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every  
*morning*

# Rules/Plan

Rules of Order/Plan of Organization

2023 Annual Conference

June 2-4, 2023

Grand Traverse Resort

Acme, Michigan



**Michigan Conference**

The United Methodist Church

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# Michigan Conference Plan of Organization

The Michigan Conference equips and connects through:  
Christ-Centered Mission and Ministry;  
Bold and Effective Leaders;  
Vibrant Congregations.

§ 1 Inclusiveness of The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the Conference. In The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, no local church or other organizational unit of the conference shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the conference because of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition. Nor shall any lay or clergy member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, ministry, governance of the conference, local church, or other organizational unit of the conference because of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, ability, national origin, status, or economic condition.

§ 2 AGENCIES RELATING TO CHRIST-CENTERED MISSION AND MINISTRY

2.1 COMMISSION ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

- 2.1.1 Purpose – Arrange and plan the annual conference session.
- 2.1.2 Duties.
  - 2.1.2.1 Manage the order and flow of the entire annual conference session, including business/plenary sessions, for all matters.
  - 2.1.2.2 Facilitate the business sessions of the annual conference.
  - 2.1.2.3 Coordinate the daily schedule of the annual conference business sessions.
  - 2.1.2.4 Plan, coordinate, and implement the worship and program content of the annual conference session.
  - 2.1.2.5 Appoint the following for the annual conference session:
    - 2.1.2.5.1 Worship planning task force in consultation with the Worship Coordinator.
    - 2.1.2.5.2 Any other people or task forces as the commission may deem necessary.
  - 2.1.2.6 Ensure the Committee on the Journal (§ 2.3, below), which is amenable to it, is fulfilling its responsibilities pursuant to *The Book of Discipline* and the Plan of Organization and direction of the annual conference.
  - 2.1.2.7 Executive Committee duties: implement the actions of the full commission between sessions of the full commission; interface with all vendors; establish and monitor annual budget; assist chairperson as requested in setting agenda for full commission.
- 2.1.3 Membership.
  - 2.1.3.1 Eight voting members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the

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- Executive Team, who shall be either clergy members of the annual conference or lay people who are members of a local church within the annual conference.
- 2.1.3.2 Annual Conference Coordinator/Coordinator for Event Planning.
  - 2.1.3.2.1 Gives project management assistance to the Commission.
  - 2.1.3.2.2 Creates systems for event planning and assists conference-sponsored event planning teams in setting up their event registration processes.
  - 2.1.3.2.3 Negotiates venue terms and options.
  - 2.1.3.2.4 Reports directly to the Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
- 2.1.3.3 *Ex officio* with vote.
  - 2.1.3.3.1 Resident bishop (or representative).
  - 2.1.3.3.2 Conference lay leader (or representative).
  - 2.1.3.3.3 Conference secretary.
  - 2.1.3.3.4 Chair of the Committee on Rules.
  - 2.1.3.3.5 A district superintendent designated by the cabinet.
  - 2.1.3.3.6 Legislative Coordinator.
  - 2.1.3.3.7 Conference facilitator.
  - 2.1.3.3.8 A representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
- 2.1.3.4 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote.
  - 2.1.3.4.1 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 2.1.3.4.2 Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609).
- 2.1.4 Organization.
  - 2.1.4.1 The Commission shall elect from among its membership the following:
    - 2.1.4.1.1 Chairperson.
    - 2.1.4.1.2 Vice chairperson.
    - 2.1.4.1.3 Head Usher.
    - 2.1.4.1.4 Worship Coordinator.
  - 2.1.4.2 The Legislative Coordinator shall have the following duties:
    - 2.1.3.2.1 Receive new business in accordance with the rules of order (§ 6, below).
    - 2.1.3.2.2 Assign business to legislative committees as appropriate in consultation with the Executive Team.
    - 2.1.3.2.3 Maintain and revise (as necessary) the schedule of legislative process for the annual conference session in consultation with the rest of the Executive Committee (see § 2.1.4.5, below).
    - 2.1.3.2.4 Manage the flow of the legislative work of the annual conference session in consultation with the Executive Team.
  - 2.1.4.3 The conference secretary shall serve as the secretary of the commission.

