

UNFINISHED

The background of the entire page is a light gray architectural drawing. It features various technical lines, including solid, dashed, and hatched lines. There are several circular callouts containing numbers such as 125, 35, 31, 15, 200, 115, and 20. The drawing appears to be a floor plan or a technical sketch of a building component.

RESOLUTIONS

VOTING ITEMS

2025 MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 30 - JUNE 1

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

ACME MI

2025 Michigan Annual Conference Voting Items Booklet

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Ballot No.	Amendment Title	Leg. Cmt. Pg
Ballot #1	Regionalization	Plenary 3
Ballot #2	Inclusiveness of the Church	Plenary 15
Ballot #3	Racial Justice	Plenary 15
Ballot #4	Educational Requirements for Clergy	Plenary 16

ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Res. No.	Resolution Title	Leg. Cmt. Pg
R#2025-1	Establish 2026 Past Service Rate	Plenary 18
R#2025-2	Establish Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired Clergy/Clergy on Disability	Plenary 18
R#2025-3	Addition to Moving Expense Policy	L.C. 2 19
R#2025-4	Re-Prioritize Federal Spending from the Military to Human Security	L.C. 2 20
R#2025-5	Haiti Gardens of Hope	L.C. 3 21
R#2025-6	Generative Artificial Intelligence	L.C. 1 22
R#2025-7	Call for Two States: Israel and Palestine	L.C. 4 23
R#2025-8	Mandatory Protection Policy and Ethics Training for Clergy	L.C. 1 24
R#2025-9	Chevron Boycott	L.C. 3 25
R#2025-10	Holy Land Excursion Boycott	L.C. 4 26
R#2025-11	2026 Equitable Compensation Schedule	Plenary 26

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE (L.C.) ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday, May 20, 7-9pm – LC 1 -- [R#2025-6](#) & [R#2025-8](#)

Tuesday, May 20, 7-9pm – LC 2 -- [R#2025-3](#) & [R#2025-4](#)

Wednesday, May 21, 7-9pm – LC 3 -- [R#2025-5](#) & [R#2025-9](#)

Wednesday, May 21, 7-9pm – LC 4 -- [R#2025-7](#) & [R#2025-10](#)

Ballot #1

PLENARY

 Regionalization

[Editorial Note: Paragraph numbers referenced are for the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, as the Secretary of the General Conference published the proposed amendments before the release of the 2020/2024 *Book of Discipline*.]

AMEND ¶¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:

¶ 10 9. ~~Article III~~ Article II. - There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional ~~central~~-regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

¶ 9 10. ~~Article II~~ Article III. - There shall ~~may~~ be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

(NEW - Renumber subsequent paragraphs)

¶ 13. ~~Article VI~~. - The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

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

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. ~~Article IV~~. - The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

1 16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide
 2 ~~Church outside the United States of America.~~

3 . . .
 4 16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences
 5 and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by ~~central-regional~~ regional conferences without
 6 jurisdictions.

7 . . .
 8 16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences and to change the number
 9 and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in
 10 each jurisdictional conference involved.

11 . . .
 12 16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority
 13 vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

14
 15 ¶ 23. **Article I.**-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from
 16 the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by
 17 the ~~General Conference-regional conference where jurisdictions exist~~, provided that no jurisdictional
 18 conference shall have fewer than 100
 19 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this
 20 article.

21
 22 ¶ 24. **Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of
 23 action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and
 24 missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall
 25 be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

26
 27 ¶ 25. **Article III.** - The ~~General Conference-regional conference where jurisdictions exist~~ shall fix the
 28 basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be
 29 composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the
 30 missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

31
 32 ¶ 26. **Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the ~~Council~~
 33 College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each
 34 jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the
 35 jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a
 36 committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

37
 38 ¶ 27. **Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such
 39 others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

40
 41 4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual
 42 conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the
 43 ~~General Conference-regional conference where jurisdictions exist.~~

44 5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the
 45 jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the
 46 regional conferences.

47 6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy
 48 or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

49
 50 **Section V. ~~Central~~ Regional Conference**

51 ¶ 28. **Article I.**- There shall be ~~central-regional~~ conferences for the work of the worldwide Church
 52 ~~outside the United States of America~~ with such powers, duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set
 53 forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

54 The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting
 55 Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and

1 boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges
 2 hereinafter set forth.

3 1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

4 a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America
 5 that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section
 6 VII, ¶ 37.

7 b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the
 8 postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

9 2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional
 10 conferences and provisional regional conferences.

11
 12 **¶ 29. Article II.**– ~~The central-regional~~ conferences shall be composed of as many
 13 delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be
 14 clergy and lay in equal numbers.

15
 16 **¶ 30. Article III.**– ~~The central-regional~~ conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting
 17 of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective
 18 ~~central-regional~~ conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and~~
 19 ~~place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective~~
 20 ~~central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

21
 22 **¶ 31. Article IV.**– ~~The central-regional~~ conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the
 23 special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the
 24 Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

25 1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and
 26 institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

27 2. ~~In regional conferences without jurisdictions, ¶ to elect the bishops for the respective central~~
 28 ~~regional~~ conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General
 29 Conference; ~~to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops~~
 30 ~~who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such~~
 31 ~~plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.~~

32 3. To establish and constitute such ~~central-regional~~ conference boards as may be required and to
 33 elect their administrative officers.

34 4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with
 35 ¶ 40 within their respective areas.

36 5. ~~To make such~~ legislate and make rules and regulations for the administration of the
 37 work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the ~~General~~ *Discipline* as follows, as
 38 ~~the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in~~
 39 ~~the General Conference while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in~~
 40 accordance with ¶ 16.17:

41 a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the
 42 regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and
 43 educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the
 44 laws of the country or countries.

