

Exhibit B –
Connectional Conference
Plan Petitions

Exhibit B – Connectional Conference Plan Petitions

Petition 1 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Par. 101 – General BOD

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶101

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend Par. 101 as follows:

¶101. The *General Book of Discipline* reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through doctrine and disciplined Christian life. We are a worldwide denomination united by doctrine, discipline, and mission through our connectional covenant. The *General Book of Discipline* expresses that unity. Each ~~central~~ connectional conference may make changes and adaptations to the *General Book of Discipline* to more fruitfully accomplish our mission in various contexts. However, some portions of the *General Book of Discipline* are not subject to adaptation. The following parts and paragraphs are not subject to change or adaptation except by action of the General Conference. ~~The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has primary responsibility for proposing to General Conference revisions to this paragraph.~~

Parts I -V

I. Constitution ¶¶ 1-61

II. *General Book of Discipline* ¶101

III. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶¶ 102-105

IV. The Ministry of All Christians ¶¶ 120-143

V. Social Principles Preface, Preamble, and ¶¶ 160-166 (as replaced by the Global Social Principles to be adopted by the 2020 General Conference)

Part VI. General Organization and Administration ¶¶ 201-204, 260-261, 301-303, 305-308, 401-403, 421-423, 431-450, 501-523, 525-528, 570-575, 601, 701-702, 703.1-4, 703.7-12, 704, 801-809, 1501-

1712, 2201, 2501-2502, 2504-2511, 2552, 2601-2612, 2701, 2703-2719, 2801-2802 (All references in these paragraphs referring to jurisdictional or central conferences shall be modified to refer to connectional conferences. Where provisions between jurisdictional and central conferences conflict, they shall continue to apply differently within the United States and outside the U.S., but the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters shall lead a process in consultation with the Connectional Table to reconcile the differences and rewrite paragraphs containing conflicts to be proposed to the 2025 General Conference.)

Part VII. Additional Organization and Administration (All other paragraphs in the *Discipline*, as amended by General Conference 2020, shall remain in effect through December 31, 2025, unless adapted by a connectional conference. Based on decisions by connectional conferences during 2022- 25, the 2025 General Conference may add or subtract paragraphs to Part VI. All references in these paragraphs referring to jurisdictional or central conferences shall be modified to refer to connectional conferences. These paragraphs shall be subject to adaptation by the central conferences beginning in 2020 and the connectional conferences beginning in 2022.)

~~The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, in consultation with the Committee on Faith and Order, will bring legislation to the 2020 General Conference to change the structure of the *General Book of Discipline* to include a Part VI, General Organization and Administration not subject to change or adaptation by central conferences, and a Part VII, Additional Organization and Administration, adaptable by central conferences according to ¶ 31.5. The content of Part VI of the 2016 Book of Discipline will be included in either Part VI or Part VII of the *General Book of Discipline*.~~

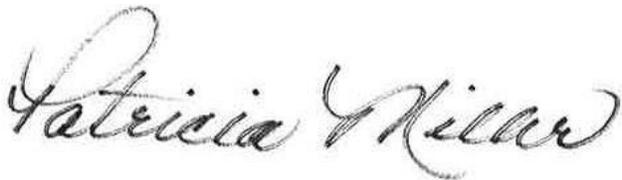
~~For the work on Part VI, Chapter 2 (The Ministry of the Ordained) and Chapter 3 (The Superintendency) of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Commission for the Study of Ministry, and for Part VI, Chapter 5 (Administrative Order) of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the Standing Committee on~~

~~Central Conference Matters will work in consultation with the Connectional Table.~~

The Commission on the General Conference is directed to set aside adequate time in the first three days of the ~~2020~~ 2025 General Conference for plenary consideration and action on Part VI, General Administration and Organization, submitted by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and revisions to what constitutes Part VI, based on decisions made by the connectional conferences. ~~Subsequent changes to Part VI shall be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters for submission to General Conference.~~

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller".

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

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Rationale: These changes define what portions of the Discipline apply to the whole church and what portions are adaptable. Provisions pertaining to homosexuality (except regarding funding) are moved to the adaptable section. The 2025 General Conference is able to make changes based on the decisions of the connectional conferences.

Petition 2 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 9

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Implementation of Plan

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: New ¶ 2801

General Church Budget Implications: Yes

Global Implications: Yes

Add a new ¶ 2801 as follows:

¶ 2801 – Implementation of the Connectional Conference Plan

This paragraph contains the process for implementing the Connectional Conference Plan and takes precedence over all other paragraphs in the *Book of Discipline* not in the Constitution. The processes contained in this paragraph substitute for any processes in other parts of the *Discipline*, and those other processes and approvals are preempted by this paragraph.

1. As soon as possible after the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference, and no later than March 31, 2019, the General Conference secretary shall forward to the annual conferences the Constitutional amendments approved by General Conference for the Connectional Conference Plan. Annual conferences shall be responsible to vote on ratification of these amendments by April 15, 2020, forwarding the results of this vote to the Council of Bishops immediately at the conclusion of each annual conference. Any annual conference that has not forwarded the results of its ratification ballot to the Council of Bishops by April 30, 2020, shall be deemed not present and voting under ¶ 59. The ratification percentage for the amendments shall be counted based on the ballots received, and ballots not received shall not count as part of the total (of which a two-thirds affirmative vote is required for ratification).

