

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

2
3 **PREAMBLE**

4 From the days of John Wesley, the “People called Methodist” have gathered for holy
5 conferencing. The early Methodists, even as they attended to practical needs of the
6 movement, focused primarily on spiritual matters. The spiritual affairs of the Church and
7 its mission 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 mind of
10 Christ. The General Conference is the representative, deliberative body for The United
11 Methodist Church. It has developed an orderly, rational, and fair process for making
12 majority decisions in the practical affairs of the Church; yet, it also protects the rights of
13 minority positions. The delegates come together in firm conviction that the unity of
14 United Methodism is God’s will and the best way to “spread scriptural holiness” in this
15 global movement of the Church.

16
17 The purpose of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order is to help the General
18 Conference discern God’s will and strive for Christ-like wisdom in all of our decisions. ~~in~~
19 ~~the midst of theological and spiritual tension and to focus on God’s will for us amid the~~
20 ~~conflicting issues of the day. The General Conference must be open to discern~~
21 ~~prayerfully God’s will for us. There will be times, in the midst of deliberation, when we~~
22 ~~will need to stop~~ In the midst of deliberation, we may pause, listen in silence, pray
23 together, and refocus our ~~common~~ vision on where the Spirit is leading the Church.

24 These times of silence, prayer, and discernment may be varied and surprising. While
25 they are not substitutes for respectful and orderly debate, they do serve to hold our
26 temporal affairs up to the light of the larger, common mission of The United Methodist
27 Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Trusting
28 that God is at work throughout all of life, creation, the church invites the public the
29 General Conference invites the Church and others to observe its our deliberations by
30 conducting its our business in open meetings (consistent with ¶ 721 of the Book of
31 Discipline).”

32

33 **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

34

35 **I. Opening Session and Organization**

36 The General Conference will assemble at the set time and place beginning with worship.
37 ~~on the day fixed at the place designated in accordance with the action taken by the~~
38 ~~preceding General Conference or the Commission on the General Conference. Holy~~
39 ~~Communion and the Memorial Service shall be celebrated by the Conference, led by the~~
40 ~~Council of Bishops. During the Memorial Service, the names of the bishops, and~~
41 ~~bishops' spouses who have died since the adjournment of the preceding General~~
42 ~~Conference, and the names of the delegates elect who have died shall be called.~~

43 The opening business session of the Conference shall be ~~on the day at the hour fixed by~~
44 ~~the Commission on the General Conference and shall be~~ called to order by the bishop
45 designated, as provided in the *Book of Discipline* ¶16.11.

46

47 The following order of business shall be observed:

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

50 1) The Secretary of the Council of Bishops for the bishops,

51 2) The Secretary of the Judicial Council for that body,

52 3) The Executive Secretary of the Connectional Table for all general secretaries,

53 4) The chairperson of each delegation for its membership. (See Rule 5), and

54 5) The chairperson of ~~the~~ each delegation for Affiliated Autonomous Methodist
55 and United Churches delegations.

56 B. Establish the bar of the conference.

57 ~~C. Report of The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order.~~

58 DC. Report of the Commission on the General Conference.

59 1) Adoption of The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

60 ED. Elections

61 1) Coordinator of Calendar (See IV.C)

62 FE. Report of Committee on Agenda.

63 GF. Miscellaneous Business.

64 HG. Adjournment.

65

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

67 The Quadrennial Addresses shall be delivered early in the Conference, at such hour as
68 determined by the Commission on the General Conference. The Council of Bishops shall
69 coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial Episcopal Address. The

70 Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders shall coordinate the preparation and
71 presentation of the Quadrennial Lay Address ~~from submissions by annual conference lay~~
72 ~~leaders~~. This opportunity shall be open to all annual conference lay leaders ~~in Africa,~~
73 ~~Asia, Europe, and North America~~. The United Methodist Division of Ministries with
74 Young People shall coordinate the preparation and presentation of the Quadrennial
75 Young People Address. This opportunity shall be open to all young people ~~in Africa,~~
76 ~~Asia, Europe, and North America~~.

77

78 **III. Presiding Officers**

79 The presiding officers for the ~~several~~ plenaries of the Conference, the opening plenary
80 excepted (See Section I, ~~above~~), shall be chosen from among the effective bishops by the
81 Committee on Presiding Officers (See Section VIIA.6).

82

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

84 A. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible for all functions of
85 the office assigned by ¶504.3 in preparation for the session of the General
86 Conference, and shall be accountable to the Commission on the General
87 Conference.

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

91 C. The Conference shall elect, upon nomination by the Secretary of the General
92 Conference, a Coordinator of Calendar, who shall assist the Committee on

93 Agenda and Calendar in presenting reports in such order as to expedite the
94 business of the Conference, and in other responsibilities of the committee (See
95 I.E.1 and VII.A.1).

96 D. The Secretary of the General Conference shall appoint a Petitions Secretary who
97 shall prepare the petitions, resolutions, and reports that meet the requirements of
98 *Book of Discipline* ¶507 for reference to the appropriate legislative committee,
99 subject to review by the Committee on Reference (See Section VII.A.7.). ~~For a~~
100 ~~single petition signed by a number of people, the Secretary of the General~~
101 ~~Conference needs to print only the name of the first signer with an indication of~~
102 ~~the total number of signers. Petitions submitted by general agencies and/or~~
103 ~~conferences shall have all of those sources identified. Substantially identical~~
104 ~~petitions received from other sources shall be identified by number of petitions~~
105 ~~received.~~

106 E. A budget for the work of the Secretary of the General Conference shall be
107 presented by the Commission on the General Conference to the General Council
108 on Finance and Administration. Such budget shall be paid out of the General
109 Administration Fund.

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

113

114

V. Nominations and Elections

115 The Secretary of the General Conference shall develop a timeline for the submission of
116 nominations, elections and appointments by the Council of Bishops. In making these
117 nominations, elections and appointments, attention shall be given to ensuring continuity
118 of membership from the previous quadrennium. It shall be the responsibility of the
119 Council of Bishops to present nominations for the Commission on the General
120 Conference, Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, General Conference
121 administrative committees, and secretary-designate of the General Conference. These
122 nominations shall be presented to the General Conference for election.

123

124 Disciplinary provisions shall govern the nomination and election procedures for:

125 General Council on Finance and Administration (§805.1)

126 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§1502.1)

127 General Commission on Archives and History (§1704.2)

128 The University Senate (§1414.2)

129 The Judicial Council (§ 2602, 2603, 2604.1)

130 and Episcopal membership on:

131 General Board of Church and Society (§ 705.5d)

132 General Board of Discipleship (§705.5d)

133 General Board of Global Ministries (§705.5d, 1311.6)

134 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (§705.5d)

135

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

139

140 VI. Commission on the General Conference

141 A. There shall be a Commission on the General Conference comprised of lay and
142 clergy membership as defined by ¶511 of *The Book of Discipline*. They shall
143 have oversight responsibility for all arrangements necessary for the meeting of the
144 General Conference.

145 ~~composed of twenty-five (25) members as follows: two persons from each~~
146 ~~jurisdiction, one person from the central conferences of each continent of Africa,~~
147 ~~Asia, and Europe, one young adult, the chairperson of the host committee, and ten~~
148 ~~(10) additional members. The additional members shall be allocated to reflect the~~
149 ~~proportionate jurisdictional membership based upon combined clergy and lay~~
150 ~~membership of the church. With the exception of the chairperson of the host~~
151 ~~committee, members shall be nominated from the elected delegates to the General~~
152 ~~Conference by the Council of Bishops at its fall meeting preceding General~~
153 ~~Conference and elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years. The~~
154 ~~Commission shall be equally divided between clergy and lay membership to the~~
155 ~~extent possible. Approximately half of the Commission shall be elected by the~~
156 ~~General Conference each quadrennium. If vacancies occur, the Council of~~
157 ~~Bishops shall elect geographically appropriate successors to serve through the~~
158 ~~next session of the General Conference and then nominate for election by the~~
159 ~~General Conference persons to serve any remainder term. The Secretary of the~~
160 ~~General Conference, the Treasurer of the General Council on Finance and~~
161 ~~Administration, the Business Manager of the General Conference, and a bishop~~
162 ~~named by the Council of Bishops shall also be ex-officio members without vote.~~
163 ~~The Council of Bishops shall designate one of its members to convene and~~
164 ~~organize the Commission for the coming quadrennium before the adjournment of~~
165 ~~the General Conference.~~

166 ~~At the organizational meeting, an executive team comprised of a chairperson, a vice-~~
167 ~~chairperson, and a secretary shall be elected. The remaining members of the~~
168 ~~executive team shall be the chairperson of the host committee, the Bishop serving~~
169 ~~on the Commission, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Business~~
170 ~~Manager of the General Conference, and the chairperson and secretary elected by~~
171 ~~the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. The Commission~~
172 ~~shall organize a Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order from~~

173 within its membership. The composition of the committee shall be determined by
174 the Commission. The Committee shall be organized at the initial meeting of the
175 Commission following General Conference. It shall elect its own chairperson and
176 secretary, who will serve on the Commission's executive team.

