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LA 1

2009 LAY AND CLERGY EQUALIZATION

BACKGROUND: The following tables provide the Standing Rule III(A) analysis of the 2008 Annual Conference Membership

District	CLERGY	LAY	RULE 111A(1)	TOTAL RULE IIIA(1)	LAY EQUAL FACTOR
Dallas-Denton	151	77	14	91	60
Dallas Northeast	168	97	14	111	57
Dallas South	130	65	14	79	51
Paris-Sulphur Springs	64	50	3	53	11
Sherman-McKinney	69	52	4	56	13
Wichita Falls	48	42	4	46	2
TOTALS	630	383	53	436	194

STANDING RULE 111A(1)

	DD	DN	DS	PS	SM	WF	TOTAL
Conference Lay Leader	1						1
Conference Leadership Team		1	2		1		4
UMM President			1				1
UMW President			1				1
Youth Organization President			1				1
District Lay Leaders	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Young Adults under 25 yrs.	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Council on Youth Ministry	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Diaconal Ministers	7	4	5			1	17
Agency Chairs	3	6	1				10
TOTALS	14	14	14	3	4	4	53

	Membership 2008	% of Total	To Be Elected
Dallas-Denton	35,168	22%	42
Dallas Northeast	57,319	36%	70
Dallas South	32,382	21%	41
Paris-Sulphur Springs	9,449	6%	12
Sherman-McKinney	15,552	10%	19
Wichita Falls	8,736	5%	10
TOTALS	158,606	100%	194

LA 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE

FROM: Standing Rules Committee, NTC Extended Cabinet, Board of Pension and Health Benefits and Board of Ordained Ministry

BACKGROUND: It became clear that we need to change the effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements from June 1 to July 1 after we changed the beginning date of Annual Conference to the second week in June to accommodate the change in the Texas school calendar in 2008.

Our longstanding policy has been for a moving pastor to return to the church s/he is leaving for one Sunday following the completion of Annual Conference. With the official moving day being the Thursday following that Sunday after Annual Conference and the first Sunday at the new appointment being the next Sunday, it was obvious that the current effective date of June 1 was too far in advance of the actual time of moving. Because the effective date determines when the receiving church begins paying the salary, pension and health insurance for the new pastor (and stops paying them for the previous pastor), confusion and difficulties resulted both for the churches and for those moving. In 2008 the receiving church was instructed to pay the salary, pension and health insurance for their new pastor effective June 1 although the first Sunday in that appointment was not until June 22. Reimbursement accounts were to change on June 16. Housing allowances for June were to be negotiated between the pastors and the churches by the District Superintendents. June compensation for those clergy retiring also had to be negotiated (even though they received their pension checks for June on June 1).

Changing the effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements from June 1 to July 1 and changing the official moving day to the Thursday after the last Sunday in June, with the first Sunday at the new appointment being the first Sunday in July, will resolve these issues.

RELATED ACTIONS AND RELEVANT CITATIONS:

1. The Extended Cabinet at their meeting on September 15, 2008 changed the official moving day for Annual Conference moves to the Thursday after the last Sunday in June and the first Sunday at the new appointment for Annual Conference moves to the first Sunday in July.
2. The Extended Cabinet instructed the Director of Administration/Treasurer/Benefits Officer to notify the GBOPHB, as required, that the North Texas Conference will change to a July 1 effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements beginning in 2009, with the understanding that Board of Ministry and Committee on Standing Rules approval would be sought and appropriate legislation would be presented to the 2009 Annual Conference session for 2009 implementation.
3. The 2008 *Book of Discipline* ¶358.2 (e), p. 278f. states: "The annual conference, at its discretion, upon joint recommendation of the board of ordained ministry and the conference board of pensions, may designate any time within the ensuing conference year as the effective date of retirement of a clergy member. . ."
4. The conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits approved the change to a July 1 effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements at their meeting on September 8, 2008.

5. The Board of Ordained Ministry approved the change to a July 1 effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements at their meeting on January 12, 2009.

6. The NTC Standing Rules, 2008 *Journal*, II.A.2, p. 262 state: “When a pastoral change comes at Annual Conference, the salary of the previous appointment shall be paid through May 31, and the salary in the new appointment shall begin June 1.” Therefore, the Standing Rules Committee presents the following proposed legislation to the 2009 Annual Conference.

LEGISLATION: Amend section II (A) [POLICIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FINANCIAL PRACTICES], p. 262, 2008 *Journal*, as follows:

Delete the last two sentences of II (A) 2 which read: “The only exception to this shall be the salaries of the clergy serving as pastors or District Superintendents. When a pastoral change comes at Annual Conference, the salary of the previous appointment shall be paid through May 31, and the salary in the new appointment shall begin June 1.” (These two sentences are out of order and do not fit with the subject of the paragraph, “Apportionments to be made based on Conference Fiscal Year.”)

Add a new II (A) 11 which would read as follows: “The effective date for Annual Conference moves and clergy retirements is July 1. Thus when a pastoral change comes at Annual Conference, the salary of the previous appointment shall be paid through June 30, and the salary in the new appointment shall begin July 1.”

LA 3

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS OF THE NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: To be in compliance with Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 75-22, 1975-1,49, as it relates to clergy housing, the North Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

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

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

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

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

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

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

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

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107 (2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

LA 4

PRE-1982 SERVICE YEAR RATE FOR 2010

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: Paragraph 1506.7 of the 2008 *Discipline* recommends that the past service annuity rate for ministerial service rendered before 1982 be not less than 1% of the Conference Average Compensation (CAC) as calculated by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. In 1999 the North Texas Conference adopted 1% of the Conference Average Compensation as its policy for setting the annual pre-1982 service year rate. For 2010 the CAC is \$69,370. Thus, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends that 1% of that or \$694 be the past service rate for 2010.

LEGISLATION: That the pre-1982 Service Year Rate for 2010 be established at \$694 for approved service of clergy members in full connection, probationary members, associate members and local pastors of the conference.

LA 5

2009 FORMAL PRE-82 PENSION LIABILITY FUNDING PLAN

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: Paragraph 1506.8 of the 2008 *Discipline* requires the updating of a formal annual funding plan which has been approved by the Annual Conference and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) for the conference's pre-82 pension liability.

The funding plan below is an update of the funding plan which has been in place since 1995 and was incorporated into the legislation adopted by the 2002, 2006 and 2008 Annual Conference sessions as part of our Retiree Medical Liability Funding Plan. It has been approved by GBOPHB.

The valuation of this funding plan will fluctuate each year. In addition to increases or decreases in assets due to stock market fluctuation, GBOPHB actuarial changes also increase or decrease the present value of benefits due.

NOTE: The funding plan below does not take into account the decrease of assets resulting from the market decline which began in fall 2008. While no contribution will be required in 2009 or 2010, we have been notified by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits that an additional annual contribution initially estimated as \$1,069,000 for the Pre-82 Plan may be required beginning in 2011 due to the decrease of the assets in the plan due to the market decline. Discussion is continuing throughout the denomination and various ways of addressing the shortfalls are being considered. The plan below also makes use of previous assumptions. When this plan is next considered, the decrease of assets will be reflected and all assumptions will be examined for future viability and sustainability.

LEGISLATION: North Texas Annual Conference Funding Plan for Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program as of January 1, 2009

The 2009 Past Service Rate (PSR) is \$683, or 1.0% of Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The present assumption is that the Conference intends to maintain the PSR at 1.0% of CAC. For the past several years, CAC has increased by an average of 4.5% per year, and it is assumed in this plan that future PSRs will increase by an average of about 4.5% per year.

The conference will fund the benefits through annual contributions as needed from the Conference Deposit Accounts at the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and apportionments to be designated for Supplement One (Annual Past Service Deposit) through 2021. No contribution is anticipated for 2009.

Believing in the spring of 2008 that the Pre-1982 Pension Liability was funded to a sufficient level to protect against the necessity of unexpected future contributions, which could be required because of market and/or demographic fluctuations, it was decided to transfer \$4.3 million from the conference's Pre-82 Pensions Deposit Account at GBOPHB to the conference's Retiree Medical Deposit Account at GBOPHB on December 31, 2008 and the Past Service Funding apportionment was switched from Pre-82 Pensions to Retiree Medical Liability in 2009 and reduced from \$1,717,649 to \$784,000. As a safeguard in the event of the need for additional funding of pre-82 pensions or for MPP annuities or for the required CRSP Defined Benefit contributions, the two previous apportionments to fund the NTC BOPHB (Board of Pensions and Insurance Subsidies) were combined beginning in 2009 to recognize that they are closely related and allow for transferring funds between the pension liability and the retiree medical liability if needed.

The funding plan as of January 1, 2009 is summarized below.