2. Upon the announcement by the Council of Bishops that all Constitutional amendments have been ratified, the 2020 sessions of the jurisdictional conferences shall choose by simple majority vote of the delegates present and voting as to which of the three connectional conferences that jurisdiction desires to affiliate. All jurisdictionally owned assets and liabilities shall belong to the connectional

conference with which that jurisdiction affiliates when the connectional conference becomes effective. All annual conferences of that jurisdiction shall have the status chosen by their jurisdictional conference, unless an annual conference desires to choose a different option (§ 2801.4). The decision of each jurisdictional conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

3. Upon the announcement by the Council of Bishops that the Constitutional amendments have been ratified, each 2020-21 session of a central conference shall choose whether it wants to be constituted as a connectional conference (either by itself or joined with other central conferences) or to join one of the three theologically-based connectional conferences (making it a global connectional conference). The option chosen (own connectional conference or affiliation with another connectional conference) shall require a majority vote by the delegates present and voting.

All central conference owned assets and liabilities shall belong to the connectional conference with which that central conference affiliates when the connectional conference becomes effective.

All annual conferences of that central conference shall have the status chosen by their central conference, unless an annual conference desires to choose a different option (§ 2801.4). The decision of each central conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

4. Following the decision of each jurisdictional or central conference but no later than July 31, 2021, any annual conference inside or outside the United States that disagrees with the decision of its jurisdictional or central conference may vote to join a different connectional conference by a majority vote by the conference members present and voting. The proposal for an annual conference to affiliate with a different connectional conference shall originate either from the Cabinet, the annual conference Connectional Table (or equivalent structure), or a petition signed by a minimum of ten percent of the

annual conference members (clergy or lay). The proposal would then be handled in accordance with the annual conference rules. All annual conference owned assets and liabilities shall remain with the annual conference, no matter which connectional conference it affiliates with. The decision of each annual conference shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team.

5. After January 1, 2026, an annual conference may by a 60 percent majority vote of its members present and voting decide to switch its affiliation from one connectional conference to another. Such a switch in affiliation shall require the majority approval of the receiving connectional conference. An annual conference shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous vote on the question.

6. Between August 1, 2021, and July 1, 2022, any local church (charge) inside or outside the United States that disagrees with the decision of its annual conference (whether the annual conference chose by vote or by acquiescing to the decision of the jurisdictional or central conference) may vote to join a different connectional conference by a simple majority vote of the church's professing members present and voting at a duly called regular or special church conference. The proposal to affiliate with a different connectional conference shall originate either from the church council (or equivalent structure) or from a petition signed by a minimum of ten percent of the congregation's professing members.

The bishop and Cabinet, along with other appropriate individuals of the annual conference, shall facilitate the orderly and timely administration of this process. The decision of each local congregation shall be immediately communicated to the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team. After July 1, 2022, any local congregation desiring to switch its affiliation from one connectional conference to another shall follow the requirements of ¶41. A local church shall not consider a switch in its affiliation within less than four years from a previous church conference vote on the question.

7. Past and current pension and annuity liabilities under the Clergy Retirement Security Program shall remain the legal obligations of the annual conferences. Clergy affiliating with a different connectional conference from their original annual conference shall have their associated past and current pension and annuity liabilities and related assets calculated, assigned and transferred as appropriate, by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to the annual/connectional conference to which the clergy participant transfers.

8. By August 31, 2021, each active or retired bishop shall register with the president of the Council of Bishops and the Transition Team with which connectional conference he or she desires to affiliate.

9. During this transition, to provide continuity and avoid a mismatch of the number of bishops for each connectional conference, the mandatory retirement provisions of ¶ 408.1 shall be waived for all bishops. Bishops in the United States may continue serving their current appointments past the mandatory retirement age until the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences in 2022, at which time new bishops shall be elected as needed in each connectional conference. The retirement date would be December 31, 2022, and the effective date for new bishops January 1, 2023. Bishops unwilling to continue serving may take retirement, and the Council of Bishops shall appoint another retired bishop as interim bishop to serve through 2022. No new bishops would then be elected at the 2020 jurisdictional conferences, but election of members to the general boards and agencies would still need to occur. The 2020 jurisdictional conferences may be shortened to account for the reduced business to be conducted, or each College of Bishops may decide to conduct the necessary business via email and/or video conference. The central conferences shall meet and elect bishops as usual in 2020, unless the central conference College of Bishops determines that a realignment of the central conference may reduce the number of bishops needed. A central conference experiencing realignment, either by changing annual conference boundaries or joining another connectional conference, shall

meet for organizational purposes prior to July 1, 2023, and elect any required new or replacement bishops at that time. In such a case, a central conference bishop shall not be subject to mandatory retirement until 60 days following the organizational conference (see ¶ 2801.14).

10. Each active or retired clergy person (ordained or licensed or in process) shall have until July 1, 2022, to register with his or her bishop and the Transition Team a desire to affiliate with a different connectional conference than that chosen by his or her annual conference. Any clergy person not registering a choice shall by default remain a member of that person's annual conference and affiliate with the connectional conference chosen by that annual conference.