177 ~~B. The first Commission on the General Conference to be elected shall have half its~~
178 ~~members nominated from persons currently serving non-expiring terms from the~~
179 ~~current Commission on the General Conference and Committee on the Plan of~~
180 ~~Organization and Rules of Order. Persons nominated from both of these current~~
181 ~~groups shall serve a term of four years, expiring at the adjournment of the~~
182 ~~subsequent General Conference. The remaining members shall be new nominees~~
183 ~~and shall serve for a full eight-year term. The members of the 2005-2008~~
184 ~~Commission on the General Conference and the Committee on the Plan of~~
185 ~~Organization and Rules of Order will continue to serve until the adjournment of~~
186 ~~the 2008 General Conference.~~

187 ~~C. This Commission shall determine the place and time (within such limits as may~~
188 ~~be set up by the General Conference) of the next General Conference and shall~~
189 ~~send an official notice to all elected delegates announcing specifically the opening~~
190 ~~day and hour of the General Conference and anticipated time of adjournment. It~~
191 ~~shall further advise the General Conference delegates in advance of all such~~
192 ~~special events and orders of the day, the dates and times of which have been~~
193 ~~determined prior to the opening of the General Conference, in order that the~~
194 ~~delegates may have an overview of the General Conference program. The~~
195 ~~Commission shall make all necessary arrangements, including arrangements for~~
196 ~~the publication of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and quadrennial reports of the~~
197 ~~Connectional Table and the general agencies of the church, to be published by the~~
198 ~~United Methodist Publishing House.~~

199 ~~The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall print the list of nominees for election to~~
200 ~~the Judicial Council and the University Senate. Biographical sketches not to~~
201 ~~exceed 100 words in length shall be submitted for each nominee and shall be~~
202 ~~printed as submitted for each nominee.~~

203 ~~D. Duties of the Committee on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order~~

204 ~~1. The Commission shall refer to this committee any proposed amendments to~~
205 ~~the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (See Rule 39). Any other matters~~
206 ~~relating to parliamentary order or procedure in the business of the General~~
207 ~~Conference may be referred to this committee.~~

208 ~~2. The Committee shall study the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and~~
209 ~~make needed changes and adaptations to be presented to the entire~~
210 ~~Commission on General Conference for final approval. After printing in the~~
211 ~~*Advance Daily Christian Advocate*, the Commission shall present the Plan of~~
212 ~~Organization and Rules of Order to the General Conference for consideration~~
213 ~~and final action, same to be published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* which~~
214 ~~serves as the Journal of the General Conference.~~

215 ~~3. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference shall~~
216 ~~be those published in the Journal of the preceding General Conference until~~
217 ~~they have been altered or modified by action of the General Conference (*Book*~~
218 ~~*of Discipline* ¶ 505).~~

219 ~~E.B. The Commission shall take the necessary measures to assure full participation~~
220 ~~of all General Conference delegates including but not limited to providing~~
221 ~~accommodation for language and physical challenges, and access to approved~~
222 ~~licensed childcare during the session at or near the site of the General Conference~~
223 ~~for children of elected General Conference delegates.~~

224 1. Languages of the General Conference: The Advance Daily Christian
225 Advocate will be ~~printed~~ published in English, French, and Portuguese. The
226 Daily Christian Advocate will be published in English. Simultaneous and/or
227 one-on-one interpretation of plenary and legislative committee sessions will
228 be offered in French, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, German, Russian, Korean,
229 and American Sign Language ~~based upon delegate's need~~ and/or others as
230 determined by the Commission on the General Conference in consultation
231 with the Multilingual Resources of the General Board of Global Ministries.

232 2. Duly credentialed interpreters or other personal assistants ~~In providing~~
233 ~~accommodation~~ for persons with special needs, ~~personal assistants, or~~
234 ~~interpreters~~ may be seated when necessary with voting delegates in all
235 committee and plenary sessions.

236 ~~F. The Commission shall plan the schedule for the opening day of the Conference.~~

237 ~~G. The Commission shall recommend to the General Conference the per diem~~
238 ~~allowance to be paid to the elected delegates (See Section IX).~~

239 ~~H. The Secretary of the General Conference, on behalf of the Commission on the~~
240 ~~General Conference, shall issue invitations to ecumenical representatives after~~
241 ~~consultation with the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on~~
242 ~~Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. The Commission shall arrange for~~
243 ~~local hospitality and presentation of ecumenical representatives to the General~~
244 ~~Conference.~~

245 ~~I. The Commission is authorized to select the site of the General Conference up to~~
246 ~~four quadrennia in advance.~~

247 J. ~~The General Secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration~~
248 ~~shall confer with the Commission on the General Conference through its~~
249 ~~chairperson concerning the selection and performance review of the Business~~
250 ~~Manager of the General Conference.~~
251

252 VII. Committees

253 The General Conference shall have ~~the~~ standing committees and special committees as it
254 may order hereinafter indicated, with such functions, responsibilities, and limitations as
255 assigned, respectively as are hereinafter prescribed, ~~and such special committees as it~~
256 ~~may order.~~

257

258 A. Administrative Committees

259 The members of the following committees shall be appointed by the Council of
260 Bishops at its fall meeting preceding the General Conference. All except the
261 Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be from the elected delegates
262 to the General Conference (See Section V). Members of administrative committees
263 that meet prior to the day on which the General Conference convenes shall receive the
264 delegate per diem for each additional day on which their attendance is required.
265 Delegates who are appointed to such committees less than 60 days prior to the
266 opening session of General Conference shall be entitled to reimbursement for any
267 additional transportation costs.

268

269 1) Agenda and Calendar

270 (a) There shall be a Committee on Agenda and Calendar composed of ~~ten~~
271 eleven members, at least five of whom shall be laypersons, to be

272 constituted as follows: one from each jurisdiction, one from the central
273 conferences of each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe, the
274 Coordinator of the Calendar, ~~and the chairperson or substitute for the~~
275 ~~Chairperson~~ of the Program Committee of the Commission on the General
276 Conference or designee, and the Chairperson of the Commission on
277 General Conference or designee. Beginning in 2016, there shall be a
278 Committee on Agenda and Calendar composed of fifteen members, one
279 from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of whom shall
280 be laypersons; the Coordinator of the Calendar; the Chairperson of the
281 Program Committee of the Commission on the General Conference or
282 designee; and the Chairperson of the Commission on the General
283 Conference or designee. No member of the committee shall be
284 chairperson of a legislative committee or a staff person of any general
285 agency. The Committee shall be convened, for the purpose of
286 organization, by the Secretary of the General Conference, or designee, at
287 least the day before the opening of the General Conference. Following the
288 presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the General
289 Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the
290 Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately become
291 responsible for guiding the order of business of the Conference.

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

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

- 295 (2) Inform the bishop presiding as soon as possible of the agenda items,
296 including order of priority, to be considered,
- 297 (3) Keep an overview of calendar progress;
- 298 (4) Report recommendations to each session of the General Conference
299 concerning business agenda, including time allocation and order in
300 which legislative committee reports shall be presented;
- 301 (5) Give priority in plenary for legislative consideration as calendar items
302 become available: first to items affecting the global church, second to
303 items with financial implications, and third to items with minority
304 reports;
- 305 ~~(6) Give priority to calendar items involving minority reports;~~
- 306 (76) Announce, at the last plenary session of each day, a tentative
307 agenda for the next day;
- 308 (87) Consult daily with the legislative committee chairpersons to
309 expedite the business of the General Conference; and
- 310 (98) Receive all requests for special orders of the day, except those
311 ~~requested~~ in the report of the Commission on the General Conference
312 on the first day of the Conference.
- 313 (c) Proposals, questions, communications, resolutions, and other matters not
314 included in the regular business of the General Conference shall be
315 referred to the Committee on Agenda and Calendar without motion or
316 debate. This committee shall determine whether the matter presented shall
317 be considered by the General Conference. ~~Appeal from the decision of~~

318 ~~this committee may be presented to the Conference upon the written~~
319 ~~signature of twenty delegates, and the~~ A decision of this committee may
320 be appealed by submitting to the conference the signatures of ten
321 delegates. The item shall be presented to the Conference if the appeal is
322 supported by a one-third vote.

323

324 **2) Correlation and Editorial Revision**

325 There shall be a Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision of four persons
326 and two alternates not delegates to the General Conference, and the Book Editor
327 or designee, who shall be an ex-officio member. They shall be entitled to
328 reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the committee. The
329 Book Editor or designee shall convene the committee for the purpose of
330 organization. The function of this committee shall be:

- 331 (a) To review all proposed legislation reported in the *Daily Christian*
332 *Advocate* or presented in special reports to the General Conference. The
333 Committee shall report to the committees concerned, or to the General
334 Conference as the situation may warrant, all contradictions, duplications,
335 and inconsistencies discovered.
- 336 (b) To assure that, when a calendar item approved on the Consent Calendar or
337 under an omnibus vote is found to be in conflict with parts of another
338 calendar item discussed and voted upon at a plenary session, the item
339 discussed and voted shall prevail.
- 340 (c) To edit the *Book of Discipline* in accordance with Section X.B.

341

342 **3) Courtesies and Privileges**

343 There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges of eight members
344 composed of one delegate from each jurisdiction and one delegate from a central
345 conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Beginning in
346 2016, there shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges composed of
347 twelve members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of
348 whom shall be lay persons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the
349 purpose of organization. The committee has the following duties and
350 responsibilities:

351 (a) To consider matters of privilege and, if they are such, to recommend to the
352 Conference that they be heard.

353 (b) To consider resolutions of commendation, courtesy, appreciation, etc.,
354 submitted in writing by delegates. The committee may initiate similar
355 resolutions and may edit and amend those submitted to it. Resolutions
356 approved by the committee shall be ~~printed~~ published in the *Daily*
357 *Christian Advocate* and brought to the floor if the committee considers
358 them of unusual importance or urgency.

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

360 (d) To limit its report, including the statement of the chairperson and the
361 hearing of such persons as may be presented, to a maximum of ten
362 minutes in any one business day. No person or persons shall be presented
363 whose request has been denied by the Commission on the General

364 Conference, nor after the sixth day unless approved by a two-thirds vote of
365 the Conference (See Rule 29.5).

366

367 **4) Credentials**

368 There shall be a Committee on Credentials of eight members, composed of one
369 delegate from each jurisdiction and one delegate selected from a central
370 conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Beginning in
371 2016, there shall be a Committee on Credentials composed of twelve members,
372 one from each central conference and jurisdiction, at least six of whom shall be
373 laypersons. The committee shall be convened by a bishop for the purpose of
374 organization. ~~The chairpersons of the respective annual conference delegations~~
375 ~~shall report to this committee on a form provided for that purpose any change in~~
376 ~~seating of delegates, indicating the length of time for which the change shall be~~
377 ~~effective. The chairperson of this committee shall make a daily written report to~~
378 ~~the Secretary of the General Conference, listing all changes of seating approved~~
379 ~~by the committee. If questions arise regarding the eligibility of seating any~~
380 ~~delegates, this committee shall report directly to the General Conference with its~~
381 ~~recommendations (See Rule 5).~~ The committee shall provide guidance to the
382 Secretary of the General Conference regarding the approval of credentials of
383 delegates, and may review decisions regarding the seating of delegates, including
384 reserve delegates. The committee shall report to the General Conference its
385 decisions and recommendations regarding challenges to the seating of any
386 delegates.

