

**The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016**  
**Errata 9/14/18**

**New additions appear in red.**

**¶ 34, page 36, line 17.** After the first sentence, add “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”

The paragraph will now read:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional or central conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional or central conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional or central 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.

*This constitutional amendment was duly approved by the General Conference and the requisite two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and those votes were canvassed by the Council of Bishops meeting in May 2018 and announced according to The Book of Discipline, ¶ 59.*

**¶ 46, page 39, bottom of page.** To the end of the paragraph, add “provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.”

The paragraph will now read:

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

*This constitutional amendment was duly approved by the General Conference and the requisite two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and those votes were canvassed by the Council of Bishops meeting in May 2018 and announced according to The Book of Discipline, ¶ 59.*

**¶ 50, page 41, line 32.** After the last paragraph, add “These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

The paragraph will now 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 central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.<sup>94</sup>

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.

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

[Editor’s note: In the first line of the addition, “that adoption” has been changed to “the adoption” as a grammatical correction.]

*This constitutional amendment was duly approved by the General Conference and the requisite two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting, and those votes were canvassed by the Council of Bishops meeting in May 2018 and announced according to The Book of Discipline, ¶ 59.*

*Upon ratification of this amendment to ¶ 50 of the Constitution, enabling legislation approved by the General Conference contingent on this amendment became effective. The enabling legislation affects ¶¶ 408.3, 410, and 422. Changes to these paragraphs are published below.*

**¶ 162.A, page 120, third paragraph, line 7.** Delete the words “members of.” The sentence will now read: “We further assert the right of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic persons to equal and equitable opportunities in employment and promotion...”

**¶ 256.3.c(1), page 189, second line from the bottom of the page.** Replace “council” with “leadership team.” The sentence will now read: “The leadership team shall be composed of:”

**¶ 256.3.c(3), page 191, line 15.** In the subparagraph following subparagraph (n), replace the subparagraph designation (m) with (o). The subparagraph will now read:  
“(o) It is strongly recommended that the council develop a program budget for their ministry.”

**¶ 263.6.c, page 211, second line from the bottom.** Delete the second occurrence of “: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries)”. The sentence will read: “(2) Strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries, and communities: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries).”

**¶ 268.3, page 218, fifth line from the bottom.** Capitalize “Lay Servant Ministries.”

**¶ 268.3.e, page 219, line 7.** Replace “(see ¶ 666.10)” with “(see ¶ 666.11)”.

**¶ 268.4.e, page 220, line 6.** Replace “(see ¶ 666.10)” with “(see ¶ 666.11)”.

**¶ 310.2.e, page 232, line 3.** Replace “(¶ 666.6)” with “(¶ 666.7)”.

**¶ 320.5, page 242, line 5.** Replace “¶ 358.1, .2, .4” with “¶ 357.1, .2, .4”.

**¶ 320.5, page 242, line 6.** Replace “¶ 1506.5a” with “applicable provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program.” The sentence will now read: “Retirement provisions for local pastors shall be the same as those for clergy members in ¶ 357.1, .2, .4, with pensions payable in accordance with applicable provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program.”

**¶ 331.10.b, page 263, line 13.** In the final sentence, replace “(see ¶ 331.6d)” with “(see ¶ 331.7)”.

**¶ 408.3, page 332, line 13.** After subparagraph *b*), add a new subparagraph *c*) to read as follows:  
*c) By a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in the retired relation with or without their consent and irrespective of their age if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (¶ 422.5). Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (¶ 422.6).*

*This change was approved by the General Conference as enabling legislation contingent on ratification of an amendment to ¶ 50 of the Constitution (see above), in accordance with ¶ 59. It became effective when the Council of Bishops, meeting in May 2018, announced that the amendment had been passed.*

**¶ 410, page 334, eighth line from the bottom.** After subparagraph 4, add a new subparagraph 5 to read as follows:

*5. Involuntary Leave of Absence—**a) By a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, the members of the Council of Bishops may place any bishop in an involuntary leave status if such a relation is recommended by the council relations committee. The procedures for fair process in administrative hearings shall be followed in any involuntary retirement procedure (¶ 422.5).*

Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the administrative review committee (§ 422.6).

b) Involuntary leave of absence shall be approved annually by the Council of Bishops after review and recommendation of the council relations committee.

c) During the period for which the leave is granted, the bishop shall be released from all episcopal responsibilities, and another bishop chosen by the College of Bishops shall preside in the episcopal area. Salary and other benefits shall be continued through the Episcopal Fund for a maximum of six months.