45 b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

46 c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all
 47 matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore
 48 considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and
 49 license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.

50 d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of
 51 marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to
 52 interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or
 53 countries.

1 e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding
 2 mandated structures.
 3 When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee
 4 confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the
 5 process based on the legal system of each country.

6 6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and
 7 such revised, adapted, or new sections of the ~~central~~ regional conference Discipline enacted by the ~~central~~
 8 regional conference.

9 7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops,
 10 and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said
 11 rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy
 12 committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay
 13 members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

14 ~~To~~ A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a
 15 committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of that
 16 ~~central~~ the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

17
 18 ¶ 32. **Article I.**– The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy
 19 membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members,
 20 and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by
 21 each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal
 22 appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist
 23 Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the
 24 conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president
 25 or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth
 26 organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between
 27 the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and
 28 thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.
 29 In the annual conferences of the ~~central~~ regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and
 30 the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under
 31 thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and
 32 active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as
 33 many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next
 34 preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in
 35 The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

36 If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the
 37 annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay
 38 and clergy membership of the annual conference.
 39

40 ¶ 33. **Article II.**–The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have
 41 reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to
 42 the General Conference and their respective regional jurisdictional or central conferences, as well as
 43 jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and
 44 conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not
 45 been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members
 46 may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay
 47 members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on
 48 matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay
 49 members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee
 50 on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General
 51 Conference under the Constitution may determine.
 52

53 ¶ 34. **Article III.**–The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference
 54 and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its
 55 regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections

1 shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a
 2 minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the
 3 ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates
 4 shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the ~~jurisdictional or~~
 5 ~~central regional~~ conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the
 6 ~~jurisdictional or central regional~~ conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central regional~~
 7 conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual
 8 conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central regional~~ conference
 9 as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central regional~~
 10 conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough
 11 reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

12 In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be
 13 delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference
 14 shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates
 15 who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.
 16 As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for
 17 representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve
 18 clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

19
 20 **¶ 35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional and
 21 jurisdictional or central conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has
 22 jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy
 23 members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full
 24 connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational
 25 requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in
 26 regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under
 27 appointment immediately preceding the election.

28
 29 **¶ 36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional
 30 conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional
 31 conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional
 32 annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of
 33 The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active
 34 participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are
 35 members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference
 36 and jurisdictional or central regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional
 37 conference has jurisdictions.

38
 39 [DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber all
 40 subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]

41
 42 ~~**¶ 38. Article II.** The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into~~
 43 ~~central regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting~~
 44 ~~Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and~~
 45 ~~boundaries.~~

46
 47 ~~**¶ 39. Article III.** Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences~~
 48 ~~may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each~~
 49 ~~of the jurisdictional conferences involved.~~

50
 51 **¶ 40 Article IVII.** The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas
 52 shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has
 53 jurisdictions, jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside
 54 the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the
 55 respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences.. The authority of regional and jurisdictional

1 ~~and central~~ conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the
 2 College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.
 3

4 **¶ 46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the
 5 jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in
 6 the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by ~~the General Conference for those elected by the~~
 7 ~~jurisdictions and by each central regional conference for those elected by such central conference,~~ provided
 8 that episcopal elections in ~~central regional~~ conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an
 9 extra, session of ~~the central, such regional~~ conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must
 10 be filled.
 11

12 **¶ 48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional conference or
 13 jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College
 14 of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary
 15 conferences, and missions within their respective territories.
 16

17 **¶ 49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in ~~the jurisdictional or~~
 18 ~~central conferences, their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,~~
 19 in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to
 20 another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of
 21 bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another
 22 jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so
 23 that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a
 24 jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of
 25 Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop
 26 shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that
 27 elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the
 28 members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are
 29 involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of
 30 the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional
 31 conference.
 32

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

36 In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a~~
 37 regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of
 38 Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a~~
 39 regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or~~
 40 jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that
 41 ~~jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.~~
 42

43 **¶ 50. Article VI.** - The bishops, ~~both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church~~
 44 ~~and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist~~
 45 ~~Church. The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The~~
 46 ~~Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bBishops elected by the jurisdictions of The~~
 47 United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bBishops elected by a central regional conference
 48 without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central regional
 49 conference electing him them shall have determined.
 50

51 The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional
 52 conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from
 53 each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the
 54 work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the its respective regional
conference or jurisdictional conference if a region has jurisdictions, its findings for such action as the
conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend

1 the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~ respective
 2 regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

3 These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the
 4 Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents
 5 and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

6
 7 ¶ 52. **Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several ~~regional jurisdictional and central~~ conferences shall
 8 preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops
 9 shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

10
 11 ¶ 56. **Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

12 1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the
 13 Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality
 14 of any act of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that
 15 regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional
 16 or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference.

17 . . .
 18 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board,
 19 ~~or regional, or jurisdictional or central~~ conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members
 20 thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or~~
 21 ~~a central~~ conference.

22
 23 ¶ 61. **Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference may by a majority vote propose
 24 changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General
 25 Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the
 26 annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.
 27 The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall
 28 begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

29
 30
 31 **[If ratified, the paragraphs would read as follows:]**

32
 33 ¶ 9. **Article II.** - There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church and, if
 34 necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set
 35 forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference
 36 based on any ground other than geographical division.