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- 2.1.4.4 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable twice, in annually staggered classes.
- 2.1.4.5 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the persons serving in the following capacities:
  - 2.1.4.5.1 Bishop.
  - 2.1.4.5.2 Clergy Assistant to the Bishop.
  - 2.1.4.5.3 Chairperson.
  - 2.1.4.5.4 Worship Coordinator.
  - 2.1.4.5.5 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 2.1.4.5.6 Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609).
  - 2.1.4.5.7 Conference Secretary.
  - 2.1.4.5.8 Annual Conference Coordinator.

2.2 COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.2.1 Purpose – Assist the conference Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609) in communicating (via various forms of media) news and information about the annual conference and its ministries to the local churches of the conference and to the wider world.
- 2.2.2 Duties.
  - 2.2.2.1 As determined by the conference director of communications.
  - 2.2.2.2 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 650 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2.2.3 Membership.
  - 2.2.3.1 Four persons who shall be clergy members or local pastors of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
    - 2.2.3.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
    - 2.2.3.3 *Ex officio* with vote.
      - 2.2.3.3.1 Bishop or clergy assistant to the Bishop (at the Bishop’s discretion).
      - 2.2.3.3.2 Conference lay leader.
      - 2.2.3.3.3 Any board member of United Methodist Communications residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
    - 2.2.3.4 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote.
      - 2.2.3.4.1 Senior editor of conference communications.
      - 2.2.3.4.2 I.T. data manager (or representative).
      - 2.2.3.4.3 Conference Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609).
      - 2.2.3.4.4 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 2.2.3.5 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations, in consultation with the director of communications.
- 2.2.4 Organization – The Conference Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609) shall chair the commission.
- 2.2.5 Amenability – The commission shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, below).

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2.2.6 Relationship – The board shall relate to United Methodist Communications.

2.3 COMMITTEE ON THE JOURNAL

2.3.1 Purpose – Compile and cause to be published the journal of the annual conference.

2.3.2 Duties.

2.3.2.1 Review the format and content of the conference journal, ensuring compliance with *The Book of Discipline*.

2.3.2.2 Prepare a report for inclusion in the conference journal reviewing that legislation that requires follow-up or implementation by the conference or any agency thereof.

2.3.2.3 Cause the conference journal to be printed and distributed to all members (clergy and lay) of the annual conference and all local churches of the annual conference.

2.3.3 Membership.

2.3.3.1 Four people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).

2.3.3.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.

2.3.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.

2.3.3.4 *Ex officio* with vote – Conference secretary.

2.3.3.5 *Ex officio with voice, but no vote* – Conference Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609).

2.3.4 Organization.

2.3.4.1 The conference secretary shall serve as chairperson and secretary.

2.3.4.2 The committee shall elect from among its members a vice chairperson.

2.3.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session (§ 2.1, above).

2.4 BOARD OF JUSTICE

2.4.1 Purpose.

2.4.1.1 Relate the gospel to the world by showing that the reconciliation of humans to God effected through Jesus Christ involves personal, social, and civic righteousness.

2.4.1.2 Challenge and equip the agencies of the annual conference to a full and equal participation of racial and ethnic constituencies in the total life and mission of the church.

2.4.1.3 Challenge the annual conference and its local churches and agencies to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the church.

2.4.1.4 Advocate for the role of persons with disabilities in ministry and the leadership of the annual conference.

2.4.2 Duties.

2.4.2.1 Division of Church and Society.

2.4.2.1.1 Implement the Social Principles and the annual conference’s policy statements on social issues within the annual conference.

