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Agenda for Friday, April 26

6:30 – 8:00 A.M. – Breakfast

7:00 A.M. – Committee on Agenda and Calendar

– Committee on Reference

7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M. – Registration (all categories)

8:00 – 8:45 A.M. – Worship

8:45 – 10:20 A.M. – Plenary Session

- Opening Prayer
- Monitoring Report (3 minutes)
- Connectional Table Report (20 minutes)
- Administrative Committee Reports

• Calendar Items

10:20 – 10:40 A.M. – Break

10:40 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. – Legislative Committees

12:30 – 1:30 P.M. – Lunch

1:30 – 4:00 P.M. – Legislative Committees

4:00 – 4:20 P.M. – Break

4:20 – 6:20 P.M. – Legislative Committees

5:00 P.M. – Daily Deadline for *DCA* Printing

6:20 – 6:30 P.M. – Evening Devotion (Legislative Committees)

6:30 P.M. – Adjournment

6:30 – 8:00 P.M. – Dinner

Judicial Council Memorandum No. 1495

April 22, 2024

IN RE: Petition for Declaratory Decision from the Council of Bishops on the Meaning, Application, and Effect of ¶¶ 55 and 2602.1 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Statement of Facts

On April 10, 2024, the Council of Bishops submitted to the Judicial Council a Petition for Declaratory Decision with the following questions:

(a) Does the sentence “A member’s term of office shall be eight years” in ¶ 2602.1 mean that a person elected to the Judicial Council at the 2016 General Conference has served one eight-year term and must stand for re-election at the 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024 if the person desires to continue to serve on the Judicial Council?

(b) Does ¶ 55 of the Discipline give the General Conference authority to enact legislation to modify ¶ 2602.1 and determine whether a person elected to the Judicial Council at the 2016 General Conference has served one eight-year term and must stand for re-election at the 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024?

Digest

The Judicial Council declines jurisdiction. The Constitution provides in ¶ 55: “There shall be a Judicial Council. The **General Conference** shall determine the number and qualifications of its members, their terms of office, and the method of election and the filling of vacancies.” [emphasis added]

April 22, 2024

Judicial Council Decision No. 1496

April 22, 2024

IN RE: Petition for Declaratory Decision Regarding Paragraph 710.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Digest

If they are nominated and elected at the postponed 2020 General Conference being held in 2024, the members of general agencies who were first elected to a four-year term at the 2016 General Conference may be elected to serve a second four-year term.

Statement of Facts

The question put to the Judicial Council by the Council of Bishops in its Petition for a Declaratory

Decision asks: Does ¶ 710.4 permit a voting member of a general agency elected at the 2016 General Conference to be elected to serve a second quadrennium beginning at the close of the 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024?

Jurisdiction

The Judicial Council has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to ¶ 2010.2b.

Analysis and Rationale

The law of the Church provides the answer to the question put to the Judicial Council. The voting members in question can serve no more than two consecutive four-year terms, the first of which began at the first meeting of their agency following the 2016 Portland General Conference.

These members are still serving their first four-year term (even though it has lasted for eight years) because since that first meeting there has not been a subsequent General Conference and no one has been nominated, elected and installed to take their place. If they are nominated and elected to another term at the postponed 2020 General Conference being held in 2024, they will start their second four-year term provided for in ¶ 710.4 at the first meeting of the general agency following the postponed 2020 General Conference in Charlotte.

Decision

If they are nominated and elected at the postponed 2020 General Conference being held in 2024, the members of general agencies who were first elected to a four-year term at the 2016 General Conference may be elected to serve a second four-year term.

April 22, 2024

Dissenting Opinion

This Petition for a Declaratory Decision essentially requests whether, under ¶ 710.4, a voting member of a general agency that was elected during the 2016 General Conference is eligible for re-election at this General Conference.

This question does not present any issues of constitutionality but rather is a legislative determination that ought to be made by the General Conference. See, e.g., the holding in JCD 1310. See also JCD 1303.

The Discipline provides in ¶ 2608.2 that:

The council may decline to entertain an appeal or a petition for a declaratory decision in any instance in which it determines that it does not have jurisdiction to decide the matter.

The Judicial Council ought to have declined jurisdiction just as it has done in Memorandum 1495 concerning the term of office for Judicial Council members. These are matters to be

determined by the denomination's legislative body, the General Conference, which will be assembled in less than 24 hours. The *Constitution* sets forth the following:

¶ 16. *Article IV*.—**The General Conference shall have full legislative power** over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:

4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church outside the United States of America [*Committee on Central Conference*]
8. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.
13. To establish such commissions for the general work of the Church as may be deemed advisable.
14. **To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and institutions** in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender, or status.

[emphasis added]

The Judicial Council must always be careful and avoid doing that which would usurp the authority of the General Conference. Similarly, the Council of Bishops can aid in this regard by avoiding the temptation to make requests for declaratory decisions when there are no constitutional issues *and* General Conference is soon to be convened. By declaring that the eight-year period [2016-2024] constitutes one four-year quadrennium is, in my opinion, legislating. This violates and undermines the *constitutional* authority that is vested solely and exclusively in the General Conference.

Of great concern is the language that is used in these Petitions for Declaratory Decisions. There are multiple times when the phrase ***Postponed 2020 General Conference to be held in 2024*** appears in the Petition. Judicial Council decision 1451 used that phrase in dealing with the

issue of the persons who would serve as delegates to this 2024 General Conference. As opposed to the issue of persons who have been serving on general boards and agencies since 2016, the persons who were elected to serve as delegates to the 2020 General Conference *have not yet served in that capacity*. In any event, Decisions 1451 and 1472 were modified and clarified by Memorandum 1485 wherein the Judicial Council specifically ruled that this General Conference is the **2024 regular session of General Conference** and also held that the next regular session that following the 2024 regular session will be the 2028 General Conference. In three separate instances, the Judicial Council referenced the **“2024 regular session of General Conference.”**

The General Conference is the entity that has the authority to determine these matters. If the General Conference desires a decision from the Judicial Council then General Conference itself can ask such questions. I believe that we risk undermining the authority and balance of powers when we take actions that essentially pre-empt the authority of another body within our denominational structure, including the full and equal participation of laity (which is wholly absent when the body is composed exclusively of clergy and/or Bishops). I pray that we will endeavor to be more sensitive and aware in circumstances such as these.

Beth Capen April 22, 2024

Errata April 26

Errata in the ADCA

In the ADCA Volume 3, p. 1598, the Rationale for Petition 21073-IC-¶1712 is incorrect. The printed Rationale contains text from a different petition, does not pertain to Heritage Landmarks, and should be disregarded when considering Petition 21073.

P. 1659, petition 20938 is incorrectly listed as coming from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. It is from Ashley Davis, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference.

Errata in the DCA

Volume 5, No. 3, p. 2002. The date of the Rules

Committee Report is incorrectly listed as April 25. The correct date is April 23.

p. 2006. The name of Subcommittee Chair 4 in the Conferences committee is incorrectly listed as Jason Nelson. The correct name is Jan Nelson.

p. 2007. The Vice Chair of the Local Church committee is incorrectly listed as Jennifer Choi. The correct name is Jennifer Cho.

The last name of the Secretary of the Local Church committee is missing. The correct name is Alvin Makunike.

GCORR Equity Monitoring Report No. 4

United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a connectional covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission. Integrally holding connectional unity and local freedom, we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social

context while maintaining “a vital web of interactive relationships” (*Book of Discipline*, para. 132).

The complexity of and need for this ecclesiological vision for how we are to live in relationship was audibly and visibly on display

during the Thursday morning plenary. Delegates first approved calendar items related to supporting worldwide regionalization. That shifted into the poignant moment of hearing and then approving the request by the Eurasia Conference to become peacefully independent from The United Methodist Church. Immediately thereafter, delegates held discussion on the Constitutional changes required for regionalization; it was also affirmed. Some of the equity questions underlying these decisions are:

Who will benefit from this legislation and in what ways?

Who will gain power (authority, access, increased funding) from this legislation?

Who will lose power (authority, access, decrease funding) from this legislation?

Earlier Thursday morning you saw the results of the nomination and election of officers for the legislative committees:

Asian Female—4 Asian Male—3 Black Female—10 Black Male—14 Hispanic/Latina Female—2 Hispanic/Latino Male—2 Multiracial Female—4 Multiracial Male—1 Pacific Islander Female—1 White Female—17 White Male—11 White Non-binary—1

While the percentages still show a larger number of white United States officers, it also reveals a shift toward the “vital web of interactive relationships” that we affirm in our **Book of Discipline**. In our desire for institutional equity, we asked the following question: During nominations, did the Process, the Space, and Introductions of Committee members enhance or inhibit elections, participation, and/or relationship building? The lens of equity invites us to also consider what impact these elections could have on specific constituencies of a worldwide United

Methodist Church.

Because of the historic racialization of skin color, some categories do not clearly identify the full range of nations represented among elected delegates. The preliminarily reported numbers were not detailed enough to capture 21 central conference delegates, 15 from African conferences and 3 from Philippine conferences, elected as primary officers or as chairs of sub-committees. Only one committee did not elect someone from a central conference. Some themes that emerged from the monitor reports of the process:

- Some monitors were acknowledged and introduced; others acknowledged but not named.
- Introductions of Committee Members to each other were requested proactively by some presiding Bishops; some introductions occurred only after the insistence of a committee member.
- Interpreters seemed to be in place more often, though at least one situation required stopping the process until one arrived.

