WORLDWIDE REGIONALIZATION
Summary for current Central Conferences

Summary

>> Worldwide Regionalization does not take authority away from the current central conferences, but affirms and strengthens such authority by writing it into the Constitution.

>> Worldwide Regionalization changes the name of each current central conference into "regional conference."

>> Worldwide Regionalization will transform General Conference. Its agenda will no longer be dominated by U.S.-topics. The church in the U.S. will have their own regional conference in which they will deal with these matters. This is the same way central conferences have dealt with their own topics for a long time.

>> The constitutional amendments on Worldwide Regionalization do not in any way speak about or change positions on human sexuality. The topic of human sexuality is only addressed in the Book of Discipline outside of the constitution.

Effective Date

In order to become effective, the constitutional amendments require ratification by the annual conferences. In the aggregate, two-thirds of all voting annual conference members must support the change. All other decisions of General Conference will become effective after your respective central conference has decided according to its right of adaptation.

Standards on Marriage and Ordination

General Conference has approved to give the following additional authority to central conferences in BOD ¶ 543:

- "to set the standards and policy for rites and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage", and

- "to set the standards for ordination and the license for pastoral ministry".

A central conference may delegate this authority to an annual conference.

Study on Mediation

During the quadrennium 2025-28, there will be a study on a process of arbitration / mediation where a regional conference may be seen as overstepping its power of adaptation.