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- 2.4.2.1.2 Provide forthright witness and action on issues of human well-being, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.
- 2.4.2.1.3 Develop, promote, and distribute resources to inform, motivate, train, and organize people toward issues of social justice.
- 2.4.2.1.4 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 629 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- Division on Religion and Race.
  - 2.4.2.2.1 Review and make appropriate recommendations for racial and ethnic inclusiveness and equity within the annual conference staff and on all annual conference agencies.
    - 2.4.2.2.1.1 Review and make appropriate recommendations for total inclusiveness and equity among conference staff and on all conference agencies, reporting annually to the annual conference.
    - 2.4.2.2.1.2 Provide resources through collaboration and training to enable the work of the local church ministry area of religion and race, with particular emphasis placed on pastors and congregations involved in cross-racial/cross-cultural ministry.
  - 2.4.2.2.2 Consult with the Board of Ordained Ministry and the cabinet to ensure racial/ethnic inclusion and equity in the recruitment, credentialing, and itinerancy processes of the annual conference. The executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and cabinet shall meet at least once per year in joint sessions with the Commission on Religion and Race to create and assess long-term plans for identifying and developing clergy leaders who will serve the growing racial and ethnic populations of the church.
  - 2.4.2.2.3 Consult with local churches of the annual conference whose neighborhoods are experiencing changing racial/ethnic demographics in their neighborhoods and that desire to be in ministry with those changing neighborhoods but coordinating conference leadership in support of racial and social justice movements impacting

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- local communities, in consultation and partnership with other entities within and outside the boundaries of the annual conference.
- 2.4.2.2.4 Support and provide programs of education in areas of cultural competency and racial justice and reconciliation.
  - 2.4.2.2.4.1 Support and provide programs of education in areas of intercultural competency, institutional equity, and vital conversation at every level of the conference.
  - 2.4.2.2.4.2 Partner with the Board of Justice and other agencies as they seek to develop vital conversations, programs, and policies of racial/institutional equity and intercultural competency.
- 2.4.2.2.5 Partner with appropriate agencies and entities, and denominational bodies to assist in the resolution of complaints of racial/ethnic discrimination made by clergy or laity.
- 2.4.2.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 643 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2.4.2.3 Division on the Status and Role of Women.
  - 2.4.2.3.1 Be informed about the status and role of all women in the total life of the annual conference.
  - 2.4.2.3.2 Assist the resident bishop and cabinet in focusing on issues related to women such as sexual harassment.
  - 2.4.2.3.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 644 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2.4.2.4 Division on Disability Concerns.
  - 2.4.2.4.1 Develop programs that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
  - 2.4.2.4.2 Assist the resident bishop and cabinet in focusing on issues important to persons with disabilities.
  - 2.4.2.4.3 Provide resources to local churches seeking to develop ministries that are attitudinally and architecturally accessible.
  - 2.4.2.4.4 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 653 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2.4.3 Membership.
  - 2.4.3.1 Division of Church and Society.
    - 2.4.3.1.1 Four people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).

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- 2.4.3.1.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
- 2.4.3.1.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
- 2.4.3.1.4 *Ex officio* with vote:
  - 2.4.3.1.4.1 The mission coordinator for social action of the conference United Methodist Women.
  - 2.4.3.1.4.2 Any member of the General Board of Church and Society residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.1.4.3 The conference peace with justice coordinator, who shall be named by the Division of Church and Society and shall serve at the division's pleasure for up to eight years.
- 2.4.3.2 Division on Religion and Race.
  - 2.4.3.2.1 Two clergy members of the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.2.2 Two laymen who shall be professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.2.3 Two laywomen who shall be professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.2.4 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
  - 2.4.3.2.5 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 2.4.3.2.6 *Ex officio* with vote – Any member of the General Commission on Religion and Race residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
- 2.4.3.3 Division on the Status and Role of Women.
  - 2.4.3.3.1 Two clergy women who shall be members of the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.3.2 A clergyman who shall be a member of the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.3.3 Three laymen who shall be professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.3.4 Three laywomen who shall be professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 2.4.3.3.5 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.