Finally, persistent concerns around worship are being expressed daily. This is not focused on the gifted artists providing the General Conference with rich centering opportunities. At what has been called a seminal moment in our movement toward a more equitable and vibrant worldwide United Methodist Church, most worship components have been in English delivered by United States participants. How might things be experienced differently if liturgies were on screen in all of the official languages on screen? What if worship leaders, music selections, and artists reflected the global interactive relationships we affirm? Moving into the future, our General Conferences will require consideration of who sits at the table of planning and decision-making.

GCSRW Monitoring Report April 26, 2024

Thursday, April 25, 2024

The day began with a great majority of participants in the Conference dressed in black as we joined with people around the world to recognize the World Council of Churches' Thursdays in Black initiative that is working towards a world without rape and violence. The need for the Church to no longer be silent on this critical issue was brought home in a powerful manner by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling as she preached from the perspective of her own experience. We have indeed been called out of our silence.

As the morning plenary session began, we welcomed Bishop David M. Wilson to preside and celebrated his presence as the first Native American presider for a General Conference session. He called us to order and offered prayer in his native language. We continued in celebration as Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, who will be the first Black female to be president of the Council of Bishops, presided over the second part of the morning. It was a historic morning.

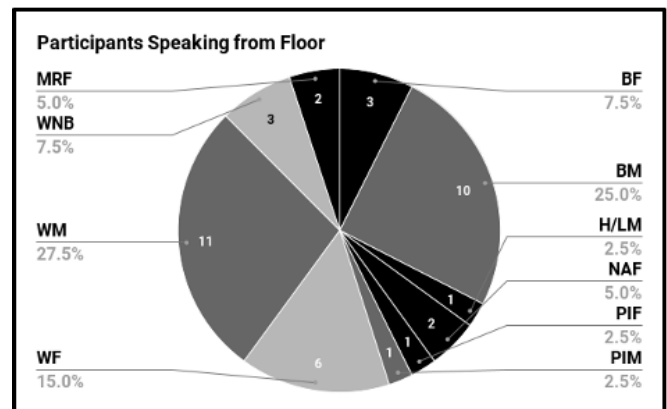
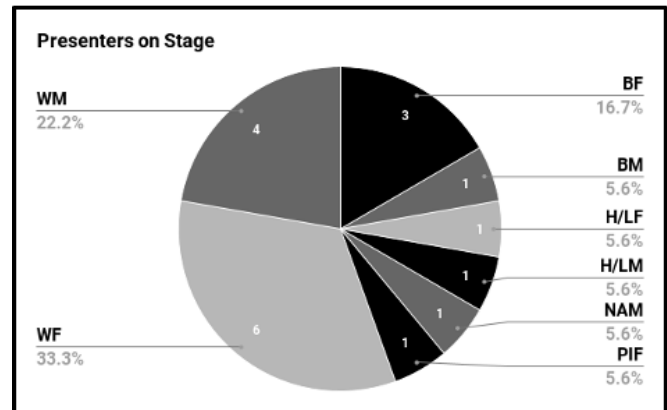
During the plenary, 56% of the presenters from the stage identified as female and 44% identified as male. In this same session, 59% of the speakers from the floor identified as male, 34% identified as female and 7% identified as nonbinary.

Legislative committees convened after lunch. Reports from the various committees reflect that some of the hiccups from the first day of organizational meetings have been overcome and that we are moving forward to a closer model of holy conferencing.

We still have work to do, especially as the subcommittees meet. It is in these settings where it continues to be necessary to clearly identify oneself before speaking and to be especially careful about not speaking over one another. It is

also important that everyone in the room notice whose voices are not being heard and what is preventing those voices from being heard.

As we go into this new day, let us pledge to ourselves and each other to be the best representatives of God's amazing love and grace.



Key: BF – Black Female; BM – Black Male; H/LF – Hispanic/Latina Female; H/LM – Hispanic/Latino Male; NAM – Native American Male; PIF – Pacific Island Female; WF – White Female; WM – White Male; WNB – White Nonbinary; MRF – Multi-Racial Female

1 **Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the General Conference**

2 **PREAMBLE**

3 From the days of John Wesley, the “People called Methodist” have gathered and
4 continue to gather for Christian conferencing as a means of grace. The early
5 Methodists, even as they attended to practical needs of the movement, focused
6 primarily on spiritual matters. The spiritual affairs of the Church and its mission
7 are always before the body whether or not they are apparent in the passions of
8 debate on temporal concerns. Through Christian conferencing the Church comes
9 together, seeking unity in the midst of diversity, always desiring to know the
10 mind of Christ. The General Conference is the representative, deliberative body
11 for The United Methodist Church. It has developed an orderly, rational, and fair
12 process for making majority decisions in the practical affairs of the Church; yet,
13 it also protects the rights of minority positions. The delegates come together in
14 firm conviction that the unity of United Methodism is God’s will and the best
15 way to “spread scriptural holiness” in this global movement of the Church.

16 The purpose of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is to help the
17 General Conference be a means of grace, discerning God’s will and striving for
18 Christ-like wisdom in all of our decisions. In the midst of deliberation, we may
19 pause, listen in silence, pray together, and refocus our vision on where the Spirit
20 is leading the Church. These times of silence, prayer, and discernment may be
21 varied and surprising. While they are not substitutes for respectful and orderly
22 debate, they do serve to hold our temporal affairs up to the light of the larger,
23 common mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus
24 Christ for the transformation of the world. Trusting that God is at work
25 throughout all of life, the General Conference invites the Church and others to
26 observe our deliberations by conducting our business in open meetings
27 (consistent with ¶ 722 of the *Book of Discipline*).

28 **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

29 **I. Opening Session and Organization**

30 The General Conference will assemble at the set time and place beginning with
31 worship. The opening business session of the Conference shall be called to
32 order by the bishop designated, as provided in the *Book of Discipline* ¶ 16.11.

33 The following order of business shall be observed:

34 A. Roll Call. The record of attendance shall be made in writing to the Secretary
35 of the General Conference by:

- 36 1) The Secretary of the Council of Bishops for the bishops,
- 37 2) The Secretary of the Judicial Council for that body,
- 38 3) The Executive Secretary of the Connectional Table for all general
39 secretaries,
- 40 4) The chairperson of each annual conference delegation for its
41 membership (See Rule 5), and
- 42 5) The chairperson of each delegation for Concordat, Affiliated
43 Autonomous Methodist and United Churches.

44 B. Establish the bar of the conference.

45 C. Report of the Commission on the General Conference.

- 46 1) Adoption of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

47 D. Elections

- 48 1) Coordinator of Calendar (See IV.C)

49 E. Report of Committee on Agenda.

50 F. Miscellaneous Business.

51 G. Adjournment.

52 **II. Episcopal, Laity, and Young People Addresses**

53 The Quadrennial Addresses shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such
54 hour as determined by the Commission on the General Conference. The Council
55 of Bishops shall coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial
56 Episcopal Address. The Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall
57 coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Lay Address.
58 The opportunity to present shall be open to all annual conference lay leaders.

59 The United Methodist Division of Ministries with Young People shall
60 coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Young People
61 Address. The opportunity to present shall be open to all young people.

62 **III. Presiding Officers**

63 The presiding officers for the plenaries of the Conference, the opening plenary
64 excepted (See Section I), shall be chosen from among the active bishops by the
65 Committee on Presiding Officers (See Section VII.A.6).

66 **IV. Secretary of the General Conference**

67 A. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for all
68 functions of the office assigned by ¶ 504.3 in preparation for the session of the
69 General Conference, and shall be accountable to the Commission on the General
70 Conference.

71 B. The Secretary of the General Conference shall select persons from the clergy
72 and lay membership of The United Methodist Church to serve on the secretarial
73 support staff.

74 C. The Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Secretary of the General
75 Conference, a Coordinator of Calendar, who shall assist the Committee on
76 Agenda and Calendar in presenting reports in such order as to expedite the
77 business of the Conference, and in other responsibilities of the committee (See
78 I.D.1 and VII.A.1).

79 D. The Secretary of the General Conference shall appoint a Petitions Secretary
80 who shall prepare the petitions, resolutions, and reports that meet the
81 requirements of *Book of Discipline* ¶ 507 for reference to the appropriate
82 legislative committee, subject to review by the Committee on Reference (See
83 Section VII.A.7).

84 E. A budget for the work of the Secretary of the General Conference shall be
85 presented by the Commission on the General Conference to the General Council
86 on Finance and Administration. Such budget shall be paid out of the General
87 Administration Fund.

88 F. If in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference the
89 office of the Secretary of the General Conference shall be vacated for any
90 reason, the Council of Bishops shall elect a successor to serve until the next
91 session.

92 **V. Nominations and Elections**

93 The Secretary of the General Conference shall develop a timeline for the
94 submission of nominations, elections, and appointments by the Council of
95 Bishops. In making these nominations, elections and appointments, attention
96 shall be given to ensuring continuity of membership from the previous
97 quadrennium. It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Bishops to present
98 nominations for the Commission on the General Conference, Standing
99 Committee on Central Conference Matters, General Conference administrative
100 committees, and secretary-designate of the General Conference. These
101 nominations shall be presented to the General Conference for election.