387

388

5) Journal

389

There shall be a Committee on the Journal of three delegates to approve daily the

390

record of Proceedings of the General Conference prepared by the Secretary of the

391

General Conference and assistant(s). The committee shall be convened by a

392

bishop for the purpose of organization.

393

394

6) Presiding Officers

395

There shall be a Committee on Presiding Officers of sixteen members, composed

396

of one clergy and one lay delegate from each jurisdiction, and one clergy and one

397

lay delegate from central conferences from each of the continents of Africa, Asia,

398

and Europe. Beginning in 2016, there shall be a Committee on Presiding Officers

399

composed of twelve members, one from each central conference and jurisdiction,

400

six of whom shall be clergy and six of whom shall be laypersons. The Committee

401

shall be convened by a bishop for the purpose of organization. The Committee

402

shall select and notify the presiding officer(s) of each plenary session at least 24

403

hours in advance, insofar as possible. The Committee shall be free to select a

404

bishop for more than one session and to change the presiding officer during the

405

session, whenever it seems advisable (See Section III).

406

407

7) Reference

408

There shall be a Committee on Reference of sixteen members, composed of one

409

clergy and one lay delegate from each jurisdiction, and one clergy and one lay

410 delegate from a central conference from each of the continents of Africa, Asia,
411 and Europe. Beginning in 2016, there shall be a Committee on Reference
412 composed of twenty-four members, one clergy and one lay person from each
413 central conference and jurisdiction. The membership of this Committee shall
414 include at least one member from each legislative committee who will be
415 designated as petition coordinator for their legislative committee. If possible,
416 petition coordinators should have served previously on a General Conference
417 legislative committee. These petition coordinators shall serve as advisors to the
418 officers of the legislative committee of which they are members. Additional
419 members from the Committee on Reference shall assist the petition coordinator in
420 the legislative committee of which they are members. This committee shall be
421 convened, for the purpose of organization, by the Secretary of the General
422 Conference, or designee, the day prior to the opening of the General Conference.

423
424 (a) After reviewing the proposed assignments by the Secretary of the General
425 Conference ~~to committees~~ of the petitions, resolutions, and similar
426 communications dealing with the regular business of the Conference to
427 legislative committees, this committee shall refer the same to the
428 appropriate legislative committees (See Section IV.D). This Committee
429 shall also be responsible for reviewing the assignment, by the Secretary of
430 the General Conference, of all reports, recommendations, and resolutions
431 from general agencies, standing or special commissions and committees,
432 and all other communications which are submitted to the Secretary of the

433 General Conference after the convening of the General Conference, all of
434 which shall be referred directly to appropriate legislative committees
435 without presentation to a plenary session of the General Conference.

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

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

444 (d) Where the Committee finds two or more substantially identical petitions, it
445 may group them under one title and number, indicating the total number of
446 petitions.

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

450 **B. Committee on Ethics**

451 There shall be a Committee on Ethics, comprised of the members of the Committee
452 of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the General Conference. Individual
453 delegates may report their concerns about alleged violations of the rules to the
454 Secretary of the General Conference who shall investigate and attempt to resolve all
455 such claims or, based on their severity, refer them to the Committee on Ethics.

456 Alleged violations of the rules may also be referred directly to the Committee on
457 Ethics by a one-fifth vote of the Plenary. The Committee on Ethics shall review all
458 matters referred to it and report its findings to the Plenary with recommended action.

459
460 **BC. Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters**

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

462 To this Committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
463 Central Conferences, Autonomous Methodist Churches, Affiliated Autonomous
464 Methodist Churches, Affiliated United Churches and Concordat relationships.

465 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

466	28-31	Constitution: Central Conferences
467	428.....	Conference of Methodist Bishops
468	540-548	Central Conferences
469	560-567	Provisional Central Conferences
470	570-575	Autonomous Methodist, Affiliated Autonomous
471		Methodist, Affiliated United, Covenanting, and
472		Concordat Churches
473	2201.....	Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters

474
475 The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall submit its report and
476 any legislative proposals related to the paragraphs assigned to it directly to the
477 General Conference. If the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has a
478 concern for any paragraphs assigned to one of the legislative committees, the

479 Committee shall offer its recommendation to the appropriate legislative committee for
480 consideration and recommendation to the General Conference.

481

482 **ED. Legislative Committees**

483 There shall be legislative committees to whom all properly submitted petitions and
484 reports shall be assigned. The Commission on the General Conference shall set the
485 number of legislative committees and the assignment of Disciplinary paragraphs and
486 topics to those committees in consultation with the Secretary of the General
487 Conference and the Business Manager of the General Conference (§ 511.4.f). Any
488 legislative committee considering legislation affecting the responsibilities assigned to
489 the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall consult with the
490 Committee before submitting its proposed legislation to the Conference.

491 ~~The General Conference shall have the following legislative committees, which shall~~
492 ~~consider all proposals looking toward new legislation or changes in the present~~
493 ~~legislation of the Church, including all reports and recommendations from general~~
494 ~~agencies and special commissions or committees, and report recommendations~~
495 ~~relating thereto to the Conference. Any legislative committee considering legislation~~
496 ~~affecting the concerns of the Commission on Central Conference Affairs shall consult~~
497 ~~with the Commission before submitting its proposed legislation to the General~~
498 ~~Conference.~~

499

500 **~~1) Church and Society 1.~~**

501 ~~To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the~~
502 ~~work and concerns of the Board of Church and Society and the Social Principles~~
503 ~~with the exception of paragraphs 161 and 162 of the *Book of Discipline*.~~

504 ~~*Book of Discipline* paragraphs~~

- 505 ~~.....Social Principles Preface~~
- 506 ~~.....Social Principles Preamble~~
- 507 ~~160.....The Natural World~~
- 508 ~~163.....The Economic Community~~
- 509 ~~164.....The Political Community~~
- 510 ~~165.....The World Community~~
- 511 ~~166.....Our Social Creed~~
- 512 ~~628.....AC: Board of Church and Society~~

513 660.....District Director of Church and Society
514 1001-1011.....General Board of Church and Society

515

516 **2) Church and Society 2.**

517 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to
518 paragraphs 161 and 162 of the Social Principles in the *Book of Discipline*.

519 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

520 161.....The Nurturing Community

521 162.....The Social Community

522

523 **3) Conferences.**

524 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
525 composition and activities of the General, Jurisdictional, Annual, Provisional,
526 Missionary, and District Conferences, and Missions, including the Jurisdictional,
527 Annual and District Connectional Ministries or equivalent. (Legislation relative to
528 Central Conferences shall be referred to the Commission on Central Conference
529 Affairs (see *Book of Discipline* ¶ 2201).

530 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

531 8-12.....Constitution: Conferences

532 13-16.....Constitution: General Conference

533 23-27.....Constitution: Jurisdictional Conferences

534 32-36.....Constitution: Annual Conferences

535 37-41.....Constitution: Boundaries

536 42.....Constitution: District Conferences

537 501-510.....General Conference (including opening statement)

538 511-526.....Jurisdictional Conference

539 527, 529.....Jurisdictional Agencies

540 528.....Jurisdictional Coordination of Programs

541 580-583.....Provisional Annual Conferences

542 585-588.....Missionary Conference

543 590-591.....Mission

544 601-607, 609.....Annual Conference

545 652.....AC: Committee on Disability Concerns

546 656-657.....District Conference

547 659.....District Program Organization

548

549 **4) Discipleship.**

550 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
551 work and concerns of the Boards of Discipleship.

552 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

553 267-270.....LC: Lay Speaking Ministries

554 271.....LC: Lay Missioner

555 531.....Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization
556 Convocation

557 532.....Jurisdictional Young Adult Organization

558 629.....AC: Board of Discipleship

559	630.....	AC: Board of Laity
560	648.....	AC: Council on Youth Ministry
561	649.....	AC: Council on Young Adult Ministry
562	650.....	AC: Council on Older Adult Ministries
563	658.....	DC: Lay Leader
564	664.....	DC: Board of Laity
565	665.....	DC: Committee on Lay Speaking Ministries
566	669.....	DC: Council on Youth Ministry
567	1101-1107.....	General Board of Discipleship
568	1108.....	Financial Relationship of The Upper Room to the
569		General Board of Discipleship
570	1109-1111.....	GBOD: Education
571	1112-1116.....	GBOD: Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship
572	1117-1121.....	GBOD: Ministry of the Laity
573	1122-1127.....	GBOD: Curriculum Resources Committee
574	1201-1212.....	Division on Ministries with Young People

575

576 **5) Faith and Order.**

577 To this committee shall be referred all petitions relating to Doctrinal Standards
578 and Our Theological Task, the Ministry of all Christians and the Meaning of
579 Ordination and Conference Membership.

580 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

581	101-104.....	Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task
582	120-124.....	The Churches
583	125-130.....	The Ministry of All Christians
584	131-132.....	Servant Ministry and Servant Leadership
585	133-135.....	Servant Ministry
586	136-137.....	Servant Leadership
587	138.....	Called to Inclusiveness
588	139-141.....	The Fulfillment of Ministry through the United
589		Methodist Church
590	301-304.....	The Meaning of Ordination and Conference
591		Membership

592

593 **6) Financial Administration.**

594 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
595 work and concerns of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of
596 Pension and Health Benefits, and the United Methodist Publishing House. The
597 budget and recommendations prepared by the General Council on Finance and
598 Administration shall be submitted to this committee for study and review.
599 Thereafter, when the General Council on Finance and Administration presents its
600 report to the General Conference for action, the committee shall present its
601 recommendations and may propose amendments.

602 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

603	7.....	Constitution: Title to Properties
604	22.....	Constitution: Restrictive Rule

605	610-618	AC: Council on Finance and Administration
606	619-627	AC: Clergy Support
607	637	Episcopal Residence
608	638	AC: Board of Pensions
609	639	AC: Board of Trustees
610	651	AC: Joint Committee on Incapacity
611	801-819	General Council on Finance and Administration
612	822	GCFA: Special Days Offerings
613	1501-1505	General Board of Pension and Health Benefits
614	1506-1509	GBOPHB: Annual Conference Pension Administration
615	1601-1642	The United Methodist Publishing House
616	2501-2523	Church Property
617	2552	Trustees of Church Institutions

618

7) General Administration.

