

2009 NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ADOPTED ACTIONS

RS- 101 - MINIMUM CASH SALARY

(Submitted by the Commission on Equitable Compensation)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

In an effort to be fair to pastors and in consideration of the prevailing economic situation in the country that affects many of our congregations' ability to provide a living wage to pastors, The Commission on Equitable Compensation having wrestled with the decision regarding compensation and benefits for our pastors in 2010, hereby submits this resolution to set the minimum cash salary at \$35,850 for CY2010, a nominal increase of \$500.

Accordingly, the following rates have been set:

Full time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	\$35,850
Full Time Local Pastor	\$32,270
<i>Additional for Years of Service as of Jan 1, 2010</i>	
From 3 to 5 Years under appointment	\$600
From 6 to 10 Years under appointment	\$1,200
11 years or more under appointment	\$1,500

Based on the recommended minimum of \$35,850 and \$ 32,270 respectively and the approval of the minimum amount by Conference action, the following maximum grant amounts would be permitted:

Category	Full Time Elder, Probationer, Permanent Deacon, or Associate Pastor	Full Time Local Pastor
Minimum Salary Grant	\$7,170	\$6,450
Strategic Salary Grant	\$8,960	\$8,070

Minimum Cash Salary Grants are awarded for no more than three years, with the amount of the grant size decreasing with each successive year. The expectation is that congregations will engage in a strategic plan to increase revenues and/or decrease expenses to balance their budgets and eliminate the need for this grant. Congregations are also expected to increase their participation in the Mission Share activity of the Annual Conference, with a goal of 100% participation. Grants are scheduled in the following manner:

- Year 1: Award is up to 100% of the maximum grant size
- Year 2: Award is up to 65% of the maximum grant size
- Year 3: Award is up to 35% of the maximum grant size

Strategic Cash Salary Grants are awarded on a four-year decreasing basis. A strategic plan must accompany this application. In succeeding years, a progress report that speaks to the strategic plan submitted in the first year must accompany the application. Following is the schedule for Strategic Grants:

- Year 1: Up to 100% of the maximum grant size
- Year 2: Up to 75% of the maximum grant size
- Year 3: Up to 50% of the maximum grant size
- Year 4: Up to 25% of the maximum grant size

Missional Cash Salary Grants are also available for new congregations and those defined as missions. Please check the conference website for applications and detailed definitions.

Reimbursable Accounts

The Commission on Equitable Compensation in an effort to remain current with prevailing trends across the denomination, considering the reality that a number of churches in Vermont are scheduled to join this annual conference in 2010 and in keeping with IRS regulations, **recommends** the following minimum amounts for Reimbursable Accounts (Professional Expenses, Continuing Education and Travel) in 2010 for a total reimbursable amount of at least \$2,000:

Professional Expenses \$500 Continuing Education \$500 Local Travel \$1500

Considering that pastors in different parts of the Conference have different needs, the Commission recommends that these amounts be interchangeable. Given the Disciplinary requirements under which the Commission operates, we project requiring minimum amounts for "reimbursables" in the year 2011.

RS - 102 – OFFERINGS AT 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submitted by Bonnie Marden and Jim McPhee for the Worship Planning Team and Episcopal Office)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

Whereas, our holy Conferencing experience traditionally includes several Offerings and InGatherings for local, national and international mission and ministries as part of our transformational actions,

And whereas, supporting the Bishop's Discretionary Fund enables our leadership to support special needs as we strive to be united in trust while supporting our vision to boldly proclaim Christ to the world;

Therefore, let it be resolved that

- the Offering during the Opening Worship support the Global Aids Fund including offerings from local church offerings and fundraisers,
- the Offering during the Ordination Service support the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, and

Furthermore, the youth led Penny Challenge will support the CCYM and the Youth Service Fund.

Additional InGatherings

- UMCOR kits collected during Conference in the Chapel parking lot
- "Give a Phone . . . Save a Life"

The 2009 New England Annual Conference, in partnership with Safe Havens, will be gathering used cell phones to be reprogrammed for emergency use by victims of domestic violence or recycled to support Safe Havens' work to end domestic violence.

- Nicaragua Covenant will collect material goods (school, medical, dental, fabric and sewing)

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to respond enthusiastically to invitations to support the Nicaragua Covenant and the West Angola Covenant during the conference and coming year.

**RS – 103 - RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES
FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED MINISTERS OF THE CONFERENCE**

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The New England Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to the rental/housing allowance for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”) which included all such payments from the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (“GBOPHB”), during the year 2010 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and the regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this

Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishing and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

RS – 104 - PAST SERVICE FUNDING RATE

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The Past Service Funding Rate for 2010 be set at \$561 per year of service and 85% as the survivor's rate.

RS – 105 - RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CREDIT

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

All participants in the Conference Health Insurance program in 2009 will be given one year of credit toward the retiree health benefit subsidy in retirement.

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RS – 106 - SPECIAL GRANTS

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

That the following Special Grants be continued for 2010 on the same basis as 2009:

- a) Evelyn Roberts be given a special grant equivalent to the amount based on her share of the 1967 annuity rate multiplied by the years of service by her husband.
- b) Lillian Wallace be given a special grant based on 3% of the Denominational Average Compensation.

RS – 107- PASTOR'S/PARTICIPANT'S HEALTH INSURANCE CO-PAY PREMIUM

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The 2010 pastor's/participant's health insurance co-pay monthly premium will be \$190 per month (\$2,280 annually) and the Benefit Stabilization Fund contribution be \$41.50 per month. Pastors/participants and spouses taking the annual health risk assessment by December 15, 2009 will receive a \$50 per month (\$600 annually) per family credit toward their premium.