	Present Value of Benefits*	<u>Funding</u> Current Assets**	Present Value of Future Contributions
Supplement One (4.5% COL)	\$32,624,122	\$28,214,623	
Funded Status as of 1/1/07		(\$4,409,499)	
Contribution Basis as of 1/1/09	(\$3,626,439)		
Conference Deposit Account Transfers or Apportionments***		\$2,865,555	\$760,884
Subtotal	(\$3,626,439)	\$2,865,555	\$760,884
TOTAL	(\$3,626,439)	\$3,626,439	

*Assuming 7.0% interest and the RP 2000 Mortality Table

**This funding plan does not take into account the decrease of assets resulting from the market decline which began in fall 2008. That will be addressed in the 2010 funding plan.

***The conference may transfer Past Service funds now in a Retiree Medical Deposit Account at GBOPHB back to the Pre-82 Pension Liability and/or transfer future Past Service funding apportionments back to the Pre-82 Pension Liability and/or begin an additional apportionment to meet future contribution requirements.

L. Marvin Guier III
Director of Administration/Treasurer/Benefits Officer

March 26, 2009

LA 6

2010 BOPHB BUDGET

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: The two previous apportionments to fund the work of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Insurance Subsidies and Board of Pensions) were combined beginning in 2009 to recognize that they are closely related and allow for transferring funds between the two areas as needed. The proposed 2010 apportionment budget request reflects the plans included in previous legislation regarding Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) funding, Pre-1982 Service Year Rate for 2010 and the 2009 Pre-82 Pension Liability and Retiree Medical Liability Funding Plans. The notes following each of the two apportionments offer further explanation.

LEGISLATION:

PENSIONS

Pre-1982 Years Service (Unfunded Liability)

0 (1)

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)	618,000 (2)
CRSP Supplement	0 (3)
Operating Expenses	12,000
Sub-Total	\$630,000 (4)

- (1) While nothing will be required in 2010, we have been notified that an additional contribution initially estimated as \$1,069,000 may be required in 2011 due to the decline of the assets in the plan.
- (2) CPP provides life insurance and long-term incapacity insurance for those clergy participating in the pension program. This is a decrease of \$12,000 or 1.9% over the amount budgeted for 2009 (\$630,000). It is based on an expenditure of \$591,322 in 2008, an anticipated expenditure of \$600,000 in 2009 (actual pastoral salaries received X the 3% CPP charge), and an anticipated 3% increase in 2010. The apportionment payout in 2009 will determine if there is a beginning balance remaining which can be applied to this amount.
- (3) The CRSP Supplement provides supplements for churches under the Denominational Average Compensation and covers pastors on incapacity leave and provides a small amount for uncollectable premiums. Nothing was budgeted for this in 2009 due to a large beginning balance to spend down. The expenditure in 2008 was \$98,964 and the anticipated cost in 2009 is approximately \$115,000. It is anticipated that the 2010 cost will be approximately the same. As stated in the 2009 budget request, we will continue to spend down the beginning balance in 2010 and nothing additional is requested in this budget.
- (4) The Sub-Total is a decrease of \$12,000 or approximately 1.9% from the 2009 amount budgeted of \$642,000.

HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDIES

Appointees Subsidies	\$ 0 (1)
Dependents Subsidies	\$ 0 (2)
Retirees Medical Benefits	
Current Year Cash Basis Premium Benefits	\$ 517,800 (3)
Past Service Funding	\$ 784,000 (4)
Retiree Medical Liability for Current Retirees & Actives and Spouses	\$ 0 (5)
Retiree Medical for New Entrants	\$ 213,000 (6)
Sub-Total	\$1,514,800 (7)
TOTAL	\$2,144,800 (8)

(1) \$61,155 was expended on this in 2008. \$75,000 was budgeted for 2009. The preliminary premium increases for 2010 are 12%. However, it is proposed to spend down available health insurance reserves for this item.

(2) \$6,302 was expended on this in 2008. \$10,000 is budgeted in 2009. The preliminary premium increases for 2010 are 12%. However, it is proposed to spend down available health insurance reserves for this item.

(3) \$590,455 was expended on this in 2008. The anticipated cost in 2009 was estimated to be \$667,800, which was reduced in the 2009 apportionment budget by the use of \$75,000 in Medicare Part D subsidy and \$75,000 in health insurance reserves resulting in the 2009 budget of \$517,800. The preliminary premium increases for 2010 are 8.8%. This request is for no increase and assumes that beginning balance or health insurance reserves will be used in 2010.

(4) The Retiree Medical Liability funding plan updated by the 2008 Annual Conference session shifted the Past Service Funding apportionment at this level from Pre-82 Pensions to the Retiree Medical Liability beginning in 2009 and continuing until that liability is fully funded.

(5) The Retiree Medical Liability funding plan updated by the 2008 Annual Conference session called for this item which was budgeted at \$120,000 in 2008 to be eliminated when the Past Service Funding apportionment was shifted from Pre-82 Pensions to the Retiree Medical Liability, which occurred in 2009.

(6) The Retiree Medical Liability funding plan updated by the 2008 Annual Conference session calls for this item to be frozen at \$213,000 until the Pre-82 Pension Plan and the Retiree Medical Liability are fully funded and the Past Service Funding apportionment is eliminated.

(7) The Sub-Total is a decrease of \$85,000 or 5.3%.

(8) The TOTAL is a decrease of \$97,000 or 4.3%.

LA 7

DISCONTINUANCE OF JOY UMC

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Joy UMC, Wichita Falls District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church and sell the property.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Joy UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will sell the property and place the proceeds and any current assets with the Wichita Falls District for new or existing ministries.

LA 8**DISCONTINUANCE OF SLIDELL UMC**

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Slidell UMC, Wichita Falls District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church and sell the property.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Slidell UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will sell the property and place the proceeds and any current assets with the Wichita Falls District for new or existing ministries.

LA 9**DISCONTINUANCE OF GRANT STREET UMC**

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Grant Street UMC, Wichita Falls District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church and sell the property.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Grant Street UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will sell the property and place the proceeds and any current assets with the Wichita Falls District for new or existing ministries.

LA 10**DISCONTINUANCE OF MERIT UMC**

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Merit UMC, Paris-Sulphur Springs District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church and sell the property.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Merit UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will sell the property and place the proceeds and any current assets with the North Texas Conference Creating Congregations Team for new or existing ministries.

LA 11**DISCONTINUANCE OF MUNGER PLACE UMC**

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Munger Place UMC, Dallas Northeast District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Munger Place UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will transfer title to the property to Highland Park UMC for a new ministry.

LA 12

MERGER OF LAMBUTH UMC AND CREST-MOORE-KING UMC

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: In order to fulfill their mission and ministry in the South Dallas area more effectively, the members of Lambuth UMC and Crest-Moore-King UMC, Dallas South District, voted to merge and become Community UMC.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the merger of Lambuth UMC and Crest-Moore-King UMC. The property of Lambuth UMC will be sold and the proceeds and any other assets will be used for new and/or existing ministries within the newly merged congregation.

LA 13

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ANNUAL DETERMINATION

FROM: Commission on Equitable Compensation

BACKGROUND: The Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Cabinet of the North Texas Conference have for many years understood the primary purpose of Equitable Compensation Pastors Subsidies funds to be to assist local churches in moving from part-time pastoral positions to full-time pastoral positions. Thus, these funds are meant to be transitional funds and not long-term subsidies. In making its recommendation for the minimum Equitable Compensation each year, the Commission takes into consideration not only the appropriate minimum level compensation for the full-time clergy of the conference but also the needs of the churches that are determining whether they can afford a full-time pastor or not.

LEGISLATION: The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that Pastors Subsidies Equitable Compensation support and administrative expenses be apportioned at \$85,000 for 2010.

(NOTE: The total apportionment request has not changed since a significant beginning balance is anticipated for 2010 and the Commission is in the process of spending that down. The reason for the accumulation of the balance is that the Appointive Cabinet has worked hard in recent years to limit Equitable Compensation grants to churches in the process of moving from part-time to full-time, which is the stated policy of the Commission. The Cabinet has also used a pattern of declining grants over the period of time taken to accomplish that transition.)

A. Guidelines for Conference Members and Full-Time Local Pastors

- 1. The Commission on Equitable Compensation requests that \$41,951 be set for the minimum equitable compensation (including base salary, utilities, amount for vouchered travel reimbursement, dependent premium payments made by the local church, dependent premium supplemental payments paid by the conference at the discretion of the District Superintendent, and other conference subsidies received, but excluding any reimbursement for Annual Conference expenses or grants to assist with the expenses to attend expected spiritual formation or continuing education events for all of the clergy members of the conference (e.g., the Clergy Retreat) for conference members in full connection, associate members and probationary members of the North Texas Conference serving full time for 2010.

For the third year the Commission decided to use the same policy the 2006 Annual Conference adopted at the recommendation of CF&A for changes to the District Superintendent level compensation. As now stated in the conference’s Standing Rules, “beginning in 2008 the salary of a district superintendent shall be adjusted annually by the average percentage change in the base compensation of all full-time pastors appointed to serve local churches or appointments for which the conference is responsible.” The Commission also decided to apply the percent change to the travel & utilities amount, which is included in the total. The amount of change for 2010 is an increase of 1.8% from \$41,209 in 2009.

