

PETITION TO THE 2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TITLE/SUBJECT MATTER: Global Connectional Conference

DISCIPLINE PARAGRAPH: ¶ 8, 13, 14, 15, 16

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

PETITION TEXT Amend ¶ 8 by revision as follows:

¶ 8. *Article I.*—There shall be a ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** for the entire Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth...

Amend ¶ 13 by revision as follows:

Section II. ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**

¶ 13. *Article I.*—1. The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 delegates, one-half of whom shall be clergy and one half lay members, to be elected by the annual conferences. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

2. Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences. **The same formula shall be used to determine the number of delegates of all annual conferences and missionary conferences, provided that no annual conference or missionary conference shall have fewer than two delegates.**

3. Delegates may be elected by other autonomous Methodist churches if and when the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall approve concordats with such other autonomous Methodist churches for the mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's legislative conferences.

~~3.~~ **4.** In the case of The Methodist Church in Great Britain, mother church of Methodism,

30 provision shall be made for The United Methodist Church to send two delegates annually to the
31 British Methodist Conference, and The Methodist Church in Great Britain to send four delegates
32 quadrennially to The United Methodist ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**,
33 the delegates of both conferences having vote and being evenly divided between clergy and laity.

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35 **Amend ¶ 14 by revision as follows:**

36 ¶ 14. *Article II.*—1. The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall meet ~~in the~~
37 ~~month of April or May~~ once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined
38 by the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** or by its duly authorized
39 committees.

40 A special session of the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference**, possessing the
41 authority and exercising all the powers of the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional**
42 **Conference**, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the ~~General~~
43 ~~Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such
44 time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the ~~General~~
45 ~~Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall be composed of the delegates to the
46 preceding ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** or their lawful successors,
47 except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference shall prefer to have a
48 new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and
49 only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in such call
50 unless the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** by a two-thirds vote shall
51 determine that other business may be transacted.

52

53 **Amend ¶ 15 by revision as follows:**

54 ¶ 15. *Article III.*—The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall fix the ratio
55 of representation in the ~~General~~ **Global, connectional,** ~~jurisdictional, and central~~ **and regional**
56 conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual
57 conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual
58 conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the
59 annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference,
60 missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy
61 and one lay delegate in the ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** and also in
62 the **connectional and** ~~jurisdictional or central~~ **regional** conferences.

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64 **Amend ¶ 16 by revision as follows:**

65 ¶ 16. *Article IV.*—The ~~General Conference~~ **Global Connectional Conference** shall have full
66 legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, **except for those powers**
67 **constitutionally delegated to the connectional conferences,** and in the exercise of this power
68 shall have authority as follows:

69 1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which shall in
70 every case be without reference to race, gender, or status.

71 2. To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply ~~preachers~~ **pastors**, local
72 ~~preachers~~ **pastors**, ~~exhorters,~~ deaconesses, and home missionaries, **which shall in every case be**
73 **without reference to race, gender, or status.**

74 3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual
75 conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of ~~central conferences,~~ **connectional**
76 **conferences, regional conferences,** district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational
77 meetings.

- 78 4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church ~~out~~
79 ~~the United States of America~~ **around the globe.**
- 80 5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the
81 support of the bishops. ~~to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the~~
82 ~~discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability.~~
- 83 6. To provide and revise the ~~hymnal and~~ ritual of the Church ~~and to regulate all matters relating~~
84 ~~to the form and mode of worship,~~ subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive
85 Rules.
- 86 7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the church, except as
87 herein otherwise prescribed.
- 88 8. To initiate and to direct all **global** connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide
89 boards for their promotion and administration.
- 90 9. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of
91 the Church.
- 92 10. ~~To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences~~
93 ~~and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by the central conferences~~ **regional**
94 **conferences.**
- 95 11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee, provided that the
96 bishops shall select from their own number the presiding officer of the opening session.
- 97 12. To change the number and the boundaries of ~~jurisdictional conferences~~ **connectional**
98 **conferences** upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each ~~jurisdictional~~
99 **connectional** conference involved.
- 100 13. To establish such commissions for the ~~general~~ **global** work of the Church as may be deemed

101 advisable.

102 14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all **global** agencies, programs, and
103 institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender, or status.

104 15. To allow the annual conferences to utilize structures unique to their mission, other mandated
105 structures notwithstanding.

106 16. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions
107 of the Constitution of the Church.

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109 **RATIONALE:**

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