

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

PART I. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

C. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

1. Committees on Nominations:

- a. For the purpose of nominations to the conference entities, there shall be a conference Committee on Nominations, composed of the bishop, who shall be chairperson; the conference secretary, who shall be secretary; the district superintendents; the director of connectional ministries; the assistant to the bishop; the conference lay leader; the conference president of United Methodist Men; the conference president of United Methodist Women; the chairperson of the conference Council on Youth Ministries; a lay leader from each district and two laywomen and two laymen to ensure diversity, elected quadrennially by the conference upon nomination by this committee. Unless otherwise provided herein or by *The Discipline*, all members of conference entities prescribed herein shall be elected by the annual conference upon nomination by the conference Committee on Nominations...
- f. Terms of Service: Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall serve simultaneously on more than one of the quadrennial or term election agencies of the conference, except in cases of *ex-officio* membership, nor for more than eight consecutive years on any one such agency, except in cases of *ex-officio* membership; provided, however, in the case of membership on a quadrennial agency, that, unless prohibited by *The Discipline*, a person elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less shall be eligible to serve for a maximum of eight consecutive additional years on the same agency, and a person elected to fill an unexpired term of more than two years shall be eligible for a maximum of four consecutive additional years on the same agency. The Committee on Episcopacy, the Committee on Nominations, the Conference Committee on Organization and Rules, and the Petitions Committee shall not be included in the prohibition of simultaneous service. If a member of said agencies is appointed to the district superintendency, his or her agency membership shall terminate, unless the membership be *ex officio*, and any vacancy thus created shall be filled as heretofore set out. If a member of a conference entity is absent from two consecutive regular meetings of the entity without a reason acceptable to the entity, his or her membership thereon shall cease, and he or she shall be so notified. Such a vacancy shall be filled as heretofore set out.
- g. Convening for Organization: The terms of service of the members of quadrennial or term agencies of the conference shall begin July 1. Each agency will organize at an event convened by the bishop and scheduled as soon as possible following the adjournment of the annual conference session at which they were elected.
- h. Members of general church boards and agencies will be *ex-officio* members (with vote) of the conference entity to which the general board or agency most closely aligns, or as indicated in *The Book of Discipline*.

2. Connectional Table: This team shall be constituted quadrennially. The purpose of the Connectional Table is to connect the ministry and resources of the Annual Conference in order to increase and strengthen the number of vital congregations and conference entities and to coordinate, promote, and encourage the development of faithful disciples and fruitful leaders across the conference so that, lives and communities are transformed by the power of God. The Connectional Table shall consist of the chairpersons of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Board of Trustees, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Leadership Development Team, the Church Vitality Team, the Justice and Reconciliation Team, the Mission Engagement Team, the Council on Camp and Retreat Ministry, and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; the director of church development, the president of the United Methodist Foundation, the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, the director of ministerial services/conference secretary, the director of communications, the director of connectional ministries, the resident bishop, the assistant to the bishop, and a district superintendent. The director of connectional ministries and the conference lay leader shall serve as co-chairpersons. Additional members may be nominated and elected to ensure diversity and inclusiveness. One young adult clergy person shall be a member.

3. Councils:

- a. **Conference Council on Finance and Administration:** There shall be constituted quadrennially a conference Council on Finance and Administration as provided in ¶ 611 and following of *The Book of Discipline*. The resident bishop, the assistant to the bishop, the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, and one district superintendent named by the cabinet shall be *ex-officio* members without vote.

- b. **Council on Camp and Retreat Ministry:** This council shall be constituted quadrennially and be composed of eight to twelve members. Special attention will be given to the election of persons knowledgeable and passionate in the areas of camp, retreat, and outdoor ministry, non-profit board experience, and business management. The council will promote all existing WNCUMC camp and retreat centers. This includes camp facilities and cooperative ministry with the local church, districts, and conference. The council is responsible for establishing, implementing, and maintaining financial oversight of the Camp and Retreat Ministry Endowment fund. The Council will submit a yearly request to the Annual Conference for financial support on behalf of the camp and retreat centers. The council will be a source for support in non-profit board development, will encourage and support sustainable best practices for all current camp and retreat centers, and maintain positive relationships with each of the camps and their staff and board of directors. The Conference Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministry shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote.
- 4. Boards:**
- a. **Board of Trustees:** An incorporated conference Board of Trustees shall be constituted annually as provided in ¶ 2512 of *The Discipline*. The conference treasurer/director of administrative services, the bishop, the assistant to the bishop, and a cabinet representative shall be *ex-officio* members without vote.
- b. **Board of Ordained Ministry:** This board shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of forty-five elders in full connection, including one district superintendent named by the bishop; nine deacons in full connection; fifteen lay persons, and the conference lay leader; and, at least four associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study; elected as provided in ¶ 635 of the *Discipline*. The director and associate director of ministerial services shall be *ex-officio* members without vote.
- c. **Board of Laity:** This board shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of the conference lay leader, who shall be president; the president of conference United Methodist Men; the president of conference United Methodist Women; the vice-chairperson of the conference Council on Youth Ministries; the district lay leaders; the conference prayer advocate; twelve lay persons elected to ensure that the total membership of the council is representative of the various constituencies of the conference; and other persons deemed by the board as necessary to its work. The board shall foster an awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the church, and enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making process of the conference, the districts, and the local churches. One district superintendent shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote.
- d. **Board of Pension and Health Benefits:** As specified in ¶ 639 of the *Discipline*, an incorporated Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of twelve members, arranged in two classes. The treasurer of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc., shall be an *ex-officio* member, without vote. One district superintendent named by the cabinet and the conference treasurer/director of administrative services shall be *ex-officio* members without vote. As a sub-committee within its structure, the board shall quadrennially appoint a Health Benefits Committee, composed of such members of the board and other persons as the board may determine.
- e. **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry:** This board shall be constituted quadrennially in fulfillment of the portions of ¶ 634 of the *Discipline* pertaining to campus ministry and shall be composed of twelve members, nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the conference, with special attention being given to the election of persons knowledgeable in the areas of campus ministry, finance, marketing, and management. The associate director of ministerial services, shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote.
- 5. Ministry Teams:** There shall be constituted quadrennially four Ministry Teams of the Annual Conference:
- a. A **Church Vitality Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The team will provide vision for and oversee the structures, processes and resources needed, to help existing church leaders know and practice vitality; help potential planting partners in finding, assessing and equipping leaders for new church development; assess effectiveness of current resources; learn and share best practices; and, coordinate funding for vitality and development projects. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. One member will be chosen by each District Church Vitality Team, resulting in 8 members. Other team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.