619 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
 620 work and concerns of the ~~Connectional Table~~. The report of the ~~Connectional~~
 621 ~~Table~~ shall be submitted to this committee for study and review. Thereafter,
 622 when the ~~Connectional Table~~ presents its report to the General Conference for
 623 action, the committee shall present its recommendations and may propose
 624 amendments.

625

Book of Discipline paragraphs

626		
627	1-4	Constitution: General (including Preamble)
628	17-19, 21	Constitution: Restrictive Rules
629	59-61	Constitution: Amendments
630	263-266	Local Church Special Sundays
631	701-724	Administrative Order General Provisions
632	901-907	Connectional Table
633	2406	JUSTPEACE

634

8) Global Ministries.

635 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the
 636 work and concerns of the ~~Boards of Global Ministries~~.

637

Book of Discipline paragraphs

638		
639	534	JC: United Methodist Women
640	632	AC: Board of Global Ministries
641	646	AC: United Methodist Women
642	653	AC: Committee on Native American Ministry
643	654	AC: Advance Program
644	655	AC: Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy
645		Ministries
646	667	DC: United Methodist Women
647	820-821	The Advance
648	1301-1311	General Board of Global Ministries
649	1312	GBGM: Mission Program Areas
650	1313-1316	GBGM: Office of Deaconess

651 1317-1325GBGM: Women's Division
652 1326GBGM: Health and Relief

653
654 **9) ~~Independent Commissions.~~**

655 To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to
656 commissions, and ecumenical concerns. This shall include Archives and History,
657 Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, Communications, Religion and
658 Race, Status and Role of Women, United Methodist Men, and membership or
659 relationship to the World Methodist Council, Councils and Consultations of
660 Churches, and the American Bible Society.

661 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

662 5Constitution: Racial Justice
663 6Constitution: Ecumenical Relations
664 530JC: Commission on Archives and History
665 535JC: Committee on United Methodist Men
666 608AC: Director of Communications
667 631AC: Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
668 640AC: Commission on Archives and History
669 641AC: Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious
670 Concerns
671 642AC: Commission on Religion and Race
672 643AC: Commission on Status and Role of Women
673 644AC: Commission on Small Membership Church
674 645AC: Commission on Communications
675 647AC: United Methodist Men
676 661DC: Director Ethnic Local Church Concerns
677 662DC: Director Religion and Race
678 668DC: United Methodist Men
679 1701-1712General Commission on Archives and History
680 1801-1808General Commission on Communications
681 1901-1906General Commission on Christian Unity and
682 Interreligious Concerns
683 2001-2008General Commission on Religion and Race
684 2101-2109General Commission on Status and Role of Women
685 2301-2303General Commission on United Methodist Men
686 2401-2405Ecumenical Organizations

687
688 **10) ~~Judicial Administration.~~**

689 To this Committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc. relating to the
690 Judiciary, the Judicial Civil Administration review committee, and investigations,
691 trials, and appeals.

692 *Book of Discipline* paragraphs

693 55-58Constitution: The Judiciary
694 635AC: Administrative Review Committee
695 2601-2612Judicial Council
696 2701-2719Investigations, Trials and Appeals

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11) Local Church.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the organization of the local church and its membership, programs, boards, councils, commissions, committees, etc., or relating to local church property.

Book of Discipline paragraphs

- 43-44 Constitution: Charge Conferences
- 201-213 Local Church
- 214-242 LC: Church Membership
- 243-259 LC: Organization and Administration
- 260-262 LC: General
- 2524-2551 LC: Property

12) Ministry and Higher Education.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of Ordained Ministries, Higher Education, Schools of Theology, and the Division of Chaplaincy and Related Ministries.

Book of Discipline paragraphs

- 20 Constitution: Restrictive Rule
- 272 Certified Lay Minister
- 305-369 Ordained Ministry
- 533 JC: Committee on Ordained Ministries
- 633 AC: Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
- 634 AC: Board of Ordained Ministry
- 663 DC: Committee on Ordained Ministry
- 1401-1409 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
- 1410-1421 GBHEM: Division of Higher Education
- 1422-1423 GBHEM: Schools of Theology

13) Superintendency.

To this committee shall be referred all petitions, resolutions, etc., relating to the work and concerns of Superintendency.

Book of Discipline paragraphs

- 45-54 Constitution: Episcopal Supervision
- 401-404 Superintendency
- 405-416 Superintendency: Bishops
- 417-425 Superintendency: District Superintendent
- 426-427, 429 Expressions of Superintendency
- 430-435 Appointment Making
- 636 AC: Committee on Episcopacy
- 666 DC: Committee on District Superintendency

739 **DE. Membership of Legislative Committees.**

740 1) ~~Each delegate serves as a member of one of the legislative committees~~
741 ~~numbered one to thirteen.~~ Within the annual conference delegation, each
742 delegate shall choose ~~from the~~ one legislative committees, ~~one to thirteen, the~~
743 ~~committee~~ on which to serve, the choice being made in order of election.

744

745 ~~Beginning with 2004~~ In 2012, the clergy first elected, shall be entitled to the
746 first choice, the lay delegate first elected, the second choice, and thus the right
747 of choice shall continue to alternate between clergy and lay delegates in the
748 order of their election. For subsequent General Conferences, first choice shall
749 alternate between the lay and clergy delegates, provided two members of a
750 delegation may not serve on ~~any one of the above designated~~ same legislative
751 committees ~~one to thirteen~~ unless the said delegation is represented on ~~each~~ all
752 of them. ~~All delegations composed of 14 or more delegates shall assign all~~
753 ~~delegates in excess of 13 according to this same principle of distribution. (For~~
754 ~~example, a conference with 16 delegates shall have two delegates on each of~~
755 ~~any three of these 13 committees and one on each of the remaining 10.~~

756 ~~Similarly, a conference with 28 delegates shall have three delegates on each of~~
757 ~~two committees and two on each of the remaining 11. Each delegate may, in~~
758 ~~the order herein indicated, select any one of these 13 committees, provided the~~
759 ~~foregoing division of the delegates among the committees is maintained.)~~

760 Whenever a delegation has more than one delegate on a legislative committee,
761 its delegates shall be divided as equally as possible between lay and clergy.

762 Thus, if there are three delegates on a committee, they shall be two clergy and

763 one lay or vice versa. The Secretary of the General Conference shall provide
764 these instructions and examples with the election of delegate instructions sent
765 to each annual conference secretary.

766

767 2) If a matter is under consideration in any legislative committee which in the
768 judgment of any annual conference delegation vitally affects the interests of
769 its constituency, and if the said annual conference is not represented in the
770 membership of said committee, then the delegation may choose one of its
771 delegates to represent its annual conference in the committee when the
772 aforementioned matter is under consideration. This delegate shall be entitled
773 to sit with the committee while this particular matter is being considered and
774 shall have voice, but not vote (See Section VII.F.3.(e)).

775

776 3) Each person seated in the General Conference with voice but not vote may
777 submit to the Secretary of the General Conference a choice of a legislative
778 committee and shall have the same right in that committee to voice but not
779 vote.

780

781 **EF. Meetings of Committees.**

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

786

787 Consistent with the spirit of ¶721 in the *Book of Discipline*, meetings of

788 General Conference committees and subcommittees shall be open.

789

790 2) Administrative Committees.

791 (a) A bishop appointed by the ~~Committee on Presiding Officers~~ Council of

792 Bishops and an organizing secretary appointed by the Secretary of the

793 General Conference shall serve, respectively as chairperson and secretary,

794 to organize ~~effect an organization in each of the administrative~~

795 committees, except where other provision is specified.

796 (b) The election of chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary of each

797 administrative committee shall be by separate sequential written ballot for

798 each position. Due consideration shall be given for inclusiveness that

799 reflects the global nature of the church, including gender, age, ethnicity,

800 geography, young people, clergy, and lay.

801 3) Legislative Committees. All legislative committees shall meet for

802 organization at such time as the Commission on the General Conference shall

803 determine. A bishop appointed by the Council of Bishops and an organizing

804 secretary appointed by the Secretary of the General Conference shall serve,

805 respectively, as chairperson and secretary, to organize ~~effect an organization~~

806 ~~in~~ each of the several committees. The first meeting of the legislative

807 committees shall be held as soon as possible following the first plenary

808 session of the General Conference. The orientation of the committee,

809 followed by the election of officers, shall be the order of business of the first
810 meeting of the committee.

811 (a) Election of Officers. The ~~election of~~ chairperson, vice-chairperson, ~~and~~
812 secretary, and sub-committee chairpersons of each committee, shall be
813 elected by separate sequential written ballot for each position, ~~with due~~
814 Due consideration shall be given for inclusiveness that reflects the global
815 nature of the church, including gender, age, ethnicity, geography, young
816 people, clergy, and lay. If no election by simple majority vote of those
817 voting has occurred after three (3) consecutive ballots, the floor will be
818 reopened for nominations.

819 (b) Training. The Secretary of the General Conference shall be responsible
820 for training all chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, ~~and secretaries,~~ and sub-
821 committee chairpersons of legislative committees. The training shall
822 include instruction in their duties, all procedures in the handling of
823 petitions, the times of the daily deadline for publishing reports, and other
824 information to expedite the work of the committees. The Commission on
825 the General Conference shall arrange for a time and place for such a
826 training session. No officer shall serve without completing this training.

827 (c) Parliamentarians. Each legislative committee shall be assigned a
828 parliamentarian by the Secretary of the General Conference. Retired
829 Bishops nominated by the Council of Bishops shall be included in the pool
830 of parliamentarians. It shall be the responsibility of the Business Manager
831 of the General Conference to develop a pool of other people not currently

832 delegates to serve as parliamentarians. It is preferred that these persons be
833 members of The United Methodist Church, have knowledge of the Rules
834 of the General Conference, and have training in parliamentary procedure.
835 The retired bishops shall be given priority in being assigned to legislative
836 committees. At the invitation of the presiding officer, the parliamentarian
837 advises on matters of parliamentary procedure. ~~This legislation will take~~
838 ~~effect at the 2012 General Conference.~~

839 (d) Regular Meetings. The legislative committees ~~1 to 13 inclusive~~ shall meet
840 for business as scheduled by the Agenda and Calendar Committee unless
841 otherwise ordered by the Conference, ~~until their work is completed~~, and at
842 such other times as the committees may determine provided that no
843 legislative committee shall meet at times that conflict with plenary
844 sessions. Any legislation not completed by the legislative committee at
845 the time of the Saturday evening adjournment of the first week of General
846 Conference shall remain unfinished and legislative committees shall be
847 adjourned (See Rule 35).