RS – 108 - HEALTH INSURANCE BILLING RATE CALCULATION

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The 2010 Health Insurance "blended" rate shall be calculated by dividing the total projected 2010 premium billed the Conference by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for clergy (and family) under appointment to local churches, staff, and disabled, an appropriate amount to cover unpaid premiums by local churches, and related administrative costs, by the number of "salary paying" units for the aforementioned categories. A 10% surcharge of the resulting rate will be added in

accordance to the Retiree Health Benefit Legislation of 2001. A final adjustment shall be made, if necessary, to have the annual yearly rates divisible by 12. This base “blended” rate may be modified by Annual Conference action to include participant payment of premium

RS – 109 - PENSION/BENEFIT BILLING RATE CALCULATION

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The 2010 Pension/Benefit rate shall be determined by calculating the total projected 2010 CRSP and CPP premiums billed the Conference by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits for active clergy under appointment to local churches, staff, and disabled, an appropriate amount to cover unpaid premiums by local churches, and related administrative costs. Each local church will be billed the proportional cost of their pastor’s pension/benefit costs based on a formula of \$6,600 per full-time appointment (prorated in ¼ time increments) plus 7% of participants plan compensation.

NOTE: (This represents no change in the formula in the pension/benefit billing rate calculation from 2009.)

RS – 110- RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT CONTRIBUTION

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The maximum retiree contribution to the Retiree Health Benefit Stabilization Fund for 2010 shall be \$57 per month for each participant and participating spouse pro-rated for the percentage of retiree health insurance premium paid by the Annual Conference.

RS – 111 - AFFIRMATION OF PREACHERS’ AID SOCIETY

(Submitted by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The Board of Pensions affirms the ministry of the Preachers’ Aid Society and encourages the Annual Conference and its churches to support the mission of that organization

RS - 112 - UNIT INSURANCE PLAN

(Submitted by the Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees)
(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The Insurance Committee of the New England Conference Board of Trustees moves that:

The New England Annual Conference continue in a Unit Insurance Plan to provide comprehensive property, liability, crime and worker’s compensation insurance coverage for all New England Conference local church owned/operated locations, including church sponsored Day Care programs, and for all Conference owned/operated locations.

Including the following provisions that:

1. All New England Conference churches participate.
 - a. Special coverages to include flood for zones other than B&C and other unique insurance risks will be purchased at additional cost to the local church where such insurance is applicable.

2. Insurance coverage will be as documented in the comprehensive policy, a copy of which is located in the Office of Administrative Services (OAS). Copies of this policy can be obtained by request for a fee to cover printing and mailing costs.
3. The agent of record will be Fred C. Church Inc. of Lowell, MA.
4. The renewal date will be August 1, 2009.
5. The insurance billing for this fourteenth year of the plan (August 1, 2009 - July 31, 2010) will be at the actual value based billing assessed to each local church and the Conference, based on property values, square footage and pastoral appointment.
6. Insurance billings will be handled as follows:
 - a. Churches will be billed through the office of the OAS on an annual basis.
 - b. The first payment will be due September 15, 2009.
 - c. A special discount will be given to churches that pay the total amount or enroll in the Automated Clearinghouse Account by October 15, 2009.
 - d. Churches that use the installment plan shall pay 20% of the annual billing by September 15, 2009 and eight monthly installments of 10% of the amount due on the fifteenth of the month (Oct - May).
 - e. The Conference Treasurer shall use Conference funds, as necessary, to pay the premium until funds come in from local churches.
7. Property claims payments will be issued in the name of the New England Conference and the local church, sent to the New England Conference Office of Administrative Services and will be endorsed and sent to the local church when all insurance billings are paid to date.
8. The New England Conference Insurance Committee shall be amenable to the Conference Board of Trustees.
 - a. This Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members. The chairperson or co-chairperson of the committee shall be a member of the New England Conference Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall appoint five (5) additional members and the Council on Finance and Administration shall appoint five (5) members. The committee members do not need to be members of either the Board of Trustees or CF&A, with the exception of the chair or co-chair.
 - b. This committee shall:
 1. receive and respond to questions and concerns of local churches regarding the insurance plan.
 2. review loss trends and suggest remedies.
 3. review property appraisals.
 4. review the policy for any needed changes
 5. provide for risk management materials/workshops for districts and/or clusters as requested.
 6. annually review the premium, determine the method of distributing the premium among local churches and, if necessary, re-bid the contract.
 7. annually report to the New England Annual Conference.
9. A common, comprehensive worker's compensation program will be included with a renewal date of January 1, 2010. Insurance will continue to be billed through the OAS office. The premium billing will be based on the total annual payroll of each church.
10. The following policy on the issuing of "replacement cost" insurance be in effect.

- a. Any church, at their option, can apply for a waiver of blanket full replacement cost coverage, and substitution with a stated value for functional replacement cost, by making such a request to the Insurance Committee of the Conference Board of Trustees. The District Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall endorse the application prior to application and consideration by the Insurance Committee. Application forms are available on the conference web site.
- b. The Superintendent and the District Committee on Church and Building Location shall evaluate the request for less than full replacement cost coverage and establishment of a stated value, on the amount of resources necessary to invest in rebuilding, consistent with the ministry and mission possibilities and goals of the local church, cluster and district.
- c. Future changes of stated values established under this policy shall be handled in the same fashion as original applications.
- d. A rider will be added to the existing Conference policy listing the specific properties as being carried at a stated value, not full replacement coverage. The stated value also shall be listed. There is no co-insurance due to the lack of full replacement coverage. Any partial loss will be paid in full up to the limit of the stated value.
- e. Waivers of blanket full replacement will be effective only on the annual renewal date of the insurance plan; August 1st. Completed applications must be received by the Chairperson of the Insurance Committee by July 1st.

RS- 113 - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

(Submitted by the UMW)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, 256.5* states “*United Methodist Women – In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women*”; and

WHEREAS, *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008, 256.5* states the purpose of United Methodist Women in Article 3 as “The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church”; and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Women in New England Conference contribute significantly to the mission work of the United Methodist Church locally and through the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) The churches of the New England Conference shall be encouraged to support and lift up the work of United Methodist Women.
- b) The churches of the New England Conference shall be encouraged to celebrate the work of United Methodist Women during a Sunday worship service.

