

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference

- To be canvassed for ratification by the Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

The following proposed constitutional amendments were adopted by the General Conference 2020/2024 and must be ratified by the members at the annual conferences this year. The proposed constitutional amendments may be debated but may not be amended. Four votes are required. These can be carried out in writing or by show of hands. All YES and NO votes cast are counted. It is important that a careful count of the votes is guaranteed. The conference secretaries are responsible for this. They must sign the result together with the bishop and forward it to the secretary of the General Conference within seven days of the end of the annual conference. The result of the vote is not communicated to the voting annual conference. The sole purpose of this is to ensure that conferences that vote later can also decide freely and uninfluenced by the outcome of votes in other conferences.

For the constitutional amendments to take effect, a 2/3 majority of the cumulative yes votes of the members of all annual conferences worldwide is required. The Council of Bishops will tally the votes in November, determine the result, and communicate it towards the end of 2025.

The following table contains four columns.

- The first column contains the English text of the constitution as voted on by the General Conference in 2024. This highlights all the changes to the 2016 Book of Discipline that will be voted on (the deletions are underlined, and the added passages are underlined). This is the text that the annual conferences will vote on.
- The second column contains some comments and explanations to aid understanding.

Vote 1	Explanation
Calendar Item 22 Approved 586-164 April 25, 2024 Committee Item ST29 Approved 29-0 April 22, 2024 Petition 21039	<i>The General Conference supported the regionalization proposals by 586 votes to 164, the 2/3 majority required for constitutional amendments was exceeded.</i>
AMEND ¶¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:	
<p>¶ 10 <u>9</u>. Article III <u>Article II</u>. - There shall be central <u>regional</u> conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional central <u>regional</u> conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, <u>provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.</u></p>	<p><i>There shall be regional conferences in all regions of the worldwide church with equal powers, duties, and privileges.</i> <i>In many articles of the constitution, the previous term “Central Conference” is changed to “Regional Conference” and the distinction between the church in the USA and outside the USA is eliminated.</i></p>
<p>¶ 9 <u>10</u>. Article II <u>Article III</u>. - There shall <u>may</u> be jurisdictional conferences for the <u>work of the</u> Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. <u>provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or central conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.</u></p>	<p><i>There may be jurisdictional conferences in a region. At present only the US has jurisdictions according to par. 37. Removal of the distinction between the USA and outside the USA.</i></p>
<p><u>(NEW – Renumber subsequent paragraphs) ¶ 13. Article VI. – The General</u></p>	<p><i>Important new article! All conferences mentioned have – within constitutional limits -</i></p>

<p><u>Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.</u></p>	<p><i>legislative functions, thus enabling regional conferences to edit a Regional Discipline, as the special conditions and mission of the church in the area require.</i></p>
<p>¶ 15. Article III. – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, jurisdictional, and central <u>regional</u> 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 <u>regional</u> conference.</p> <p><u>In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.</u></p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p> <p><i>Where there are jurisdictions, the creation of a regional conference gives power and duties to said regional conference which has its effects on the jurisdictions. See also ¶ 23.</i></p> <p><i>Determining the representation ratio in the jurisdictional conferences</i></p>
<p>¶ 16. Article IV. – The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, <u>subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of <u>regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.</u></p> <p>16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide <u>Church outside the United States of America.</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>16.10. 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 central <u>regional</u> conferences <u>without jurisdictions.</u></p> <p>...</p>	<p><i>The General Conference will keep full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional.</i></p> <p><i>Clarification of the names of the conferences.</i></p> <p><i>Equality of all regions</i></p> <p><i>Among regional conferences a difference remains concerning bishops. In such cases, the terminology is: "regional conferences without jurisdictions."</i></p> <p><i>Supplement to regional conferences</i></p>

<p>16.12. <u>To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>16.17. <u>To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶ 31.5.</u></p>	<p><i>16.17 is NEW: 60% (similar to election of bishops) is less than constitutional amendments, but more than domination by a tiny majority of just over 50% for such an important question.</i></p>
<p>¶ 23. Article I.-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 <u>regional conference where jurisdictions exist</u>, 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.</p>	<p><i>Related to new text in ¶ 15. concerns U.S. regional conference</i></p>
<p>¶ 24. Article II.-All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference <u>and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist</u> shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.</p>	<p><i>Concerns U.S. regional conference</i></p>
<p>¶ 25. Article III.-The General Conferences <u>regional conference where jurisdictions exist</u> shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.</p>	<p><i>Concerns U.S. regional conference</i></p>
<p>¶ 26. Article IV.-Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the Council <u>College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist</u> or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its <u>respective</u> College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.</p>	<p><i>With the creation of a regional conference with jurisdictions, the responsibility shifts from the Council of Bishops to the College of Bishops of said regional conference.</i></p>
<p>¶ 27. Article V.-The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference <u>regional conference where jurisdictions exist</u>.</p> <p>5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall</p>	<p><i>Subject U.S. regional conference</i></p> <p><i>See 16.4: The number of clergy needed for the creation of an annual conference remains different, if the regional conference has jurisdictions. See ¶ 540 for regional conferences without jurisdictions.</i></p> <p><i>27.6. see parallel also ¶ 31.7.</i></p>