102 Disciplinary provisions shall govern the nomination and election procedures
103 for:

104 General Council on Finance and Administration (§ 805.1)
105 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1)
106 General Commission on Archives and History (§ 1704.2)
107 The University Senate (§ 1414.2)
108 The Judicial Council (§§ 2602, 2603, 2604.1)

109 and Episcopal membership on:

110 General Board of Church and Society (§ 705.4d)
111 General Board of Discipleship (§ 705.4d)
112 General Board of Global Ministries (§§ 705.4d, 1311.6)
113 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§ 705.4d)

114 The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall publish the list of nominees for election to
115 the Judicial Council and the University Senate. Biographical sketches not to
116 exceed 100 words in length shall be submitted by each nominee and shall be
117 published as submitted.

118 **VI. Commission on the General Conference**

119 A. There shall be a Commission on the General Conference comprised of lay
120 and clergy membership as defined by ¶ 511 of the *Book of Discipline*. They
121 shall have oversight responsibility for all arrangements necessary for the
122 meeting of the General Conference.

123 1. Languages of the General Conference: The *Daily Christian Advocate*
124 will be published in English.¹ Simultaneous and/or one-on-one
125 interpretation of plenary and legislative committee sessions will be
126 offered in French, Portuguese, Spanish, KiSwahili, German, Russian,
127 Korean, and American Sign Language and/or others as determined by
128 the Commission on the General Conference in consultation with the
129 Multilingual Resources of the General Board of Global Ministries.

130 2. Duly credentialed interpreters or other personal assistants for persons
131 with special needs may be seated when necessary with voting delegates
132 in all committee and plenary sessions.

133 **VII. Committees**

134 The General Conference shall have standing committees and special committees
135 as it may order, with such functions, responsibilities, and limitations as
136 assigned.

137 **A. Administrative Committees**

138 The members of the following committees shall be appointed by the Council of
139 Bishops at its fall meeting preceding the General Conference. All except the
140 Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be from the elected
141 delegates to the General Conference (See Section V). Members of
142 administrative committees that meet prior to the day on which the General
143 Conference convenes shall receive the delegate per diem for each additional day
144 on which their attendance is required. Delegates who are appointed to such

¹ Editor's note: *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 511.4.c requires that daily schedules, petition lists, nominations information, and other high-importance information in the *DCA* must also be made available in French, Portuguese, and Kiswahili. These will be provided electronically.

145 committees less than 60 days prior to the opening session of General
146 Conference shall be entitled to reimbursement for any additional transportation
147 costs.

148 *1) Agenda and Calendar*

149 (a) There shall be a Committee on Agenda and Calendar composed of fifteen
150 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of
151 whom shall be laypersons; the Coordinator of the Calendar; the Chairperson of
152 the Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference or
153 designee; and the Chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference or
154 designee.

155 No member of the committee shall be chairperson of a legislative committee or
156 a staff person of any general agency. The committee shall be convened, for the
157 purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference, or
158 designee, at least the day before the opening of the General Conference.
159 Following the presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the
160 General Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the
161 Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately become responsible for
162 guiding the order of business of the Conference.

163 (b) The Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall:

164 (1) Present calendar reports in such an order as to expedite the business
165 of the Conference,

166 (2) Inform the bishop presiding as soon as possible of the agenda items,
167 including order of priority, to be considered,

168 (3) Keep an overview of calendar progress;

169 (4) Report recommendations to each session of the General Conference
170 concerning business agenda, including time allocation and order in
171 which legislative committee reports shall be presented;

172 (5) Give priority in plenary for legislative consideration as
173 calendar items become available: to items affecting the global

- 174 church, items with financial implications, items supported by the
175 legislative committee, and items with minority reports;
- 176 (6) Announce, at the last plenary session of each day, a tentative agenda
177 for the next day;
- 178 (7) Consult daily with the legislative committee chairpersons to
179 expedite the business of the General Conference; and
- 180 (8) Receive all requests for special orders of the day, except those in the
181 report of the Commission on the General Conference on the first day of
182 the Conference.
- 183 (c) Proposals, questions, communications, resolutions, and other matters not
184 included in the regular business of the General Conference shall be referred to
185 the Committee on Agenda and Calendar without motion or debate. This
186 committee shall determine whether the matter presented shall be considered by
187 the General Conference. A decision of this committee may be appealed by
188 submitting to the Conference the signatures of ten delegates. The item shall be
189 presented to the Conference if the appeal is supported by a one-third vote.
- 190 *2) Correlation and Editorial Revision*
- 191 There shall be a Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision of eight
192 persons and two alternates not delegates to the General Conference, and the
193 Book Editor or designee, who shall be an ex-officio member. They shall be
194 entitled to reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the
195 committee. The Book Editor or designee shall convene the committee for the
196 purpose of organization. During the session of General Conference and
197 following its adjournment, the function of this committee shall be:
- 198 (a) To review all proposed legislation reported in the *Daily Christian Advocate*
199 or presented in special reports to the General Conference. The committee shall
200 report to the committees concerned, or to the General Conference as the
201 situation may warrant, all contradictions, duplications, and inconsistencies
202 discovered.

203 (b) To assure that, when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or
204 under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another calendar
205 item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item discussed and
206 voted shall prevail.

207 (c) To edit the *Book of Discipline* in accordance with Section X.B.

208 *3) Courtesies and Privileges*

209 There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges composed of twelve
210 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of
211 whom shall be laypersons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the
212 purpose of organization. The committee has the following duties and
213 responsibilities:

214 (a) To consider all matters of privilege and, as appropriate, to recommend to the
215 Conference that they be heard.

216 (b) To consider resolutions of commendation, courtesy, appreciation, etc.,
217 submitted in writing by delegates. The committee may initiate similar
218 resolutions and may edit and amend those submitted to it. Resolutions approved
219 by the committee shall be published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* and
220 brought to the floor if the committee considers them of unusual importance or
221 urgency.

222 (c) To arrange for extending appropriate courtesies of the Conference.

223 (d) To limit its report, including the statement of the chairperson and the
224 hearing of such persons as may be presented, to a maximum of ten minutes in
225 any one business day. No person or persons shall be presented whose request
226 has been denied by the Commission on the General Conference, nor after the
227 sixth day unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the Conference (See Rule
228 31.6).

229 *4) Credentials*

230 There shall be a Committee on Credentials composed of twelve members,
231 one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of whom shall
232 be laypersons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the purpose

233 of organization. The committee shall provide guidance to the Secretary of
234 the General Conference regarding the approval of credentials of delegates,
235 and may review decisions regarding the seating of delegates, including
236 reserve delegates. The committee shall report to the General Conference its
237 decisions and recommendations regarding challenges to the seating of any
238 delegates.

239 *5) Journal*

240 There shall be a Committee on the Journal of three delegates to approve daily
241 the record of Proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the Secretary
242 of the General Conference and assistant(s). The committee shall be convened by
243 a bishop for the purpose of organization.

244 *6) Presiding Officers*

245 There shall be a Committee on Presiding Officers composed of twelve
246 members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, six of whom shall
247 be clergy and six of whom shall be laypersons. The committee shall be
248 convened by a bishop for the purpose of organization. The committee shall
249 select and notify the presiding officer(s) of each plenary session at least 24
250 hours in advance, insofar as possible. The committee shall be free to select a
251 bishop for more than one session and to change the presiding officer during the
252 session, whenever it seems advisable (See Section III).

253 *7) Reference*

254 There shall be a Committee on Reference composed of twenty-four members,
255 one clergy and one lay person from each central conference and jurisdiction.
256 The membership of this committee shall include at least one member from each
257 legislative committee who will be designated as petition coordinator for their
258 legislative committee. If possible, petition coordinators should have served
259 previously on a General Conference legislative committee. These petition
260 coordinators shall serve as advisors to the officers of the legislative committee
261 of which they are members. Additional members from the Committee on
262 Reference shall assist the petition coordinator in the legislative committee of
263 which they are members. This committee shall be convened, for the purpose of

264 organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference, or designee, the day
265 prior to the opening of the General Conference.

266 (a) After reviewing the proposed assignments by the Secretary of the General
267 Conference of the petitions, resolutions, and similar communications dealing
268 with the regular business of the Conference to legislative committees, this
269 committee shall refer the same to the appropriate legislative committees (See
270 Section IV.D). This committee shall also be responsible for reviewing the
271 assignment, by the Secretary of the General Conference, of all reports,
272 recommendations, and resolutions from general agencies, standing or special
273 commissions and committees, and all other communications which are
274 submitted to the Secretary of the General Conference after the convening of the
275 General Conference, all of which shall be referred directly to appropriate
276 legislative committees without presentation to a plenary session of the General
277 Conference.

278 (b) The Committee on Reference may withdraw an item that has been assigned
279 to a committee, either upon a request or upon its own motion. It may also
280 withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper.

281 (c) The Secretary of the General Conference, or the Petitions Secretary, may
282 withhold from publication any petitions deemed defamatory to a private
283 individual or obscene. The Committee on Reference shall review all such
284 decisions.

285 (d) Where the committee finds two or more substantially identical petitions, it
286 may group them under one title and number, indicating the total number of
287 petitions.

288 (e) No petitions shall be assigned by the Committee on Reference to any
289 General Conference committee unless they meet the requirements of the *Book of*
290 *Discipline*.