37
 38 ¶ 10. **Article III.** - There may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church, with such
 39 powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there
 40 shall be no jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

41
 42 ¶ 13. **Article VI.**— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and
 43 annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any
 44 legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another
 45 shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

46
 47 ¶ 15. **Article III.** – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General and
 48 regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual
 49 conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference
 50 and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the
 51 missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual
 52 conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in
 53 the regional conference.

54 In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its
 55 jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual

1 conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference
 2 and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the
 3 missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual
 4 conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and
 5 further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective
 6 jurisdictional conferences.

7
 8 **¶ 16. Article IV.**- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters
 9 distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have
 10 authority as follows:

11 . . .
 12 16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences,
 13 annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, district
 14 conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

15 16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide
 16 Church.

17 . . .
 18 16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences
 19 and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences without jurisdictions.

20 . . .
 21 16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change the number
 22 and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in
 23 each jurisdictional conference involved.

24 . . .
 25 16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority
 26 vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

27
 28 **¶ 23. Article I.**-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from
 29 the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by
 30 the regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer
 31 than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose
 32 of this article.

33
 34 **¶ 24. Article II.** - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of
 35 action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and
 36 missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall
 37 be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

38
 39 **¶ 25. Article III.** - The regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of
 40 representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be
 41 composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the
 42 missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

43
 44 **¶ 26. Article IV.** - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the College of
 45 Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional
 46 conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional
 47 committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has
 48 been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

49
 50 **¶ 27. Article V.** - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such
 51 others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

52 4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual
 53 conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the
 54 regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

1 5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the
 2 jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the
 3 regional conferences.

4 6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of
 5 that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

6
 7 **Section V. Regional Conferences**

8
 9 ¶ 28. **Article I.**— There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church with such
 10 powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional
 11 conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

12 1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

13 a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America
 14 that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section
 15 VII, ¶ 37.

16 b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed
 17 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

18 2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional
 19 conferences and provisional regional conferences.

20
 21 ¶ 29. **Article II.**— The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be
 22 determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal
 23 numbers.

24
 25 ¶ 30. **Article III.**— The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the
 26 General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective
 27 regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference.

28
 29 ¶ 31. **Article IV.**— The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the
 30 special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the
 31 Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

32 1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests
 33 and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

34 2. In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective regional
 35 conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General
 36 Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops
 37 who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such
 38 plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

39 3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their
 40 administrative officers.

41 4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶
 42 40 .

43 5. To legislate rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including
 44 changes and adaptations of the general *Discipline* as follows, while upholding the Constitution and the
 45 decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

46 a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the
 47 regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational
 48 requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the
 49 country or countries.

50 b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

51 c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all
 52 matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering
 53 the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or
 54 conference membership, as minimum requirements.

1 d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of
 2 marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to
 3 interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or
 4 countries.

5 e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding
 6 mandated structures.

7 When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee
 8 confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the
 9 process based on the legal system of each country.

10 6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and
 11 such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional *Discipline* enacted by the regional conference.

12 7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops,
 13 and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said
 14 rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy
 15 committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay
 16 members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

17 A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a
 18 committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of the respective
 19 conference from the decision of a committee on trial.
 20

21 ¶ 32. **Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy
 22 membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members,
 23 and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by
 24 each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal
 25 appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist
 26 Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the
 27 conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or
 28 equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth
 29 organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between
 30 the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and
 31 thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual
 32 conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year
 33 participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for
 34 young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United
 35 Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one
 36 clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have
 37 been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall
 38 have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their
 39 election.

40 If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the
 41 annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay
 42 and clergy membership of the annual conference.
 43

44 ¶ 33. **Article II.**— The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have
 45 reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to
 46 the General Conference and their respective regional conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its
 47 regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its
 48 clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the
 49 General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters
 50 of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference
 51 board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character,
 52 and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on
 53 ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall
 54 discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may
 55 determine.

1
2 **¶ 34. Article III.**-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference
3 and to its respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has
4 jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open
5 nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple
6 majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for
7 representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be
8 elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the regional conference, who,
9 together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the regional conference. The additional
10 delegates to the regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General
11 Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional
12 conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conferences may
13 act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in
14 attendance at the General Conference.

15 In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be
16 delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference
17 shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates
18 who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference.
19 As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for
20 representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve
21 clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.
22

23 **¶ 35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional
24 conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected
25 from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual
26 conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate
27 members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local
28 pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences
29 outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately
30 preceding the election.
31

32 **¶ 36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional
33 conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by
34 the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided
35 such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years
36 next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at
37 least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing
38 them at the time of holding the General Conference and regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional
39 conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.
40

41 **¶ 40 Article II.**- The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas
42 shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has
43 jurisdictions. The authority of regional and jurisdictional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or
44 limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.
45

46 **¶ 46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the
47 jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and
48 place as may be fixed by each regional conference, provided that episcopal elections in regional conferences
49 without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of such regional conference, except in the
50 case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.
51

52 **¶ 48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has
53 jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of
54 episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their
55 respective territories.

1
2 **¶ 49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in their respective
3 regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to
4 which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for
5 presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on
6 either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to
7 that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number
8 transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may
9 receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No
10 bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented.

11
12 (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the
13 jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a
14 majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the
15 jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall
16 become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that
17 jurisdictional conference.

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

21 In the case of an emergency in any regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has
22 jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a
23 bishop from another regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work
24 of the said regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a
25 majority of the bishops of that regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

26
27 **¶ 50. Article VI.** - Bishops elected by the jurisdictions shall have life tenure. Bishops elected by a
28 regional conference without jurisdictions shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing them
29 shall have determined.