<p>be vested in the General Conference <u>and in the regional conferences.</u></p> <p>6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher <u>clergy or lay member</u> of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.</p>	
<p>Section V. Central Regional Conferences</p> <p>¶ 28. Article I.– There shall be central <u>regional</u> conferences for the work of the <u>worldwide</u> Church outside the United States of America with such powers, duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the <u>Constitution.</u></p> <p>The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.</p> <p>1. <u>Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:</u></p> <p>a) There shall be a <u>regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.</u></p> <p>b) <u>The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.</u></p> <p>2. <u>The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.</u></p>	<p><i>Everywhere in the worldwide church, there shall be regional conferences, see also ¶ 9.</i></p> <p><i>28.1 notes the two types of regional conferences, with or without jurisdictions. The existing central conferences remain in place, but are now called regional conferences.</i></p> <p><i>28.2 delegates the authority for creating regional conferences to General Conference.</i></p>
<p>¶ 29. Article II.– The central <u>regional</u> 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.</p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>
<p>¶ 30. Article III.– The central <u>regional</u> 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 central regional <u>regional</u> conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.</p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>
<p>¶ 31. Article IV.– The central <u>regional</u> conferences shall have the following powers and duties <u>as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution,</u> and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:</p> <p>1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.</p>	<p><i>¶ 31 describes the powers and duties of regional conferences and is expanded to include language into the Constitution from the present ¶¶ 540-48! See ¶ 543.7 "as the special conditions and the mission of the church in the area require". This strengthens the rights of the regional conferences (previously central conferences).</i></p> <p><i>Election of bishops and determination of the term of office in the regional conferences without jurisdictions.</i></p>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the

Name change to "regional conferences"

Article 31.5 describes in more detail than before the right of adaptation for all regional conferences, and thus now also for those in the USA. This strengthens this right.

The regional conferences can issue their own Book of Discipline, while observing the non-adaptable guidelines. In this Book of Discipline, they can regulate, for example, the training requirements for pastors. This right, which we as a CC have had for a long time, now applies to everyone.

The annual conference decides on the conference relations of clergy members in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Discipline of the regional conference.

The Regional Conference may establish and publish hymnals and ritual, taking into account the legal context of the respective countries. In doing so, the Articles of Faith, the Creed, and the doctrinal standards are to be observed.

Annual conferences can create structures that meet their mission requirements but prescribed structures must be maintained.

Name change to "regional conferences"

The Regional Conference shall regulate the procedure for investigations and trial procedures.

<p>central regional conference Discipline enacted by the central regional confer-ence.</p> <p>7. <u>To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.</u></p> <p>To <u>A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall</u> appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher <u>clergy or lay member of that central</u> the respective <u>conference</u> from the decision of a committee on trial.</p>	
<p>¶ 32. Article I.– 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 lay 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 Servant 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 central regional <u>conferences outside the USA</u>, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>Explanation on terminology:</i> <i>Where the episcopacy is concerned, the terminology is: "regional conferences without jurisdictions"</i> <i>Where other differences between the USA and the former central conferences are concerned, the terminology is: "regional conferences outside the USA"</i></p> <p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>

<p>¶ 33. Article II.-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 Conference and their respective regional jurisdictional or central conferences, <u>as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions,</u> 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.</p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>
<p>¶ 34. Article III.-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central <u>respective regional</u> conference, <u>as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions,</u> in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. 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 or central <u>regional</u> conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central <u>regional</u> conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central <u>regional</u> 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 or central <u>regional</u> conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central <u>regional</u> 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.</p> <p><u>In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may</u></p>	<p><i>Explanation on inverted order: Regional conferences are always mentioned prior to jurisdictional conferences. If there are some specifics for a regional conference with jurisdictions, it is mentioned after the general provisions for all regional conferences.</i></p> <p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p> <p><i>Delegates to the Jurisdictional Conferences</i></p>