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- 2.4.3.3.6 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
- 2.4.3.3.7 *Ex officio* with vote – Any member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
- 2.4.3.4 Division on Disability Concerns.
  - 2.4.3.4.1 Four people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
  - 2.4.3.4.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
  - 2.4.3.4.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 2.4.3.4.4 At least one member of the division shall have a physical disability.
  - 2.4.3.4.5 At least one member of the division shall have a mental disability.

2.4.4 Organization.

- 2.4.4.1 The board shall be organized in four divisions as enumerated above.
- 2.4.4.2 Each division shall elect from among its members a convener.
  - 2.4.4.2.1 The convener of the Division on the Status and Role of Women shall be a woman.
  - 2.4.4.2.2 One of the conveners shall serve as vice chairperson of the board. The conveners shall decide amongst themselves who this shall be.
- 2.4.4.3 In addition to the members enumerated above, an additional person, nominated by the Committee on Nominations, shall serve as the chairperson of the board. This chairperson shall be a member of the annual conference (if clergy) or a professing member of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).

2.4.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, below).

2.4.6 Relationship – The board shall relate to the following general agencies:

- 2.4.6.1 General Board of Church and Society.
- 2.4.6.2 General Commission on Religion and Race.
- 2.4.6.3 General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

2.5 BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- 2.5.1 Purpose – Engage the annual conference and its local churches in ministry with persons and in places around the world.
- 2.5.2 Duties.
  - 2.5.2.1 Act as a conduit for interpretation, support, and programming between the annual conference and the General Board of Global Ministries.
  - 2.5.2.2 Plan, promote, and develop a spirit of global ministry within the annual conference and its local churches.
  - 2.5.2.3 Encourage and support specialized urban and town and country ministries.

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- 2.5.2.4 Envision and develop new forms of mission appropriate to the changing needs of the world.
  - 2.5.2.5 Appoint and train conference disaster relief coordinators.
  - 2.5.2.6 Recruit and support missionaries.
  - 2.5.2.7 Promote Christian, financial, and professional standards in health and welfare ministries within the annual conference.
  - 2.5.2.8 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 633 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 2.5.3 Membership.
    - 2.5.3.1 Twelve people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
    - 2.5.3.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
    - 2.5.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 2.5.3.4 *Ex officio* with vote:
      - 2.5.3.4.1 Mission coordinator for education and interpretation of the conference United Methodist Women.
      - 2.5.3.4.2 The conference secretary of global ministries, who shall be appointed by the board and shall serve at its pleasure for up to eight years.
      - 2.5.3.4.3 Conference disaster response coordinator (selected by the Board of Global Ministries).
      - 2.5.3.4.4 Any member of the General Board of Global Ministries residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
      - 2.5.3.4.5 Conference VIM coordinator.
      - 2.5.3.4.6 Chair of the Town and Country group, or their designee.
  - 2.5.4 Organization – The board shall elect the following officers from among its members:
    - 2.5.4.1 Chairperson.
    - 2.5.4.2 Vice chairperson.
  - 2.5.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, below).
  - 2.5.6 Relationship – The board shall relate to the General Board of Global Ministries.
- 2.6 COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
- 2.6.1 Purpose – Collect and preserve the records and historical data of the annual conference.
  - 2.6.2 Duties.
    - 2.6.2.1 Maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository for the records and items of historical nature of the annual conference.
    - 2.6.2.2 Liaise with shrines, landmarks, and historical sites related to the annual conference and its churches and ministries.
    - 2.6.2.3 Work with the Commission on the Annual Conference Session in the planning of historical observances at the annual conference session.