848 ~~(e) Sub-Committees. Legislative committees may divide into sub-committees~~
849 ~~as needed to facilitate their work. Sub-committee chairs shall be elected~~
850 ~~by ballot by the legislative committee plenary with due consideration to~~
851 ~~gender, age, ethnicity, geography, and clergy and lay.~~

852 ~~(f)~~ Voting Area. Each legislative committee and sub-committee shall
853 establish an area in which only voting committee members and their
854 properly credentialed assistant or translator will be seated. The Business

855 Manager of the General Conference shall provide four designated seats in
856 each legislative committee chairs for the monitors from the General
857 Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the
858 Status and Role of Women. An area shall also be established for those
859 present with voice but not vote (See Section VII.E.2). Staff members of
860 the Secretary of General Conference and Business Manager of General
861 Conference may speak in the performance of their duties. General agency
862 staff, other resource persons, and visitors may speak only when
863 authorized, in each instance by specific committee action.

864 (gf) Minority Reports. Minority reports allow for the expression of differing
865 views held by a significant portion of a legislative committee and may be
866 offered in accordance with Rules 27, 36, and 37.

867 (hg) Priorities Reports. ~~Whenever possible, legislative committees shall~~
868 ~~give first priority to legislation with financial implications.~~ Legislative
869 Committee Reports should be submitted as soon as possible following the
870 action of the committee. All Legislative Committee Reports on such
871 ~~matters must~~ shall be submitted prior to 5 p.m. on Monday of the second
872 ~~week to allow printing in the Tuesday edition of the Daily Christian~~
873 ~~Advocate.~~

874

875 **FG. Function and Authority of Committees.**

876 1) The administrative committees, without specific instruction or direction from
877 the Conference, shall assume responsibility for considering and reporting to

878 the Conference upon all matters that fall within their respective
879 responsibilities (See Section VII.A).

880 2) The legislative committees shall consider and report upon that which is
881 referred to them by the Committee on Reference or which has been referred to
882 them directly by the Conference (See Rule 34).

883

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

885 A. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary to establish an interim or
886 continuing board, commission, committee, or task force shall be referred to the
887 General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table or
888 their executive committees or their expenditure review group for a report and
889 recommendation before final action is taken.

890 The General Council on Finance and Administration and the Connectional Table
891 or their executive committees or their expenditure review group shall provide the
892 General Conference with the following before action is taken:

- 893 1) an estimated budget for the proposed board, commission, committee or task
894 force for the next quadrennium; and
- 895 2) a statement explaining how the creation of the proposed board, commission,
896 committee, or task force will affect the budget or budgets for existing boards,
897 commissions, committees and task forces already presented by the General
898 Council on Finance and Administration.

899

900 B. Any action proposed to the General Conference plenary that involves the
901 expenditure of funds shall be referred to the General Council on Finance and
902 Administration and the Connectional Table or their executive committees or their
903 expenditure review group for advice and recommendation before final action is
904 taken. Any general agency requests for supplemental funds shall be identified as
905 such; otherwise, they shall be considered as having been included within the
906 agency budget.

907

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

912

913 **IX. Delegates Expenses**

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

919

920 B. Air travel shall be by the most economical round-trip coach airfare directly to and
921 from the site of the General Conference. Special excursion and promotional fares
922 shall be utilized whenever possible. Additional expenses may be allowed delegates

923 from conferences outside the United States for arrival and departure not to exceed
924 two days before or after General Conference. The per diem expense allowance for
925 all such days before and after General Conference shall be at the same rate as granted
926 delegates during General Conference. Exceptions to these limitations must be
927 approved by the Business Manager of the General Conference.

928

929 C. When one or more delegates come in the same automobile, the owner will be
930 reimbursed for the actual cost of travel (parking, en route mileage and tolls, en route
931 meals and lodging). Mileage shall be reimbursed at the business rate established by
932 the IRS and will be measured from point of origin to the site of General Conference
933 and return. Meals and lodging shall be reimbursed up to the established General
934 Conference per diem. When the round trip exceeds 1,000 miles for any one round
935 trip, the cost of transportation shall be paid either on the actual costs as defined
936 above or at the most economical airfare available plus airport-related ground
937 transportation cost, whichever is less. Passengers who are the principal voting
938 delegates to the General Conference shall submit only the cost of room and meals en
939 route up to the established General Conference per diem rate.

940

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

946

947

X. Material to be Included in *The Book of Discipline*

948

A. Non-legislative material (Pages 1-20, 2008 *The Book of Discipline*) shall be referred

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to the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision for consideration and

950

possible consultation with the General Commission on Archives and History or

951

referral to the Committee on Reference. ~~recommendation to the General Conference~~

952

~~for further consideration and final action before being printed in the *Book of*~~

953

~~*Discipline.*~~

954

955

B. The Book Editor, the Secretary of the General Conference, the Publisher of The

956

United Methodist Church, and the Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision

957

shall be charged with editing *The Book of Discipline*. Any Disciplinary amendments

958

that are not dependent on constitutional amendments for their effective date will be

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incorporated in the appropriate paragraphs of the *Book of Discipline* in the order of

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their adoption.

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The editors, in the exercise of their judgment, shall have the authority to make

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changes in wording as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without changing

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its substance. The editors, in consultation with the Judicial Council, shall also have

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authority to delete provisions of the *Book of Discipline* that have been ruled

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unconstitutional by the Judicial Council. Any challenge of a decision made by the

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Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision shall be in writing. If the matter

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should go to the Judicial Council, the appealing party shall give notice thereof to the

969 Committee. Any established errata in the *Book of Discipline* shall be forwarded by
970 the United Methodist Publishing House to the Council of Bishops, the Secretary of
971 the General Conference, Annual Conference Secretaries, and Annual Conference
972 Directors of Connectional Ministries, and shall be published by the Book Editor on
973 the United Methodist Publishing House website.

974

975 Constitutional amendments certified in accordance with ¶59 and enabling legislation
976 adopted in anticipation of the Constitutional amendments shall be published by the
977 Book Editor on the United Methodist Publishing House website following
978 certification. They shall be ~~printed~~ published in the subsequent *Book of Discipline*.

979 The Constitutional amendments take effect at the time of certification. The enabling
980 legislation will be effective on January 1, of the year following the certification of
981 the constitutional amendments and will be given effect as if it had been adopted after
982 all other disciplinary changes affecting a particular paragraph.

983

984 **XI. Distribution to the Desks of Delegates of Materials within the Bar of the Conference**

985 ~~After the first day, only the *Daily Christian Advocate* shall be placed on the desks of the~~
986 ~~delegates, with additional copies for the first clergy and first lay reserve delegate from each~~
987 ~~delegation. Pages will facilitate personal communication with seated participants under the~~
988 ~~following conditions: (1) The communication is handwritten; and (2) The communication~~
989 ~~bears the name and location of both the recipient and the sender. Multiple copies of~~
990 ~~duplicated material will be distributed to delegates at their desks only when requested by an~~

991 ~~official body of the General Conference and approved by the Office of the Secretary of the~~
992 ~~General Conference.~~

993 Pages will distribute communications to individual delegates provided the communication
994 bears the name and location of both the recipient and the sender.

995

996 Materials related to General Conference presentations and produced by official bodies of
997 The United Methodist Church shall be approved by the Secretary of the General Conference
998 prior to distribution by the pages.

999

1000 **XII. Distribution of ~~Unofficial~~ Materials Outside of the Plenary or Committee Room**

1001 ~~Daily, periodic, or regular n~~ Newsletters, or any special interest material from published at
1002 ~~General Conference by~~ United Methodist boards, agencies, and related United Methodist
1003 groups may be distributed under the following conditions:

1004

1005 A. One copy ~~Two copies~~ of each item publication shall be submitted to ~~deposited in~~ the
1006 office of the Commission on the General Conference in advance ~~of the time~~ of
1007 distribution.

1008

1009 B. Material distributed shall be relevant to ~~should be used for information relative to~~
1010 ~~matters that have been before or are coming before~~ the General Conference and not
1011 for soliciting membership in an organization.

1012

1013 C. Distribution ~~method~~ shall be at least 30 feet outside any entrance door to the plenary
1014 or committee meeting room.

1015

1016 D. Distribution shall be done by representatives of the above named publishing groups.

1017 ~~Distributors shall be in the smallest number capable of effecting adequate~~

1018 ~~distribution to those entering. During distribution, i~~ It is the responsibility of the

1019 distributors not to impede or interfere with the entrance or exit of persons or to

1020 hamper the general flow of pedestrian traffic.

1021

1022 E. Distributors are responsible for the disposal of unused or unclaimed materials.

1023

1024 F. Distributors violating these regulations will be prohibited from future

1025 distributions.

1026

1027 **XIII. Reports to be Mailed Before General Conference**

1028 The reports, recommendations, and resolutions requiring action by the General

1029 Conference, as well as petitions submitted in accordance with the *Book of Discipline*

1030 ¶507.7, shall first be assigned a Petition Number by the Secretary of the General

1031 Conference or the Petitions Secretary and then shall be ~~printed~~ published in an Advance

1032 Edition of the *Daily Christian Advocate* and distributed to all delegates and to the first

1033 clergy and first lay reserve delegates at least ninety days prior to the opening of the

1034 General Conference. ~~Such r~~ Reports shall be ~~printed~~ published in the same size and style

1035 as the *Daily Christian Advocate* ~~and be punched for binding~~. In order to accomplish this,

1036 the finished copy of all such reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the editor
1037 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* at least 210 days prior to the opening of the General
1038 Conference. Reports and recommendations not ~~printed~~ published in an Advance Edition
1039 of the *Daily Christian Advocate* may be received by the General Conference only upon
1040 three-fourths vote of the General Conference. The General Council on Finance and
1041 Administration shall be exempt from this requirement to the extent necessary to allow
1042 inclusion of general funds receipts information for the first three years of the
1043 quadrennium. The General Council on Finance and Administration will provide data
1044 including the third year of the quadrennium and other appropriate information to
1045 delegates prior to the convening of the General Conference.