11. Clergy appointments taking effect July 1, 2022, shall be made as much as possible by matching the desired affiliation of clergy and congregation. Clergy credentials of ordination, commissioning, and licensing shall be recognized by all connectional conferences and shall not be repeated, no matter which conference granted the credential, but the ability to serve in a particular annual conference shall be determined by the qualifications and expectations set by that annual conference. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment.

a. Transitional Appointments. Clergy may make themselves temporarily available to serve in an annual conference/connectional conference different from their preferred one, either by continuing a current appointment or in an interim appointment. In order to serve in an annual/ connectional conference different from their preferred one, a clergy person shall agree to meet the qualifications of the different annual/connectional conference and maintain the standards of conduct as set forth by the annual/connectional conference they are serving. Failure to abide by this agreement shall constitute grounds for the bishop to revoke the appointment. Such transitional appointments are designed to be temporary until a place of service is found in the clergy person's preferred annual conference.

b. Service in Other Connectional Conferences. Clergy persons may make themselves available to serve in more than one annual/connectional conference. Such clergy person shall designate one annual conference for their primary conference membership. They shall indicate to their bishop a willingness to serve in other annual/connectional conferences. In order to serve in an annual/connectional conference different from the one where his or her membership is lodged, a clergy person shall agree to meet the qualifications of the different annual/connectional conference and maintain the standards of conduct as set forth by the annual/connectional conference they are serving. Failure to abide by this agreement shall constitute grounds for the bishop to revoke the appointment. Such a clergy person shall maintain membership in his or her designated annual/ connectional conference, but shall be eligible for appointment to a different annual/connectional conference with the approval of the receiving annual conference bishop and clergy session.

12. Beginning September 1, 2021, the bishops of each new connectional conference may begin meeting to plan the transition into the new structure, in conjunction with the Transition Team.

13. The organizing conferences of each of the three theological connectional conferences shall take place between September 1 and November 30, 2022 on a date and in a place set by each conference's College of Bishops in consultation with the Transition Team. The organizing conferences of any new connectional conferences formed outside the United States shall take place on a date set by the connectional conference College of Bishops, but prior to July 1, 2023. Notwithstanding other provisions in the *Discipline* or in jurisdictional or central conference rules, materials proposed to be adopted by the organizing conference shall be in the hands of the delegates no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting.

14. Delegates to the organizing conferences from annual conferences that choose to affiliate with that connectional conference shall be the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates of that

annual conference or their duly elected successors according to the provisions for election of delegates (¶¶ 15, 34-36, 316.6, 321.2, 327.2-3, 334.1, 344.4, 346.2, 353.7, 355.8, 514-15, 586.3, 602.1).

Congregations and clergy who desire to affiliate with a connectional conference different from their annual conference shall be represented at the organizing conference of their chosen connectional conference by one clergy and one lay delegate who qualify as proper delegates under the provisions for election of delegates to jurisdictional conference cited in this paragraph. Clergy delegates from areas not covered by an annual conference related to that connectional conference shall be elected by and from the clergy who desire to affiliate with that connectional conference. Lay delegates from areas not covered by an annual conference related to that connectional conference shall be elected by and from the lay members of the annual conference of those congregations that desire to affiliate with the connectional conference. The bishop of that area shall call a special meeting of the clergy and lay members of annual conference desiring to affiliate with a different connectional conference for the purpose of electing the one clergy and one lay delegate to the organizing conference. This meeting shall take place between July 1 and August 15, 2022.

15. The new connectional conference structure, annual conference boundaries, and episcopal supervisory relationships inside the United States shall take effect on January 1, 2023. The new connectional conference structure, annual conference boundaries, and episcopal supervisory relationships for newly formed connectional conferences outside the United States shall take effect on the date set by the organizing conferences. A central conference choosing to become its own connectional conference where no annual conferences are added or subtracted or boundaries changed shall not be considered “newly formed” or “new” and shall not be subject to requirements of newly formed or new connectional conferences in this paragraph (¶ 2801).

16. Connectional conferences at the organizing conference shall redraw the boundaries of their annual conferences in order to encompass all their territory and congregations. Any new annual conferences formed shall have their organizing meeting between January 1 and June 30, 2023, or on another date set by the connectional conference college of bishops.

17. During the 2020-2025 period, the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women shall engage all branches of the church to identify general principles and benchmarks that would foster accountability in the whole church for combatting racism and sexism. They shall synthesize that work and propose to the 2025 General Conference general principles and benchmarks for adoption by the conference. Subsequently each connectional conference shall be responsible to provide the resources and accountability necessary to abide by the principles and achieve the benchmarks and shall report on its compliance to the Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences at least 240 days prior to each General Conference.

18. During the period 2020-2025, the General Council on Finance and Administration and General Board of Global Ministries shall continue to facilitate and support the financial underwriting of bishops, annual conferences, and mission work outside the United States through the general apportionment and Advance giving.

19. The general agencies shall continue in the structure and funding level established by the 2020 General Conference through 2025, with the possibility of using reserve funds to supplement apportionments for those agencies not included in the *General Book of Discipline* for the years 2023-2025. Other general church funds shall be budgeted through the normal process for this period, with plans to accommodate the potential loss of apportionment income through the transition. Each connectional conference shall elect five representatives to a task force to evaluate the General Agency structure and propose a new model to the 2025 General Conference. In that new model, agencies shall

serve only those connectional conferences that desire to participate in each agency, and funding shall come only from participating connectional conferences. The following agencies shall continue to serve the whole church and be part of the *General Book of Discipline*: Wespeth, the Publishing House, Archives and History, General Council on Finance and Administration, Faith and Order, and United Methodist Committee on Relief. The above named task force shall determine which aspects of the General Board of Global Ministries are to be included in the *General Book of Discipline* supported by the whole church.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

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Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

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Anticipated Financial Implications of Connectional Conference Implementation:

The actual incremental costs of this plan will be dependent upon the structure finally adopted by the General Conference. There will probably be some additional costs related to the formation and meeting of connectional conferences. These costs may be offset by a possible reduction in costs related to the repurposing of other structures within the church. The most significant increase in costs would probably involve the meetings of the connectional conferences. Depending upon where and when the connectional conferences meet, the incremental costs of these meetings could be between US \$300,000 and US \$1,000,000. GCFA will be asked to develop more accurate cost projections. Any incremental cost

increases will need to be examined in the context of the overall budget for the 2021-2025 quadrennium and submitted for approval to the 2020 General Conference.