- 2. Adjustments for years of service:

Years of Service	Equitable Compensation Amounts
0-5	\$41,951
6	42,051
7	42,151
8	42,251
9	42,351
10	42,451

- 3. Compensation for additional churches on a charge:

Each charge with more than one church shall receive \$200 additional for the second church and \$100 each for the third through the fifth additional churches.

- 4. Recommendation for housing, utilities and travel expenses:

- a. Housing shall be provided in a church-owned parsonage or provided for with a monthly allowance.
- b. Utilities shall be provided with payments made by the local church or reimbursed when paid by the pastor.
- c. Travel shall be reimbursed at the IRS rate with appropriate records and documentation provided to the church.

5. Local Pastors serving full time:

Five years or less	\$36,951
Six years or more	\$37,051
Expense recommendations same as above.	

6. Deacons serving under salaried appointments in a local church:

- a. Are not eligible to receive Equitable Compensation support from the Annual Conference.
- b. Shall be granted the same minimum salary as an elder in full connection when their primary appointment is within a local church. * **

*(Judicial Council decision #807)

** (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Paragraphs 331.14, 625.4)

B. The following policies are proposed to the North Texas Annual Conference for the distribution of equitable compensation assistance in 2010:

1. A local church exists to serve, not to be served. All churches should be motivated to a larger sense of ministry. Churches whose pastors receive salary subsidy should be open to linkage with other churches in order to utilize efficiently the service of full-time conference members to reduce the need for subsidy.
2. Equitable Compensation levels can best be met when appointments are open to all ministerial members without regard to race or gender. We continue to urge every conference member to make the subject of a fully open Conference and adequately supported ministry at the local church level a matter of daily personal prayer. Only as the love of Christ dwells in us can an Annual Conference be a communion of caring persons.
3. Growth in stewardship should be achieved by all below-minimum remuneration churches. In making application for salary subsidy, District Superintendents are to provide evidence of stewardship education and growth to the Commission on Equitable Compensation.
4. Tenure payments are designed to honor the years of service of pastors who continue for more than five years in ministry to below minimum compensation charges because of the needs of the Conference. The Bishop and the Cabinet are urged to make every effort to move pastors to above-minimum compensation charges within five years after they begin full-time service.
5. Applications for salary subsidy to the Commission on Equitable Compensation are to be made by the District Superintendent on forms provided by the Commission, and completed applications must be approved by the Commission in session or by no less than two of the three members of the Executive Committee of the Commission.

6. The Charge Conference of any charge unable to pay the minimum salary set by the Conference shall be informed by the District Superintendent of the guidelines for receiving equitable compensation assistance. The Charge shall be informed of the amount required to bring the compensation level up to the minimum and shall be challenged to move toward the goal of full self-support at the earliest possible time. On the application for salary assistance, the District Superintendent shall certify to the Commission that the charge has been duly notified. The amount of subsidy granted to a pastor shall be acknowledged annually at the Charge Conference.
7. Equitable Compensation assistance is not available to pastors serving as associate pastors or in staff positions other than pastor-in-charge. In order that such persons receive an equitable wage, however, the Commission recommends that local churches use Conference minimum standards as minimum guidelines to setting associate and staff salaries.
8. It is expected that the minimum housing allowance that will be paid by those churches or charges that do not provide a parsonage for their pastor will be \$12,000 per year, and the Commission on Equitable Compensation will not consider requests for salary supplements where housing allowances exceed \$12,000.
9. Pastors who decline an appointment which would reduce or eliminate compensation support are ineligible for the Equitable Compensation tenure payment given for years of service.
10. Equitable Compensation assistance is not available for a North Texas Conference member appointed to serve in another Annual Conference, nor is it available to members of other Annual Conferences serving under appointment in the North Texas Conference.
11. There shall be no lump sum payments to persons receiving Equitable Compensation assistance unless such sums are too small for monthly payments to be made.
12. It shall be the responsibility of the pastor receiving Equitable Compensation subsidy to inform the Commission of any increase in remuneration or any changes in eligibility which occur after an application for Equitable Compensation has been approved.

EXCEPTIONAL REQUESTS BY THE CABINET:

All requests for exceptional support (assistance requested by the Cabinet in excess of the Commission's 25% maximum standard) shall be submitted in writing. The requests shall include the amount of assistance requested, length of time for assistance and reason(s) for exceptional request. Such a request shall be submitted to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Commission and signed by the Cabinet Representative to the Commission.

LA 14

2009-2010 CONFERENCE SPECIAL DAYS WITH OFFERING

FROM: Sending Servants Team

LEGISLATION: The following days have been designated by the North Texas Conference as Special Days with offering during the 2009-2010 conference year:

Conference Special Days With Offering

Golden Cross Sunday	October 18, 2009
Methodist Home, Waco	Sunday in December set by church
Methodist Mission Home, San Antonio	Sunday in December set by church

General Church Special Days With Offering

Six times throughout the year, United Methodist congregations celebrate churchwide Special Sundays with offerings. Your support is critical to the survival of these important ministries and for sharing God's gifts around the world. For more information and resources for these Special Sundays, visit www.umcsgiving.org. If your local church needs to celebrate any of these Special Days on a different date, that is fine! Don't let the given dates prohibit your local church from celebrating if there is a time conflict.

World Communion Sunday	October 4, 2009
United Methodist Student Day	November 22, 2009
Human Relations Day	January 17, 2010
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 14, 2010
Native American Ministries Sunday	April 18, 2010
Peace With Justice Sunday	June 6, 2010

LA 15

2009-2010 CONFERENCE SPECIAL EMPHASES WITHOUT OFFERING

FROM: Sending Servants Team

LEGISLATION: The following days will be designated Conference Special Emphases without offering during the 2009-2010 conference year.

Rural Life Sunday	Sunday in August set by the church
Disability Awareness Sunday	Sunday in the fall set by church
Christian Education Sunday	September 13, 2009
Laity Sunday	October 25, 2009
Campus Ministry Sunday	November 15, 2009
HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday	December 6, 2009
World Marriage Day	January 24, 2010
Religion and Race Sunday	Sunday in February set by church
Scout Sunday	February 7, 2010
Heritage Sunday	May 23, 2010
Drug and Alcohol Awareness/Recovery Worship Initiative	Sunday in May set by the church
Children's Sabbath	Sunday set by church

LA 16

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL PROGRAM 2009-2010

FROM: Sending Servants Team

LEGISLATION: The Sending Servants Team recommends that the following General Advance Specials, Conference Advance Specials, and Jurisdictional Fair Share Goals be approved for the year 2009-2010.

GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS

We recommend that each local church spend some time exploring Advance projects available on the Internet at www.advancinghope.org and selecting at least one General Advance Special that would reflect your local church's interest.

We especially invite churches to support our conference's special partnership with the Cameroon Initiative (NTC Fund #313) because it meets one of the Four Areas of Focus of the UMC by creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.

Finally, we urge that all churches consider entering into a Covenant Church Relationship by sponsoring a full share of a Global Ministries missionary's salary @ \$3, \$4, \$5 per member or a minimum of \$2,500 per congregation.

CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS

As recommended by the Book of Discipline (§ 655) the North Texas Conference has established a conference Advance program which has been carried out in the same spirit of partnership as the General Advance program. These projects have been recommended by the conference board of global ministries. To get complete information about any of the specials below, please visit the North Texas Conference website at www.ntcumc.org/ntcadvance

Bridgeport Camp & Conference Center
C. C. Young Retirement Community
Crossroads Community Services
Dallas Bethlehem Center
Golden Cross
Horizon Communities in Prisons
Methodism's Breadbasket
North Texas Food Bank
One Man's Treasure Clothes Closet
Project Transformation
SEEK Camps
Shoes for Kids
Summer Events Scholarships
Wesley-Rankin Community Center
United Methodist Retirement Home -Wesley Village

JURISDICTIONAL FAIR SHARE GOALS

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference	\$2,500
Rio Grande Annual Conference	\$2,500

LA 17**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS FUND (ADVANCE SPECIAL #982345)**

FROM: Sending Servants Team

WHEREAS, for over twenty-two years the General Conference of the United Methodist Church has spoken with prophetic compassion to the global issue of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), at the end of 2007 there were 33.2 million persons living with AIDS worldwide: 30.7 million adults and 2.5 million children under age 15. During 2007, an estimated 2.5 million people became newly infected with HIV, including 420,000 children. Approximately one half of all new HIV infections are women. In the United States, approximately 984,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS. During 2007, 2.1 million people died of AIDS of which 330,000 were children under age 15. By the end of 2005, the epidemic had left behind 15.2 million AIDS orphans and the United Nations estimates that by 2010 there will be 25 million AIDS orphans due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared the pandemic a global emergency, saying human life is threatened everywhere and world security is at risk as the world faces the worst health crisis in 700 years. Each year, World AIDS Day is observed on December 1; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 General Conference (A Covenant to Care: Recognizing and Responding to the Many Faces of AIDS in the U.S.A. (#152, 2004 Book of Resolutions) committed itself to establishing the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (Advance Special #982345) and established a goal of raising \$8 million during the 2009-12 quadrennial—representing a \$1 commitment of every United Methodist in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Global AIDS Fund supports education, prevention, care, and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund does not overlook the crisis in the U.S. The Global AIDS Fund Plan specifies that 25 percent of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects; and