291 **B. Advance Legislative Research Panel**

292 (a) There shall be an Advance Legislative Research Panel chosen by the
293 Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference, composed
294 of a number of members equal to the number of legislative committees.

295 (b) Panel members shall be chosen based on their comprehensive knowledge of
296 the *Book of Discipline* as evidenced by their previous participation in the life of
297 the general church through service on the Judicial Council, the Committee on
298 Correlation and Editorial Revision, or as a conference chancellor. Panel
299 members must be willing to volunteer significant hours prior to General
300 Conference.

301 (c) All petitions received, after being compiled by Disciplinary paragraphs, shall
302 be assigned by legislative committee among the panel members. The panel
303 members, in turn, will review all the petitions they have been assigned and
304 locate any other paragraphs of the *Book of Discipline*, including the
305 Constitution, which are closely related to the subject matter of the petition, as
306 well as closely related Judicial Council decisions and memoranda. The panel
307 member shall then record the related paragraph, decision, or memoranda with
308 each petition.

309 (d) No judgment or editorial comment about any petition shall be
310 included.

311 (e) The notation of related paragraphs shall become a permanent attachment to
312 the petition as it goes through the General Conference legislative committee
313 process.

314 (f) The legislative committees will consider how related paragraphs would
315 impact or be impacted by adopting such a petition.

316 (g) The Advance Legislative Research Panel's work shall be coordinated by the
317 Petitions Secretary.

318 (h) A panel member is not precluded from being a delegate to General
319 Conference.

320 **C. Committee on Ethics**

321 There shall be a Committee on Ethics, comprised of the members of the
 322 Committee of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General
 323 Conference. Individual delegates may report their concerns about alleged
 324 violations of the rules to the Office of the Secretary of the General Conference.
 325 The Office of the Secretary of the General Conference shall investigate, attempt
 326 to resolve all such claims, and report the resolution to the Committee on Ethics
 327 and to the delegate(s) who raised the concern. Based on the severity of the
 328 concerns, the Office of the Secretary of the General Conference may refer the
 329 matter to the Committee on Ethics. Alleged violations of the rules may also be
 330 referred directly to the Committee on Ethics by a one-fifth vote of the Plenary.
 331 The Committee on Ethics shall review all matters referred to it and report its
 332 findings to the Plenary with recommended action.

333 **D. Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters**

334 (For membership, see *Book of Discipline* ¶ 2201.)

335 To this Standing Committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc.,
 336 relating to the Central Conferences, and Autonomous Methodist Churches,
 337 Affiliated Autonomous Methodist Churches, and Affiliated United Churches
 338 within the Central Conferences.²

339 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

340 28-31.....Constitution: Central Conferences
 341 540-548.....Central Conferences
 342 560-567.....Provisional Central Conferences
 343 572Becoming an Autonomous Methodist, Affiliated
 344 Autonomous Methodist, or Affiliated United Church from Central
 345 Conferences
 346 575.....Joining The United Methodist Church

² Editor's note: The description of legislative material, including paragraph assignments, has been updated to reflect the assignment of such material by the Commission on the General Conference in accordance with ¶ 511.4.f.

347 2201.....Standing Committee on Central Conference
348 Matters

349 The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall submit its report
350 and any legislative proposals related to the paragraphs assigned to it directly to
351 the General Conference. If the Standing Committee on Central Conference
352 Matters has a concern for any paragraphs assigned to one of the legislative
353 committees, the Committee shall offer its recommendation to the appropriate
354 legislative committee for consideration and recommendation to the General
355 Conference.

356 **E. Legislative Committees**

357 There shall be legislative committees to whom all properly submitted petitions
358 and reports shall be assigned. The Commission on the General Conference shall
359 set the number of legislative committees and the assignment of Disciplinary
360 paragraphs and topics to those committees in consultation with the Secretary of
361 the General Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference
362 (§ 511.4.f). Any legislative committee considering legislation affecting the
363 responsibilities assigned to the Standing Committee on Central Conference
364 Matters shall consult with the Committee before submitting its proposed
365 legislation to the Conference.

366 **F. Membership of Legislative Committees**

367 1) Within the annual conference delegation, each delegate shall choose one
368 legislative committee on which to serve, the choice being made in order of
369 election.

370 In 2020, the clergy delegate first elected shall be entitled to the first choice, the
371 lay delegate first elected, the second choice, and thus the right of choice shall
372 continue to alternate between lay and clergy delegates in the order of their
373 election. For subsequent General Conferences, first choice shall alternate
374 between the clergy and lay delegates according to the following schedule:

375 2024 laity
376 2028 clergy
377 2032 laity
378 2036 clergy
379 2040 laity
380 2044 clergy

381 Two members of a delegation may not serve on the same legislative committee
382 unless the said delegation is represented on all of them. Whenever a delegation
383 has more than one delegate on a legislative committee, its delegates shall be
384 divided as equally as possible between lay and clergy. Thus, if there are three
385 delegates on a committee, they shall be two clergy and one lay or vice versa.
386 The Secretary of the General Conference shall provide these instructions and
387 examples with the election of delegate instructions sent to each annual
388 conference secretary.

389 2) If a matter is under consideration in any legislative committee which in the
390 judgment of any annual conference delegation vitally affects the interests of its
391 constituency, and if the said annual conference is not represented in the
392 membership of said committee, then the delegation may choose one of its
393 delegates to represent its annual conference in the committee when the
394 aforementioned matter is under consideration. This delegate shall be entitled to
395 sit with the committee while this particular matter is being considered and shall
396 have voice, but not vote (See Section VII.G.3.(e)).

397 3) Each person seated in the General Conference with voice but not vote may
398 submit to the Secretary of the General Conference a choice of a legislative
399 committee and shall have the same right in that committee to voice but not
400 vote.

401 **G. Meetings of Committees**

402 1) Organization and Quorum of Committees. All legislative and administrative
403 committees shall meet for organization at a time determined by the Commission
404 on the General Conference. A majority of the members shall constitute a
405 quorum for the transaction of business in all committees.

406 Consistent with the spirit of ¶ 722 in the *Book of Discipline*, meetings of
407 General Conference committees and subcommittees shall be open.

408 2) Administrative Committees

409 (a) A bishop appointed by the Council of Bishops and an organizing secretary
410 appointed by the Secretary of the General Conference shall serve, respectively
411 as chairperson and secretary, to organize the committees, except where other
412 provision is specified.

413 (b) The election of chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary of each
414 administrative committee shall be by separate sequential written ballot for each
415 position. Due consideration shall be given for inclusiveness that reflects the
416 global nature of the church, including gender, age, ethnicity, geography, young
417 people, clergy, and lay.

418 3) Legislative Committees

419 All legislative committees shall meet for organization at such time as the
420 Commission on the General Conference shall determine. A bishop appointed by
421 the Council of Bishops and an organizing secretary appointed by the Secretary
422 of the General Conference shall serve, respectively, as chairperson and
423 secretary, to organize each of the several committees. The first meeting of the
424 legislative committees shall be held as soon as possible following the first
425 plenary session of the General Conference. The orientation of the committee,
426 followed by the election of officers, shall be the order of business of the first
427 meeting of the committee.

428 (a) Election of Officers. The chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, and sub-
429 committee chairpersons of each committee shall be elected by separate
430 sequential written ballot for each position. Due consideration shall be given for
431 inclusiveness that reflects the global nature of the church, including gender, age,
432 ethnicity, geography, young people, clergy, and lay. If no election by simple
433 majority vote of those voting has occurred after three (3) consecutive ballots,
434 the floor will be reopened for nominations.

435 (b) Training. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for
436 training all chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, secretaries, and sub-committee
437 chairpersons of legislative committees. The training shall include instruction in
438 their duties, all procedures in the handling of petitions, the times of the daily
439 deadline for publishing reports, and other information to expedite the work of
440 the committees. The Commission on the General Conference shall arrange for a
441 time and place for such a training session. No officer shall serve without
442 completing this training.

443 (c) Parliamentarians. Each legislative committee shall be assigned a
444 parliamentarian by the Secretary of the General Conference. Retired bishops
445 nominated by the Council of Bishops shall be included in the pool of
446 parliamentarians. It shall be the responsibility of the Business Manager of the
447 General Conference to develop a pool of other people not currently delegates to
448 serve as parliamentarians. It is preferred that these persons be members of The
449 United Methodist Church, have knowledge of the Rules of the General
450 Conference, and have training in parliamentary procedure. The retired bishops
451 shall be given priority in being assigned to legislative committees. At the
452 invitation of the presiding officer, the parliamentarian advises on matters of
453 parliamentary procedure.

454 (d) Regular Meetings. The legislative committees shall meet for business as
455 scheduled by the Agenda and Calendar Committee unless otherwise ordered by
456 the Conference, and at such other times as the committees may determine
457 provided that no legislative committee shall meet at times that conflict with
458 plenary sessions.

459 (e) Voting Area. Each legislative committee and sub-committee shall
460 establish an area in which only voting committee members and their
461 properly credentialed assistant or translator will be seated. The Business
462 Manager of the General Conference shall provide four designated seats in
463 each legislative committee for the monitors from the General Commission
464 on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role
465 of Women. An area shall also be established for those present with voice but
466 not vote (See Section VII.F.2). Staff members of the Secretary of General

467 Conference and Business Manager of General Conference may speak in the
468 performance of their duties. General agency staff, other resource persons,
469 and visitors may speak only when authorized, in each instance by vote of
470 one-third of the committee or sub-committee or by invitation of the chair
471 (See Rule 31.3).