Rationale: This new paragraph outlines the process for implementation and of transitioning into the new structure. The principles outlined in the summary of the plan are codified in this legislation.

Petition 3 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Transition Team

Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number, if applicable: New ¶ 2802

General Church Budget Implications: Yes

Global Implications: Yes

Adopt a new ¶ 2802 as follows:

¶ 2802. Transition Team—1. The Council of Bishops shall appoint a Transition Team of approximately 30 persons chosen for skill and expertise, with attention to representing all constituencies. The Team shall work with the Council and be amenable to the Council, with necessary funds to be provided by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

2. The Team shall be responsible for administering and overseeing the transition process moving from GC2019 to the organizing conferences in 2022, working with existing groups and agencies where possible and appropriate. It's term of service shall expire as of December 31, 2025. The responsibilities of the Team shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. assist in implementing the process for electing delegates to the organizing conferences (¶ 2801.14)

b. working with appropriate leaders in each connectional conference to set up the organizing conferences of the connectional conferences

c. ensuring that candidates in the ministry process know how to transition into the new processes

d. tracking decisions by jurisdictional and central conferences, annual conferences, and local churches about connectional conference affiliation, and communicating with the developing leadership teams of each connectional conference with up to date information

e. working with the bishops to develop the process for communicating with the connectional conferences regarding moving and assigning clergy and transitioning churches to a connectional conference different from their annual conference

f. writing legislation to be submitted to the 2020 General Conference for a Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences to foster cooperation between the conferences, monitor compliance with efforts to combat racism and sexism, and deal with issues of conflict between the conferences

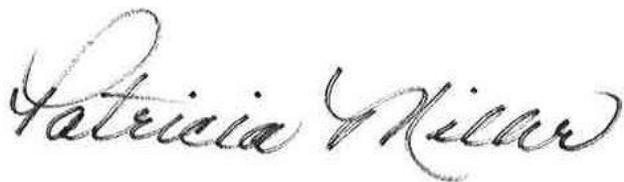
g. working with the General Council on Finance and Administration to handle legal, financial, and administrative changes and with Wespath to handle pension changes necessary in the transition

h. other responsibilities assigned by the Council of Bishops not in conflict with the Constitution.

3. As approved by the Council of Bishops, the Team shall have a project manager hired by and responsible to the Team and other paid staff or contracted services hired by and responsible to the project manager.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

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Anticipated Financial Requirements:

Due to the timing of the approval of constitutional amendments, there are no immediate financial needs created by this petition. Any future anticipated financial requirements caused by the creation of the transition team can be estimated and included by the General Council on Finance and Administration in the 2021-2025 budget.

Rationale: This paragraph describes the creation and work of a Transition Team to assist the Council of Bishops with overseeing the transition and caring for the many details that will arise.

Petition 4 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Council and College of Bishops

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 422

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 422 as follows:

¶ 422. Council and College of Bishops—1. Bishops, ~~although~~ are elected by ~~jurisdictional or central connectional~~ conferences, ~~are elected general superintendents of the whole Church~~ and exercise their authority primarily within the connectional conference college of bishops. As all ordained ministers are first elected into membership of an annual conference and subsequently appointed to pastoral charges, so bishops become through their election members first of the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops before they are subsequently assigned to areas of service. By virtue of their election and consecration, bishops are members of the Council of Bishops and of their college and are bound in special covenant with all other bishops. In keeping with this covenant, bishops fulfill their servant leadership and express their mutual accountability. The Council of Bishops and the colleges ~~are~~ is a faith communities of mutual trust and concern responsible for the faith development and continuing wellbeing of ~~its~~ their members.

2. The Council of Bishops and the colleges ~~are~~ is thus the collegial expressions of episcopal leadership in the Church and through the Church into the world. The Church expects the Council of Bishops and the Colleges of Bishops to speak to the Church and from the Church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships.

3. In order to exercise meaningful leadership, the Council of Bishops is to meet at stated intervals. The Council of Bishops is charged with the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs ~~of~~ shared by the whole Church, to be executed in regularized consultation and cooperation with other councils and service agencies of the Church. The role of the Council of Bishops is to serve as a missional body that helps gather and distribute best practices for church vitality; is a learning, equipping, and nurturing

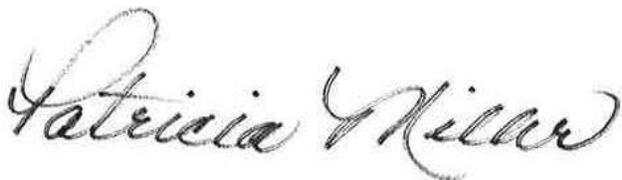
community; acts as connectors to the jointly-shared ministries; guides the Wesleyan DNA emphases around justice, fairness, and inclusiveness, with special concern around the elimination of racism and sexism; handles Ecumenical relations; mediates accountability challenges; and ensures the carrying into effect of the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference.