30 The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall elect a standing
31 committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on
32 nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on
33 their character and official administration, and report to its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a
34 region has jurisdictions, its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its
35 constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their
36 respective residences for final action by the respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional
37 conference has jurisdictions.

38 These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the
39 Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents
40 and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

41
42 **¶ 52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of
43 their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the
44 session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

45
46 **¶ 56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

47 1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority
48 of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the
49 constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops
50 of that regional or jurisdictional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or
51 jurisdictional conference.

52 . . .
53 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board,
54 regional, or jurisdictional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or
55 upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional conference.

¶ 61. **Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

Ballot #2

PLENARY

Inclusiveness of the Church

¶ 4. Article IV. *Inclusiveness of the Church* - The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]

¶ 4. Article IV. *Inclusiveness of the Church* - The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,⁴ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.⁵ In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.⁶

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

Ballot #3

PLENARY

Racial Justice

¶ 5. Article V. *Racial Justice* - The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful

1 division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism,
 2 whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist
 3 Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at
 4 all times and in all places. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God
 5 in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a
 6 destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues
 7 to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism
 8 must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms
 9 of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in
 10 society at large.⁷

11
 12 7. Amended 2000

13
 14 **[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]**

15
 16 ¶ 5. Article V. *Racial Justice* - The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love,
 17 God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and
 18 love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and
 19 colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of
 20 The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and
 21 undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church
 22 commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and
 23 white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁷

24
 25 7. Amended 2000

26
 27
 28
 29
 30 **Ballot #4**

PLENARY

31 **Educational Requirements for Clergy**

32
 33 ¶ 36. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference
 34 shall be elected from⁷⁵ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of
 35 the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection,
 36 associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational
 37 requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. Master of Divinity degree
 38 from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference
 39 and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the
 40 election.⁷⁶

41
 42 75. Amended 1996

43 76. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008

44
 45 **[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]**

46
 47 ¶ 36. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference
 48 shall be elected from⁷⁴ the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of
 49 the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection,
 50 associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational
 51 requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a
 52 University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and
 53 have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁷⁵

54

- 1 75. Amended 1996
- 2 76. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008

3
4 [Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be
5 changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to
6 Regionalization be ratified.]

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R#2025-1

PLENARY

Establish the 2026 Past Service Rate

Motion:

Establish the Michigan Conference 2026 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (Pre-82) at \$960. The surviving spouse benefit rate shall remain at 85 percent.

Rationale:

The PSR of \$960 per year of eligible service provides a \$20 increase per year of eligible service for retirees and maintains the required 1.30 % ratio relative to the Conference Average Compensation (PSR/CAC) per conference policy.

Reserves invested in the Pre-82 Pension Plan are sufficient to assume the increased rate while maintaining a fully funded account based on current reserve balances.

Submitted by:

Rev. Amy E. Mayo-Moyle, President,
Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Rev. Joel L. Walther,
Director of Conference Benefits & Coordinator of Human Resources

R#2025-2

PLENARY

Establish Housing/Rental Allowance for Retired Clergy/Clergy on Disability

Motion:

The Michigan Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits moves to establish the Housing/Rental Allowance for retired or clergy on medical leave status (receiving disability benefits) in the Michigan Conference as follows:

1. An amount equal to 100% of the retirement and disability plan distributions received during the year 2026 is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson of The United Methodist Church who is or was a member of the Michigan Conference at the time of his or her retirement or disability.
2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergyperson who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on medical leave by the Michigan Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the Journal of the Michigan Conference or in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.
3. The retirement and disability plan distributions to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the retirement and disability plan distributions resulting from all service of such retired and disabled ordained, commissioned, or licensed clergypersons from all employment by any local church, annual conference or institution of The United Methodist Church, or from any other employer who employed the clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to sponsor the retirement plan and/or welfare plans of The United Methodist Church for such retired clergyperson's retirement or disability benefits. Retirement distributions include all eligible amounts received from the United Methodist denominational retirement plan administered by Wespeth Benefits & Investments.

1 4. The amount of the housing/rental allowance that may be excluded is limited to the lesser of: a) The amount
 2 designated as the housing/rental allowance, or b) The amount actually expended for housing/rent, or c) The
 3 fair rental value of housing as required by law.
 4

5 **Rationale:**

6 The United Methodist Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or
 7 licensed. The practice of The United Methodist Church is to provide a parsonage or housing allowance as a
 8 part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers. Pensions paid to retired
 9 and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of the United Methodist Church are considered deferred
 10 compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of
 11 previous active service. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized that the Michigan Conference is the
 12 appropriate body to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed
 13 ministers who are members of this conference.
 14