RS- 114 - ELECTION OF CONFERENCE TREASURER

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on Thursday Evening, June 18, 2009)

Pursuant to Book of Discipline 2008 ¶ 619 and 619.2, the Council on Finance and Administration nominates William V. Burnside II as Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services, to serve for the rest of the quadrennium.

RS- 115 - ELECTION OF PENSION OFFICER

(Submitted by the Conference Board of Pensions)

(Adopted on Thursday Evening, June 18, 2009)

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits recommends the election of William Burnside II, as its Treasurer.

RS – 116 - BUDGET BUILDING DATES - 2011 BUDGET

(Submitted by Council on Finance & Administration)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The following budget building preparation and dates are for the 2011 budget, subject to any change mutually agreed upon by the CFA and the Resource Team. All 2011 budgets, methods of funding and sources and uses of funds for all divisions, commissions, boards, task forces, committees, agencies and councils will be considered at the same time and place called to discuss and vote upon the total conference budget. All boards, divisions, agencies and councils submit requests and complete all applicable questions on authorized budget forms supplied by the CF&A.

- a. CF&A and/or Treasurer distribute forms to Conference Boards, Committees and Agencies for budget building requests by March 5, 2010.
- b. The CF&A and New England Missions team agree to a New England Missions team 2011 budget total by March 15, 2010.
- c. Boards, agencies, committees presenting budgets to the Director of Connectional Ministries do so by March 15, 2010.
- d. All 2011 budget requests must be submitted to the Treasurer by Noon, March 15, 2010.
- e. The CF&A approves final 2011 budget for recommendation to Annual Conference by April 1, 2010.
- f. The CF&A distributes the proposed 2011 budget through the Pre-Conference packet distributed to all Annual Conference members, via the Conference web site, e-mail, and regular mail by May 1, 2010.

RS- 117 - APPORTIONMENT FORMULA

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The 2010 Mission Shares be calculated by multiplying the total amount of the apportioned budget by the Apportionment Factor for each UM church.

The Apportionment Factor shall be calculated by:

Averaging the following three amounts:

- The amount reported on the 2008 Statistical Tables, Lines 64 – 72 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.

- The amount reported, on the 2007 Statistical Tables, Lines 64 – 72 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.
- The amount reported on the 2006 Statistical Tables, Lines 64 - 72 less the amount of the cost of “outside groups use of building” reported on the Chart A data gathering form, of the local church divided by the total amount reported by the UM churches of the Conference on the lines as above.

CFA, at the request of the Cabinet, may make adjustments to individual church mission share amounts based on factors not considered within the aforementioned statistical tables.

RS- 118 – 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration)

(Adopted on Saturday Morning, June 20, 2010)

- a). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends a 2010 Mission Share spending limit of \$5,531,481 (*actual spending limit*) and a 2010 Mission Share apportioned to local churches of \$6,316,569 (*includes “connectional mission share” for churches unable to pay 100% of apportioned amounts*).
- b). The Council on Finance and Administration recommends the 2010 conference budget as presented.

RS- 119 - AUTHORIZATION OF A JOINT DISTRIBUTING COMMITTEE

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

Pursuant to Paragraph 1509 of the *Discipline*, there shall be appointed a Joint Distributing Committee by the Annual Conference, to act jointly with similar committees appointed by the Central Pennsylvania, North Central New York, New York West, Wyoming, and Troy Annual Conferences.

RS- 120 - ELECTION OF A JOINT DISTRIBUTING COMMITTEE

(Submitted by Council on Finance and Administration & Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits)

(Adopted on Consent Calendar, Saturday Morning, June 20, 2009)

The members of the Joint Distributing Committee of the New England Annual Conference shall be the following:

Members: Bruce Pehrson, Charles Stewart III, Vicki Woods

Alternates: Joan Humphrey, Diane Peak, John Blackadar

RS- 201 – LAY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY

(Submitted by James McPhee, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries)

(Adopted after amendment, at the Saturday Morning session, June 20, 2009)

INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, The New England Annual Conference has had a Clergy Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure. In 2003, the Annual Conference instructed the Steering Committee for the Response and Intervention Team to draft a policy concerning sexual misconduct by laypersons thus recognizing that clergy are not the only leaders in the church that may be accused of, or subjected to, sexual misconduct.

The following policy outlines the process for handling complaints of lay sexual

misconduct. It also is intended as a teaching tool for our churches and our Annual Conference as we all strive to maintain our congregations as safe environments for all. We offer this policy with the hope that open discussion and sharing will take place in our churches and Annual Conference about respecting the personal boundaries of others so that our churches may truly be safe and open places for all God's people.

THEOLOGICAL PROLOGUE

We celebrate that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God and are called, through Jesus Christ, to be in life-giving relationships with God and other persons. As we live in these life-giving relationships within our congregations, we come to recognize and affirm that all life is contingent upon the grace of God.

We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is created to be one community with each member holding a significant presence and purpose. When any part of the community is injured, physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally, the well being of the whole community is violated and all suffer.

When sexual exploitation and other power abuse occur, the entire community suffers. The purpose of a Lay Misconduct Policy and Procedure is to help define boundaries for living together, to develop a process to deal with lay misconduct, and to provide resources to bring healing and restoration to the church community.

DEFINITIONS

Sexual Misconduct includes all expressions of sexual and gender harassment, exploitation and abuse as well as sexual abuse within the relationships of our covenant communities. It includes sexual harassment, which is defined in *The 2008 Book of Discipline*, paragraph 161(I) as,

“Any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical, which is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than an exclusively sexual issue. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.”

Descriptive examples of sexual misconduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Improper verbal and visual behavior: the inappropriate use of sexually explicit words, gestures or images including pornography.
2. Seductive behavior: inappropriate and offensive behavior, but without threat of repercussion.
3. Sexual bribery: solicitation of sexual activity or other sex-related behavior by promise of rewards.
4. Sexual coercion: coercion of sexual activity by threat of punishment.
5. Sexual imposition: gross sexual imposition like prolonged gazing, fondling, grabbing, assault or rape.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Justice requires providing a setting in which the complainant may share her or his story and be heard with openness and compassion; providing a means by which judgment can be made as to the validity of the complaint; and providing clear, consistent steps, known to all participants, which will lead to achieving justice.