4. The bishops of each connectional conference 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. Each college shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church within their connectional conference and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the connectional conference. Each college shall also nurture and support its members and hold them accountable to the highest standards of United Methodist leadership and discipleship.

4.5. The Council of Bishops may assign one of its members to visit another episcopal area or Methodist-related church, subject to the consent of that area's College of Bishops or that church's leadership. When so assigned, the bishop shall be recognized as the accredited representative of the Council of Bishops, and when requested by the resident bishop or president in that area or church, may exercise therein the functions of episcopacy.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name of the petitioner.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

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Rationale: This paragraph reconfigures the Council of Bishops as more of a learning community that cares for our ecumenical relationships, while transitioning the oversight and accountability functions to the respective connectional conference colleges of bishops. It implements the constitutional amendments related to bishops included in this plan.

Petition 5 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Judicial Council

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 2602

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 2602, incorporating ¶¶ 2602-2606 and a portion of ¶ 2608.2, and renumber succeeding paragraphs as follows:

¶ 2602. Effective January 1, 2023, delete the existing ¶¶ 2602-2606 and replace with the following:

Composition—1. Members—The Judicial Council shall be composed of two members, one clergy and one lay, from each connectional conference, elected in such a manner as each conference shall determine. In the same manner, each connectional conference shall elect two alternates, one clergy and one lay. All the laypersons shall be professing members of The United Methodist Church. A member’s term of office shall be eight years. The term of the alternates shall be for four years. A member may serve a maximum of two consecutive eight-year terms, with a minimum of four years off before reelection to the council. The terms of the two members of a connectional conference shall be staggered, so that both terms shall not expire in the same quadrennium. The secretary of the General Conference in 2022 shall randomly determine which member (clergy or lay) in each connectional conference shall be elected to a three-year term (serving 2023-2025), so that the number of clergy and lay members whose terms expire in a given quadrennium are equal or nearly so. Members elected to a three-year term in 2022 shall be eligible to be elected to two additional consecutive eight-year terms. Members elected in 2022 to a seven-year term (serving 2023-2029) shall be eligible to be elected to one additional consecutive eight-year term.

2. Vacancies—a. If a vacancy in the membership of the council occurs during the interim between sessions of the connectional conference, the vacancy shall be filled by the respective clergy or

lay alternate. The alternate filling such vacancy shall hold office as a member of the Judicial Council for the unexpired term of the member whom the alternate succeeds. In the event of any vacancy, it shall be the duty of the president and secretary of the council to notify the alternate entitled to fill it. When an alternate becomes a member of the council, the connectional conference college of bishops shall appoint a replacement alternate to fill out the unexpired term of the promoted alternate.

b. In the event of an absence of one or more members of the council during a session of the Judicial Council, such temporary vacancy shall be filled by the respective clergy or lay alternate.

If the appropriate alternate is unable to be present, the other alternate from that connectional conference shall fill the temporary vacancy. Inability or failure to fill a vacancy does not affect the validity of any action of the council so long as a quorum is present.

3. Expiration of Term—The term of office of the members of the council and of the alternates shall expire upon the adjournment of the connectional conference at which their successors are elected.

4. Ineligibility of Members—Members of the council shall be ineligible to serve as delegates to the General or connectional conference or to serve in any General or connectional conference board or agency.

5. Quorum—Eighty percent of the council members shall constitute a quorum except on questions of the constitutionality of acts of General Conference, in which case a quorum shall be all members or their alternates duly seated according to the rules established by the Judicial Council. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the council shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On other matters, a majority vote of the entire council shall be sufficient. The council may decline to entertain an appeal or a petition for a declaratory decision in any instance in which it determines that it does not have jurisdiction to decide the matter.

¶ 2608.2. *Time and Place*—The council shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of the General Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body, and at least one other time in each calendar year and at such other times as it may deem appropriate, at such places as it may select from time to time. ~~Seven members shall constitute a quorum except on questions of the constitutionality of acts of General Conference in which case a quorum shall be nine members or alternates duly seated according to the rules established by the Judicial Council. An affirmative vote of at least six members of the council shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On other matters, a majority vote of the entire council shall be sufficient. The council may decline to entertain an appeal or a petition for a declaratory decision in any instance in which it determines that it does not have jurisdiction to decide the matter.~~

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

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Rationale: These changes reconfigure the Judicial Council as a representative body of the connectional conferences, ensuring equal representation. It designs the Council to cope with the reality of potentially as many as ten connectional conferences, each with a different Book of Discipline that would need to consider cases regarding those Disciplines.

Petition 6 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Equalize jurisdictional and central conferences

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶9

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

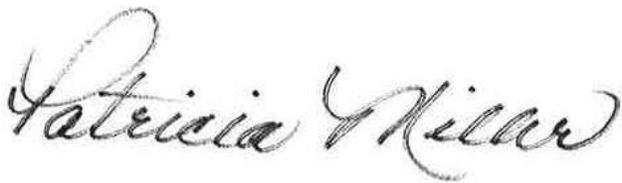
Amend ¶9 and delete ¶10 and renumber succeeding paragraphs as follows:

¶9. Article II.—There shall be ~~jurisdictional~~connectional 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 central~~ connectional conference based on ~~any ground other than geographical and regional division~~ race or ethnicity. Such duties, powers, and privileges shall be the same, whether the connectional conference is within or outside the United States, except as otherwise stated in the Constitution.

~~¶ 10. Article III.—There shall be central conferences for the Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional central conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.~~

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46239

Rationale: This amendment makes jurisdictions and central conferences equal, changing the name to connectional conferences. It also allows the creation of connectional conferences based on theology, rather than geography.