15 **Submitted by:**

16 Rev. Amy E. Mayo-Moyle, President,
 17 Michigan Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits
 18

19 Rev. Joel L. Walther,
 20 Director of Conference Benefits & Coordinator of Human Resources
 21
 22
 23
 24

25 **R#2025-3**

L.C. 2

26 **Addition to Moving Expense Policy**

27
 28 **Motion:**

29 The following additions shall be made to the Michigan Annual Conference clergy move policy:
 30

- 31 5. The conference will pay for one retirement move for pastors who have retired or plan to retire from
 32 Episcopal appointment while serving in the bounds of the Michigan Conference or in a Conference
 33 appointment.
 34 a. The designation of a retirement move must be declared in writing before the moving expenses are incurred
 35 via an Appointment Status Sheet.
 36 b. A final move, or a one-time payment in lieu of a move, must be taken within two years of the retirement
 37 date shown on the Appointment Status sheet.
 38 1. If a qualifying pastor is unable or chooses not to move by the 2-year deadline, they may request a
 39 one-time payment in lieu of taking a final move at that time.
 40 2. The amount of this one-time payment shall be equal to the average move expense paid by the
 41 conference during the previous two calendar years.
 42 3. It shall be paid by December 31 after the 2-year deadline date.
 43 4. The pastor may choose to have the one-time payment directed as a pre-tax contribution to the
 44 pastor's retirement account.
 45 c. A move within the state of Michigan shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan code.
 46 d. A move outside the state shall be paid up to the cost equivalent of 500 miles [CFA Financial Policies 2024-
 47 2025] CFA - 10 beyond the state border.
 48 e. Pastors called out of retirement and appointed to a charge will be moved in accordance with the terms and
 49 conditions of this policy for Episcopal appointed clergy.
 50 f. Retired clergy serving under Episcopal appointment in retirement will be granted one additional re-
 51 retirement move.
 52

53 **Rationale:**

54 A final move is an earned and anticipated benefit for clergy who have often moved their families many times for
 55 the benefit of congregations within the conference. Sometimes circumstances make it impossible or unwise to

1 complete a final move within two years of retirement. Reasons might include: mortgage interest rates, real
 2 estate prices, a working spouse's need to remain until their retirement, an illness and/or treatment. Often such
 3 circumstances are beyond the pastor's control.

4
 5 Understandably, the conference does not want to carry the liability of potential moving expenses for lengthy
 6 periods.

7
 8 Providing for the option of a one-time payment in lieu of a final move, allows the clergyperson to receive that
 9 promised and anticipated benefit, which they could set aside for move expenses when a move is made. It also
 10 allows the conference to honor the dedicated service of its clergy who find the two-year deadline is not
 11 compatible with their life circumstances.

12
 13 In terms of financial impact, the conference has long anticipated paying out this benefit when clergy retire,
 14 therefore it (should) be in the conference's financial plan. Secondly, the number of clergy persons eligible to
 15 use this one-time "in lieu of" payment would be a fairly small number. Thirdly, financially for clergy affected,
 16 forgoing the amount of a final move could be significant, especially when it has been assumed in their retirement
 17 planning.

18
 19 This change would allow the conference to honor its commitment to its pastors and allow the few pastors who
 20 might be affected to avoid the negative financial implications of losing this promised benefit.

21
 22 **Submitted by:**
 23 Rev. Rick Blunt,
 24 East Lansing: University UMC

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 26
 27
 28
 29 **R#2025-4** **L.C. 2**
 30 **Re-Prioritize Federal Spending from the Military to Human Security**

31
 32 **Motion:**
 33 We call for a "swords into plows" re-prioritizing of the spending of Michigan taxpayers' money in the Federal
 34 Discretionary Budget.

35
 36 We encourage Michigan United Methodists to advocate for the National Defense Budget (FY 2025 Estimate:
 37 \$926,763,000,000 "Green Book" DOD) to be reduced in order for the savings to pay for human security.
 38 Pentagon spending could be reduced by as much as \$100,000,000,000 to support healthcare, education,
 39 housing, and climate change mitigation. Wages and health benefits of members of the military would not be
 40 reduced.

41
 42 A \$100 billion cut in Pentagon spending could benefit Michigan people in several ways. Households could be
 43 powered by solar energy, thousands of teachers and nurses could be hired to offset worsening shortages,
 44 most public college students could go to college free, or every Michigan household could get a one-time \$700
 45 check to help offset the effects of inflation.

46
 47 We urge Michigan United Methodist individuals, groups, and congregations to work with organizations such
 48 as Peace Action of Michigan (peaceactionmich.org), Michigan Move the Money Coalition
 49 (movethemoney.org), Michigan Peace Alliance (MIPeaceAlliance.org), and the National Priorities Project
 50 (nationalpriorities.org).

51
 52 We ask our congregations to act on this resolution as soon as possible because Senator Roger Wicker (R-
 53 MS), Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is calling for a \$120 billion hike in defense spending
 54 over the next two years. This is on top of a rise of some \$160 billion over the four years of the Biden
 55 Administration.

Rationale:

The Congress and President annually allocate over half of the Discretionary Budget to the military. The U.S. spends more on the military than the next 9 countries combined, and most of them are allies. The U.S. spends 3x more on its military than China and 8x more than Russia. We can meet our national security needs by spending less.

As the National Defense Authorization Act nears \$1 trillion, the Department of Defense failed its 7th audit in November 2024 and doesn't forecast it will pass a clean audit until 2028. There is waste and fraud to be reduced. A 2024 *60 Minutes* investigation shed light on the widespread price gouging carried out by private defense contractors who receive money from the Pentagon.

The cities of Detroit and Hamtramck have adopted "Move the Money" resolutions calling for Congress to spend less on the Defense Budget and more on meeting human needs.

Reductions in Pentagon spending can include the F-35 jet plane, a new nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile, and the Sentinel ICBM modernization.

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." -Eisenhower

"When a nation continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift, it is approaching spiritual death." -MLK

War is incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ. -Matthew 5: 38-42

"Everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken." (Micah 4: 4) We pursue Micah's dream until it becomes reality on earth as it is in heaven.

Submitted by:

Rev. Rich Peacock,
Troy: First UMC

R#2025-5

L.C. 3

Haiti Gardens of Hope

Motion:

In the spirit of our annual conference's renewed commitment to the people of Haiti and the encouragement of our EngageMI initiative to engage in ministry "with," the Michigan Haiti Task Force invites the congregations of the Michigan Annual Conference to initiate a conference-wide campaign for Haiti entitled Gardens of Hope. The campaign would run from June 1, 2025, through June 7, 2026. The aim would be to raise \$215,000—roughly \$350 per congregation. Half of the funding will support the life-giving healthcare, housing, and education initiatives of our three EngageMI partners—Grace Children's Hospital (Port-au-Prince), Haitian Assets for Peace International (Mizak), and Jeremie Rising (Jeremie). The remaining half will fund the work of a new ministry partner within the communities listed above—Fondation Voix des Communautés de Base (Grassroots Community Voices Foundation). This is a Haitian run, grassroots initiative that promotes sustainability through community-based microfinance and savings programs.