Such steps may include: protecting the vulnerable, calling the abuser into account by confrontation and the imposition of consequences, providing pastoral care and vindicating the victim or the accused person if the complaint is deemed not valid.

2. If there is suspicion of child sexual molestation or harassment one should be familiar with relevant state law and abide by it.
3. In this policy a "complainant" is understood to be a person who submits a written and signed complaint. While a complainant may also be an alleged victim, the Policy of the New England Conference does not assume that the complainant is an actual victim. The complainant may be someone other than the person against whom the alleged offense was committed. The term "victim/survivor" will be used for the person against whom the offense was committed if the accused person makes a confession of misconduct or is proven to be guilty.
4. When sexual misconduct occurs, there are many victims: the person(s) who has been abused, the spouse(s) and families of the abused person(s), the spouse and family of the accused person, and the congregation(s) and the larger community surrounding them. While all these victims are not addressed by current disciplinary procedures of the United Methodist Church, all are hurt when sexual misconduct occurs. The Response and Intervention Team of the Conference will be available to provide care for the accused person and family, the complainant(s) and families, as well as appropriate intervention on behalf of the congregation(s) or the larger community. When allegations of sexual misconduct are made, the complainant(s), the alleged victim(s), and the accused person, will receive sensitive and respectful care from the Response Team. Justice for the accused person will also be sought. Reasonable care will be taken to protect the privacy of the accused person, the complainant(s) and the victim(s).

POLICY FOR HANDLING LAY MISCONDUCT COMPLAINTS

1. Initial Steps

Anyone who feels that he/she has experienced sexual misconduct by a member of the congregation should first contact the pastor of the congregation and/or the SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) or PPRC (Pastor Parish Relations Committee) chair and/or the District Superintendent. It will often be the pastor who will need to respond to the situation of alleged misconduct or inappropriate behavior. Allegations may come in a number of ways including verbally, electronically, in a note, or through a phone call. The person(s) receiving the allegations should always listen carefully and seriously and, if the allegation/complaint is coming second hand, try to clearly determine who has direct knowledge of the alleged conduct or incident.

The District Superintendent should be notified, either by the pastor, SPRC/PPRC chair, or the complainant. The Response and Intervention Team may also be called in by the District Superintendent. The Team Case Manager will deploy Team members who, together with the District Superintendent, will be in contact and be on call to support the complainant(s), the accused, and the local congregation.

(Members of the Pastor/Parish Committee, Lay Leaders, and other key lay

persons and staff of the local church as well as District Superintendents and other Conference personnel should have the contact information for the Team Case Manager and a current list of Response Team members.)

The person against whom the allegation is made must be removed from leadership, service or ministry until a process of fact-finding and or investigation is completed.

As allegations are made and heard, all parties are encouraged to take one or more of the following actions:

- 1) Keep a diary listing contacts, conversations, as well as the details of any alleged offenses.
- 2) Understand the procedures available within this policy and *The Book of Discipline* for dealing with the problem.
- 3) When appropriate, consider a referral to a professional counselor. The Response and Intervention Team will compile a list of these persons as a resource for the particular geographical area.

2. Fact-Finding and Filing a Written Complaint -- For persons in local churches

All those involved in such a difficult circumstance – complainant, congregation, pastor, and accused -- should not neglect their prayer life. The connection with God especially needs to be fostered in such a time. Active support from a Spiritual Director or prayer group or supportive spiritual friend may be crucial.

In the initial meeting with the complainant and/or alleged victim, the focus needs to be on clarifying the facts of the allegation. A third party, SPRC member or lay leader will be present as listener in this initial meeting. Trauma, fear, anger, loss of trust and powerful memories will likely be present with the person making the allegation. With gentleness, the facts need to be clarified: who, what, when, where, how. Knowing what did not happen can be as important as what did happen. The person hearing the complainant and/or alleged victim needs to take notes, and ask for the allegation to be in writing in the complainant's own words. If the complainant cannot or will not put the allegation in writing, the written notes by a third party can be the basis for a statement concerning the allegations.

The pastor and/or the District Superintendent may need to engage in some initial fact finding to make an initial determination if the allegation requires legal action, intervention from the police or child protective services. There may be circumstances where there is a legal obligation to act, even if the complainant and/or alleged victim asks that this not be done. Note: If the party involved is a minor, the pastor is mandated to report the alleged misconduct to the police or the child welfare authorities. In these cases, it is not the responsibility of the reporting person to investigate the charges. That is the responsibility of the authorities.

If the person making the allegation states that others may have observed the alleged behavior, these third parties should be contacted as part of a fact-finding process. In a non-leading manner, these persons should be asked if they personally have observed anything that may have given them concern. The inquiring person should not disclose the original allegations and/or persons

involved. Written notes should be made of these conversations.

The pastor and/or the District Superintendent should ask what initial support the complainant and/or alleged victim would find helpful. The pastor and/or the District Superintendent may ask what outcome the complainant and/or alleged victim may envision. No guarantee of a specific outcome should be made. The steps of this process should be clearly outlined.

3. Immediate next steps:

If a written complaint is filed with the pastor or SPRC, the District Superintendent and the Case Manager of the Response and Intervention Team are to be called. The DS and Case Manager are to be informed of the allegation and kept apprised of any developments. If the public media learns of the allegations, it is New England Conference policy to have the Conference Communications Director available as a resource to work with the Pastor and/or the District Superintendent to respond to all media contacts and requests for information. The Communications Director may be contacted by the District Superintendent in order to consult with the Pastor in preparing a response for the media, even if there is no media coverage or current inquiry. A press statement will be available for the Pastor to distribute in the event of any media inquiries. This press release also will be given to the congregation with clear instructions about where media inquiries are to be directed.

4. Ongoing Follow-up

For the sake of accuracy and protection of the facts, detailed notes should be kept of key conversations, statements, meetings, and phone calls.