WHEREAS, the North Texas Conference since the 2007 inception of its goal to raise \$160,000 has collected just over \$28,000 to date. We are still on the journey to meeting our goal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Texas Conference will continue its commitment to raise \$160,000 (160,000 adult members plus children) by the time General Conference of 2012 is assembled. We encourage congregations to continue reaching towards their goal of \$1 per adult member throughout the year. Of the dollars raised, 75% will be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the General Council of Finance and Administration for the UMC Global AIDS Fund and 25% will be retained for programs combating HIV/AIDS in the annual conference and in other global connectional projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Texas Conference establishes the First Sunday of December as HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday to coincide with World AIDS Day on December 1.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Sending Servants Team of the North Texas Conference is charged with the responsibility to continue promotion of our \$160,000 (plus a dollar for each child) goal for the UMC Global AIDS Fund. Valuable information is available at the following links:

UNAIDS www.unaids.org/

General Board of Church and Society www.umc-gbcs.org/aids

General Board of Global Ministries <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/>

Each local church shall report to its 2009 Charge/Church Conference on progress toward raising its Global AIDS Fund commitment of \$1 for each member (plus children).

LA 18

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A “GREEN TEAM” IN NORTH TEXAS

FROM: Sending Servants Team

WHEREAS, the Social Principles state that “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God’s creation; (§160, “The Natural World,” “Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008”) and

WHEREAS, this world is God’s creation, a sacred gift to be received and nurtured with respect. We find promoting clean, renewable resources is a key component to promoting global health; and

WHEREAS, several churches within the North Texas Conference have embarked on environmentally friendly building practices; and

WHEREAS, a need exists for a formalized, central resource to which all local churches can draw upon for advice on being better stewards of God’s creation with their facilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Church and Society Task Force within the Sending Servants Team establish a team of well-informed experts in Caring for Creation issues to be a resource to the churches within the North Texas Conference.

LA 19

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF *JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS*

FROM: Sending Servants Team

WHEREAS, throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them “as the citizen among you” and loving them as we do ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34). “In the New Testament, Jesus’ life begins as a refugee to Africa when he and his family flee to Egypt to escape Herod’s infanticide (Matthew 2:13-18). Jesus fully identifies with the sojourner to the point that to welcome the sojourner is to welcome Jesus himself (Matthew 25:35). Jesus teaches us to show special concern for the poor and oppressed who come to our land seeking survival and peace;” (See Resolution #3281, 2008 *Book of Resolutions*) and

WHEREAS, our biblical and theological understanding reminds us that welcoming sojourners is a response to our belief that God is present with those who seek our hospitality. “Regardless of legal status or nationality, we are all connected through Christ to one another. The solidarity we share through Christ eliminates the boundaries and barriers which exclude and isolate. Therefore, the sojourners we are called to love are our brothers and sisters, our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters; indeed, they are us;” (See Resolution #3281, 2008 *Book of Resolutions*) and

WHEREAS, Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services, education and advocacy, and is part of a missional network of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR); and

WHEREAS, of the 20 JFON clinics in nine Annual Conferences, one is in the North Texas Annual Conference; and

WHEREAS, the JFON clinic in Dallas has had a presence in this community for ten years and has provided free consultations and assistance to over 3,000 persons with legal issues regarding immigration, work permits, permanent residency (green cards), and citizenship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Texas Annual Conference continue the support and presence of a JFON clinic in Dallas; and commit to advocating on behalf of immigrants without regard to race, gender or religion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to explore avenues of increased funding, growth, support and maintenance of the JFON clinic in our Annual Conference. Members are encouraged to share their time, talents, gifts, service, and witness by engaging in JFON services, education and advocacy opportunities.

LA 20

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXPANDING CHAPLAINCY AND PRISON MINISTRY IN NORTH TEXAS

FROM: Sending Servants Team

WHEREAS, the work of Chaplains and faith based ministry in our prisons has been shown to lower the incidents of violence in correctional institutions often by as much as thirty-three percent compared with those who do not attend religious activities; and

WHEREAS, this not only helps to solve the behavioral problems at institutions, (Florida Department of Corrections *Impact of Inmate Participation In Chaplaincy Programs*) but also can make the critical difference in inmates becoming productive citizens (§161, “The Nurturing Community,” Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008) and

WHEREAS, In 2003 the Texas legislature reduced the number of Chaplains ministering to those incarcerated in Texas prisons by forty percent. And although all prisons in the geographical area of the North Texas Conference have at least one state funded chaplain, they are asked to serve more than the American Correctional Association (ACA) recommended ratio of 500 inmates to one chaplain (American Correctional Association Rule Number ACF 3-4455). For example, at the Dawson State Jail in Dallas, one chaplain serves 2216 inmates; and

WHEREAS, meeting the spiritual needs of inmates has been a priority of Methodists since the days of John Wesley. The Kairos statement of faith reminds us that faith based “programs offer to prison residents, their families, and those who work with them, the opportunity to receive God’s forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, and to grow in their faith and servanthood in Christian community.” (Kairos Statement of Faith, www.kairosprisonministry.org).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that churches in the North Texas Conference be encouraged to meet a real need in our State and Federal correctional institutions by expanding their prison ministry. These institutions are located within the boundaries or are served by churches in the North Texas Conference. These expanded ministries will have a particular emphasis on providing assistant chaplains and volunteer ministry such as Kairos and Alpha to prison facilities that are understaffed. These facilities include, but are not limited to, Federal Prisons (e.g., Seagoville), State Prisons (e.g., C. Moore Transfer Facility, Cole, Allred, Beto I, Coffield, Michael, Gurney Transfer Facility, Powledge, Hilltop, Mountain View), State Jails (e.g., Dawson State Jail, Hutchins State Jail), County jails and city jails (e.g., Lew Sterrett).

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Sending Servants and Equipping Disciples Teams of the North Texas Conference are charged with providing resources to the churches as they explore the possibilities of their expanded ministry.

LA 21

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

FROM: Council on Finance and Administration

BACKGROUND:

REVIEW OF 2008

In spite of the challenges and uncertainties of our nation's economy, the churches of the North Texas Conference continued our tradition of excellent apportionment payment in 2008. Although less than our usual very high level of payment, the churches exceeded projections with a total 2008 payout of 93.0%. That was a wonderful indication in an extraordinary time of the faithfulness of North Texas United Methodists and the strength, vitality and pride of the churches of the North Texas Conference!

274 out of 309 churches with apportionments paid 100%, and 32 churches made Second Mile contributions of \$38,976 to help others. We especially commend the Wichita Falls District (17 years in a row) and the Paris-Sulphur Springs District (14 years in a row) for 100% payment. All 66 churches in the Paris-Sulphur Springs District paid 100% in 2008, with no help from Second-Mile Giving. We are very aware that several pastors and churches truly went the extra mile to achieve these results and we are deeply grateful to all who made extraordinary efforts.

Total dollars received for apportionments in 2008 was \$12,341,742, which was an increase of \$167,346 and 1.4% over 2007. The total paid for all benevolent causes in 2008 was \$13,982,633, an increase of \$192,432 and 1.4% over 2007.

2009: THE CURRENT SITUATION

CF&A is aware of the financial struggles that many families are facing today and the impact that the economic condition of our world is having on our churches. Thus, it cannot be a time for "business as usual" in the annual conference. This year's apportionments were reduced by 7.7%. We had planned previously to begin spending down reserve funds. One conference staff position has been eliminated and another will be eliminated in June. The council has asked all groups to reduce their spending plans for non-fixed items to 85% of this year's budget until it is known that receipts exceed that figure. We are closely monitoring conference expenses and will make further adjustments if needed.

Most importantly, we have begun a strategic planning process to make clear our conference priorities and align our resources accordingly. This will help insure the future of our conference as well as keep us strong financially.

The Council continues to expect 100% payout of our connectional obligations and urges every church to take seriously the recommended ten-month payout plan in which 10% of the annual apportionment amount is remitted monthly. Without doubt, making monthly payments beginning in January or February is an important step in paying apportionments in full.

Paragraph 622 of the 2008 *Discipline* states that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits apportionment, the Episcopal Fund, the District Superintendents Fund, and Equitable Compensation are apportioned funds which are to be paid on the same schedule as the pastor's salary is paid. The Cabinet joins the Council in urging each church to adhere to this mandate monthly.

All churches are also encouraged to make contributions to their District Second Mile Fund. This is an important way to assist districts and the conference as a whole to achieve 100% payment of our total apportionments.