*This change was approved by the General Conference as enabling legislation contingent on ratification of an amendment to § 50 of the Constitution (see above), in accordance with § 59. It became effective when the Council of Bishops, meeting in May 2018, announced that the amendment had been passed.*

**§ 422.2, page 345, lines 22 and 27.** Add the words “and corporate” between the words “collegial” and “expression”. To the end of the paragraph add: “The Council of Bishops is also a body in which its individual members are held accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.”

The paragraph will now read:

The Council of Bishops is thus the collegial and corporate expression of episcopal leadership in the Church and through the Church into the world. The Church expects the Council of Bishops to speak to the Church and from the Church to the world and to give leadership in the quest for Christian unity and interreligious relationships. The Council of Bishops is also a body in which its individual members are held accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

*This change was approved by the General Conference as enabling legislation contingent on ratification of an amendment to § 50 of the Constitution (see above), in accordance with § 59. It became effective when the Council of Bishops, meeting in May 2018, announced that the amendment had been passed.*

**§ 422, page 345, second line from the bottom.** After subparagraph 4, add a new subparagraph 5 and subparagraph 6 to read as follows:

5. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership a Council Relations Committee of at least three persons to hear requests for involuntary leave of absence and involuntary retirement, as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops.

a) When there is a recommendation for an involuntary status change to be referred to the Council Relations Committee, the Council Relations Committee shall conduct an administrative hearing following the provisions of fair process. The Council of Bishops shall designate the person to present the recommendation to the committee. The respondent shall be given an opportunity to address the recommendation in person, in writing, and with the assistance of a clergyperson in full connection, and who shall have voice. Once the committee has heard the person designated to represent the recommendation, the respondent, and others as determined by the chairperson of the committee, it shall report its decision to the Council of Bishops. The Council of Bishops may affirm or reverse the decision of the committee.

b) *Fair Process Hearings*—As a part of the holy covenant that exists within the membership and organization of The United Methodist Church, the following procedures are

presented for the protection of the rights of individuals and for the protection of the Church in administrative hearings. The process set forth in this paragraph shall be followed whenever the Council Relations Committee meets to process an administrative request by the Council of Bishops.

(i) In any administrative proceeding the representative of the Council of Bishops and the respondent (the person against whom involuntary action is directed) shall have a right to be heard before any final action is taken.

(ii) Notice of any hearing shall advise the respondent of the reason for the proposed procedures with sufficient detail to allow the respondent to prepare a response. Notice shall be given not less than twenty days prior to the hearing.

(iii) The respondent shall have a right to be accompanied to any hearing by a clergyperson in full connection, in accordance with the appropriate disciplinary provisions. The clergyperson accompanying the respondent shall have the right to voice.

(iv) In any administrative hearing, under no circumstances shall one party, in the absence of the other party, discuss substantive issues with members of the pending hearing body. Questions of procedure may be raised with the presiding officer of the hearing body.

(v) The respondent shall have access, at least seven days prior to the hearing, to all records relied upon in the determination of the outcome of the administrative process.

(vi) In the event that a respondent fails to appear for supervisory interviews, refuses mail, refuses to communicate personally with the bishop, or otherwise fails to respond to supervisory requests or requests from official administrative committees, such actions or inactions shall not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay any Church processes, and such processes may continue without the participation of such individual.

6. The Council of Bishops shall establish from its membership an Administrative Review Committee of at least three persons who are not members of the executive committee or the council relations committee. Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for any involuntary action recommended by the council relations committee are properly followed. The entire administrative process leading to the action for change of status of the bishop shall be reviewed by the administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the Council of Bishops prior to any action by the Council of Bishops. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (§ 422.5) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action.

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**Page 404, bottom of the page.** Replace the footnote number “25” with “28.” The footnote is correctly designated as note 28 in the text above.

¶ 2549.2.c, page 771, line 14. In the final sentence, replace “Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union” with “Pan-Methodist Commission.” The sentence will now read: “If the annual conference board of trustees sells or leases the property, consideration should be given to selling or leasing the property to one of the other denominations represented in the Pan-Methodist Commission.”

¶ 2549.7, page 773, footnote 12. Replace “1202” with “1282.”

**Index, page 825, first column.** In the first entry for appointments, in annual conference, journal, replace “451.7” with “415.7”

**Index, page 855, second column.** After the Index entry for Fellowship of Local Pastors, add the following new Index entry: “Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, ¶¶ 630.4c, 1114.14”