5. When Disclosure is Necessary

After a resolution is reached, the Pastor and District Superintendent may, for the health and protection of the local church and to assure justice, recommend that the District Superintendent share pertinent information with the PPRC or SPRC who may choose to disclose this with the members of the local congregation.

6. Lay Charges

Language dealing with chargeable offenses and judicial complaints can be found in paragraphs 2702 and 2703 in the *2008 Book of Discipline*. Nothing in this policy should be construed as contradicting the processes and/or requirements of the *Discipline*. Rather, this policy seeks to provide a more detailed process for persons in a local church and others who would assist in dealing with a possible case of misconduct.

7. Policy Visibility

That this policy be published and placed in a prominent part of the church where it can be read.

STRATEGIES FOR EDUCATION

1. Introduction

To enable the implementation of this policy, the Steering Committee for the Response and Intervention Team will be responsible for explaining the procedures in this policy and for providing education for clergy and laypersons on issues relating to sexual ethics for laypersons. Quadrennial training will be conducted for active clergy, the Cabinet, and local church SPRC members. The

Steering Committee will review the policy and discuss further training each quadrennium.

2. Evaluation of Policy and its Implementation

Each person who has been involved with the procedures of this policy is invited to reflect on the process and give feedback to the Steering Committee of the Response and Intervention Team. Persons who have feedback, concerns or questions are encouraged to contact the chair of the Steering Committee because evaluation can be a helpful tool for continuous improvement in the policy and its implementation. [Names and/or churches involved will not be disclosed by the committee chair.]

3. Education about the Policy

The Conference will provide this policy to every church, every pastor, and every PPRC/SPRC Chair via electronic or postal mail. The policy will be placed on the Conference web site and annual notifications of the policy's existence and location will be sent via conference communications. This policy is to be posted in a plain and visible place in each local church.

In order to educate clergy and laity about this policy, the Steering Committee will offer workshops to review the policy and provide education on prevention of sexual misconduct. Local church PPRC's (or SPRC's) will be expected to attend these workshops in order to teach the congregation about the function of this policy. District education will include methods for presenting the issues to the congregation. Education will be ongoing.

4. Prevention Education

To be effective in preventing sexual misconduct, education must be a priority for the Church. Such education includes in-service training, growth in self-awareness, a disciplined spiritual life and the clarification of one's relationship with community.

A. Local Church Training

The PPRC or SPRC is charged with teaching the congregation (for example, through youth and adult education, worship, conversation) about ethical sexual conduct in the congregation. Therefore, the PPRC or SPRC is responsible for seeking out resources, identified in Section III and utilizing resources provided by the New England Conference, General Board of Discipleship, Safe Sanctuaries, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the Board of Laity, through which it can inform itself about the dynamics of issues surrounding appropriate sexual boundaries, and clergy and lay sexual ethics and misconduct.

The Conference program agencies and personnel (for example, the District Committees On Ministry, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Conference Lay Leader and the Commission On the Status and Role Of Women) are responsible for providing continuing education for the laity about sexuality and ethics. Traditional laity gatherings such as Annual Conference, District Trainings, Cluster events, and the Board of the Laity are opportunities for such training and reflection.

B. Clergy Training

All clergy in the New England Conference are required to have Sexual Ethics training each quadrennium. Lay misconduct information and discussion shall be included in this training. In addition, Clergy should make every effort to attend any PPRC/SPRC training on Lay Misconduct.

RESOURCES

- 1 **Sample Local Church Lay Misconduct Policies (to be developed)**
- 2 **Safe Sanctuaries:** www.gbod.org/safesanctuaries . Resources include sample policies, evaluation forms, DVD trainings and guidelines, "healthy congregations" studies and study materials, staff contacts and other resources.
- 3 **National/State Sex Offender Registry:** <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/cac/registry.htm>
- 4 **Child Protective Services:**
 - Connecticut - <http://www.ct.gov/dss/site/default.asp>
 - Maine - Child Protective Services -- <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cw/abuse.shtml>
 - Maine - Adult Protective Services -- <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/resource/aps.htm>
 - Massachusetts -- <http://www.mass.gov/dss>
 - New Hampshire -- <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DCYF/default.htm>
 - Rhode Island -- <http://www.preventchildabuse-ri.org/>
 - Vermont -- http://dcf.vermont.gov/child_protection

RS- 202 – ABANDONMENT OF THE PHILLIPS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING IN PHILLIPS, MAINE

(Submitted by Beverly E. Stenmark, Mid Maine District Superintendent)

(Adopted on Friday Evening, June 19, 2009)

WHEREAS the Phillips United Methodist Church has been part of the Phillips Shared Ministry in Phillips Maine for more than 40 years and has a long and proud history; and

WHEREAS the Phillips Shared Ministry has been in possession of three buildings, including two church buildings; and

WHEREAS the Phillips Shared Ministry has been worshipping almost exclusively in the Congregational Church building; and

WHEREAS the Phillips Shared Ministry finds it financially impossible to maintain all of the buildings available to them; and

WHEREAS the Phillips Shared Ministry has recommended the abandonment of the Phillips United Methodist Church building; and

WHEREAS at a specially called Charge Conference held on November 9, 2008, the members of the Phillips United Methodist Church voted to abandon the Phillips United Methodist Church building; and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Members will continue to be members of the Phillips Shared Ministry; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended abandonment of the Phillips United Methodist Church building and has received consent from the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with,

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Phillips United Methodist Church building be declared abandoned effective July 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference Board of Trustees use any proceeds from the sale or reuse of the building to first pay off any outstanding obligations of property insurance, past ministerial support or pension owed to the conference as of July 1, 2009 and that any remaining assets be deployed as directed by the Discipline and the New England Annual Conference policies.

RS- 203 – RESOLUTION ON PRAYER

(Submitted by Alan Grill)

(Adopted on Friday Afternoon, June 19, 2009)

Whereas “The effective prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much”;
(James 5:16)

Whereas we are called on to “Pray without ceasing” 1st Thessalonians 5:17;

Whereas we can “...with confidence draw near to the Throne of Grace...” Hebrews 4:16;

Whereas God has promised if “... We humble ourselves and pray and seek His face ... He will hear our prayers ...” 2nd Chronicles 7:14.