The Council and the Conference Treasurer continue to work hard to maintain an open and straightforward operating style. Great efforts have been made to provide clear and understandable financial reports. Monthly disbursements reports have been provided to other agencies of the conference. The Council takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility and is working with the agencies to insure faithful and effective stewardship of conference funds.

INFORMATION

A. Fidelity Bond for Local Churches

Beginning in 2007, with the establishment of our Conference-Wide Property & Liability Insurance Program through PACT, a \$100,000 Employee Dishonesty (Crime) Bond is provided to cover those persons authorized to handle funds in every church in the Annual Conference.

B. Electric Aggregation Program

Electric utilities in the state of Texas were deregulated effective January 1, 2002. Deregulation offered the opportunity for the churches of the North Texas Conference to join together to purchase electricity. With the encouragement of CF&A, a group of large churches in the conference initiated an effort to secure a group contract for the purchase of electricity. All of the churches of the conference have been invited to participate in this effort. The program is now in its fourth aggregate contract and continues to be beneficial to the 180 participating churches with the benefits of achieving scale, the ability to anticipate costs in budgeting, and protection against the volatility of natural gas prices and future cost increases.

An additional feature of the present contract is the inclusion of 10% renewable or “green” energy for every church, which was secured at no additional cost to the group contract. Churches may choose to increase the percentage of renewable energy for an additional cost. As reported in a December 22, 2007 feature article in the *Dallas Morning News*: “In an apparently unprecedented move for a large religious group, United Methodist churches of North Texas have joined forces to buy ‘green’ electricity generated by windmills in the western part of the state.” Staff writer Sam Hodges went on to say, “Environmentalists say they’re unaware of another conference, diocese, synod or any other body of churches that has used its economic clout to spur nonpolluting electricity production.” This is a significant step as we try to live out our concern for the environment.

C. Conference-Wide Property & Liability Insurance Program

In response to requests for help from several local churches and after a great deal of study and discussion over many years, the 2006 Annual Conference session voted to establish a conference-wide property and liability insurance program through UM PACT, in which all of our churches, fellowships, camp and retreat centers, and other conference ministries purchase property and liability insurance through PACT effective January 1, 2007. This program is now fully deployed across all the churches and agencies of the conference.

Because of continuing concern over the vulnerability of our churches in today’s litigious society and realizing that all of the other churches are at risk when some are without adequate coverage or limits, the Council is convinced that this program is the best way to protect all North Texas Conference

churches in case of property losses or issues leading to liability claims. The Council desires to do everything possible to keep our churches out of harm's way and to enhance our protection of ministry and mission.

D. Pre-1982 Pension Liability

The *2008 Discipline* requires the submission of an annual formal funding plan for our pre-1982 pension liability. (See Board of Pension and Health Benefits legislative items.) Further discussion of this item may be found in this report in the section "Looking Ahead to 2011 and Beyond."

E. Retiree Medical Liability

A plan to address the conference's Retiree Medical Liability was adopted by the 2002 Annual Conference session and updated by the 2006 and 2008 Annual Conference sessions. CF&A will continue to work with the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to prepare regular updates to this plan. Further discussion of this item may be found in this report in the section "Looking Ahead to 2011 and Beyond."

F. Salary, Benefits and Expenses for District Superintendents

As stated in the conference's Standing Rules and begun in 2008, "the salary of a district superintendent shall be adjusted annually by the average percentage change in the base compensation of all full-time pastors appointed to serve local churches or appointments for which the conference is responsible. . . ." The amount of change called for in accordance with this policy for 2010 is a 1.8% increase.

However, because of the current economic climate, the council proposes suspension of the Standing Rule for the 2010 DS salary and recommends no change. (See Recommendation for Legislative Action #2 later in this report.)

Parsonages are provided by the districts. Utilities, travel and expenses are reimbursed by voucher.

G. 2008 Profile of Apportionments vs. Local Church Expenditures

Total apportionments accounted for 9.0% of total local church expenditures in the North Texas Conference in 2008, compared to 8.8% in 2007 and 9.3% in 1998. Total apportionments increased 6.3% in 2008, while local church operating expenses on the decimal increased 5.3%. Total local church expenditures in 2008 increased 4.7%.

H. Ten-Year Profile of Apportionments vs. Local Church Expenditures

An analysis of apportionments in the North Texas Conference between 1999-2008 reveals that apportionments increased at a slower pace than local church expenditures. During that time total apportionments increased 53.4%, while local church operating expenses on the decimal increased 61.0%. Total local church expenditures increased 59.2% during the decade.

I. Fund Balances

In its ongoing effort to be responsible in budgeting, the Council continues to examine balances in both apportioned and non-apportioned funds. At the end of 2008, in addition to a designated "Conference Reserve Fund" of \$1,010,780, apportioned funds carried forward from 2008 to 2009 totaled \$881,954. \$6,027,973 of other designated funds was carried forward from 2008 to 2009.

In keeping with CF&A's belief during the 2007 - 2008 conference year that there was a need to spend down an appropriate amount of these fund balances, the 2009 Apportionment Budget reflects an anticipated spending down of reserves of \$364,960, with an additional matching \$150,000 that is being applied this year to the portion of health insurance premiums paid by the retirees. (This does not include any amount to cover a shortfall in receipts.) The 2010 apportionment budget recommendation includes an anticipated spending down of at least \$432,000 of fund balances (in addition to a yet-to-be-determined amount to be applied to active and retiree health insurance premiums), bringing the total reduction of fund balances planned to more than \$1,000,000.

The Council now believes that any further spending down of fund balances would be unwise until more can be known about the length of the recovery from the current economic situation in our country.

2010 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Following the extraordinary opportunity to reduce the 2009 apportionment budget, CF&A would normally have anticipated an increase in the 2010 apportionment budget. However, recognizing that these are far from normal times, the council has "held the line" and is recommending an additional small decrease for 2010.

The council feels strongly that continued increases in General Conference apportionments (\$43,812 in 2010) and other "fixed" costs must not be allowed to "squeeze out" the missional needs of the Annual Conference. Thus, a 10% increase in actual funds for new church starts and \$125,000 for congregational transformation are proposed for 2010. The only other increases proposed are the amounts required for anticipated staff pension and health insurance increases. No staff salary increases are proposed.

The proposed 2010 Apportionment Budget reflects an overall decrease of \$103,768 or 0.9%, which includes a decrease in Annual Conference apportionments of \$147,580 or 1.9%. The two-year overall decrease from 2008 is \$1,047,602 or 8.4%, which includes a decrease in Annual Conference apportionments of \$1,199,826 or 13.4%.

This budget does not include approximately \$800,000, which will be apportioned for district budgets. The exact amount of these budgets will be voted on in District Conferences in May 2009. 2008 District financial reports and 2010 District budgets will be included in the 2009 *Conference Journal*.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011 AND BEYOND

We anticipate two major areas of financial challenge in 2011 and beyond. (1) The first challenge will be to realign our resources according to the priorities of our mission. CF&A affirms a theology of abundance and approaches the future with the perspective that we will have enough to do what God calls us to do in the coming years. However, that is not to say that we can continue to use our resources as in the past and be faithful in the future. The conference is beginning a strategic planning process to make clear our priorities. Our challenge will be to align our resources accordingly. To do so will not only keep us strong financially, but more importantly it will insure the future of our conference as we are more effective and faithful to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

(2) The second financial challenge we will face in 2011 and beyond relates to the impact of the current market decline on our benefits liabilities. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits has notified us of preliminary increased minimum requirements necessary for funding all of our pension plans (Pre-82 Pension Liability, MPP Annuities, and the CRSP – Defined Benefit Plan) due to the

decreased value of our assets designated for these plans. This will also likely impact our Retiree Medical Liability funding plan. The latest estimate of the amount of additional annual funding requirements beginning in 2011 is \$1,167,000 in apportionments and \$345,000 in CRSP-DB bills to the churches. These are not final figures. We will receive updated valuations next year. There will also be further consideration of alternative ways to address these needs throughout the denomination, as well as consideration of options for the North Texas Conference after the minimum requirements are finalized.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

I. AUDITOR FOR THE CONFERENCE TREASURY

The Council recommends Thomas Stephen & Company, LLP as the auditing firm for the Conference Treasury in 2009.

II. PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND STANDING RULE ON 2010 DS SALARY

As stated in Paragraph II.A.10 of the North Texas Conference Standing Rules (page 263, 2008 *Journal*) and begun in 2008, “the salary of a district superintendent shall be adjusted annually by the average percentage change in the base compensation of all full-time pastors appointed to serve local churches or appointments for which the conference is responsible as calculated by the conference treasurer.” The amount of change called for in accordance with this policy for 2010 is a 1.8% increase.

However, because of the current economic climate, the council proposes suspension of the Standing Rule for the 2010 DS salary and recommends no change.

Parsonages are provided by the districts. Utilities, travel and expenses are reimbursed by voucher.