Rationale

In keeping with the adoption of our Commitment to the People of Haiti at Annual Conference 2024, this resolution represents a shift in ministry approaches, focusing on empowering Haitians to actively shape their

own recovery and reduce dependency on outside aid. The desired long-term outcome is to foster a stable future by minimizing paternalistic dynamics and building local capacity for self-sufficiency.

The Michigan Haiti Task Force is committed to presenting congregations with opportunities to engage in "ministry with" the people of Haiti and demonstrating Christ's love through partnerships that respect local agency. In a season of Haiti's history when it has been consistently unsafe for Americans to travel to the country and the needs of the people of Haiti are ever expanding, the Task Force feels now is the time to act.

By collaborating with EngageMI partners and leveraging their connections within Haitian communities, Michigan Conference Methodists can breathe new life into their renewed commitment to Haiti and make a meaningful impact, reinforcing resilience and paving the way for a more self-sufficient future.

Our approach, through the work of our Haitian based partners at Grace Children's Hospital, Haitian Assets for Peace International, Jeremie Rising, and Grassroots Community Voices Foundation, tackles key root causes of poverty by integrating economic and community-driven solutions to foster conditions for a peaceful society. This includes local job creation, access to health and educational resources, housing, technology, and women's empowerment. Faith partners play a crucial role in supporting this holistic, person-centered strategy. Together, these efforts embody God's vision of shalom, bringing wholeness and healing, and empower Michigan United Methodists to make a difference in the lives of the people of Haiti.

Submitted by:

Rev. Tiffany Newsom, Co-Chair,
Michigan Haiti Task Force

Valerie Mossman-Celestin, Co-Chair,
Michigan Haiti Task Force

R#2025-6

L.C. 1

Generative Artificial Intelligence

Motion:

We, the people of the Michigan Annual Conference, recognize that the use of generative technologies (such as large language models like ChatGPT and GoogleGemini and text-to-image generation systems like DALL-E and Midjourney, which are more broadly known as "AI" or "Artificial Intelligence technologies") constitutes an act of plagiarism, a violation of professional ethics, and denounce the development of such generative technologies as an assault on creation and a diminishment of human dignity. We resolve to refrain from their use in the following ways:

- No generative technology will knowingly be used by Conference, District, or Local Church staff or clergy to produce images for use in liturgies or publications
- No generative technology will knowingly be used by clergy or staff in the writing or preparation of sermons, bible studies, hymns, or other written materials
- In instances where it is realized after the fact that generative technologies have been used in any of the above ways, appropriate retractions and corrections will be made

Rationale:

Creation and imagination are gifts bestowed upon us by our Creator, as witnessed by the rich history of creativity in the poetry, songs, liturgies, and images of the Christian tradition. Outsourcing the joys and responsibilities of human creativity is an affront to the image of God within us and harmful to artists and creatives, the created world, and the collective pool of human knowledge. The overwhelming majority of generative technologies models were developed using materials whose authors and creators were never consulted or compensated, presenting a moral argument to their use while also putting users of generative

1 technologies at risk of intellectual property infringement. Additionally, generative technologies require the
 2 large-scale destructive harvesting of rare earth materials, consume more electricity than some countries, and
 3 generate extreme amounts of carbon emissions, disproportionately impacting poor and vulnerable
 4 communities. Finally, generative technologies regularly hallucinate inaccurate information, contributing to the
 5 spread of misinformation and perpetuating biases and discrimination. These faults, inherent to the very nature
 6 of current generative technologies, far outweigh any benefits we might gain by relying on artificial intelligence
 7 rather than our own.

8
 9 **Submitted by:**

10 Rev. Robert Blanchard,
 11 North Muskegon: Community UMC

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 13 Rev. Dillon Burns,
 14 Okemos Community Church

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 19 **R#2024-7**

L.C. 4

20 **Call for Two States: Israel and Palestine**

21
 22 **Motion:**

23 The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church calls for immediate actions to implement a two-
 24 state solution as a just and viable roadmap for a secure and lasting peace for the nations of Israel and
 25 Palestine.

26
 27 First, we call upon Michigan United Methodists to communicate the following message to the U.S. President
 28 and Michigan’s members of congress. Second, we authorize the Conference secretary to send the message
 29 to the U.S. President, U.S. Secretary of State, and Michigan’s two senators. Third, we authorize the
 30 Conference secretary to send the message to the President of the Council of Bishops.

31
 32 **STATEMENT ENDORSING A TWO-STATE SOLUTION**

33 “The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church calls for the United States to take aggressive
 34 actions for the formulation and prompt implementation of a two-state solution as a just and viable roadmap to
 35 an enduring Middle East peace between Israel and its Middle East neighbors.
 36 We endorse a two-state solution that is consistent with the spirit of the 1947 UN General Assembly approved
 37 plan to partition the contested Middle East land into the secure states of Palestine and Israel.
 38 We also embrace the UN General Assembly President’s December 2024 statement that the continued denial
 39 of Palestinian statehood has only perpetuated cycles of violence and depressed despair.
 40 We call on the U.S. President and Secretary of State to show strong and assertive leadership in the design
 41 and implementation of a free and secure Palestinian State.”