472 (f) Minority Reports. Minority reports allow for the expression of differing
473 views held by a significant portion of a legislative committee and may be
474 offered in accordance with Rules 29, 38, and 39.

475 (g) Reports. Legislative Committee Reports should be submitted as soon as
476 possible following the action of the committee. All Legislative Committee
477 Reports shall be submitted prior to 5 P.M. on Monday of the second week.

478 **H. Function and Authority of Committees**

479 1) The administrative committees, without specific instruction or direction from
480 the Conference, shall assume responsibility for considering and reporting to the
481 Conference upon all matters that fall within their respective responsibilities (See
482 Section VII.A).

483 2) The legislative committees shall consider and report upon that which is
484 referred to them by the Committee on Reference or which has been referred to
485 them directly by the Conference (See Rule 36).

486 **VIII. Proposal Involving Expenditure of Unbudgeted Funds**

487 A. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary to establish an
488 interim or continuing board, commission, committee, or task force shall be
489 referred to the General Council on Finance and Administration and the
490 Connectional Table or their executive committees or their expenditure review
491 group for a report and recommendation before final action is taken. The General
492 Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table or their
493 executive committees or their expenditure review group shall provide the
494 General Conference with the following before action is taken:

495 1) an estimated budget for the proposed board, commission, committee or task
496 force for the next quadrennium; and

497 2) a statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board, commission,
498 committee, or task force will affect the budget or budgets for existing boards,
499 commissions, committees and task forces already presented by the General
500 Council on Finance and Administration.

501 B. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary that involves the
502 expenditure of funds shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and
503 Administration and the Connectional Table or their executive committees or
504 their expenditure review group for advice and recommendation before final
505 action is taken. Any general agency requests for supplemental funds shall be
506 identified as such; otherwise, they shall be considered as having been included
507 within the agency budget.

508 C. Any proposal falling under the provisions of this section shall be referred to
509 the General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional
510 Table or their executive committees or their expenditure review group at least
511 seventy-two hours prior to the scheduled adjournment of the General
512 Conference.

513 **IX. Delegate Expenses**

514 A. Full travel expenses and per diem shall be paid for the number of allotted
515 voting delegates from each conference according to the report of the chairperson
516 of each annual conference delegation. If during the conference, a reserve
517 delegate is seated for a principal delegate for one or more full days, the principal
518 delegate shall adjust the per diem with such reserve based on the time served by
519 each.

520 B. Air travel shall be by the most economical round-trip coach airfare
521 directly to and from the site of the General Conference. Special
522 excursion and promotional fares shall be utilized whenever possible.
523 Additional expenses may be allowed delegates from conferences outside
524 the United States for arrival and departure not to exceed two days before
525 or after General Conference. The per diem expense allowance for all
526 such days before and after General Conference shall be at the same rate
527 as granted delegates during General Conference. Exceptions to these

528 limitations must be approved by the Business Manager of the General
529 Conference.

530 C. When one or more delegates come in the same automobile, the owner will be
531 reimbursed for the actual cost of travel (parking, en route mileage and tolls, en
532 route meals and lodging). Mileage shall be reimbursed at the business rate
533 established by the IRS and will be measured from point of origin to the site of
534 General Conference and return. Meals and lodging shall be reimbursed up to the
535 established General Conference per diem. When the round trip exceeds 1,000
536 miles for any one round trip, the cost of transportation shall be paid either on the
537 actual costs as defined above or at the most economical airfare available plus
538 airport-related ground transportation cost, whichever is less. Passengers who are
539 the principal voting delegates to the General Conference shall submit only the
540 cost of room and meals en route up to the established General Conference per
541 diem rate.

542 D. For the dates General Conference is in session, no General Conference
543 delegate shall receive expense money from the general Church or any of its
544 boards and agencies other than approved per diem and travel expenses available
545 to all delegates. This provision is not to restrict official assistance to delegates
546 from their own annual conferences.

547 **X. Material to Be Included in the *Book of Discipline***

548 A. Non-legislative material (Pages 1-24, 2016 *Book of Discipline*) shall be
549 referred to the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for
550 consideration and possible consultation with the General Commission on
551 Archives and History or referral to the Committee on Reference.

552 B. The Book Editor, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Publisher of
553 The United Methodist Church, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial
554 Revision shall be charged with editing the *Book of Discipline*. Any Disciplinary
555 amendments that are not dependent on constitutional amendments for their
556 effective date will be incorporated in the appropriate paragraphs of the *Book of*
557 *Discipline* in the order of their adoption.

558 The editors, in the exercise of their judgment, shall have the authority to make
559 changes in wording as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without
560 changing its substance. The editors, in consultation with the Judicial Council,
561 shall also have authority to delete provisions of the *Book of Discipline* that have
562 been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Any challenge of a decision
563 made by the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be in
564 writing. If the matter should go to the Judicial Council, the appealing party shall
565 give notice thereof to the committee. Any established errata in the *Book of*
566 *Discipline* shall be forwarded by The United Methodist Publishing House to the
567 Council of Bishops, the Secretary of the General Conference, Annual
568 Conference Secretaries, and Annual Conference Directors of Connectional
569 Ministries, and shall be published by the Book Editor on The United Methodist
570 Publishing House website.

571 Constitutional amendments certified in accordance with ¶ 59 and enabling
572 legislation adopted in anticipation of the constitutional amendments shall be
573 published by the Book Editor on the United Methodist Publishing House
574 website following certification. They shall be published in the subsequent *Book*
575 *of Discipline*. The constitutional amendments take effect at the time of
576 certification. The enabling legislation will be effective on January 1, of the year
577 following the certification of the constitutional amendments and will be given
578 effect as if it had been adopted after all other Disciplinary changes affecting a
579 particular paragraph.

580 **XI. Distribution of Materials within the Bar of the Conference**

581 After the first day, only the *Daily Christian Advocate*, and materials related to
582 General Conference presentations and produced by official bodies of The
583 United Methodist Church, and properly received amendments and substitutions,
584 if approved by the Secretary of the General Conference, shall be distributed by
585 the pages. Pages will distribute communications to individual delegates
586 provided the communication bears the name and location of both the recipient
587 and the sender.

588 **XII. Distribution of Materials Outside of the Plenary or Committee Room**

589 Newsletters or any special interest material from United Methodist boards,
590 agencies, and related United Methodist groups may be distributed under the
591 following conditions:

592 A. One copy of each item shall be submitted to the office of the Commission on
593 the General Conference in advance of distribution.

594 B. Material distributed shall be relevant to the General Conference and not for
595 soliciting membership in an organization.

596 C. No distributor shall be allowed to distribute within the convention center
597 unless they have obtained written approval from the Business Manager of
598 the General Conference. Each group shall have one contact person who
599 shall register all group members and receive identification for each
600 member.

601 D. Distribution shall be at least 30 feet outside any entrance door to the plenary
602 or committee meeting room.

603 E. Distribution shall be done by representatives of the above-named groups. It is
604 the responsibility of the distributors not to impede or interfere with the entrance
605 or exit of persons or to hamper the general flow of pedestrian traffic.

606 F. Distributors are responsible for the disposal of unused or unclaimed
607 materials.

608 G. Distributors violating these regulations will be prohibited from future
609 distributions.

610 **XIII. Reports to Be Distributed Before General Conference**

611 The reports, recommendations, and resolutions requiring action by the General
612 Conference, as well as petitions submitted in accordance with the *Book of*
613 *Discipline* ¶ 507.7, shall first be assigned a Petition Number by the Secretary of
614 the General Conference or the Petitions Secretary and then shall be published in
615 an Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and distributed to all

616 delegates and to the first clergy and first lay reserve delegates at least ninety
617 days prior to the opening of the General Conference. Reports shall be published
618 in the same style as the *Daily Christian Advocate*. In order to accomplish this,
619 the finished copy of all such reports and recommendations shall be submitted to
620 the editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate* at least 230 days prior to the opening
621 of the General Conference.³ Reports and recommendations not published in an
622 Advance Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* may be received by the
623 General Conference only upon three-fourths vote of the General Conference.
624 The General Council on Finance and Administration shall be exempt from this
625 requirement to the extent necessary to allow inclusion of general funds receipts
626 information for the first three years of the quadrennium. The General Council
627 on Finance and Administration will provide data including the third year of the
628 quadrennium and other appropriate information to delegates prior to the
629 convening of the General Conference.

³ Editor's note: *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.6-7 changed the deadline from 210 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference to 230 days prior. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order has been updated to reflect this disciplinary change.

630

RULES OF ORDER

631

I. Daily Schedule

632

Rule 1. Hours of Meetings

633

The following shall be the daily order for the General Conference, Sundays

634

excepted:

635

(1) 8:00 A.M. Morning Praise and Prayer

636

(2) 8:20 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Christian conferencing through plenary or

637

committee meetings

638

(3) 1:30 or 2:30 P.M. (as specified by the daily schedule) to 5:00 P.M.