Be it resolved:

That we, The New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church be in an intentional “Season of Prayer and Fasting”, with a reminder that those with special medical issues check with their doctors before fasting;

That our churches create opportunities and programs to promote prayer and fasting for our congregations;

That these programs can include where and when appropriate other churches in the conference, and/or communities as well as the public at large, and where necessary and feasible hold these events in venues other than the church; That the Annual Conference provide resources, where and when necessary, to enable churches to fulfill this Resolution.

RS- 204 – SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

(Submitted by Patricia Tebbetts for the New England School of Christian Mission)

(Adopted at the Saturday Morning Session, June 20, 2009)

Whereas the New England Conference Schools of Christian Mission provide an opportunity for personal spiritual growth through a Biblical study, and

Whereas, the New England Conference Schools of Christian Mission provide an emphasis on the global mission of the church through an in-depth study of an area or country, and

Whereas, the New England Conference Schools of Christian Mission provide a study to raise awareness of injustice and Christian social action, and

Whereas, there are opportunities to attend an event in several areas of the New England Conference, and

Whereas, there are opportunities for studies in local churches, and

Whereas, all events are open to all interested persons, including children and youth, and is a cooperative venture of the New England Conference and United Methodist Women,

Be it resolved that the New England Conference staff, clergy and lay persons support the New England Conference Schools of Christian Mission and encourage participation in an event or sponsor an event.

RS-205 - USE OF THE ASSETS FROM THE WEST TREMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MAINE

(Submitted by Pat MacHugh, Northern Maine District Superintendent)

(Adopted at the Saturday Morning Session, June 20, 2009)

WHEREAS the West Tremont Church was discontinued by action of the Annual Conference (RS 237) on June 11, 2004; and

WHEREAS it was further voted *“that the Conference Board of Trustees consider distributing all liquid assets to the West Tremont United Methodist Church Youth Trust Fund, including any residual assets from the sale of the West Tremont property”*; and

WHEREAS the area churches have not developed that program; and

WHEREAS action of the Annual Conference (RS 225 – Designation of the Net Assets of Closed and Abandoned Churches) passed on June 10, 2004, states:

“there is an urgency and a need to support the transformation of existing United Methodist Congregations and development of emerging United Methodist Congregations...

“be it ... resolved that priority shall be given to focusing transformation efforts into the local areas where churches have been closed.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the action of Annual Conference of June 11, 2004, relative to the assets from the West Tremont United Methodist Church is now rescinded, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in consultation by the Northern Maine District Superintendent with the Cabinet, the Bishop, The Conference Trustees, and the Northern Maine District Ministry Team, those funds shall now be used under the direction of the District Superintendent and the District Ministry Team with the approval of the cabinet and Conference Congregational Development Committee. Priority shall be given for the following:

- Northern Maine District Ministry Team in their initiative “Sunday and Beyond,” designed to reach all the churches of the District;
- grants to local churches with high operational costs due to geographic considerations in the Northern Maine District, for new initiatives in mission and ministry;
- small church initiatives within the Northern Maine District, for training pastors and churches for transformational ministry in rural Maine;
- ministry with youth within the Northern Maine District, in keeping with the intentions of the West Tremont United Methodist Church;
- Other uses as determined to support the transformation of existing United Methodist Congregations and the development of emerging United Methodist Congregations in Northern Maine, as identified by the Northern Maine District Superintendent and District Ministry Team.

RS – 206 – FUNDS FROM ALLEN STREET UMC, NEW BEDFORD, MA

(Submitted by RIM DS Gary Shaw, and the Corridor Cluster)

(Adopted at the Saturday Morning Session, June 20, 2009)

Whereas the Allen Street UMC was a vital congregation in the city of New Bedford with a passion for ministry to the city in all matters of social holiness, and;

Whereas when the church closed the disposition of the Allen Street funds were voted on by resolution of the 1971 Annual Conference of the Southern New England Conference reading *“for income to be used to continue a ministry of social action among the minority groups in New Bedford under the direction of the Greater New Bedford United Methodist Council and the District Superintendent of the RISEM District. Should the Greater New Bedford United Methodist Council terminate such social ministry the endowment would be distributed with 50% to the United Methodist Retirement Center in East Providence, RI and 50% to the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund”* (1) and;

Whereas the Greater New Bedford United Methodist Council has transitioned to become the Corridor Cluster, encompassing the churches of the Greater New Bedford area by action of subsequent annual conference and district plans and in accordance with the RISEM District vision, local church input and the superintendents agreement, and

Whereas, in faithfulness to the original gift the Corridor Cluster has used these funds for immigration relief, faith based organizing, ministry to the poor and homeless, community change and after school education opportunities with a priority to minority groups and those who are marginalized by current culture and urban context.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2009 New England Annual Conference affirm the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the income from Allen Street Funds, as noted in the 1971 SNE Journal be used to continue a ministry of social holiness and church growth among minority groups, the marginalized and people at risk in the Greater New Bedford area under the direction of the Corridor Cluster and the District Superintendent of the RISEM District. Should the Corridor Cluster terminate such ministry the endowment would be distributed with 50% to the United Methodist Retirement Center in East Providence, RI and 50% to the New England Board of Pensions.”