1046

1047

RULES OF ORDER

1048

1049

I. Daily Schedule

1050

1051 *Rule 1. Hours of Meetings*

1052 The following shall be the daily order for the General Conference, Sundays excepted:

1053

(1) 8:00 a.m. ~~Choral music~~ Morning Praise and Prayer

1054

(2) ~~8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Devotional service under the direction of the Council of~~

1055

Bishops

1056

~~(3) 9:00~~ 8:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Conference business or committee meetings

1057

(4 ~~3~~) 1:30 or 2:30 p.m. (as specified by the daily schedule) to 5:00 p.m. Conference

1058

business or committee meetings

1059 (~~§ 4~~) 7:30 p.m. Conference business, Evening programs as planned by the
1060 Commission on the General Conference, ~~Conference business or committee~~
1061 ~~meetings~~ and worship under the direction of the Council of Bishops. During a
1062 Memorial Service, the names of the bishops, bishops' spouses, and delegates-elect
1063 who have died since the adjournment of the previous General Conference shall be
1064 called.

1065 (~~6 5~~) Recess may be called during any plenary session at a time deemed appropriate
1066 by the presiding officer.

1067 (6) Daily adjournment shall be called by 9:30 p.m. each evening.

1068

1069 *Rule 2. Order of Business*

1070 ~~After the devotional service, the~~ The daily sessions of the Conference shall be conducted
1071 as follows:

1072 (1) Reports of administrative and special committees

1073 (2) Agenda and calendar items

1074 (3) Consent calendar (See Rule 31.5)

1075 (4) Miscellaneous business

1076

1077 **II. Presiding Officers**

1078

1079 *Rule 3. Authority of the Presiding Officer*

1080 (1) The presiding officer ~~of their respective body~~ (plenary, administrative
1081 committees, legislative committees, and sub-committees) shall decide and rule on

1082 points of order, ~~raised by the delegates and shall rule on points of order not raised~~
1083 ~~by delegates, as the presiding officer deems necessary to conform to these rules of~~
1084 ~~order, subject in both cases to an appeal to the body by any delegate~~ A delegate
1085 may appeal the ruling to the body without debate, except that the presiding officer
1086 and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a
1087 statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal
1088 shall sustain the presiding officer (See Rule 29.4). Any delegate who raises a
1089 point of order shall cite the rule believed to have been violated.

1090 (2) At the discretion of the presiding officer, a time for prayerful discernment may be
1091 taken during deliberation. Such a time should be for group ~~personal~~ meditation
1092 and or for group prayer and shall end at the call of the presiding officer, at which
1093 time ~~normal~~ deliberation shall be resumed.

1094 (3) The presiding officer shall have the right to recess a session of the body at any
1095 time at the presiding officer's discretion and to reconvene at such time as the
1096 presiding officer shall ~~announce~~ propose. Consistent with the spirit of ¶721 of the
1097 Book of Discipline, in rare circumstances the presiding officer shall also have the
1098 right to stipulate that the session shall reconvene in closed session with only
1099 delegates, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such a
1100 session following recess (See Section VII.F.1.).

1101

1102 *Rule 4. Calling the Conference to Order*

1103 When the presiding officer calls the body to order, no delegate shall speak, address the
1104 chair, or stand.

1105

1106

III. Rights and Duties of Delegates

1107

1108 *Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves*

1109 The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a form on which to report daily
1110 the attendance of its delegates. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate shall
1111 have been duly elected as a reserve delegate by the Annual Conference and shall meet the
1112 requirements set forth in the *Book of Discipline* ¶34-36. Delegates, including reserves
1113 when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of
1114 their election, except when a reserve is seated temporarily or in case of special need as
1115 determined by the delegation chairperson. The reserve shall occupy the seat of the
1116 delegate for whom the substitution is made. Reserves shall not be seated for delegates
1117 presenting on the platform. All delegates arriving after the opening roll call shall be
1118 reported by the chairperson of the delegation to the secretary of the General Conference
1119 or designee. ~~Committee on Credentials (See section VII.A.4. See also *Book of*~~
1120 ~~*Discipline* ¶506 defining a Quorum.)~~—No delegate, unless hindered by sickness or other
1121 emergency, shall be absent from the sessions of the Conference without permission of the
1122 Conference. All absences shall be reported by the chairpersons of the delegations to the
1123 secretary of the General Conference or designee ~~Committee on Credentials~~ on a form
1124 provided for this purpose. Reserve delegates are to function within the Rules of
1125 Procedure of the General Conference (See Rules 27 and 31). A reserve delegate may be
1126 seated upon authority of the chairperson of the delegation who shall report the

1127 substitution in writing to the secretary of the General Conference or designee ~~Committee~~
1128 ~~on Credentials~~ on a form provided for this purpose. Reserves are chosen to be seated:

1129 (1) by reason of being of the same order as the absent delegate,

1130 (2) in order of their election as reserve delegates.

1131 If the substitution is challenged, the Committee on Credentials ~~disapproves the~~
1132 ~~substitution~~, after consultation with the chairperson of the delegation, it may report its
1133 recommendation to the General Conference. ~~The chairperson of the Committee on~~
1134 ~~Credentials shall make a daily written report to the Secretary of the General Conference,~~
1135 ~~listing all changes of seating (See Section IA.4 and VII.A.4).~~

1136

1137 *Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Plenary Floor*

1138 A delegate desiring to speak to the Conference shall hold up the appropriate placard to be
1139 recognized by the bishop presiding. Unless raising a point of order or parliamentary
1140 inquiry, the delegate shall not speak until given the floor. The bishop presiding shall
1141 consider the various sections of the auditorium in rotation. The delegate recognized shall
1142 proceed to the nearest microphone and shall first announce her or his name and the name
1143 of the conference represented, ~~which in turn the bishop presiding shall then announce to~~
1144 ~~the Conference~~. A delegate recognized by the presiding bishop may not yield the floor to
1145 another delegate.

1146

1147 *Rule 7. Plenary Speakers For and Against*

1148 (1) When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the
1149 bishop presiding to ascertain, when recognizing a delegate to the Conference, on

1150 which side the delegate proposes to speak; the bishop presiding shall not assign
1151 the floor to any delegate proposing to speak on the same side of the pending
1152 question as the speaker immediately preceding if any delegate desires to speak on
1153 the other side.

1154 (2) Except for non-debatable motions (Rule 21), no report shall be adopted or
1155 question relating to the same decided, without opportunity having been given for
1156 at least two speeches for and two against the said proposal.

1157 (3) The motion to call for the previous question, which is itself non-debatable, is not
1158 in order without opportunity having been given for ~~until there have been~~ at least
1159 two speeches for and two against the proposal. Any delegate who moves the
1160 previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions
1161 pending) shall also indicate to what it is intended to apply, if any secondary
1162 motion or motions are also pending. If said delegate does not so indicate, it shall
1163 be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question. This motion
1164 shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present
1165 and voting for its adoption. If it is adopted, the vote shall be taken on the motion
1166 or motions to which it applies without further debate (See Rule 21). After three
1167 speeches for and three against and provided no secondary motions come before
1168 the floor, the questions shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson
1169 and/or duly authorized delegate or delegates presenting the committee's report,
1170 and if there is a minority report, the presenter shall be entitled to speak before the
1171 vote is taken (See Rule 27). These speeches shall be limited to three (3) minutes
1172 (See Rule 9).

1173

1174 *Rule 8. Interrupting the Speaker*

1175 No delegate who has the floor may be interrupted except for a point of order, a
1176 parliamentary inquiry, a point of information, to challenge a misrepresentation, or to call
1177 attention that the time has arrived for an order of the day.

1178

1179 *Rule 9. Speaking More Than Once; Length of Speech*

1180 (1) No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question if any delegate who
1181 has not previously spoken on the question desires the floor.

1182 (2) No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same subject under the same
1183 motion, except as provided in Rule 7.2

1184 (3) No delegate shall speak longer than three minutes unless that time is extended by
1185 the body (See Rule 7.3). Time of translation shall not count against the three
1186 minute limit.

1187 (4) The three-minute limit on delegate speeches may be amended by a majority vote
1188 of the body at any time and for any period of duration.

1189

1190 *Rule 10. Point of Order*

1191 A delegate wishing to raise a point of order shall address the presiding officer and say, “I
1192 rise to a point of order.” The presiding officer shall interrupt the proceeding. If a
1193 delegate is speaking, that one shall immediately yield the floor. The presiding officer
1194 shall then direct the delegate raising the point of order to state the point as briefly and
1195 concisely as possible, citing the rule invoked in the point of order. The delegate shall not

1196 presume to decide the question or argue the point. A point of order is decided by the
1197 presiding officer without debate unless in doubtful cases the presiding officer submits the
1198 question to the body for advice or decision. When the presiding officer rules on a point,
1199 debate is closed, but the decision may be appealed (See Rule 3).

1200

1201 *Rule 11. Bar of the Conference*

1202 The bar of the conference shall provide for the integrity of the General Conference. It is
1203 for delegates, pages, and others who have been granted access to the area for General
1204 Conference business as provided through the Rules or through the suspension of the
1205 Rules. ~~Delegates are not to distract others near them by engaging in unrelated business~~
1206 ~~activity.~~

1207

1208 *Rule 12. Distracting Behavior*

1209 Delegates are not to distract others near them by engaging in activities unrelated to the
1210 matters at hand. Audible cell-phone use is not permitted in the plenary hall or the
1211 legislative committee rooms by delegates or observers while in session. All electronic
1212 devices shall be muted or turned off. In addition, the use of laptop computers, personal
1213 digital assistants, pagers and other electronic devices should be in furtherance of General
1214 Conference business and done in such a manner that it does not disturb other participants.
1215 The presiding officer or members of the General Conference staff may ask individuals to
1216 leave the plenary hall or the legislative committee room if they persist in behavior that
1217 interferes with the participation of other delegates. ~~All electronic devices should have~~
1218 ~~audible alarms muted when possible.~~

1219

1220 *Rule 13. Electronic Recording*

1221 No electronic recording by either video or voice may be made of any portion of the
1222 General Conference unless specifically authorized by the Business Manager of the
1223 General Conference in order to maintain the integrity of all performance licenses.