III. RECOMMENDED APPORTIONMENTS (Excluding District Administration Apportionments)

	2008	2009	Recommended	%
	Adjusted	Adjusted	2010	Change
	Budget(2)	Budget(2)		
<u>General Conference</u>				
World Service Fund	1,861,690	1,845,740	1,873,586	
Ministerial Education Fund	605,055	638,377	641,380	(1)
Black College Fund	240,930	254,674	255,872	
Africa University Fund	53,205	56,998	57,266	
Episcopal Fund	486,870	501,356	515,349	
General Administration Fund	163,885	205,667	203,005	
Interdenominational Coop. Fund	47,788	49,752	49,918	
Total	3,459,423	3,552,564	3,596,376	1.2%

	2008	2009	Recommended	%
	Adjusted	Adjusted	2010	Change
	Budget(2)	Budget(2)		
<u>Jurisdictional Conference</u>				
Lydia Patterson Institute	57,078	65,268	65,268	
Mt Sequoyah Assembly	11,675	14,877	14,877	
Jurisdiction Administration Fund	27,948	31,018	31,018	
SMU Campus Ministry	7,351	8,160	8,160	
Total	104,052	119,323	119,323	0.0%
<u>Annual Conference</u>				
1. Conference Benevolences				
A. Creating Congregations				
New Church Starts			536,300	(3)
Congregational Transformation			125,000	
Sub-Total	379,000	502,500	661,300	(2) 31.6%
B. Connectional Ministries				
Equipping Disciples	219,238	247,916	239,366	(2)
Sending Servants	148,900	156,370	140,985	
Accountability Group	42,415	44,350	39,915	
Communications	201,600	222,900	222,900	
Administration	35,000	35,000	30,000	
Sub-total	647,153	706,536	673,166	(2) (4.7%)
C. Conn. Min. and Communications Staff				
Sub-total	761,072	791,515	822,515	(4) 3.9%
Total Conference Benevolences	1,787,225	2,000,551	2,156,981	7.8%
2. Texas Methodist Colleges	100,000	100,000	100,000	0.0%
3. Campus Ministries	439,864	451,864	451,864	0.0%
Total Connectional Ministries	2,327,089	2,552,415	2,708,845	6.1%
4. Camping and Retreat				
Bridgeport				
Program	113,000	116,500	116,500	
Facilities	81,700	84,000	84,000	
Sub-total	194,700	200,500	200,500	0.0%

	2008 Adjusted Budget(2)	2009 Adjusted Budget(2)	Recommended 2010	% Change
Prothro Center				
Operations	120,000	100,000	100,000	
SEEK Program	15,000	20,000	20,000	
Sub-total	135,000	120,000	120,000	
 Total Camping and Retreat	 329,700	 320,500	 320,500	 0.0%
 5. Area and Conference Administration				
Area Administration				
Area Office	65,450	65,650	68,150	(5)
Office of New Church Dev.	120,000	210,000	210,000	(6)
Episcopal Residence	25,933	28,526	28,526	
Sub-total	211,383	304,176	306,676	(5) 0.8%
 Professional Ministries				
Prep. and Qual.	9,630	13,030	11,250	
Conf. Relations, etc.	1,900	3,200	1,650	
Recruitment		2,200	1,750	
Residency		3,500	800	
BOM Admin.	7,100	14,200	10,950	
Clergy Effectiveness	13,000	25,000	27,000	
Sub-total	31,630	61,130	53,400	(12.6%)
 Conference Administration				
Administrative Agencies	26,000	26,000	23,500	(5)
Office of Administration	80,596	80,596	80,596	
Chancellor	15,000	15,000	15,000	
Annual Conference Session	44,000	44,000	48,000	
Journal	27,000	27,000	23,000	
Ministry Center Operations	142,313	142,313	142,313	
Ministry Center Debt Service	330,000	330,000	330,000	
Sub-total	664,909	664,909	662,409	(5)(8) (0.04%)
 Conference Administration Staff	 714,393	 742,969	 552,663	 (7)(8) (25.6%)
 Total Area & Conference Admin.	 1,622,315	 1,773,184	 1,575,148	 (11.2%)

	2008 Adjusted Budget(2)	2009 Adjusted Budget(2)	Recommended 2010	% Change
6. Board of Pension & Health Benefits				
Pensions				
Past Service Funding	1,717,649	0	0	
CPP	570,271	630,000	618,000	
CRSP Supplement	266,116	0	0	(9)
Board Expenses	11,500	12,000	12,000	
Sub-total	2,565,536	642,000	630,000	(1.9%)
Health Insurance Subsidies				
Appointees	81,600	75,000	0	(9)
Dependents	26,852	10,000	0	(9)
Retirees				
Current Year Benefits	687,739	517,800	517,800	(9)
Past Service Funding	0	784,000	784,000	(10)
Ret. Med. Liab. for Current	120,000	0	0	(10)
Ret. Med. for New Entrants	213,000	213,000	213,000	(10)
Sub-total	1,129,191	1,599,800	1,514,800	(5.3%)
Total BOPHB	3,694,727	2,241,800	2,144,800	(4.3%)
7. District Superintendents				
Base Salaries	591,539	615,792	615,792	(11)
CRSP	52,463	58,092	62,118	(12)
Travel /Expenses	76,073	79,877	79,877	
Emergency Fund	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Total	730,075	763,761	767,787	0.5%
8. Equitable Compensation				
Pastors' Subsidies	85,000	85,000	85,000	(13)
Missional Church Grants	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Total	110,000	110,000	110,000	0.0%
9. Moving Fund	130,000	130,000	117,000	(14) (10.0%)
Total Annual Conference	8,943,906	7,891,660	7,744,080	(1.9%)
Grand Total	12,507,381	11,563,547	11,459,779	(0.9%)

NOTES TO RECOMMENDED APPORTIONMENTS

- (1) 25% of this amount (\$160,345 for 2010) stays in the annual conference for use by the NTC Board of Ministry. It has been the policy of the BOM for many years that prior year receipts would fund current year expenses in order to fund college and seminary scholarships for candidates for ministry. It should be noted that the 2009 annual conference share is \$159,594, while the 2009 MEF expense budget submitted by the BOM is \$174,200. Thus, spending down the beginning balance may be required.
- (2) Since \$100,000 for Hispanic Ministries and \$75,000 for Ethnic Local Churches (1/3 each for African-American, Hispanic and Asian ministries) are being moved from Creating Congregations to Equipping Disciples in 2010, the budgets for 2008 and 2009 have been adjusted to reflect these changes so comparisons may be made.
- (3) This reflects a 10% increase in actual funds for New Church Starts (not including team expenses, demographics, consultants and the New Church Leadership Institute).
- (4) \$15,000 for Board of Ministry administrative services is being moved from Conference Administration staff to Connectional Ministries staff. No staff salary increases are included, but \$16,000 in anticipated additional benefits costs are included.
- (5) \$2,500 that was previously budgeted in Conference Administration Agencies is being moved to the Area Office to consolidate budgeted funds for the Episcopacy Committee in 2010. Thus, there is no actual change.
- (6) This includes the compensation, benefits, travel and expenses of the Director of New Church Starts and Transformation and a support staff position.
- (7) The full cost of the Provost position has been eliminated and \$15,000 for BOM administrative services have been moved to Connectional Ministries staff in 2010. There are no staff salary increases included.
- (8) The anticipated shortage from increased benefits costs (\$11,000) and additional expenses will be paid from beginning balances.
- (9) Beginning balances will be used to fund these items in 2010.
- (10) These amounts are scheduled in the Retiree Medical Liability update approved at the 2008 Annual Conference.
- (11) This reflects no increase in DS salaries. Suspension of the conference's Standing Rules will be required to implement this, as the policy stated there would result in a 1.8% increase.
- (12) This is based upon no salary increase and the anticipated 9.5% increase in the CRSP Defined Benefit cost for the NTC in 2010.
- (13) This amount is intended to provide a 1.8% increase in the conference minimum compensation to \$41,951 in line with the NTC Standing Rules policy for changes to the salaries of District Superintendents. It reflects a spending down of the beginning balance of approximately \$25,000 in 2010.

- (14) The moving fund was established with the intent that prior years receipts would fund current year expenses. This was done so as not to impede the needs of the appointment process. The amount expended may vary considerably from year to year. For example, the amount expended in 2006 was \$152,554, while in 2008 only \$88,607 was expended. It is on the basis of the last 3-year average of \$111,353 that the decrease is recommended.

GUIDELINES FOR APPORTIONMENTS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

- A. Formula for Two-Part Decimal:

1/3 membership and 2/3 finance

- B. Procedure for Computation of Decimal for Each Church:

The membership part is computed by dividing the total 2008 church membership of the Annual Conference (less discontinued churches and fellowships = 157,779) into the 2008 membership of each church. This becomes the church's membership decimal.