Notes:

1. 1971 Journal SNE page 441
2. Corridor Cluster: Somerset UMC, Union UMC (Fall River), Westport Point UMC, Centre-Trinity and St. Paul’s UMC (New Bedford), Acushnet Wesley and Long Plain UMC (Acushnet)

RS – 207 - ABANDONMENT OF NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD, MA

(Submitted by Heidi Chamberland, Connecticut/Western Massachusetts District Superintendent)

(Adopted at the Saturday Morning Session, June 20, 2009)

WHEREAS New Hope United Methodist Church located in Hampden County, Springfield, MA has existed for five years as a merged congregation, and their collective history as Liberty Street UMC and Chicopee Falls UMC has a long and proud history of mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS on June 3, 2009, the church members voted to discontinue the New Hope United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the current active members of New Hope United Methodist Church intend to transfer their membership to various United Methodist Churches in the area; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent supports New Hope United Methodist Church be discontinued and has received consent from the presiding bishop, the majority of the Cabinet and the District Board of Church Location and Building, and

WHEREAS the DISCIPLINE, Section IV “Churches in Transitional Communities” sets forth policies that support the formation of a regional ministry (§ 212.5), and

WHEREAS the DISCIPLINE, Section VI “Local Church Property reads: “When properties from the discontinuation of a congregation or abandonment are sold in urban centers with more than 50,000 population, the proceeds of the sale must be used to new and/or existing ministries with urban transitional communities, as described in § 212, and consistent with the Annual Conference’s urban ministry strategic plan” (§ 2548.7), and

WHEREAS in 2004 the NEAC passed RS-225 in support of the spirit and purpose of the policy set forth in § 2548.7, and

WHEREAS all of the requirements of the Discipline with regard to the abandonment of a United Methodist Church have been complied with:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that New Hope United Methodist Church in Springfield, MA be discontinued effective July 1, 2009, and that the Conference Board of Trustees distribute all liquid assets (including assets from the sale of the Liberty Street property) minus any outstanding financial obligations (including, but not limited to: rent, administrative expenses, etc) to provide the financial foundation for “**New Hope United Methodist Regional Ministry,**” a new regional ministry committed to mission , evangelism and social justice making visible God’s love for the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *that* should any assets be discovered in future years, such assets shall be transferred to the New England Conference to be used as directed by the Discipline and the New England Annual Conference policies.

NOTE:

Each of the following proposed Constitutional amendments received more than 2/3 thirds of the votes of those present and voting at the Friday Afternoon, June 19, 2009 session of the New England Annual Conference. The results will be submitted to the

Council of Bishops who will be bound by the following Disciplinary process:

“AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE MADE BY A TWO-THIRDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SEVERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES PRESENT AND VOTING, AND EFFECTIVE ONCE THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS, OPERATING AS A CANVASSER OF VOTES, ANNOUNCES THAT THE AMENDMENT HAS BEEN PASSED”.

RS- 301 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – I

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment emphasizes the wideness of God’s mercy and the availability of the ministry of the church to all.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 558 Yes, 276 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

After “worth” add “and that we are in ministry to all” and after “persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition” and after “sacraments,” add “and” and after “members” delete “, and” and insert a period and add “All persons,” and after “faith” add “and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to” and after “body” delete “of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 (¶ 4) would read:

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 and that we are in ministry to all. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, and upon baptism be admitted as baptized members. All persons, upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to become professing members in any local church in the connection. 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.

AND

RS- 302 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – II

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment requires the adoption of ethics and conflict of interest policies to ensure accountability and fiduciary integrity.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 744 Yes, 86 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, following ¶ 5, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, following ¶ 5, *Article V*) amend by addition as follows:

Add a new paragraph “All official organizations, groups, committees, councils, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies, applicable to both members and employees, which embody and live out our Christian values.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, the new paragraph would read:

All official organizations, groups, committees, councils, boards, and agencies of The United Methodist Church shall adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies, applicable to both members and employees, which embody and live out our Christian values.

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments III, IV, V, VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII are all part of the Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church proposal. The rationale is identical for these amendments.)

RS- 303 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 9, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 9, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition as follows:

Delete “central” before conference and add “regional”. At the end of the paragraph, add the parenthetical note, “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 9 (¶ 9) would read:

There shall be jurisdictional conferences for 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 regional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 304 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 593 Yes, 295 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 10, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section I, ¶ 10, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”, and delete “for the church outside the United States of America” before “and” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 10 (¶ 10) would read:

There shall be regional conferences and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments V and VI are both for ¶ 15.)

RS- 305 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – V

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 15, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 15, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Add “regional and” before “jurisdictional” and delete “and central” before “conferences”, delete “central” before “conference”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 15 (¶15) would read:

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and 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 General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 306 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows for representation in the General Conference at other than proportional levels during a transitional period for the admission of an annual conference into the United Methodist Church.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 690 Yes, 165 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 15, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 15, *Article III*) amend by addition, as follows:

Add at the end of the paragraph, “Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 15 (¶ 15) would read:

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, jurisdictional, and central 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 conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

If both Amendments V and VI are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and 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 General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments VII and VIII are both for ¶ 16, but for different subparagraphs.)

RS- 307 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

In ¶ 16.3 and 16.10 delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the 16.10.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.3 and .10 (¶ 16.3 and .10) would read:

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

10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 308 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – VIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment would add “gender” to those categories of persons protected in this list of duties of General Conference.

On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 804 Yes, 39 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

In ¶ 16.1 and .14 add “, gender” after “race”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.1 and .14 (¶ 16.1 and .14) would read:

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

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

AND

RS- 309 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IX

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment would ensure a minimum basis of support for the election of bishops at jurisdictional conferences.

On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 821 Yes, 50 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:

Add “, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates” before the period at the end of the first sentence.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 23 (¶ 23) would read:

The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the General Conference, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

AND

RS- 310 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – X

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 649 Yes, 195 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “Central” before “Conferences” and add “Regional” before “Conferences” in the heading of Section V.

Delete “shall” before “be” and add “may” before “be” and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and delete “outside the United States of America” before “with” in the first sentence. Delete the second sentence. Delete “Subsequently” at the beginning of the third sentence and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the third and fourth sentences, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, the heading of Section V and ¶ 28 (¶ 28) would read:

Section V. Regional Conferences

¶ 28. *Article I.*-There may be regional conferences for the work of the Church with such duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. The General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences. The regional conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 311 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 29 (¶ 29) would read:

The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 312 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 749 Yes, 119 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence. Delete the second sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 30 (¶ 30) would read:

The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 313 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 544 Yes, 252 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first sentence.

Add “In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences,” at the beginning of ¶ 31.2 and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences.” Add “In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.”

