs will probably involve the meetings of the connectional conferences. This proposal would require each connectional conference to meet quadrennially, prior to the Global Connectional Conference. Depending upon when and where the connectional conferences meet, the incremental cost of these meetings is estimated to be between US\$300,000 and US\$1,000,000. GCFA will be asked to develop more accurate cost projections.

Any incremental cost increases will also need to be examined in the context of the overall budget for the 2016 General Conference budget of over US\$10 million.

DATE: August 28, 2015

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER: *Tracy R Merrick*

IDENTIFICATION OF PETITIONER: Chairperson of NEJ Global Structure Task Force

PHONE NUMBER: 724-934-9793

EMAIL ADDRESS: tracyrm@aol.com

Task Force Members: Sara Baron (UNYAC), Scott Campbell (NEAC), Darlene DiDomineck (EPAAC), Jen Ihlo (BWAC), Sue Jamison (SusAC), Scott Johnson (UNYAC), Judi Kenaston (WVAC); Cynthia Ann Kent (NJAC), Marilyn D. Kinelski (NJAC), Larry Leister (SusAC), Tracy Merrick (WPAAC), Derrick Porter (EPAAC), Morais Quissico (NYAC), Denise Smartt Sears (NYAC), and Eliezer Valentin-Castanon (BWAC)