639

Christian conferencing through plenary or committee meetings

640

(4) During a Memorial Service, the names of the bishops, bishops'

641

spouses, and delegates-elect who have died since the adjournment

642

of the previous General Conference shall be called.

643

(5) Recess may be called during any plenary session at a time deemed

644

appropriate by the presiding officer.

645

(6) Daily adjournment shall be called by 6:30 P.M. each evening, except

646

for the day when leader training is scheduled and Saturday when

647

adjournment shall be called by 9:30 P.M. Adjournment shall be an

648

order of the day.

649

Rule 2. Order of Christian Conferencing

650

The daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted as follows:

651

(1) Reports of administrative and special committees

652

(2) Agenda and calendar items

653

(3) Consent calendar (See Rule 33.5)

654

(4) Miscellaneous business

655

II. Presiding Officers

656

Rule 3. Authority of the Presiding Officer

657

(1) The presiding officer (plenary, administrative committees, legislative

658

committees, and sub-committees) shall decide and rule on points of order. A

659

delegate may appeal the ruling to the body without debate, except that the

660

presiding officer and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have

661 three minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote
662 in the case of appeal shall sustain the presiding officer (See Rule 31.5). Any
663 delegate who raises a point of order shall cite the rule believed to have been
664 violated.

665 (2) At the discretion of the presiding officer, a time for prayerful discernment
666 may be taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for group meditation
667 and prayer and shall end at the call of the presiding officer, at which time
668 deliberation shall be resumed.

669 (3) The presiding officer shall have the right to recess a session of the body at
670 any time at the presiding officer's discretion and to reconvene at such time as
671 the presiding officer shall propose. Consistent with the spirit of ¶ 722 of the
672 *Book of Discipline*, in rare circumstances the presiding officer shall also have
673 the right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene in closed session with only
674 delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such
675 a session following recess (See Section VII.G.1).

676 *Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order*

677 When the presiding officer calls the body to order, no delegate shall speak,
678 address the chair, or stand.

679 **III. Rights and Duties of Delegates**

680 *Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves*

681 (1) The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a form on which
682 to report daily the attendance of its delegates. All delegates arriving after the
683 opening roll call shall be reported by the chairperson of the delegation to the
684 Secretary of the General Conference or designee. No delegate who is duly
685 registered, unless hindered by sickness or other emergency, shall be absent from
686 the sessions of the Conference without permission of the Conference. All
687 absences shall be reported by the chairpersons of the delegations to the
688 Secretary of the General Conference or designee on a form provided for this
689 purpose.

690 (2) Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate shall have been duly
691 elected as a reserve delegate by the annual conference and shall meet the
692 requirements set forth in the *Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 34-36. Delegates, including
693 reserves when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be
694 seated in the order of their election, except when a reserve is seated temporarily
695 or in case of special need as determined by the delegation chairperson. The
696 reserve shall occupy the seat of the delegate for whom the substitution is made.
697 Reserves shall not be seated for delegates presenting on the platform. Reserve
698 delegates are to function within the Rules of Procedure of the General
699 Conference (See Rules 29 and 33). A reserve delegate may be seated upon
700 authority of the chairperson of the delegation who shall report the substitution in
701 writing to the Secretary of the General Conference or designee on a form
702 provided for this purpose. Reserves are chosen to be seated:

703 (1) by reason of being of the same order as the absent delegate,

704 (2) in order of their election as reserve delegates.

705 If the substitution is challenged, the Committee on Credentials after consultation
706 with the chairperson of the delegation may report its recommendation to the
707 General Conference.

708 *Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Plenary Floor*

709 A delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall register in the manner(s)
710 provided. The presiding bishop shall choose from the requests and direct the
711 speaker to the appropriate microphone. The bishop presiding shall consider
712 the various sections of the auditorium in rotation. The delegate recognized
713 shall first announce her or his name and the name of the conference
714 represented and their reason for speaking. A delegate recognized by the
715 presiding bishop may not yield the floor to another delegate. In the event of
716 tablet failure, a delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall hold up the
717 appropriate placard to be recognized by the bishop presiding.

718 *Rule 7. Plenary Speakers For and Against*

719 (1) When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of
720 the bishop presiding to ascertain, when recognizing a delegate to the

721 Conference, on which side the delegate proposes to speak; the bishop presiding
722 shall not assign the floor to any delegate proposing to speak on the same side of
723 the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any delegate
724 desires to speak on the other side.

725 (2) Except for non-debatable motions (Rule 23), no report shall be adopted or
726 question relating to the same decided, without opportunity having been given
727 for at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal.

728 (3) The motion to call for the previous question, which is itself non-debatable,
729 is not in order without opportunity having been given for at least two speeches
730 for and two against the proposal. Any delegate who moves to call for the
731 previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions
732 pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary
733 motion or motions are also pending. If said delegate does not so indicate, it
734 shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This
735 motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of
736 those present and voting for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken
737 on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate (See Rule
738 23). After three speeches for and three against and provided no secondary
739 motions come before the floor, the questions shall be put automatically.
740 However, the chairperson and/or duly authorized delegate or delegates
741 presenting the committee's report, and if there is a minority report, the
742 presenter shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken (See Rule 29).
743 These speeches shall be limited to three (3) minutes (See Rule 9). After three
744 speeches for and three against, if there are secondary motions on the floor, the
745 motion to call for the previous question is non-debatable and shall be put to the
746 vote after the presider provides the number of speakers in the pool for speeches
747 for, speeches against, and amendments.

748 *Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker*

749 No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a
750 parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, or to call attention that the time
751 has arrived for an order of the day.

752 *Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech*

753 (1) No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate
754 who has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.

755 (2) No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same
756 motion, except as provided in Rule 7.2

757 (3) No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is
758 extended by the body (See Rule 7.3). Time of translation shall not count against
759 the three-minute limit.

760 (4) The three-minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority
761 vote of the body at any time and for any period of duration.

762 *Rule 10. Point of Order*

763 A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall register a request to speak in
764 the manner provided by the Commission on the General Conference and
765 explained by the presider. The presiding officer shall interrupt the proceeding. If
766 a delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The presiding
767 officer shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to first cite the
768 rule involved and then state the point as briefly and concisely as possible. The
769 delegate shall not presume to decide the question or argue the point. A point of
770 order is decided by the presiding officer without debate unless in doubtful cases
771 the presiding officer submits the question to the body for advice or decision.
772 When the presiding officer rules on a point, debate is closed, but the decision
773 may be appealed (See Rule 3).

774 *Rule 11. Bar of the Conference*

775 The bar of the conference shall provide for the integrity of the General
776 Conference. It is for delegates, pages, and others who have been granted access
777 to the area for General Conference business as provided through the Rules or
778 through the suspension of the Rules.

779 *Rule 12. Distracting Behavior*

780 A spirit of Christian conferencing is expected. Delegates are not to distract
781 others. Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the plenary hall or the

782 legislative committee rooms. All electronic devices shall be muted or turned
783 off. In addition, the use of electronic devices should be in a manner that
784 does not disturb other participants. Respect should be shown in the use of
785 social media at all times. Verbal and non-verbal distractions are prohibited.
786 The presiding officer or members of the General Conference staff may ask
787 individuals to leave the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if
788 they persist in behavior that interferes with the participation of other
789 delegates.

790 *Rule 13. Electronic Recording*

791 No electronic recording by either video or audio may be made of any portion of
792 the General Conference unless specifically authorized by the Business Manager
793 of the General Conference in order to maintain the integrity of all performance
794 licenses.

795 *Rule 14. Right to Make Motions*

796 Only voting delegates have the right to make or second motions in accordance
797 with the rules and upon recognition by the presiding officer.

798 *Rule 15. Plenary Voting Procedure*

799 (1) Voting shall be by electronic means unless otherwise ordered
800 by the Conference, provided, however, that in elections, voting
801 may be by written ballot. Electronic voting devices shall be
802 available on the platform for delegates making a presentation to the
803 Conference.

804 (2) When electronic voting is not in use or operating, a standing count vote
805 or vote by written ballot may be ordered on call of any delegate, supported
806 by one-third of the delegates present and voting, with pages serving as
807 tellers.

808 (3) Only delegates within the bar of the Conference when the vote is taken shall
809 be entitled to vote. No delegate shall cast a vote in place of any other delegate.

810 (4) No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the
811 previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as

812 relates to the vote itself or such business as the presiding officer may deem
813 appropriate.

814 (5) Delegates are free to vote according to their conscience without interference
815 by others observing, monitoring, or recording their votes. Persons shall not give
816 or accept bribes or threaten delegates in order to influence voting.

817 *Rule 16. Elections*

818 For any election requiring balloting by the plenary, an election shall occur when
819 the number of ballots cast for a nominee meets or exceeds the required
820 percentage of the total valid ballots cast.

821 A ballot is valid if it meets the following standards:

822 (1) It is cast by a voting delegate or properly seated reserve
823 delegate.

824 (2) It contains votes for the same number of nominees, as there are
825 vacancies to be filled.

826 (3) Every name receiving a vote has been properly nominated according
827 to the provisions.

828 (4) No more than one vote is cast for the same nominee.

829 (5) No vote is cast for a person who has already been elected.

830 *Rule 17. Division of Question*

831 Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of
832 any question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no
833 delegate objects, the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the
834 presiding officer shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a
835 second.

