

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 7

SUGGESTED TITLE: Proposal to Restructure the Global UMC - Episcopacy

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶¶ 46-54

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Yes

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

Amend paragraph 46 as follows:

¶ 46. *Article II.*—The bishops shall be elected by the respective ~~jurisdictional and central conferences~~ **regional conferences** and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the ~~General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference~~ **by each connectional conference.**

Amend paragraph 47 as follows:

¶ 47. *Article III.*—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

Insert new paragraph between ¶¶ 47, 48 as follows:

¶ 48. Article IV.—The bishops of each connectional conference shall constitute a connectional College of Bishops. Such connectional College of Bishops may meet according to its needs in

order to plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the connection.

Amend paragraph 48 as follows:

~~¶ 48 Article III~~ **¶ 49 Article V.**—The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ **regional conference** shall constitute a **regional** College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

Amend paragraph 49 as follows:

~~¶ 49 Article V~~ **¶ 50 Article VI.**—The bishops shall have residential presidential supervision in the ~~jurisdictional or central conferences~~ **regional conferences** in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** to another ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** that receives a bishop by transfer from another ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** may transfer to that ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** or to a third ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** may receive a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting

of the ~~jurisdictional~~ **regional** committees on episcopacy of the ~~jurisdictions~~ **regions** that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that ~~jurisdictional~~ **regional** conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the ~~jurisdiction~~ **region** of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central conference~~ **region** through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the ~~Council of Bishops~~ **respective connectional College of Bishops** may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central conference~~ **region** to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central conference~~ **region**, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central conference~~ **region**.

Amend paragraph 50 as follows:

~~¶ 50 Article VI~~ **¶ 51 Article VII**.— The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

~~The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.~~ **Each bishop shall have such tenure as has been determined by the connectional conference within which said bishop has been elected.**

The ~~jurisdictional conference~~ **regional conference** shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the ~~jurisdictional conference~~ **regional conference** its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional conference~~ **regional conference**.

Amend paragraph 51 as follows:

~~¶ 51 Article VII~~ **¶ 52 Article VIII**.—A bishop presiding over an annual, ~~central, or jurisdictional~~ **connectional or regional** conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session, provided that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference. . .

Amend paragraph 52 as follows:

~~¶ 52 Article VIII~~ **¶ 53 Article IX**.—The bishops of the several ~~jurisdictional and central~~ **connectional and regional** conferences shall preside in the session of their respective conferences.

Amend paragraph 53 as follows:

~~¶ 53 Article IX~~ **¶ 54 Article X**.—In each annual conference there shall be one or more district superintendents who shall assist the bishop in the administration of the annual conference and shall have such responsibilities and term of office as the ~~General Conference~~ **respective connectional conferences** shall prescribe.

Amend paragraph 54 as follows:

~~¶ 54 Article X~~ **¶ 55 Article XI.**—The bishops shall appoint, after consultation with the district superintendents, ministers to the charges; and they shall have such responsibilities and authorities as the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference and connectional conferences** shall prescribe.

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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