- b. A **Leadership Development Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The purpose of leadership development is “To grow the capacity of leaders to Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World.” The task is to help shape a culture where life-long growth and development are expected to promote and support life-long fruitful ministries. The team will promote leadership excellence among congregational ministers (both clergy and lay professionals). It will also champion the development of the future leaders of the church with special emphasis on youth and young adults. Finally, it will encourage congregational ministers in the development of leadership among the laity within the congregation. The team will network with those entities in the conference who share in its purpose. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.
 - c. A **Mission Engagement Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. The team will engage and actively facilitate the connection of congregations and disciples to service in their local communities and the world at large. They will work to encourage general church mission efforts and emphases, provide appropriate avenues for training of mission leaders, and promote and foster abiding relationships with mission projects and mission workers throughout the world. This will include the traditional work areas of Disaster Response Ministry, the Mission Response Center, Volunteers in Mission Building Teams, and other historically related ministries. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for extending the mission witness of the conference. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.
 - d. A **Justice and Reconciliation Team** consisting of 12-15 persons. This team will promote excellence and fruitfulness in congregational life and ecclesial structures that reflect the full diversity of the reign of God; works of justice bringing reform to social, ecclesial, and civic structures and institutions; and, participation of all the people of God in realizing the vision of following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world. Included in the membership will be conveners of the following groups, named by the nominating committee: Religion and Race, the Status and Role of Women, African American Ministries, Asian American Ministries, Native American Ministries, Hispanic/Latino Ministries, and Ministries of Creation Care led by a Conference Earthkeeper. Each of these groups will be convened within 30 days of the organizational meeting by gathering persons with a passion for the ministry involved. The Justice and Reconciliation Team shall have a task force that will review the Ethnic Local Church Concerns grants. The work of Church and Society and Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Peace with Justice Ministries, and the ministries and connection to the NC Council of Churches are a part of this team. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.
- 6. Administrative Commissions:**
- a. **Commission on Archives and History:** This commission shall be constituted quadrennially (§ 641) and shall be composed of twelve members at large, the conference secretary, and the president or designated representative of the executive committee of the Conference Historical Society. The conference archivist shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote. Its membership shall not be subject to the limitations on terms of service set forth above.
 - b. **Commission on Communications:** This commission shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of twelve elected members at large, up to five additional members selected by the commission for expertise in the areas of communication and technology. It shall function as a service agency for the entire conference in the area of communication and interpretation. The conference director of communications shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote.

- c. **Commission on Equitable Compensation:** As specified in ¶ 625 of the *Discipline*, this commission shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of fourteen persons, plus one district superintendent, named by the cabinet. The fourteen elected members shall consist of seven lay persons and seven clergy persons, including at least one lay person and one clergy person from charges of fewer than two hundred members which are receiving equitable compensation funds at the time of the election of commission members. The assistant to the bishop and one district superintendent shall be *ex-officio* members without vote.

7. Committees:

- a. **Committee on Conference Staff Relations:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of the bishop; the assistant to the bishop, the conference lay leader; the president of the conference Council on Finance and Administration; and the following members at-large: two ordained elders, one deacon in full connection, and three lay persons. The director of human resources shall serve as an *ex-officio* member of the committee, without vote. The chairperson shall be elected by the committee from among the at-large members. The committee shall support and provide oversight to the work of the human resources department within the annual conference.
- b. **Petitions Committee:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially in order to do the following: (a) receive and review petitions to the annual conference; (b) prepare a calendar of petitions for each plenary session; and, (c) ensure that all petitions are in front of the conference until adjournment. This committee shall consist of 4-6 members, reflecting the diversity of the conference. The conference secretary shall be an *ex-officio* member without vote.
- c. **Conference Committee on Organization and Rules:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be the primary steward of the Western North Carolina Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. Its work shall include the following: receive and review proposed changes and/or additions to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and report to the annual conference recommended changes to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order to keep them in compliance with *The Book of Discipline*. This committee shall consist of 4-6 members, reflecting the diversity of the conference. The conference secretary, resident bishop, and director of connectional ministries shall be *ex-officio* members without vote.
- d. The following committees shall be constituted as required by *The Book of Discipline*: Committee on Episcopacy (¶637), Episcopal Residence Committee (¶638), Committees on Investigation (¶2703), Administrative Review Committee (¶636), and Joint Committee on Medical Leave (¶652).