The finance part is computed by adding the amounts of the operating expenses reported paid by each church in columns 64b, 65b, 66a, 66c, 67a-d, 68a-b and 69-72 of the 2008 Statistician's Report. (No funds reported in other statistical columns are included in this computation.) This total is then divided by the Conference total of these same columns (less discontinued churches and fellowships = \$80,584,357). This becomes the local church's finance decimal.

The finance decimal is doubled. The membership decimal is added to the doubled finance decimal. This total is divided by three to become the apportionment decimal.

- C. Procedure for Computation of Apportionments for Each Church:

The apportionment decimal for each church is multiplied by the Conference total of each apportionment to determine the amount that each church is asked to pay toward the apportionment. The only exception is the District Administration Fund Apportionment, which is at the present time computed on the basis of the district decimal.

- D. Margin for Correction:

To assure that 100% of the amount of each apportionment will be distributed to the churches, no more than one quarter of one percent may be added to each apportionment when needed.

RECOMMENDED GOALS TO LOCAL CHURCHES

- A. That local churches accept the challenge to grow in spiritual strength by designating no less than 25% of their total annual budgets for causes beyond their local churches
- B. That local churches plan to remit at least 10% of their annual apportionments before the 15th of each month beginning in January or February.
- C. That apportionments be given first claim by local churches in their beyond-the-local church payments with advance specials and other benevolences viewed as second-mile giving.

- D. That local churches assist in achieving 100% payment of all apportionments for connectional ministries and missions in every district through voluntary contributions to the District Second- Mile Apportionment Fund.

LA 22

AFFIRMING THE WORK OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM

FROM: Strategic Planning Team

BACKGROUND:

Bishop Bledsoe reports that since he has arrived in North Texas his most frequently asked question is, “What is your vision for the churches of the NTC?” His reply is consistent wherever he is. First, he says that God does indeed have a vision for churches to reach the mission field in the NTC, and we are on a journey *together* to discover that vision. To that end, our bishop has created a Strategic Planning Team (SPT) to listen to the hopes, dreams and ideas of the people of the North Texas Conference and to shape those thoughts into a strategic plan for our conference. The SPT has met 3 times before the 2009 Annual Conference to prepare to listen to the input of the Conference.

The second part of the Bishop’s answer to the question about vision is that The United Methodist Church is clear about its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world *and* clear on the priorities which are laid out in the four focus areas. These are not simply the priorities of the General Church; they are the priorities for every United Methodist Church as we seek to be fruitful in making disciples. The four focus areas are:

1. **Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.**
2. **Creating new places for new people and transforming existing congregations.**
3. **Engaging in ministry with the poor.**
4. **Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.**

2009 Annual Conference Listening

The work of making disciples most effectively occurs in the local churches. The Annual Conference’s role is to resource local churches so that they can best reach their mission field. The SPT seeks to gather hopes, dreams and ideas for fruitful ministry in local settings and then develop a plan for the NTC to help churches, pastors and lay leaders be successful in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The SPT needs your help to do the work that is set before us. There are 2 specific ways at this Annual Conference that you can give input to the process:

- 1) **You will be given a card** (available at the District Conference and the Clergy & Laity Sessions). Please pray about how you see God leading your church, and then on the card, write your *hopes and dreams* for how the transforming of lives might occur through your

local church. At the opening worship service on Sunday night, you will be invited to bring your card forward and place it on the altar during Communion. These cards will be prayed over as we ask God's blessing in this process of listening to each other and to God's vision for our conference.

- 2) On Monday of Annual Conference, the entire membership of the Conference will **divide into small groups** to give input into the strategic planning process. The SPT wants you to have the discussion questions ahead of time so that you can be thinking and praying about concrete ideas *and* noticing where God is already at work in these areas so you can share these with the group. The four discussion questions are:
 - What idea or action can help us better identify, develop and support principled Christian leaders?
 - What idea or action can help us plant new places for new people and transform existing congregations?
 - What idea or action can help us be more effective in ministry with the poor?
 - What idea or action can help us stamp out killer diseases and improve global health?

LEGISLATION: Recognizing the importance of a Strategic Plan for unifying, focusing, aligning and energizing the North Texas Annual Conference in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we, the members of the North Texas Annual Conference, affirm the leadership of Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe in calling for such a plan and forming a Strategic Planning Team, funded by monies previously budgeted and reallocated by the Council on Finance and Administration. This team will continue to meet throughout the next year with the charge of bringing to the 2010 Annual Conference its recommendations. The team will cease to exist after the 2010 conference, unless its life and work are specifically extended by vote of that conference.

We pledge to the Strategic Planning Team our prayers and support throughout the year and look forward in faith and hope to their report.

LA 23

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

FROM: General Conference Delegation

Introduction

The North Texas Conference Delegation has prepared this material related to the proposed thirty two (32) Amendments to the Constitution of the United Methodist Church approved by the 2008 General Conference. The intent is to provide information that will allow those voting at this year's North Texas Conference Annual Conference to make faithful and informed decisions.

The Delegation has created descriptive names for the amendments and grouped them into the following three major categories for ease of understanding:

1. **Five (5) Amendments that establish Regional Conference(s) in the United States**
IV, X, XIII, XXIII, XXVI

2. Eighteen (18) Amendments that change the name of Central Conferences outside the United States to Regional Conferences

III, V, VII, XI, XII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIV, XXV, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, XXXII

3. Nine (9) Other Amendments

I Provides for Membership without Limits

II Mandates Creation of Ethics and Conflict of Interests Standards

VI Allows Limited Less than Proportional General Conference Representation

VIII Adds Gender to Categories of Persons Protected By General Conference

IX Ensures That No Jurisdictional Conference Will Have Fewer Than 100 Members

XV Reduces Length of Mandated Membership prior to Election as Lay Member of Annual Conference

XVII Permits Lay Members of the Committee on Investigation to Vote on Matters of Clergy Ordination, Character and Conference Relations

XIX Allows Certain Associate Members and Provisional Members to Vote in Clergy Elections for General, Jurisdictional or Central Conferences

XXII Adds Bermuda to the Northeastern Jurisdiction

Where appropriate because of the substantive nature of the proposed amendment, additional “Information”, as well as “Reasons to Vote for the Amendment” and “Reasons to Vote against the Amendment”, also have been included. This information is not intended to influence, but to provide ways to think about the intent and consequences of the amendments. A worksheet for notes is found at the end of this material.

Constitutional Amendment Approval Process

A proposed amendment to the United Methodist Church’s Constitution must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of General Conference.

In order for the Council of Bishops to declare that a proposed amendment has been validly adopted, it must be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of voting members of all the annual conferences. The amendment becomes effective upon the Council’s announcement that the amendment has received the required approval.

Voting Eligibility

Lay members of the annual conference and clergy members in full connection are eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments. Provisional deacons and elders, associate and affiliate clergy members, and full-time and part-time local pastors are not eligible to vote.

1. Five (5) amendments that establish Regional Conference(s) in the United States (part of “The Global Nature of Church Task Force” report)

Information concerning the five (5) amendments that establish Regional Conference(s) in the United States

A total of twenty three (23) proposed Constitutional Amendments are part of the “Task Force on the Global Nature of the Church” proposal. Each amendment includes the following language: *The change in name from □central□ to □regional□ takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.*

All twenty three (23) amendments delete the term “Central Conference” and replace it with the new term “Regional Conference.” Note that the rationale for all twenty three amendments is the same.

These five (5) amendments address the creation of Regional Conference(s) in the United States. Three (3) amendments (IV, X, and XIII) delete constitutional specifications that Regional Conferences must be outside the United States. Two (2) amendments (VII and XXV) clarify that Episcopal elections will in those Regional Conferences with Jurisdictional Conferences (i.e. the United States), Episcopal elections be held in jurisdictions.

The report of the Task Force frames the proposed amendments as necessary constitutional changes for all future legislation to be enacted by General Conference if it is to develop a new way of organizing the church on a worldwide basis. It further indicates that the United States would only become a Regional Conference if and when General Conference decides to take such action.

However, Judicial Council Decision 1100 “Re.: Request from the 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church with Respect to the Meaning, Application and Effect of Legislative Calendar Item 742 Regarding the Creation of a U.S. Regional Conference” indicates that Amendment IV mandates the creation of Regional Conferences everywhere and that the 2012 General Conference must pass legislation establishing a regional conference (or conferences) within the United States if proposed amendment IV passes changing ¶ 10.

“Reasons to Vote For” the Five (5) Proposed Amendments

1. Of the 23 proposed amendments dealing with the worldwide nature of the church, 18 amendments simply substitute the word “Regional” for “Central” in reference to conferences. The intent of these amendments is to provide similar nomenclature and structure for the United Methodist Church around the world.

2. It is reported that members of the Central Conferences (those United Methodists outside the United States) feel marginalized by the distinctions in structure and terminology applied only to the United Methodist Church outside the United States. By deleting the term “Central Conference” and substituting “Regional Conference,” both within the United States and around the world, then all Regional Conferences would be on an equal footing as part of a worldwide Church, not as a ‘sub-set’ of the United States Church.