42
 43 **Rationale:**

44 The Greater Detroit District (GDD) concurs with the November 29, 2023, statement when the UN Secretary –
 45 General called on the international community to move towards a two-state (Palestine/Israel) solution to the
 46 Palestinian–Israeli conflict with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, with territorial integrity and
 47 security. The UN went on to declare that under a two-state solution, Jerusalem would serve as the capital of
 48 both states.

49
 50 The GDD embraces the 2016 United Methodist Church Resolutions: 6111. Opposition to Israeli Settlements
 51 in Palestinian Land; 6112. United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict; 6114. A Pathway for
 52 Peace in Palestine and Israel.

53
 54 The Greater Detroit District (GDD) Church and Society Committee joins the voices of the United Nations
 55 Secretary – General, and US allies from the Middle East and around the globe, in calling for the aggressive

1 formulation and prompt implementation of a two-state solution as a just and viable roadmap to an enduring
2 Middle East peace between Israel and its Middle East neighbors.

3
4 The GDD continues to pray for the innocent civilians, both Israeli and Gazan, many of them women and
5 children, who have suffered incarceration as hostages, dislocation from bombardment, injury and death
6 (50,000) that have resulted from the latest Israel/Gazan conflict started on October 7, 2023.

7
8 The GDD calls on Methodists to remain steadfast in our witness and advocacy for peace by urging the Trump
9 administration to immediately pursue, facilitate and implement a two-state solution for Middle East peace.---
10 Directly email President Trump now <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> or call the White House (202) 456-
11 1111 and our Senators (202) 224-3121.

12
13 **Submitted by:**

14 Frank Driscoll, Chair
15 Greater Detroit District Church and Society Committee

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20 **R#2025-8**

L.C. 1

21 **Mandatory Protection Policy and Ethics Training for Clergy**
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23 **Motion:**

24 Starting in 2026, all appointed clergy, clergy serving in retirement, and laypersons assigned as a District
25 Superintendent Assignment (DSA) must complete the conference-approved protection policy training and
26 ethics training within their first year of ministry in Michigan. Thereafter, they must complete these trainings
27 every three years according to the schedule established by the conference.

28
29 **Rationale:**

30 Clergy and DSAs have a sacred responsibility to create safe, ethical, and nurturing environments for all
31 individuals, especially the most vulnerable among us. Implementing mandatory protection policy training and
32 ethics training ensures that all appointed clergy, clergy serving in retirement, and laypersons assigned as a
33 District Superintendent Assignment (DSA) are equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources to
34 uphold the highest standards of safety, accountability, and ethical behavior.

35
36 Our baptismal vows remind us of our duty to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they
37 present themselves.” This resolution affirms that commitment by requiring clergy and ministry leaders to
38 engage in structured learning that reinforces ethical decision-making, boundary awareness, best practices for
39 preventing misconduct, and a refresher for mandated reporting through the State of Michigan. These trainings
40 serve not only as a preventive measure but also as an opportunity for ongoing professional development.
41 Accountability for compliance will be maintained through the Board of Ordained Ministry with the support of
42 the Bishop.

43
44 **Submitted by:**

45 Rev. Kathy Pittenger,
46 Board of Ordained Ministry
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R#2025-9

L.C. 3

Chevron Boycott

Motion:

The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church supports the Chevron Boycott that has been proposed and adopted by United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) and the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA). We urge church members, organizations and congregations to sign onto the global boycott on the UMKR website (<https://umkr.salsalabs.org/chevron-stopfuelinggenocide/index.html>).

Palestinians deserve full human rights. Despite the ceasefire in Gaza, the destruction of Palestinian homes, businesses, water reservoirs, and olive trees continues in the West Bank and elsewhere. Chevron's alliance with the Israeli government helps support this destruction. The boycott is designed to break that alliance by applying financial disincentives and negative publicity for Chevron. If Chevron pulls out of its alliance with Israel, the Israeli government may be pressured into conforming with international law in protecting the human rights of Palestinians.

Rationale:

Individually, there is little one person can do to address the atrocities being committed against Palestinians. When we join forces in a boycott, our united voice can have a genuine impact as evidenced by boycotts of decades past: the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Nestle Boycott, the Grape Boycott, and the Anti-Apartheid Boycott of South Africa.

Chevron is co-owner of gas fields in occupied Palestinian land. It also operates the pipeline between Israel and Egypt. Palestinians, including the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, have asked for the boycott. They want to pressure Chevron to divest from its holdings in Israel. Chevron currently supports the Israeli government and its devastation of Gaza. In 2022, Chevron pulled out of Myanmar, citing its human rights abuses. A boycott of Chevron could persuade Chevron to end its operations in Palestine.

Chevron is a key participant in the Israeli economy. Chevron's withdrawal would be a potent message against Israel's settler colonialism. Our 2023 Resolution called us to honor our baptismal covenant to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." When we boycott Chevron, we obey our baptismal vow.

The American Friends Service Committee website (<https://afsc.org/BoycottChevron>) provides additional background and supporting reasons for this boycott.

Submitted by:

Randie Clawson, Chair,
Task Force Promoting Justice in the Middle East,
Division of Church and Society,
Board of Justice

Rene Johnson
Task Force Promoting Justice in the Middle East,
Division of Church and Society,
Board of Justice

1 **R#2025-10**

L.C. 4

Holy Land Excursion Boycott

Motion:

As the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, we reaffirm our commitment made last year in Resolution #6 that, "Until lasting efforts toward peace are made, the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church will not advertise, encourage, or support Holy Land excursions." In addition, we affirm that conference leadership including but not limited to clergy, district superintendents, and bishops shall not lead or be involved in the planning of "Holy Land" tours to Israel until Israel, and the United States, fully halt and reverse annexation, development, and attacks of and on the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Furthermore, if Gaza is annexed by Israel and its people removed, we commit to a complete end to all future Holy Land excursions led by or endorsed by our Conference or its leadership.