836 **IV. Behavior of Guests and Observers**

837 *Rule 18. Distracting Behavior*

838 A spirit of Christian conferencing is expected. Guests and observers
839 are not to distract others. Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the
840 plenary hall or the legislative committee rooms. All electronic devices
841 shall be muted or turned off. In addition, the use of electronic devices

842 should be in a manner that does not disturb other participants. Respect
843 should be shown in the use of social media at all times. Verbal and
844 non-verbal distractions are prohibited. The presiding officer or
845 members of the General Conference staff may ask individuals to leave
846 the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if they persist in
847 behavior that interferes with the participation of delegates. Guests and
848 observers are not to enter the bar of the conference except as provided
849 in Rule 11.

850 *Rule 19. Electronic Recording*

851 No electronic recording by either video or audio may be made of any portion of
852 the General Conference unless specifically authorized by the Business Manager
853 of the General Conference in order to maintain the integrity of all performance
854 licenses.

855 **V. Business Procedure**

856 *Rule 20. Motion for Adoption of Legislative and Administrative Committee*
857 *Reports*

858 Whenever a report of a legislative committee or an administrative committee is
859 presented to the Conference for action, it shall be deemed in proper order for
860 consideration by the Conference without the formality of a second.

861 *Rule 21. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions,*
862 *Amendments*

863 All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared in accordance with
864 instructions from the Secretary of the General Conference; and all motions,
865 including amendments, shall be presented in writing (See Rules 33.2, 34.3, 36.2,
866 38).

867 *Rule 22. Alterations of Motions*

868 When a motion is made and seconded, a resolution is introduced and seconded,
869 or a committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, it
870 shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be
871 altered except by action of the Conference (See Rule 39).

872 *Rule 23. Non-Debatable Motions*

873 The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

874 (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except for final adjournment.

875 (2) To suspend the rules.

876 (3) To lay on the table.

877 No motion, which adheres to another motion or has another motion
878 adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid
879 on the table, carry with them the motions to which they adhere or
880 which adhere to them.

881 (4) To take from the table.

882 (5) To call for the previous questions, when in order (See Rules 7 and
883 24).

884 (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 32).

885 (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate.

886 (8) To take time for prayerful discernment at the immediate moment.

887 (9) To request a Judicial Council decision (*Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 56.1,
888 2609.1).

889 *Rule 24. Rights of the Main Question*

890 The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to
891 adopt, to refer, to substitute, to postpone, or to reconsider. No new motion,
892 resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall
893 have been disposed of except as provided in Rule 15.4. This rule does not apply
894 to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

895 *Rule 25. Precedence of Secondary Motions*

896 If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more
897 other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one
898 another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

899 (1) To fix the time the conference shall adjourn (This motion is subject
900 to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.);

901 (2) To adjourn;

902 (3) To take a recess;

903 (4) To lay on the table;

- 904 (5) To call the previous question (See Rules 23.5, 28);
905 (6) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
906 (7) To postpone to a given time;
907 (8) To refer;
908 (9) To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being
909 allowed to an amendment);
910 (10) To postpone indefinitely.

911 *Rule 26. Motion to Adjourn*

912 The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and
913 shall always be in order, except:

- 914 (1) When a delegate has the floor;
915 (2) When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it
916 is finally decided;
917 (3) When the previous question has been called and action is pending;
918 (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate
919 has intervened;
920 (5) When the motion to fix the time to which the Conference shall
921 adjourn is pending.

922 This rule does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the Conference.

923 *Rule 27. Final Adjournment*

924 At final adjournment all unfinished business shall remain unfinished.

925 *Rule 28. Procedure for Amending by Substitution*

926 (1) When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for
927 consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be
928 offered by any delegate moving that the same be substituted for the report,
929 resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an
930 alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main
931 motion.

932 (2) Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of
933 substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be
934 considered during this period of initial consideration.

935 (3) Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will
936 occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by majority vote, the substitute motion
937 becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to receive a majority
938 vote, the original main motion remains on the floor for consideration. Debate
939 including the offering of amendments moves forward on the main motion as per
940 the rules of procedure.

941 (4) The motion to call for the previous questions shall not be in order on the
942 motion to substitute until opportunity has been given for at least two speakers
943 on each side of the question.

944 *Rule 29. Minority Report*

945 A minority report may be attached to a report from a legislative committee in
946 the following manner:

947 (1) Delegates intending to offer a minority report must notify the chair
948 of the committee within two hours (excluding breaks) of final
949 committee action on the relative petition.

950 (2) The chair of the legislative committee shall receive the minority
951 report signed by 10 persons or 10% of the legislative committee
952 membership (whichever is less) who voted against the proposal, whose
953 names shall be attached to the request. A reserve delegate may sign the
954 minority report only if seated as a voting delegate in the legislative
955 committee at the time the committee acted upon the relevant petition.
956 The committee and minority reports shall be submitted and presented
957 together in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

958 (3) A minority report shall be presented as a substitute for the report of
959 the committee, in conformity with Rule 28 and Rule 36 respectively,
960 and it shall be managed in the plenary according to Rule 28 for
961 substitute motions. The signers of the minority report shall select one of

962 their signers to present the report as a substitute motion. In closing
963 debate on the motion to substitute, the delegate presenting the minority
964 report shall speak first and the presenter of the committee report shall be
965 last.

966 (4) If the motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report
967 prevails by majority vote of the plenary, the minority report becomes
968 the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to prevail by a majority
969 vote of the plenary, the majority report of the committee remains on the
970 floor as the main motion for consideration. Debate including the
971 offering of amendments moves forward on the main motion as per the
972 rules of procedure.

973 *Rule 30. Unlawful Motion After Speech*

974 After making a speech on a pending question, a delegate may not make a
975 motion that would limit or stop debate without first relinquishing the floor.

976 *Rule 31. Exceptions to Majority Vote*

977 A majority of those voting, a quorum being present (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 506),
978 shall decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

979 (1) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall be required to request a
980 Judicial Council decision (*Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 56.1, 2609.1).

981 (2) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall refer a matter to the
982 Committee on Ethics.

983 (3) A non-delegate may be invited to a full legislative committee or
984 sub-committee either by invitation of the chair or by one-third vote of
985 either body to speak for no more than three (3) minutes on any one
986 matter.

987 (4) One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call
988 for a recorded vote in case the decision of the presiding officer is
989 challenged (See Rule 15.2).

990 (5) A tie vote sustains the presiding officer (Rule 3.1).

991 (6) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend
992 (Rule 40) or amend (Rule 41) the rules; to set aside a special order
993 (Rule 33.1); to consider a special order before the time set therefore; to
994 sustain the request of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for
995 the presentation of any person after the sixth day of the General
996 Conference (See Section VII.A.3).

997 (7) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a call for the previous
998 question.

999 (8) A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a
1000 constitutional amendment (*Book of Discipline* ¶¶ 59-61).

1001 *Rule 32. Reconsideration*

1002 A motion to reconsider an action of the body shall be in order at any time if
1003 offered by a delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed
1004 for reconsideration was non-debatable, the motion to reconsider shall be non-
1005 debatable (See Rule 23).

1006 *Rule 33. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar*

1007 (1) The Secretary of the General Conference shall keep the Calendar which
1008 includes the orders of the day and the reports of committees (See Rule 39).
1009 Business placed on the calendar shall be considered in the order recommended
1010 by the Committee on Agenda and Calendar, unless by two-thirds vote of the
1011 Conference, an item is taken up out of order (See Rule 31.6).

1012 (2) Whenever possible, a legislative committee shall recommend for adoption
1013 only one calendar item for each paragraph or sub-paragraph in the *Book of*
1014 *Discipline*. All other related petitions shall be combined for rejection or referral.

1015 (3) Action from a legislative committee shall be placed on the Consent Calendar
1016 if:

1017 (a) No more than ten votes were cast against the prevailing position in
1018 the committee;

- 1019 (b) The item has been previously published in the *Daily Christian*
1020 *Advocate*;
- 1021 (c) The item has been in the hands of delegates for at least 24 hours;
- 1022 (d) The item is neither a constitutional amendment nor one having
1023 financial implications; and
- 1024 (e) No minority report is attached (See Rule 29).
- 1025 (4) The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall clearly identify the Consent Calendar,
1026 which will list items in three sections sub-headed as follows:
- 1027 (a) Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.
- 1028 (b) Non-Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.
- 1029 (c) Items Recommended for Referral.
- 1030 (5) The Consent Calendar shall be called up daily pursuant to Rule 2. Adoption
1031 of the Consent Calendar by vote of the Conference shall be deemed action on all
1032 calendar items on the Consent Calendar.
- 1033 (6) If an error in assignment of a Consent Calendar item is discovered and
1034 reported by the legislative chair to the Coordinator of the Calendar, the
1035 Coordinator of the Calendar shall have the authority to report the error to the
1036 plenary session for reconsideration.
- 1037 (7) Any 20 delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having
1038 such a request on file with the Secretary of the General Conference by 3:00
1039 P.M. of the day the calendar item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.
1040 Reserve delegates may sign requests to remove item from the Consent Calendar
1041 only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up in the
1042 regular order of business.
- 1043 (8) Items lifted from the Consent Calendar may not be returned to the Consent
1044 Calendar.