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in ¶ 31.3, .6, and .7 and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 31 (¶ 31) would read:

The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.
2. In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference. In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.
3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.
4. To determine the boundaries of the annual conferences within their respective areas.
5. To make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional conference Discipline enacted by the regional conference.
7. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that regional conference from the decision of a committee on trial. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments XIV and XV are both for ¶ 32.)

RS- 314 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XIV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph. In a separate action on ¶ 35, an editorial change was proposed to replace “probationary members” with “provisional members” wherever the term appears in the constitution.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

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

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

(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 315 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows definition of the lay and clergy membership of the annual conference by the General Conference without going through the constitutional amendment process. This portion of the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (Section VI, Article I of the Constitution) has been amended 16 times since 1968.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 718 Yes, 117 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete everything in the first paragraph following “shall be composed of” and add “lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

AND

If both Amendments XIV and XV are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments XVI and XVII are both for ¶ 33.)

RS- 316 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XVI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Add “, regional” following “General” and before “and” and delete “the” before “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” in the first sentence. Add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General,

regional and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 317 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XVII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment would make supporting constitutional changes to allow reinstatement of legislation adopted by the 2004 General Conference and subsequently declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council to allow lay persons on the committee on investigation to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 812 Yes, 49 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*) amend by addition, as follows:

Add “and the committee on investigation” following “ministry.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General and the jurisdictional or central conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

AND

If both Amendments XVI and XVII are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General, regional, and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect

January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 318 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XVIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Following “jurisdictional” delete “or central” and add “and regional”, and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 (¶ 34) would read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional and regional conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional and regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional and regional conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments XIX and XX are both for ¶ 35.)

RS- 319 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XIX

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment would allow additional clergy members to participate in the election of clergy delegates to general, jurisdictional or central conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 696 Yes, 135 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Before “delegates” delete “ordained ministerial” and add “clergy” and before “from” delete “by and” and before “members” delete “ordained ministerial” and before “members” add “clergy” and before “the annual” delete “with” and before “the annual” add “and shall be elected by the clergy members of” and after “or provisional annual conference” add “who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.”

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 35 (¶ 35) would read:

The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

AND

RS- 320 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XX

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “or central” following “jurisdictional” and add “and regional” following “jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 35 (¶ 35) would read:

The ordained ministerial delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional and regional conference shall be elected by and from the ordained ministerial members in full connection with the annual conference or provisional annual conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

AND

If both Amendments XIX and XX are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or regional conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

AND

RS- 321 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “and” before “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” and add “and regional” before “conferences” in the first clause, delete “or central” before “conferences” and add “and regional” before conferences in the last clause and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 36 (¶ 36) would read:

The lay delegates to the General, jurisdictional and regional conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age; *provided* such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional and regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 322 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment formally recognizes that the Baltimore-Washington Conference has been appointing pastors, superintending the congregations and integrating the congregations of Bermuda into the life of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington Conference recognize these churches as United Methodist congregations.

On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 757 Yes, 27 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:

Before “Connecticut” add “Bermuda”.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 37 (¶ 37) would read:

The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:
Northeastern-Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.
Southeastern-Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.
North Central-Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.
South Central-Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.
Western-Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.

AND

RS- 323 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 590 Yes, 255 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 38, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 38, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

After “Church” delete “outside the United States of America” and after “into” delete “central” and after “into” add “regional” and after “determined” delete “by the Uniting Conference,” and after “Conference” delete “having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 38 (¶ 38) would read:

The work of the Church may be formed into regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 324 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXIV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:

Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may be effected by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the regional conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 325 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXV

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 (¶ 46) would read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and regional conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each regional conference for those elected by such regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 326 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXVI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 560 Yes, 275 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and following “Bishops” delete “, and such” and following “Bishops” add “In regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions within their jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, the regional conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 48 (¶ 48) would read:

The bishops of each jurisdictional and regional conference shall constitute a College of Bishops. In regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions within their jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, the regional conference College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 327 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXVII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 246 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

In the first sentence, before “conferences” delete “ or central” and before “conferences” add “and regional” and in the first sentence of the second paragraph delete “central” before “conference” and add “regional” before “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 49 (¶ 49) would read:

The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional and regional conferences in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference. A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop; *provided* that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or regional conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or regional conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or regional conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 328 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXVIII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

In the third sentence, delete “central” before “conference” and add “regional” before “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 50 (¶ 50) would read:

The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a regional conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing him shall have determined.

The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 329 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXIX

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” before “or jurisdictional” and add “regional” before “or jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 51 (¶ 51) would read:

A bishop presiding over an annual, regional, or jurisdictional conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session; *provided* that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference.

Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be reported in writing annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 330 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXX

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 52, *Article VIII*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 52, *Article VIII*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” after “jurisdictional and” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional and” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 52 (¶ 52) would read:

The bishops of the several jurisdictional and regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 331 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXXI

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Four, ¶ 56, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Four, ¶ 56, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” after “jurisdictional or” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or” and delete “central” after “jurisdictional or a” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or a” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 56 (¶ 56) would read:

The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a jurisdictional or regional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdictional or regional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that jurisdictional or regional conference.
2. To hear and determine any appeal from a bishop’s decision on a question of law made in the annual conference when said appeal has been made by one-fifth of that conference present and voting.
3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences.
4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or jurisdictional or regional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a jurisdictional or a regional conference.
5. To have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.

6. To provide its own methods of organization and procedure. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

RS- 332 – PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – XXXII

(Submitted by action of General Conference)

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

Delete “central” after “jurisdictional or” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 61 (¶ 61) would read:

A jurisdictional or regional 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 change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

(Notes from General Conference: Amendments III, IV, V, VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII are all part of the Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church proposal. The rationale is identical for these amendments.

Amendments V and VI are both for ¶ 15. Amendments VII and VIII are both for ¶ 16, but for different subparagraphs. Amendments XIV and XV are both for ¶ 32. Amendments XVI and XVII are both for ¶ 33. Amendments XIX and XX are both for ¶ 35.)