3. The creation of a Regional Conference for the United States would allow concerns that deal only with the Church in the United States to be considered at the regional level. At the present time much of the business of the General Conference deals strictly with business pertinent only to the United States. Such a change would enable General Conference to truly deal with worldwide, General Church issues.

“Reasons to Vote Against” the Five (5) Proposed Amendments

1. Passage of these amendments means decisions about restructure will be made without any detailed information. A main concern is the anticipated cost that could be extremely expensive given the addition of a Regional Conference prior to General Conference that members of the Regions would have to attend in addition to General Conference. A concern would be that delegates from the Regions could not afford the additional expense or time to perform their duties. The Task Force on Worldwide Ministry through The United Methodist Church, created by the Council of Bishops and The Connectional Table, stated in its report to the 2008 General Conference that *much work is still to be*

done around the issue of restructure.

2. Passage of these amendments shifts the decision-making away from the grass-roots level (the Annual Conferences) to the General Conference level. This is a historic shift. Currently a 2/3 majority of all Annual Conference members must approve a Constitutional Amendment. If these amendments are passed, whatever plan is presented and passed at the 2012 General Conference will be implemented. At General Conference passage requires only a simple majority vote.

3. Passage of the five substantive amendments (related to BOD ¶ 10, 28, 31, 38 and 48) may open the door for fracturing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church due to the potential power available to the new Regional Conferences. Judicial Council Ruling #1100 (in regard to ¶ 10 said: “The proposed amendment does nothing to harmonize its content with the remaining provisions of the *Discipline*.” □ Clarity is needed about the impact such structural change may have on the denomination.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IV

Establishes Regional Conference(s) in the United States

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – X

Establishes Regional Conference(s) in the United States

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

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

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of*

Discipline, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIII

Establishes Regional Conference(s) in the United States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.
- 2 In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference. In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.
- 3 To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.
- 4 To determine the boundaries of the annual conferences within their respective areas.
- 5 To make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.
- 6 To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional conference Discipline enacted by the regional conference.
- 7 To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that regional conference from the decision of a committee on trial. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIII

Establishes Regional Conference(s) in the United States

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

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

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

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

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

The work of the Church may be formed into regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the General Conference. (The change in name from

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVI

Establishes Regional Conference(s) in the United States

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Eighteen (18) amendments that change the name of Central Conferences outside the United States to Regional Conferences (part of “The Global Nature of Church Task Force” report)

Information about the Eighteen (18) Amendments that change the name of Central Conferences outside the United States to Regional Conferences

A total of twenty three (23) proposed Constitutional Amendments are part of the “Task Force on the Global Nature of the Church” proposal. Each amendment includes the following language: *The change in name from □central□ to □regional□ takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.*

All twenty three (23) amendments delete the term “Central Conference” and replace it with the new term “Regional Conference.” Note that the rationale for all twenty three amendments is the same.

These eighteen (18) amendments merely change the name for the current “Central Conference” outside the United States to “Regional Conference”.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

There shall be jurisdictional conferences for the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth; *provided* that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or regional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – V

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference, and the missionary conference, *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XI

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIV

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church

held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

The annual conference shall be composed of clergy members as defined by the General Conference, together with professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses 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 president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVI

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

Add “, regional” following “General” and before “and” and delete “the” before

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVIII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XX

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows: Delete “or central” following “jurisdictional” and add “and regional” following “jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXI

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

The lay delegates to the General, jurisdictional and regional conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age; *provided* such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at

least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional and regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIV

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXV

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural

note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVIII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church. The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a regional conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing him shall have determined. The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIX

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church

held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

A bishop presiding over an annual, regional, or jurisdictional conference shall decide all questions of law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session; *provided* that such questions be presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference. Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be reported in writing annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXX

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXI

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all

of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

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

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

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

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

The Judicial Council shall have authority:

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

- 1 To hear and determine any appeal from a bishop’s decision on a question of law made in the annual conference when said appeal has been made by one-fifth of that conference present and voting.
- 2 To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences.
- 3 To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or jurisdictional or regional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a jurisdictional or a regional conference.
- 4 To have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.
- 5 To provide its own methods of organization and procedure. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXII

Changes the Name of Central Conferences to Regional Conferences

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

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

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

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

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

A jurisdictional or regional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

3. Nine (9) Other Amendments

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I

Provides for Membership without Limits

Information

Amendment I was offered in response to Judicial Council Decision 1032, which addresses the issue of whether a pastor has the right to determine whether a person who expresses a desire to join a United Methodist Congregation, in this case a gay individual, must be allowed to join. The Judicial Council has ruled that pastors have the disciplinary right to determine readiness for membership.

The issues addressed in this amendment are complex and include the meaning of church membership, the rights and responsibilities of pastors, the church’s stance towards homosexuality and inclusiveness.

“Reasons to Vote for” the Amendment

1. The amendment emphasizes the wideness of God’s mercy and the availability of the ministry of the church to all.
2. Many United Methodists desire that the church be open and welcoming to all people. This amendment offers an unfettered protection to the achievement of this value.
3. Historically, some United Methodist pastors have used language in *The Book of Discipline* to exclude persons from membership in the church. This amendment will not allow this to happen in the future.

“Reasons to Vote Against” the Amendment

1. Methodist pastors from the days of Wesley have exercised spiritual discretion in determining who is ready for church membership. This legislation negates the need for pastors in the discernment process since eligibility is assured.
2. This amendment removes all standards or expectations for church membership other than the desire to join. With “high expectation churches” growing and “low expectation” churches declining, this is hardly the time to lower standards.
3. The language of the amendment could be construed as being so broad that it would take precedence over all other disciplinary language regarding qualifications for ministry and membership in any body within the United Methodist Church.

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

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

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

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

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

Inclusiveness of the Church — The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth and that we are in ministry to all. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, and upon baptism be admitted as baptized members. All persons, upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II

Mandates Creation of Ethics and Conflict of Interests Standards

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VI

Allows Limited Less than Proportional General Conference Representation

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows for representation in the General Conference at other than

proportional levels during a transitional period for the admission of an annual conference into the United Methodist Church.

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

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

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

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

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, jurisdictional, and central conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference; *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or central conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

AND

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

The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, regional and jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference, and the missionary conference, *provided* that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the jurisdictional or regional conference. Any other provision of the Constitution notwithstanding, General Conference may provide for a transitional period for newly created annual, missionary, or provisional annual conferences, not to exceed two quadrennia, during which time such a conference may be represented at General, jurisdictional, and regional conferences on other than a proportional basis. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VIII**Adds Gender to Categories of Persons Protected By General Conference**

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

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

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

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

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

1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which shall in every case be without reference to race, gender or status.
14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender or status.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IX**Ensures That No Jurisdictional Conference Will Have Fewer Than 100 Members****Information**

This amendment does not impact General Conference representation because ¶ 15, which allocates lay and clergy delegates to General Conference, remains unchanged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XV

Reduces Length of Membership prior to Election as Lay Member of Annual Conference

Information

This amendment decreases from two (2) years to one (1) year the length of time a lay person must be a professing member of the United Methodist Church before being elected as a lay member of Annual Conference.

Rationale: The proposed amendment allows definition of the lay and clergy membership of the annual conference by the General Conference without going through the constitutional amendment.

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

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

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

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

The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

AND

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

The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for one year preceding their election. If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVII

(Permits Lay Members of the Committee on Investigation to Vote on Matters of Clergy Ordination, Character and Conference Relations)

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

On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote of

812 Yes, 49 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

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

AND

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIX

(Allows certain Associate Members and Provisional Members to Vote
in Clergy Elections for General, Jurisdictional or Central Conferences)

Information

This amendment does not affect the total number of clergy and lay members of Annual Conference, only who votes for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. If this amendment was already in effect, approximately ten (10) local pastors and forty (40) provisional members currently would be eligible to vote for clergy members to General and Jurisdictional Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXII

Adds Bermuda to the Northeastern Jurisdiction

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

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

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:
Before “Connecticut” add “Bermuda”.

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

The United Methodist Church shall have jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:

Northeastern-Bermuda, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.

Southeastern-Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

North Central-Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South Central-Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

Western-Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific region.

LA 24

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS

(See Green Pages)

SUPPLEMENTAL LA 25

DISCONTINUANCE OF SEVEN HILLS UMC

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained and they could not continue to support the church financially and physically, members of the Seven Hills UMC, Wichita Falls District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Seven Hills UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will hold the property for a potential new church start site in the future or for liquidation if deemed appropriate.

SUPPLEMENTAL LA 26

DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRING CREEK UMC

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remained, members of the Spring Creek UMC, Sherman-McKinney District, concluded that it was time to disband as a church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the discontinuance of the Spring Creek UMC. The Conference Board of Trustees will sell the property and place the proceeds and any current assets with the Sherman-McKinney District for new or existing ministries.