Petition 7 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – General Conference Year

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶14

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

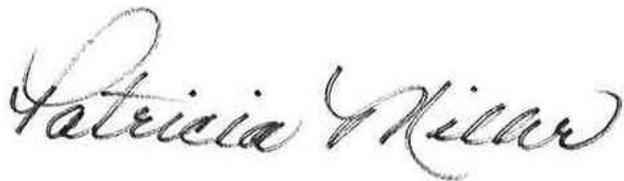
Amend ¶14 as follows:

¶14. Article II.—The General Conference shall meet once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. The change in the preceding sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016. The 2024 General Conference shall be moved to 2025, shifting the four-year cycle to odd-numbered years.

A special session of the General Conference ...

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller".

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

Fax Number: N/A

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Rationale: This amendment provides an extra year for transition to the new structure and ensures that

General Conference will not be held in a United States election year.

Petition 8 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Connectional Conference adaptation

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶16

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶16 as follows:

¶16. Article IV.—The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:

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.

2. To define and fix the powers and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters, deaconesses, and home missionaries, with adaptation by the connectional conferences except as otherwise precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 20.

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

4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the Church outside the United States of America.

5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops, to provide a uniform rule for their retirement, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability, with adaptation by the connectional conferences except as otherwise precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 45.

6. To provide and revise the hymnal and ritual of the Church and to regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, with adaptation by the connectional conferences.

7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the Church, except as herein otherwise prescribed.

8. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises of the Church and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.

9. To determine and provide for raising and distributing funds necessary to carry on the work of the Church.

~~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 conferences.~~

11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee, provided that the bishops shall select from their own number the presiding officer of the opening session.

~~12. 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.~~

13. To establish such commissions for the general work of the Church as may be deemed advisable.

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.

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

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

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller



Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

Fax Number: N/A

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46239

Rationale: This amendment allows connectional conferences to adapt various structures to the context in which they do ministry, including: powers and duties of various ministry leadership offices, number of bishops needed, the responsibilities of bishops, their support, and their retirement, worship and liturgy of the church, and the requirement for jurisdictional conferences.

Petition 9 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – General Superintendency

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 19

General Church Budget Implications: No

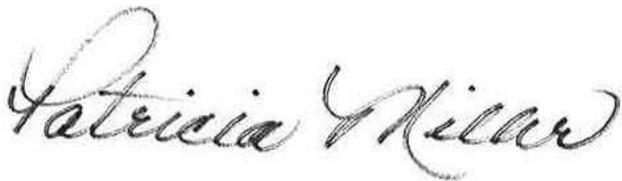
Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶19 as follows

¶ 19. Article III.—The General Conference shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away with episcopacy or destroy the plan of our itinerant ~~general~~ superintendency.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

Fax Number: N/A

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Rationale: This amendment allows episcopacy to be adapted and tailored to the theological and geographical context within each connectional conference. It eliminates the expectation that a bishop in one part of the church should be expected to serve as a bishop in other parts of the church.

Petition 10 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Standardize Connectional Conferences

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 23

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 23 as follows, incorporating ¶¶ 24-28, and deleting Section V., ¶¶ 28-31 renumbering the following sections and paragraphs as appropriate.

Section IV. ~~Jurisdictional~~ Connectional Conferences

¶ 23.1 Article I.—The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional 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~~ connectional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 2423.2 Article II.—All ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional 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 shall be the same for all ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences.

¶ 25. Article III.—~~The General Conferences 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.~~

¶ 2623.3 Article IVIII.—~~Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the Council of Bishops 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 College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding~~

~~jurisdictional conference.~~ The connectional 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 connectional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the connectional College of Bishops.

~~¶ 27-23.4 Article V-IV.~~—The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

~~1. a.~~ To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.

~~2. b.~~ To determine the number of bishops that may be elected, to elect bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference. Each connectional conference shall provide the entire financial support for its bishops, including salary, housing, benefits, travel, and office expenses, unless supplemental funds are approved by the General Conference with the consent of the other connectional conferences.

~~3. c.~~ To establish and constitute ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the Church as the need may appear and to choose their representatives on the general boards in such manner as the ~~General Conference~~ connectional conference may determine.

~~4. d.~~ 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.

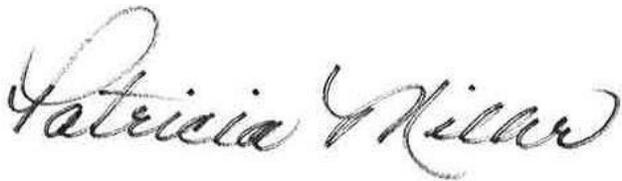
~~5. e.~~ To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference, including such changes and adaptations of the *General Book of Discipline* as the conditions in the respective conferences may require, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and subject to the Constitution.

~~6. f.~~ To appoint if desired a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules,

regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the connectional conference *Discipline*
enacted by the connectional conference. There shall be a right of appeal of the decisions of such a
court to the Judicial Council. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a
traveling preacher of that ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference from the decision of a trial committee.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

Fax Number: N/A

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Rationale: This amendment combines powers of jurisdictional and central conferences and standardizes them for connectional conferences, including a connectional judicial court. It requires each connectional conference in the U.S. to support its own bishops. It gives all connectional conferences the power to adapt the *Discipline* now enjoyed by central conferences.