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- 2.6.2.4 Encourage and assist local churches in the preservation and compilation of records and history.
- 2.6.2.5 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 641 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 2.6.3 Membership.
  - 2.6.3.1 Four clergy members of the annual conference.
  - 2.6.3.2 Four lay persons who shall be professing members of a church within the annual conference.
  - 2.6.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 2.6.3.4 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
  - 2.6.3.5 The archivists of the conference archives shall serve as ex-officio members with voice and vote.
  - 2.6.3.6 The president of the Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society shall serve as an ex-officio member with voice and vote.
  - 2.6.3.7 Any member of the General Commission on Archives and History shall serve as an ex officio member with voice and vote.
- 2.6.4 Organization – The commission shall elect from among its members the following officers:
  - 2.6.4.1 Chairperson.
  - 2.6.4.2 Vice chairperson.
  - 2.6.4.3 Secretary.
  - 2.6.4.4 Treasurer.
- 2.6.5 Amenability – The commission shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 2.1, below).
- 2.6.6 Relationship – The commission shall relate to the General Commission on Archives and History and the Michigan United Methodist Church Historical Society.

§ 3 AGENCIES RELATING TO BOLD AND EFFECTIVE LEADERS

3.1 CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.

- 3.1.1 Purpose – The basic governing council of the annual conference.
- 3.1.2 Duties.
  - 3.1.2.1 Implementation of the vision and direction of the annual conference.
  - 3.1.2.2 Ensuring that the following agencies, which are amenable to it, are fulfilling their responsibilities pursuant to *The Book of Discipline* and the Plan of Organization and direction of the annual conference:
    - 3.1.2.2.1 Board of Congregational Life (§ 4.5, below).
    - 3.1.2.2.2 Board of Global Ministries (§ 2.5, above).
    - 3.1.2.2.3 Board of Justice (§ 2.4, above).
    - 3.1.2.2.4 Board of Laity (§ 4.3, below).
    - 3.1.2.2.5 Board of Young People’s Ministries (§ 4.4, below).
    - 3.1.2.2.6 Commission on Archives and History (§ 2.6, above).
    - 3.1.2.2.7 Commission on Communications (§ 2.2, above).
    - 3.1.2.2.8 Committee on African American Ministry (§ 4.9, below).

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- 3.1.2.2.9 Committee on Asian-American Ministry (§ 4.7, below).
- 3.1.2.2.10 Committee on the Episcopacy (§ 3.4, below).
- 3.1.2.2.11 Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry (§ 4.6, below).
- 3.1.2.2.12 Committee on Human Resources (§ 3.5, below).
- 3.1.2.2.13 Committee on Native American Ministry (§ 4.8, below).
- ~~3.1.2.2.14 Protection Policy Implementation Team (§ 3.5, below).~~
- 3.1.2.3 Ensuring that all agencies amenable to it (see § 3.1.2.2, above) are functioning with values and goals that are aligned with the vision for ministry set by the annual conference.
- 3.1.2.4 Evaluation of the fruitfulness and effectiveness of the work of all agencies amenable to it (see § 3.1.2.2, above).
- 3.1.2.5 Ensuring that all agencies amenable to it (see § 3.1.2.2, above) compile a list (that shall be published in the conference journal) of all non-conference entities to which they have provided funding (and which are thereby responsible for ensuring the appropriate use of such funding).
- 3.1.2.6 At its discretion, the council may create and define the positions of additional conference directors (beyond those defined in *The Book of Discipline*).
- 3.1.2.7 The council may create task forces, work groups, and *ad hoc* committees as needed in order to ensure that its work is being done.
- 3.1.3 Membership.
  - 3.1.3.1 With voice and vote.
    - 3.1.3.1.1 Four clergy members of the annual conference, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
    - 3.1.3.1.2 Five lay people who are professing members of a congregation within the annual conference.
  - 3.1.3.2 *Ex officio* with voice and vote.
    - 3.1.3.2.1 Conference lay leader.
    - 3.1.3.2.2 President of the Council on Finance and Administration.
    - 3.1.3.2.3 A representative of the Division on Religion and Race of the Board of Justice.
    - 3.1.3.2.4 Any member of the Connectional Table residing within the bounds of the Annual Conference.
    - 3.1.3.2.5 Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees or their designee.
    - 3.1.3.2.6 Chair of the Conference Human Resources Committee or their designee.
    - 3.1.3.2.7 Chair of the Conference Board of Pension and Benefits or their designee.
  - 3.1.3.3 *Ex officio* with voice only.

