

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

SUGGESTED TITLE: Proposal to Restructure the Global UMC - Boundaries

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶¶ 37, 38, 39, 40

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Yes

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

Replace ¶ 37 (the North American Connectional Conference will have authority to maintain these boundaries as regional conferences, but they won't be listed in the Constitution) with the following:

¶ 37. Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall organize its work into connectional conferences. There shall be one connectional conference each for Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Replace ¶ 38 as follows:

¶ 38. Article II.—The connectional conferences shall determine the number and boundaries of their regions, upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences within the regional conferences. The initial number and boundaries of the regions shall coincide with the previously existing jurisdictional and central conferences.

Delete ¶39.

Renumber ¶ 40 and revise as follows:

~~¶ 40. Article IV.~~ **¶ 39. Article III.**—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may be effected by the ~~jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America~~ **regional conferences** according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the ~~jurisdictional and the central conferences~~ **regional conferences**.

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

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