1224

1225 *Rule 14. Right to Make Motions*

1226 Only voting delegates have the right to make or second motions in accordance with the
1227 rules and upon recognition by the presiding officer.

1228

1229 *Rule 15. Plenary Voting Procedure*

1230 (1) Voting shall be by electronic means unless otherwise ordered by the Conference,
1231 provided, however, that in elections, voting may be by written ballot. Electronic
1232 voting devices shall be available on the platform for delegates making a
1233 presentation to the Conference.

1234 (2) When electronic voting is not in use or operating, a standing count vote or vote by
1235 written ballot may be ordered on call of any delegate, supported by one-third of
1236 the delegates present and voting with pages serving as tellers.

1237 ~~(3) In the event the electronic voting system is inoperable and a count vote is called~~
1238 ~~for, the chairpersons of the delegations shall poll their respective delegations or~~
1239 ~~pages may serve as tellers.~~

1240 ~~(4)~~ Only delegates within the bar of the Conference when the vote is taken shall be
1241 entitled to vote. No delegate shall cast a vote in place of any other delegate.

1242 (54) No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the
1243 previous question has been called until the process is completed, except such as
1244 relates to the vote itself or such business as the presiding officer may deem
1245 appropriate.

1246

1247 *Rule 16. Elections*

1248 For any election requiring balloting by the plenary, an election shall occur when the
1249 number of ballots cast for a nominee meets or exceeds the required percentage of the total
1250 valid ballots cast.

1251 A ballot is valid if it meets the following standards:

1252 (1) It is cast by a voting delegate or properly seated reserve delegate.

1253 (2) It contains votes for the same number of nominees, as there are vacancies to be
1254 filled.

1255 (3) Every name receiving a vote has been properly nominated according to the
1256 provisions.

1257 (4) No more than one vote is cast for the same nominee.

1258 (5) No vote is cast for a person who has already been elected.

1259

1260 *Rule 17. Division of Question*

1261 Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any
1262 question, if it is subject to such division as the delegate indicates. If no delegate objects,
1263 the division shall be made; but if there is objection, the presiding officer shall put the
1264 question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

1265

1266

IV. Business Procedure

1267

1268 *Rule 18. Motion for Adoption of Legislative and Administrative Committee Reports*

1269 Whenever a report of a legislative committee ~~signed by the chairperson and secretary~~ or

1270 ~~of~~ an administrative committee is presented to the Conference for action, it shall be

1271 deemed in proper order for consideration by the Conference without the formality of a

1272 second.

1273

1274 *Rule 19. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions, Amendments.*

1275 All resolutions and committee reports shall be prepared in accordance with instructions

1276 from the Secretary of the General Conference; and all motions, including amendments,

1277 shall be presented in writing (See Rules 31.2, 32.3, 34.2, 36).

1278

1279 *Rule 20. Alterations of Motions*

1280 When a motion is made and seconded, a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a

1281 committee report is read or published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, it shall be deemed

1282 to be in the possession of the Conference and may not be altered except by action of the

1283 Conference (See Rule 37).

1284

1285 *Rule 21. Non-Debatable Motions*

1286 The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

1287 (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except for final adjournment.

1288 (2) To suspend the rules.

1289 (3) To lay on the table.

1290 No motion, which adheres to another motion or has another motion adhering to it,
1291 can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with
1292 them the motions to which they adhere or which adhere to them.

1293 (4) To take from the table

1294 (5) To call for the previous questions, when in order (See Rules 7 and 22).

1295 (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion (See Rule 30)

1296 (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate

1297 (8) To take time for prayerful discernment at the immediate moment.

1298

1299 *Rule 22. Rights of the Main Question*

1300 The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: to adopt, to
1301 ~~reject or~~ refer, to substitute, to postpone, ~~and~~ or to reconsider. No new motion,
1302 resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have
1303 been disposed of except as provided in Rule 15.4.

1304 This rule ~~The foregoing~~ does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable.

1305

1306 *Rule 23. Precedence of Secondary Motions*

1307 If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other
1308 motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the
1309 same as the order of their listing below:

- 1310 (1) To fix the time the conference shall adjourn (This motion is subject to
1311 amendment, or it may be laid on the table.);
- 1312 (2) To adjourn;
- 1313 (3) To take a recess;
- 1314 (4) To lay on the table;
- 1315 (5) To order the previous question (See Rules 21.5, 26);
- 1316 (6) To limit or extend the limits of debate;
- 1317 (7) To postpone to a given time;
- 1318 (8) To refer;
- 1319 (9) To amend or to amend by substitution (one amendment being allowed to an
1320 amendment);
- 1321 (10) To postpone indefinitely.

1322

1323 *Rule 24. Motion to Adjourn*

1324 The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always
1325 be in order, except:

- 1326 (1) When a delegate has the floor;
- 1327 (2) When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken and before it is finally
1328 decided;
- 1329 (3) When the previous question has been ordered and action ~~thereunder~~ is pending;
- 1330 (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened;
- 1331 (5) When the motion to fix the time to which the Conference shall adjourn is pending.

1332 This rule ~~The foregoing~~ does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the
1333 Conference.

1334

1335 *Rule 25. Final adjournment*

1336 At final ~~Final~~ adjournment shall be *sine die*; therefore, all unfinished business shall
1337 remain unfinished.

1338

1339 *Rule 26. Procedure for Amending by Substitution*

1340 (1) When a resolution or committee report is properly before the Conference for
1341 consideration and action, even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be
1342 offered by any delegate moving that the same be substituted for the report,
1343 resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an
1344 alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main
1345 motion.

1346 (2) Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution
1347 only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered
1348 during this period of initial consideration. ~~The Conference shall proceed first to~~
1349 ~~perfect the original report or resolution, including consideration and action upon~~
1350 ~~any amendments that may be offered to it.~~

1351 (3) Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will occur.
1352 If the motion to substitute prevails by majority vote, the substitute motion
1353 becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to receive a majority
1354 vote, the original main motion remains on the floor for consideration. Debate,

1355 including the offering of amendments, moves forward on the main motion as per
1356 the rules of procedure. The same perfecting process shall be followed with respect
1357 to the substitute.

1358 ~~(4) The questions shall be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the~~
1359 ~~motion to adopt the report or resolution.~~

1360 ~~(5) The motion for the previous questions shall not be in order on the motion to~~
1361 ~~substitute adoption of the report or recommendation or on making the proposed~~
1362 ~~substitution until opportunity has been given for at least two speakers on each side~~
1363 ~~of the question of substitution or adoption (See Rule 27 for handling minority~~
1364 ~~reports).~~

1365

1366 *Rule 27. Minority Report*

1367 ~~The~~ A minority report may be attached to a report from a legislative committee in the
1368 following manner:

1369 (1) Delegates intending to offer a minority report must notify the chair of the
1370 committee within two hours (excluding breaks) of final committee action on the
1371 relative petition.

1372 (2) The chair of the legislative committee shall receive the minority report signed by
1373 10 persons or 10% of the legislative committee membership (whichever is less)
1374 who voted against the proposal, whose names shall be attached to the request. A
1375 reserve delegate may sign the minority report only while seated as a voting
1376 delegate in the legislative committee or if seated at the time the committee acted

1377 upon the relevant petition. The committee and minority reports shall be submitted
1378 and presented together in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1379 (3) A minority report shall be presented as a substitute for the report of the
1380 committee, in conformity with Rule 26 and Rule 34 respectively, and it shall be
1381 managed in the plenary according to Rule 26 for substitute motions. ~~indicate the~~
1382 ~~report number to which it relates.~~ The signers of the minority report shall select
1383 one of their number to present the report as a substitute motion. ~~This person shall~~
1384 ~~have the same rights and privileges as the presenter of the committee report.~~ In
1385 closing debate on the ~~minority report~~ motion to substitute, the delegate presenting
1386 the minority report shall speak first and the presenter of the committee report shall
1387 be last.

1388 (4) If the motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report prevails by
1389 majority vote of the plenary, the minority report becomes the main motion. If the
1390 motion to substitute fails to prevail by a majority vote of the plenary, the majority
1391 report of the committee remains on the floor as the main motion for consideration.
1392 Debate, including the offering of amendments, moves forward on the main
1393 motion as per the rules of procedure.

1394

1395 *Rule 28. Unlawful Motion After Speech*

1396 After making a speech on a pending question, a delegate may not make a motion that
1397 would limit or stop debate without first relinquishing the floor.

1398 ~~It shall not be in order for a delegate immediately after discussing a pending question and~~
1399 ~~before relinquishing the floor to make a motion, which if adopted, would limit or stop~~
1400 ~~debate.~~

1401

1402 *Rule 29. Exceptions to Majority Vote*

1403 A majority of those voting, a quorum being present (*Book of Discipline* ¶506), shall
1404 decide all questions, with the following exceptions:

1405 (1) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall be required to request a Judicial
1406 Council decision (*Book of Discipline* ¶56.1, 2609.1).

1407 (2) A one-fifth vote of the Conference shall refer a matter to the Committee on
1408 Ethics.

1409 (~~23~~) One-third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for a
1410 recorded vote in case the decision of the presiding officer is challenged (See
1411 Rule 15.2).

1412 (~~34~~) A tie vote sustains the presiding officer (Rule 3.1).

1413 (~~45~~) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend (Rule 39) or
1414 amend (Rule 40) the rules; to set aside a special order (Rule 31.1); to consider a
1415 special order before the time set therefore; to sustain the request of the
1416 Committee on Courtesies and Privileges for the presentation of any person after
1417 the sixth day of the General Conference (See Section VII.A.3).

1418 (~~56~~) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a call for the previous question.

1419 (~~67~~) A two-thirds vote shall be required to approve a proposal for a constitutional
1420 amendment (*Book of Discipline* ¶59-61).

1421

1422 *Rule 30. Reconsideration*

1423 A motion to reconsider an action of the body shall be in order at any time if offered by a
1424 delegate who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed for reconsideration
1425 was non-debatable, the motion to reconsider shall be non-debatable (See Rule 21).