<p><u>also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.</u></p>	
<p>¶ 35. Article IV.-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their <u>respective regional and jurisdictional or central conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions,</u> 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 <u>or its equivalent in regional conferences outside the USA</u> and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.</p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>
<p>¶ 36. Article V.-The lay delegates to the General Conference and <u>to their respective regional conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions</u> 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 <u>Conference and jurisdictional or central regional conferences, as well as the jurisdictional conferences if its regional conference has jurisdictions.</u></p>	<p><i>Name change to "regional conferences"</i></p>
<p>[DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber all subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]</p> <p>¶ 38. Article II. The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into central conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.</p> <p>¶ 39. Article III. Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved.</p>	<p>¶ 38 no more needed, as it dates from the time of the Uniting Conference.</p> <p>¶ 39 not needed; see ¶ 37 and ¶ 16.12.</p>
<p>¶ 40 Article IVII.– The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the <u>respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions. jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central</u></p>	<p><i>Authority of regional conferences regarding annual conferences.</i></p>

<p>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 central conferences. The authority of regional and jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.</p>	
<p>¶ 46. Article II.-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional and central 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 central regional conference, for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central regional conferences without jurisdictions, shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central <u>such regional</u> conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.</p>	<p><i>The regional conferences or the jurisdictions, where a regional conference has such, elect bishops.</i></p>
<p>¶ 48. Article IV.-The bishops of each jurisdictional and central conference regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.</p>	<p><i>Change of name to “regional conference”</i></p>
<p>¶ 49. Article V.-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the jurisdictional or central conferences <u>their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions,</u> 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.</p>	<p><i>Change of name to “regional conference”</i></p>

<p>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.</p> <p>In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or central regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.</p>	
<p>¶ 50. Article VI.– 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 b Bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bBishops elected by a central regional conference without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central regional conference electing him them shall have determined.</p> <p>The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, 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 its respective regional conference, or jurisdictional conference if a regional conference has jurisdictions, 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 respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.</p> <p>These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.</p>	<p><i>Opening sentences are from the time of union in 1968 and can be deleted. All living bishops have been consecrated after 1968.</i></p> <p><i>The present language of ¶ 50 includes a new last sentence not yet printed in the BOD 2016 but approved as constitutional amendment.</i></p> <p><i>Change of name to “regional conference”</i></p>
<p>¶ 52. Article VIII.– The bishops of the several regional jurisdictional and central conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.</p>	<p><i>Change of name to “regional conference”</i></p>
<p>¶ 56. Article II.–The Judicial Council shall have authority:</p>	

<p>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 <u>regional or jurisdictional</u> or central conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that <u>regional or jurisdictional</u> or central conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that <u>regional or jurisdictional</u> or central conference.</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, <u>or regional, or jurisdictional</u> or central 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 <u>regional or jurisdictional</u> or a central conference.</p> <p>...</p>	<p><i>Change of name to "regional conference"</i></p>
<p>¶ 61. Article III. - A <u>regional or jurisdictional</u> or central 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.</p>	<p><i>Change of name to "regional conference"</i></p>

Vote 2 Membership Rules	Explanation
Calendar Item 240 Committee Item GA11 Petition 20240	<i>The General Conference supported the amendment by 607 votes to 67.</i>
<p>4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, <u>gender, ability</u>, color, national origin, status,¹ or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.² In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.³</p>	<i>The amendment ensures that no person may be denied church membership because of their origin, gender or similar criteria.</i>

¹ Amended 1992.

² Amended 2000.

³ See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

Vote 3 Fighting Racism	Explanation
Calendar Item 550 Committee Item IC50 Petition 20332	<i>The delegates at the General Conference voted in favor of the amendment by 621 votes to 59.</i>
<p>¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice- The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.⁴</p>	<i>The complete revision of Article 5 of the Constitution aims to strengthen the long-standing position of the church in favor of racial justice.</i>

⁴ Amended 2000

Vote 4 Clarification of Eligibility to vote in the election of pastoral GC and CC delegates	Explanation
Calendar Item 555 Committee Item OM153 Petition 20070	<i>The General Conference supported this change by 547 votes to 99.</i>
<p>¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from⁵ 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. <u>Master of Divinity</u> degree <u>from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference</u> and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.⁶</p>	<p><i>The amendment to Article 35 clarifies who is eligible to elect the pastoral delegates to the General Conference, the jurisdictional conferences in the United States, and the Central Conferences. In particular, it addresses the requirements for local pastors. If regionalization is ratified, the reference in this paragraph to Central Conferences would be changed to Regional Conferences.</i></p>

⁵ Amended 1996

⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.