1045 *Rule 34. Report of Non-Calendar Items*

1046 (1) In addition to calendar items to be presented to the plenary, each
1047 legislative committee shall report all items not presented in the following
1048 categories:⁴

1049 (a) Petitions not supported because another petition dealing with the
1050 same subject was acted upon.

1051 (b) Petitions not supported by the legislative committee. The committee
1052 shall report the vote of the committee.

1053 (2) These reports shall be in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1054 (3) Any 20 delegates may have an item in (1)(b) above presented to the
1055 plenary by having such a request on file with the Secretary of the General
1056 Conference by 3:00 P.M. of the day the item first appears in the *Daily*
1057 *Christian Advocate*. Reserve delegates may sign requests to present an item
1058 in (1)(b) above only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be
1059 called up in the regular order of business while the chair of the relevant
1060 committee is on the platform. Those supporting consideration of said items
1061 shall select one of their number to present the item to the plenary.

1062 *Rule 35. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees*

1063 The rules of order of the General Conference, except for Rule 7, shall be
1064 observed in meetings of standing legislative committees insofar as they apply.

1065 *Rule 36. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees*

1066 (1) Following orientation of officers, committee leadership, utilizing the
1067 resources of its petitions coordinator, shall evaluate the petitions assigned to the
1068 committee, establish priorities, and outline the committee's work on the basis of
1069 those priorities unless it is given special instructions by the General Conference
1070 (See Section VII.A.(7)(a)).

⁴ Editor's note: *The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶ 507.11 requires that all petitions submitted to the General Conference shall receive a vote of a legislative committee. Rule 34.1 has been updated and former Rule 37 has been deleted to reflect this disciplinary change.

1071 (2) A legislative sub-committee chair shall ensure that all votes taken within a
1072 sub-committee are recorded and reported to the legislative committee plenary on
1073 the forms provided by the Secretary of the General Conference.

1074 (3) When a petition or resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the
1075 legislative committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with
1076 which the item has to do is referred to that committee for such action as it may
1077 deem wise. Every matter supported by the legislative committee shall be
1078 reported to the plenary with a motion to adopt or a motion to refer to a board,
1079 council, commission, or committee either for action or for report to the next
1080 General Conference.

1081 (4) Committees shall report to the Conference upon all matters referred to them
1082 by the Conference, directly or through the Committee on Reference. Committee
1083 reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by
1084 numbers they bear respectively in the published reports of the Committee on
1085 Reference or in some other suitable manner.

1086 (5) When a committee ascertains that another committee is, or in its judgment
1087 should be, considering a subject that the former is considering, it shall report the
1088 matter to the Committee on Reference for such adjustment as the situation may
1089 require.

1090 (6) The chairperson of each legislative committee shall coordinate the report of
1091 the committee to the plenary.

1092 (7) When the chairperson of a committee is not in agreement with a report
1093 adopted by the committee, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to
1094 the committee. The committee shall elect one of its members for the
1095 presentation and discussion of the report in the plenary. If, in such a case, the
1096 committee shall fail to select a representative, the chairperson shall designate a
1097 member to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the
1098 rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such a report.

1099

1100 *Rule 37. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate*

1101 (1) As quickly as material can be prepared, each secretary of a legislative
1102 committee shall present each of the committee's reports to a recorder assigned
1103 to the committee. The recorder will prepare the report and the report will be
1104 approved and signed by the chair, vice-chair and secretary. After the report has
1105 been approved, it will be electronically transmitted to the Coordinator of the
1106 Calendar. A calendar number will be assigned and it will be published as
1107 approved.

1108 (2) Committee and minority reports that propose changes in the *Book of*
1109 *Discipline* shall give the paragraph number to be affected and shall be prepared
1110 in the following manner: Existing words used as reference points shall be in
1111 quotation marks; words to be deleted shall be in strike through; words to be
1112 added shall be bolded. In the publication of these reports, the *Daily Christian*
1113 *Advocate* will use the same convention (See Rule 40).

1114 *Rule 38. Published Reports in Possession of Conference*

1115 Reports submitted by the committee according to the deadline, as announced by
1116 the Secretary of the General Conference, shall appear in the next day's *Daily*
1117 *Christian Advocate*. The report as published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* is
1118 the official copy, subject only to grammatical or other obvious editorial changes
1119 and shall be regarded as in the possession of the Conference. On the day
1120 following its first appearance in the *Daily Christian Advocate* or any time
1121 thereafter, a report is in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference.
1122 The same rule shall apply to a minority report from any committee (See Rules
1123 22, 29).

1124 *Rule 39. Preparation and Publishing of Reports*

1125 (1) All committee reports shall be prepared using the General Conference
1126 Legislative System approved by the Commission on the General Conference.

1127 (2) The report to the Coordinator of the Calendar for items voted in committee
1128 shall include the name of the committee, its total membership, the number
1129 present at the time the item was adopted, and the number voting for and against
1130 the item.

1131 (3) Reports of the legislative committees shall be published in the *Daily*
1132 *Christian Advocate* at least one day before being presented for consideration by
1133 the Conference. Committee reports with minority reports shall be published in
1134 sequence, and so numbered.

1135 (4) Every effort should be made by the secretary of the legislative committee to
1136 report consecutively all petitions that address the same issue.

1137 **VI. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

1138 *Rule 40. Suspension of the Rules*

1139 The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization and Rules of
1140 Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Conference
1141 (See Rule 31.6).

1142 *Rule 41. Amending Rules*

1143 The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order may be amended or changed by a
1144 two-thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment
1145 has originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or
1146 has been presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee,
1147 which committee shall report thereon not later than the following day (See Rule
1148 31.6).

1149 The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order as adopted at the opening session
1150 shall be published in the next *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1151 *Rule 42. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority*

1152 In any parliamentary situation not covered by the Plan of Organization and
1153 Rules of Order, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the
1154 current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Rule 33. Consent Calendar

Calendar items are automatically placed on a consent calendar when the item has ten (10) or fewer votes against the prevailing position of the legislative committee. Rule 33(3)(a)

There are three different consent calendars:

- **Consent Calendar A** contains calendar items involving *disciplinary* changes for which the legislative committee recommendation is to *adopt*
- **Consent Calendar B** contains calendar items involving *non-disciplinary* changes for which the legislative committee recommendation is to *adopt*
- **Consent Calendar C** contains *any calendar item* for which the committee recommendation is to *refer*.

Calendar items with a minority report *cannot* be placed on any consent calendar. Items with financial implications or items dealing with the Constitution cannot be placed on Consent Calendars A or B, but they *can* be placed on Consent Calendar C because there would be no financial or constitutional implications.

Rule 33(7) Removing a Calendar Item from the Consent Calendar

Any twenty (20) delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by submitting a Consent Calendar Removal Request Form by 3:00 p.m. of the day the calendar item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. The form can be picked up from room 104 and returned to room 104. Reserve delegates may sign requests to remove items from the consent calendar only while seated as voting delegates.

Consent Calendar A02

23-CC1-¶165-A-G

Subject: Revised Social Principles-164 and 165

Petition: 20732-CC-¶165-G

Membership: 32; Present: 25;

For: 25; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

24-GA1-¶263.4-A-G

Subject: Proposed Changes for United Methodist Student Day

Petition: 20250-GA-¶263.4-G

Membership: 58; Present: 52;

For: 49; Against: 1; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

25-GA2-¶263.6c-A

Subject: Proposed Changes for Native American Ministries Sunday

Petition: 20251-GA-¶263.6c

Membership: 58; Present: 52;

For: 50; Against: 1; Not Voting: 1;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

26-GA3-¶265.4-A-G

Subject: Regarding Disability Awareness Sunday

Petition: 20252-GA-¶265.4-G

Membership: 58; Present: 52;

For: 50; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

27-GA5-¶703-A

Subject: Administrative Agency

Petition: 20256-GA-¶703

Membership: 58; Present: 52;

For: 46; Against: 3; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

28-GA6-¶906-A

Subject: Restructuring of Connectional Table Membership

Petition: 20984-GA-¶906

Membership: 58; Present: 52;

For: 48; Against: 1; Not Voting: 3;

Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

29-HS1-¶634.4a6-A

Subject: Office of Scholarship Clarification

Petition: 20977-HS-¶634.4a6

Membership: 68; Present: 59;

For: 51; Against: 3; Not Voting: 5;

Date: 4/25

Approved as submitted

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

30-HS2-¶634.4-A

Subject: Office of Scholarship Clarification

Petition: 20978-HS-¶634.4

Membership: 68; Present: 59;

For: 51; Against: 4; Not Voting: 4;

Date: 4/25

Approved as submitted

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

31-HS3-¶1406-A
Subject: Update Responsibilities for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Petition: 20979-HS-¶1406
Membership: 68; Present: 59;
For: 56; Against: 0; Not Voting: 3;
Date: 4/25

Approved as submitted
Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Petition: 21098-HS-¶1405
Membership: 68; Present: 55;
For: 53; Against: 0; Not Voting: 2;
Date: 4/25

32-HS6-¶1405-A
Subject: Update Objectives for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Approved as submitted
Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Calendar Items R02

33-CC2-R6001-A-\$-G

Subject: Africa University
Petition: 20849-CC-R6001-\$-G
Membership: 32; Present: 27;
For: 27; Against: 0; Not Voting: 0;
Date: 4/25

The Petition stands as submitted.

Committee Moves to Adopt the above

Adopted Not Adopted Date /