1426

1427 *Rule 31. Regular Calendar and Consent Calendar*

1428 (1) The Secretary of the General Conference shall keep the Calendar which includes
1429 the orders of the day and the reports of committees (See Rule 37). Business
1430 placed on the calendar shall be considered in the order recommended by the
1431 Committee on Agenda and Calendar, unless by two-thirds vote of the Conference,
1432 an item is taken up out of order (See Rule 29.5).

1433 (2) Whenever possible, a legislative committee shall recommend for adoption only
1434 one calendar item for each paragraph or sub-paragraph in the *Book of Discipline*.
1435 All other related petitions shall be combined for rejection or referral.

1436 (3) Action from a legislative committee shall be placed on the Consent Calendar if:

1437 (a) No more than ten votes were cast against the prevailing position in the
1438 committee;

1439 (b) The item has been previously ~~printed~~ published in the *Daily Christian*
1440 *Advocate*;

1441 (c) The item has been in the hands of delegates for at least 24 hours;

1442 (d) The item is neither a constitutional amendment nor one having financial
1443 implications; and

- 1444 (e) No minority report is attached (See Rule 27).
- 1445 (4) The *Daily Christian Advocate* shall clearly identify the Consent Calendar, which
1446 will list items in ~~four~~ three sections sub-headed as follows:
- 1447 (a) Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.
- 1448 (b) Non-Disciplinary Items Recommended for Adoption.
- 1449 (c) ~~Items Recommended for Rejection.~~
- 1450 ~~(d)~~ Items Recommended for Referral.
- 1451 (5) The Consent Calendar shall be called up daily pursuant to Rule 2. Adoption of
1452 the Consent Calendar by vote of the Conference shall be deemed action on all
1453 calendar items on the Consent Calendar.
- 1454 (6) If an error in assignment of a Consent Calendar item is discovered and reported
1455 by the legislative chair to the Coordinator of the Calendar, the Coordinator of the
1456 Calendar shall have the authority to report the error to the plenary session for
1457 reconsideration.
- 1458 (7) Any 20 delegates may have a Consent Calendar item removed by having such a
1459 request on file with the Secretary of the General Conference by 3:00 p.m. of the
1460 day the calendar item first appears in the *Daily Christian Advocate*. Reserve
1461 delegates may sign requests to remove items from the Consent Calendar only
1462 while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up in the regular
1463 order of business.
- 1464 (8) Items lifted from the Consent Calendar may not be returned to the Consent
1465 Calendar.
- 1466

1467 Rule 32. Report of Non-Calendar Items

1468 (1) In addition to calendar items to be presented to the plenary, each legislative

1469 committee shall report all items not presented in the following categories:

1470 (a) Petitions not acted upon because another petition dealing with the same

1471 subject was acted upon.

1472 (b) Petitions not supported by the legislative committee. The committee shall

1473 report the vote of the committee.

1474 (c) Petitions assigned to but not considered by the legislative committee.

1475 (2) These reports shall be printed in the *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1476 (3) Any 20 delegates may have an item in (1)(b) or (1)(c) above presented to the

1477 plenary by having such a request on file with the Secretary of the General

1478 Conference by 3:00 p.m. of the day the item first appears in the *Daily Christian*

1479 *Advocate*. Reserve delegates may sign requests to present an item in (1)(b) or

1480 (2)(c) above only while seated as voting delegates. Such items shall be called up

1481 in the regular order of business while the chair of the relevant committee is on the

1482 platform. Those supporting consideration of said items shall select one of their

1483 number to present the item to the plenary.

1484

1485 *Rule ~~32~~ 33. Rules of Order of Legislative Committees*

1486 The rules of order of the General Conference, except for Rule 7, shall be observed in

1487 meetings of standing legislative committees insofar as they apply.

1488

1489 *Rule ~~33~~ 34. Duties and Prerogatives of Legislative Committees*

- 1490 (1) Following ~~election and~~ orientation of officers, ~~as its first order of business, each~~
1491 ~~committee shall utilize the resources of its petitions coordinator (see Committee~~
1492 ~~on Reference).~~ C committee leadership, utilizing the resources of its petitions
1493 coordinator, shall evaluate the petitions assigned to the committee, establish
1494 priorities, and outline the committee's work on the basis of those priorities
1495 unless it is given special instructions by the General Conference (See Section
1496 VII.A.(7)(a)).
- 1497 (2) A legislative sub-committee chair shall ensure that all votes taken within a sub-
1498 committee are recorded and reported to the legislative committee plenary on the
1499 forms provided by the Secretary of the General Conference.
- 1500 (3) When a petition or resolution or any similar item is referred to one of the
1501 legislative committees, it shall be understood that the whole question with
1502 which the item has to do is referred to that committee for such action as it may
1503 deem wise. Every matter supported by the ~~referred to a~~ legislative committee
1504 shall be reported to the plenary with a motion to adopt, ~~reject,~~ or a motion to
1505 refer to a board, council, commission, or committee either for action or for
1506 report to the next General Conference.
- 1507 (4) Committees shall report to the Conference upon all matters referred to them by
1508 the Conference, directly or through the Committee on Reference. Committee
1509 reports on resolutions, petitions, etc., shall cite the same, identifying them by
1510 numbers they bear respectively in the published reports of the Committee on
1511 Reference or in some other suitable manner.

1512 (5) When a committee ascertains that another committee is, or in its judgment
1513 should be, considering a subject, that the former is considering, it shall report
1514 the matter to the Committee on Reference for such adjustment as the situation
1515 may require.

1516 (6) The chairperson of each legislative committee shall coordinate the report of the
1517 committee to the plenary.

1518 (7) When the chairperson of a committee is not in agreement with a report adopted
1519 by the committee, it shall be the chairperson's duty to state the fact to the
1520 committee. The committee shall elect one of its members for the presentation
1521 and discussion of the report in the plenary. If, in such a case, the committee
1522 shall fail to select a representative, the chairperson shall designate a member to
1523 represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and
1524 privileges of the chairperson in relation to such a report.

1525

1526 **Rule 35. Unfinished Business in Legislative Committee**

1527 Any legislation not acted upon by the legislative committee at the time of the Saturday
1528 evening adjournment of the first week of General Conference shall remain unfinished

1529 (See Rule 1.6 & See Section VII.7.F.3(d)).

1530

1531 ***Rule 36. Legislative Committee Report to the Daily Christian Advocate***

1532 (1) As quickly as material can be prepared, each secretary of a legislative committee
1533 shall present each of the committee's reports to a recorder assigned to the
1534 committee. The recorder will prepare the report and the report will be approved

1535 and signed by the chair, vice chair and secretary. After the report has been
1536 approved, it will be electronically transmitted to the Coordinator of the Calendar.

1537 A calendar number will be assigned and it will be ~~printed~~ published as approved.

1538 (2) Committee and minority reports that propose changes in the *Book of Discipline*
1539 shall give the paragraph number to be affected and shall be prepared in the
1540 following manner: Existing words used as reference points shall be in quotation
1541 marks; words to be deleted shall be in strike through; words to be added shall be
1542 bolded. In the publication of these reports, the *Daily Christian Advocate* will use
1543 the same convention (See Rule 38).

1544

1545 *Rule 37. Published Reports in Possession of Conference*

1546 Reports submitted by the committee according to the deadline, as announced by the
1547 Secretary of the General Conference, shall appear in the next day's *Daily Christian*
1548 *Advocate*. The report as ~~printed~~ published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* is the official
1549 copy, subject only to grammatical, or other obvious editorial changes and shall be
1550 regarded as in the possession of the Conference. On the day following its first
1551 appearance in the *Daily Christian Advocate* or any time thereafter, a report is in order for
1552 consideration at the pleasure of the conference. The same rule shall apply to a minority
1553 report from any committee (See Rules 20, 27).

1554

1555 *Rule 38. Preparation and ~~Printing~~ Publishing of Reports*

1556 (1) All committee reports shall be prepared using the approved General Conference
1557 Legislative System. ~~The committee reports shall bear at the top the name of the~~

1558 committee, its total membership, the number present at the time the report was
1559 adopted, the number voting for and against the report, respectively, and the
1560 number not voting (See Rules 19, 31.2, 33.4, 34).

1561 (2) ~~Consent Calendar items (see Rules 31.3, 31.4) shall be clearly marked with an~~
1562 ~~identifying symbol on the report cover and in the *Daily Christian Advocate*~~
1563 ~~printing, this symbol to be supplied by the Secretary of the General Conference.~~

1564 The report to the Coordinator of the Calendar for items voted in committee shall
1565 include the name of the committee, its total membership, the number present at
1566 the time the item was adopted, and the number voting for and against the item.

1567 (3) Reports of the legislative committees shall be ~~printed~~ published in the *Daily*
1568 *Christian Advocate* at least one day before being presented for consideration by
1569 the Conference. Committee reports with minority reports shall be ~~printed~~
1570 published in sequence, and so numbered.

1571 (4) Every effort should be made by the secretary of the legislative committee to
1572 report consecutively all petitions that address the same issue.

1573

1574 *Rule 39. Effective Date*

1575 ~~All legislation of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church shall become~~
1576 ~~effective January 1 following the session of the General Conference at which it is~~
1577 ~~enacted, unless otherwise specified (See Section X and *Book of Discipline* ¶508).~~

1578

1579 **V. Suspending, Amending, and Supplementing**

1580

1581 *Rule ~~38~~ 39. Suspension of the Rules*

1582 The operation of any of the provisions of the *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order*
1583 may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Conference (See Rule 29.45).

1584

1585 *Rule ~~39~~ 40. Amending Rules*

1586 The *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* may be amended or changed by a two-
1587 thirds vote of the Conference; provided the proposed change or amendment has
1588 originated in the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order or has been
1589 presented to the Conference in writing and referred to this committee, which committee
1590 shall report thereon not later than the following day (See Rule 29.45 and ~~Section VI.D.1~~).

1591

1592 The *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* as adopted at the opening session shall be
1593 ~~printed~~ published in the next *Daily Christian Advocate*.

1594

1595 *Rule ~~40~~ 41. Robert's Rules of Order, Supplemental Authority*

1596 In any parliamentary situation not covered by the *Plan of Organization and Rules of*
1597 *Order*, the General Conference shall be governed in its action by the current edition of

1598 *Robert's Rules of Order*.