Rationale:

According to our Book of Resolutions, ¶4108, "the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land for construction of settlements... violates human rights, subverts the peace process, destroys the hopes of both Israelis and Palestinians who are working for and longing for peace, and fosters a sense of desperation that can only lead to further violence."

In the time since the writing and publication of this document, the violence in this region has only intensified as Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and throughout the West Bank have faced persecution, colonization, dehumanization, and ongoing violence at the hands of Israeli settlers and the IDF.

As United Methodists, we recognize the work needed to properly address this conflict and bring peace through restorative justice. As it stands, this peace is not forthcoming and appears further away than at any time in recent history as the US government is operating alongside the Israeli government in efforts to develop Palestinian land and further expel Palestinians from their ancestral and forcibly relocated homes.

In recognition of the ongoing and intensifying violence and human rights violations, we should recognize that continuing to travel to these locations and financially support Israel only furthers and normalizes these ongoing colonization, development, and expulsion projects. Furthermore, these trips represent a great deal of privilege denied to many Palestinian residents of the land as they are unable to travel to these places that represent their historical homes.

In the interest of human rights, our call to nonviolent resistance, and the general safety of participants in these trips, perhaps it is our calling to recognize that we may be a generation who will not "see the good land God swore to our ancestors" (Deut 1:38b).

Submitted by:

Rev. Corey Simon,
Bangor: Simpson UMC

46 **R#2025-11**

PLENARY

2025 Equitable Compensation Schedule

Motion:

The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) moves the following Minimum Salary Schedule to be adopted by the 2025 Michigan Annual Conference. In addition, the CEC asks churches to budget a minimum of \$1,500 for professional expenses and continuing education, exclusive of mileage reimbursements for each full-time clergy person under appointment. For clergy serving less than full-time, the amount set should equal no less than the appointment percentage (i.e., a half-time appointment's minimum would be at least \$750,

1 etc.) Churches are strongly urged to compensate clergy whose years of service are beyond this chart's years
2 by considering both years of service as clergy and inflation forces. While electing not to provide clergy with a
3 raise might alleviate pressure on the church budget, it places unfair stress on clergy and is demoralizing. For
4 years after 10 it is recommended to add 2% of the year 10 amount for each year the clergy person has served
5 beyond the 10th year.
6

7 **[The equitable compensation table is included in this motion. For ease of reading, it appears**
8 **separately on [page 28.](#)]**
9

10 Counting years of service to determine minimum compensation:
11 Pastors serving under appointment, whether in full or part-time capacity, will have years of service counted
12 equally for the purpose of progressing through the salary levels.
13

14 A part-time appointment is not considered to be less than a full-time appointment in the calculation of total
15 years of service. Pastors serving more than six months under appointment in a calendar year will be credited
16 with a full year's service for the purpose of progressing through the salary levels. Pastors serving six months
17 or less under appointment in a calendar year will remain at their current year of service. When an additional
18 full year of service is completed, pastors will move to the next salary level. For calculating years of service as
19 a clergy person changes status (i.e., from Local Pastor to Associate Member or from Provisional Member to
20 Full Member) the entire number of years under appointment is considered. Years of service do not start over
21 when a clergy person's status changes, it remains continuous. (For example: a seminary graduate serves as
22 a local pastor for two years, is commissioned as a Provisional Elder and serves in that capacity for three
23 years, then is Ordained. In determining years of service, the entire number of years is considered. In this
24 example the clergy person would have a total of five years of service for determining minimum salary).
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26 **Submitted by:**
27 Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn, Chair
28 Commission on Equitable Compensation
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	Local Pastor			Associate Member			Provisional Member			Full Member		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Year 0/1	\$42,269	\$43,114	\$43,976	*	*	*	\$47,170	\$48,113	\$49,075	***	***	***
Year 2	\$42,692	\$43,546	\$44,417	*	*	*	\$47,642	\$48,595	\$49,567	***	***	***
Year 3	\$43,119	\$43,981	\$44,861	*	*	*	\$48,119	\$49,081	\$50,063	\$50,331	\$51,338	\$52,365
Year 4	\$43,550	\$44,421	\$45,309	*	*	*	\$48,600	\$49,572	\$50,563	\$50,835	\$51,852	\$52,889
Year 5	\$43,986	\$44,866	\$45,763	\$45,945	\$46,864	\$47,801	\$49,086	\$50,068	\$51,069	\$51,343	\$52,370	\$53,417
Year 6	\$44,426	\$45,315	\$46,221	\$46,405	\$47,333	\$48,280	\$49,577	\$50,569	\$51,580	\$51,856	\$52,893	\$53,951
Year 7	\$44,870	\$45,767	\$46,682	\$46,869	\$47,806	\$48,762	\$50,072	\$51,073	\$52,094	\$52,376	\$53,424	\$54,492
Year 8	\$45,319	\$46,225	\$47,150	\$47,338	\$48,285	\$49,251	\$50,573	\$51,584	\$52,616	\$52,899	\$53,957	\$55,036
Year 9	\$45,772	\$46,687	\$47,621	\$47,811	\$48,767	\$49,742	**	**	**	\$53,428	\$54,497	\$55,587
Year 10	\$46,229	\$47,154	\$48,097	\$48,289	\$49,255	\$50,240	**	**	**	\$53,962	\$55,041	\$56,142

¶322.1 (3) of the 2020/2024 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* explains*

¶327 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* explains**

¶335 of the 2020/2024 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* explains***