Petition 11 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 4

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Establishes New Connectional Conferences

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 37

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 37, incorporating ¶¶ 38-41, and renumbering the following paragraphs as appropriate:

Section ~~VII~~ VI. Boundaries

¶ 37.1 Article I.—The United Methodist Church shall have ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences, each covering the entire United States and its territories, 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.~~

a. Traditional Connectional Conference, in which marriage shall continue to be defined as between one man and one woman, same-sex weddings cannot be performed, and those practicing

homosexuality cannot be ordained, along with a covenantal commitment to a more traditional understanding of the doctrinal and moral standards of the church with enhanced accountability.

b. Unity Connectional Conference, which acknowledges that members are not of one mind regarding biblical interpretations related to human sexuality, in which pastors are allowed but not required to perform same-sex weddings, annual conferences are allowed but not required to ordain those practicing homosexuality, local churches are allowed but not required to receive an LGBT person as pastor, and in which no bishop, pastor, or congregation is compelled to act against conscience in these matters.

c. Progressive Connectional Conference, in which same-sex weddings are performed by all clergy, all annual conferences ordain qualified LGBT persons, and all local churches welcome LGBT pastors who match the needs of the congregation and its ministry.

d. Each of these three connectional conferences is empowered to choose its own name and insignia, which may or may not include the use of the cross and flame and the name “United Methodist.” When such names are chosen by a connectional conference, the names in this paragraph shall automatically be replaced with the new name without the need for additional constitutional amendment.

e. The process of realignment from the geographical jurisdictions to the new connectional conferences shall not require the approval of the various annual conferences as specified in ¶¶ 16.12 and 37.3.

f. No connectional conference shall adopt policies that are inconsistent with or violate ¶ 4 of the Constitution, either expressly or by practice.

¶ 38-37.2 Article II.—The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be

formed into ~~central~~ connectional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be ~~determined by the Uniting Conference~~ those in effect as of January 1, 2020, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries. Connectional conferences outside the United States may, by majority vote, elect to join one of the connectional conferences described in ¶ 37.1, in which case the connectional conference it joins shall become global.

¶ ~~39~~ 37.3 Article III.—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority vote by two-thirds of the annual conferences of each of the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences involved. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional conferences in the United States.

¶ ~~40~~ 37.4 Article IV.—The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional conferences ~~in the United States of America and by the central 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 ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional conferences in the United States.

¶ ~~41~~ 37.5 Article V. Transfer of Local Churches—

~~1.~~ a. A local church may be transferred from one annual conference to another in which it is geographically located upon approval by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in each of the following:

- ~~a~~ i) the charge conference;
- ~~b~~ ii) the congregational meeting of the local church;
- ~~c~~ iii) each of the two annual conferences involved.

The vote shall be certified by the secretaries of the specified conferences or meetings to the bishops having supervision of the annual conferences involved, and upon their announcement of the required majorities the transfer shall immediately be effective.

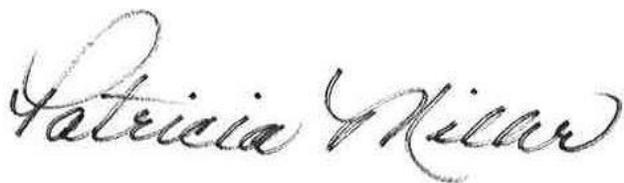
~~2~~ b. The vote on approval of transfer shall be taken by each annual conference at its first session after the matter is submitted to it.

~~3~~ c. Transfers under the provisions of this article shall not be governed or restricted by other provisions of this Constitution relating to changes of boundaries of conferences. ___

d. This article shall not preclude the process established by the 2019 General Conference to allow for a transition to non-geographic connectional and annual conferences in the United States.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name of the petitioner.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

Fax Number: N/A

E-mail Address: patmiller1224@gmail.com

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Rationale: This amendment is the heart of the Connectional Conference Plan, establishing the new non-geographic connectional conferences and defining the primary values of each. It adopts language that makes this paragraph consistent with other amendments. It ensures that the Constitution allows the transition to the new structure with a fair process.

Petition 12 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 5

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Episcopacy

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 45

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 45, as follows, incorporating ¶¶ 46-54 and renumbering the following paragraphs as appropriate:

DIVISION THREE—EPISCOPAL SUPERVISION

¶ 45.1 Article I.—There shall be a continuance of an episcopacy in The United Methodist Church of like plan, powers, privileges, and duties as now exist in The Methodist Church and in The Evangelical United Brethren Church in all those matters in which they agree and may be considered identical; and the differences between these historic episcopacies are deemed to be reconciled and harmonized by and in this Plan of Union and Constitution of The United Methodist Church and actions taken pursuant thereto so that a unified superintendency and episcopacy is hereby created and established of, in, and by those who now are and shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church; and the said episcopacy shall further have such powers, privileges, and duties as are herein set forth.

¶ 46 45.2 Article II.—The bishops shall be elected by the respective ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional 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 connectional conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 47 45.3 Article III.—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The

United Methodist Church. The council shall meet at least once a year and shall serve as a missional body that helps gather and distribute best practices for church vitality; is a learning, equipping, and nurturing community; acts as connectors to the jointly-shared ministries; guides the Wesleyan DNA emphases around justice, fairness, and inclusiveness, with special concern around our historic efforts to combat racism and sexism; handles Ecumenical relations; mediates accountability challenges; plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for and ensures the carrying into effect of the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

¶ ~~48~~ 45.4 Article IV.—The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conference 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. Each college shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the Church within their connectional conference and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the connectional conference. Each college shall also nurture and support its members and hold them accountable to the highest standards of United Methodist leadership and discipleship.

¶ ~~49~~ 45.5 Article V.—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference 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~~ connectional conference that receives a bishop by transfer from another ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference may transfer to that ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference or to a third ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference one of its own

bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference may receive a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction~~ connectional conference 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~~ connectional conference 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~~ connectional conference committees on episcopacy of the ~~jurisdictions~~ connectional conferences 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~~ connectional conference.

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

In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central~~ connectional conference.

¶ 50. 45.6 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 bishops elected prior to 2021 by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church prior to 2021 shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him/her shall have determined. Bishops elected after 2020 shall have such tenure as the connectional conference electing him/hershallhavedetermined.

The ~~jurisdictional~~ connectional 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~~-connectional 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~~ connectional conference.

~~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.~~

¶ ~~51.45.7~~ Article VII.—A bishop presiding over an annual, ~~central, or jurisdictional~~ or connectional 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 for matters related to the General *Book of Discipline* and by the connectional conference judicial court (if any ¶ 23.4) for matters related to the connectional conference *Book of Discipline*. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be reported in writing

annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council or connectional conference judicial court as appropriate, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them.

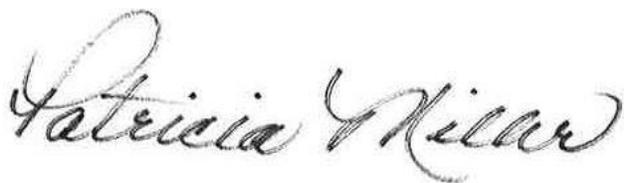
¶ ~~52~~ 45.8. Article VIII.—The bishops of the several ~~jurisdictional and central~~ connectional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences.

¶ ~~53~~. 45.9 Article IX.—In each annual conference there shall be one or more district superintendents who shall assist the bishop in the administration of the annual conference and shall have such responsibilities and term of office as the ~~General Conference~~ connectional conference may determine.

¶ ~~54~~ 45.10. Article X.—The bishops shall appoint, after consultation with the district superintendents, ministers to the charges; and they shall have such responsibilities and authorities as the General Conference shall prescribe, with adaptation by connectional conferences except as precluded by the Constitution, including ¶ 20.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

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Rationale: This amendment re-envisioned the Council of Bishops as a different type of body, while shifting authority to the Connectional Colleges of Bishops. It makes language consistent with other amendments. It allows each connectional conference to determine its bishops' tenure and otherwise equalizes the powers currently held by jurisdictional and central conferences.

Petition 13 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan –Connectional Conference Judicial court

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶ 56

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

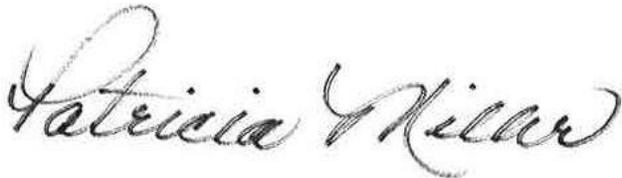
Amend ¶ 56.3 as follows:

¶ 56. Article II.—The Judicial Council shall have authority:

3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences regarding the General Book of Discipline or on appeal of a decision of law from a connectional conference judicial court regarding a connectional conference Book of Discipline.

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller".

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

Phone: 317-695-5641

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Rationale: This amendment conforms this paragraph with the new ¶¶ 23.4f and 45.7, which allow for a connectional conference judicial court to rule on questions of law related to the connectional conference Book of Discipline, which may be appealed to the Judicial Council.

Petition 14 of 14

Total Number of Pages: 3

Suggested Title: CWF – Connectional Conference Plan – Name Change

Discipline Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: ¶¶ 32-36, 56, and 61

General Church Budget Implications: No

Global Implications: Yes

Name Change: In ¶¶ 32-36, 56, and 61 the names “jurisdiction,” “jurisdictional conference,” or “central conference” should be replaced by “connectional conference,” and the phrase “of the central conferences” replaced by “outside the United States.”

¶ 32. Article I.—The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of ... The lay membership shall consist of ... In the annual conferences ~~of the central conferences~~ outside the United States, 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 ...

¶ 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 and the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conferences, on all matters relating to the character ...

¶ 34. Article III.—The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference 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~~ connectional conference,

who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional 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~~ connectional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional 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.

¶ 35. Article IV.—The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference shall be elected from the clergy members ...

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional 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 or central~~ connectional conferences.

¶ 56. 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 central~~ connectional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference.

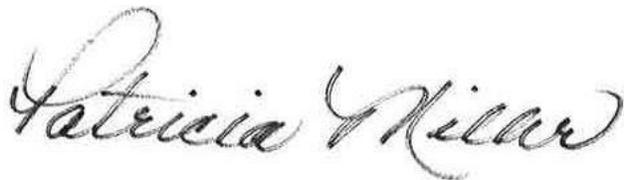
¶ 56. 4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General

Conference board or ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional 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 central~~ connectional conference.

¶ 61. Article III.—A ~~jurisdictional or central~~ connectional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church ...

Date: 6/15/18

Signature of Petitioner: Patricia Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Identification of the Petitioner: On behalf of the Commission on a Way Forward

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Rationale: This amendment changes the names “jurisdiction,” “jurisdictional conference,” or “central conference” to “connectional conference,” and the phrase “of the central conferences” to “outside the United States” in order to create consistency of names throughout the Constitution.