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- 3.1.3.3.1 Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
  - 3.1.3.3.2 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 3.1.3.3.3 Director of Communications (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 609).
  - 3.1.3.3.4 Bishop or clergy assistant to the Bishop (at the Bishop's discretion).
  - 3.1.3.3.5 Dean of the appointive cabinet.
  - 3.1.3.3.6 Director of Benefits and Human Resources.
  - 3.1.3.3.7 Any other directors whose position may be created by the Conference Leadership Council (see § 3.1.2.6, above).
  - 3.1.3.4 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 3.1.3.5 Members shall serve three-year terms, renewable thrice, in annually staggered classes.
  - 3.1.3.6 Except for *ex officio* members listed hereinabove, chairpersons of conference agencies and employees of conference agencies shall be ineligible for membership on the council.
- 3.1.4 Organization.
- 3.1.4.1 The council, in consultation with the Bishop, shall elect from among its voting members a president, vice president, and secretary.
  - 3.1.4.2 The Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619) shall be the council treasurer.

3.1 BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY.

- 3.1.1 Purpose – To counsel and guide the equipping and qualification of candidates for ordained ministry and conference membership.
- 3.1.2 Duties.
  - 3.2.2.1 Assume the primary responsibility for the enlistment and recruitment of ordained clergy by working in consultation with the cabinet and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to study and interpret the clergy needs and resources of the annual conference.
  - 3.2.2.2 Renew a culture of call in the church by giving strategic leadership to the annual conference, local churches, and other ministry settings.
  - 3.2.2.3 Seek from schools of theology information about the personal and professional qualities of candidates for ministry.
  - 3.2.2.4 Appoint and train clergy mentors.
  - 3.2.2.5 Examine all applicants as to their qualification and fitness for the following:
    - 3.2.2.5.1 Annual election as local pastor.
    - 3.2.2.5.2 Election to associate membership.
    - 3.2.2.5.3 Election to provisional membership.
    - 3.2.2.5.4 Election to full membership.
  - 3.2.2.6 Interview and make recommendations for applicants/those formally recommended for a change in conference relationship.

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- 3.2.2.7 Provide support services for the career development, continuing education, morale, and preparation for retirement of clergy.
- 3.2.2.8 Provide means of evaluating the effectiveness of clergy in the annual conference.
- 3.2.2.9 Provide continuing support and management of diaconal ministers.
- 3.2.2.10 Administer the conference ministerial education fund.
- 3.2.2.11 Collaborate with the director of clergy excellence in the development of bold and effective leaders.
- 3.2.2.12 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 635 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 3.2.3 Membership.
  - 3.2.3.1 With voice and vote.
    - 3.2.3.1.1 At least twenty-five full (*i.e.*, ordained) clergy members of the annual conference.
      - 3.2.3.1.1.1 At least one of whom shall be engaged in extension ministry.
      - 3.2.3.1.1.2 At least one of whom shall be age thirty-five or younger.
      - 3.2.3.1.1.3 At least two-thirds of whom shall be graduates of theological schools listed by the University Senate.
      - 3.2.3.1.1.4 At least one of whom shall be retired.
    - 3.2.3.1.2 At least three clergy persons who are either associate members or local pastors who have completed course of study.
    - 3.2.3.1.3 At least twelve lay people who are professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 3.2.3.2 *Ex officio* with voice and vote.
    - 3.2.3.2.1 Chairpersons of the following:
      - 3.2.3.2.1.1 Order of Elders.
      - 3.2.3.2.1.2 Order of Deacons.
      - 3.2.3.2.1.3 Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.
    - 3.2.3.2.2 A district superintendent named by the Bishop.
    - 3.2.3.2.3 Director of Clergy Excellence.
  - 3.2.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Bishop.
  - 3.2.3.4 Members shall serve four-year terms (starting at the close of the annual conference session following General Conference), renewable twice, with quadrennially staggered classes.
- 3.2.4 Organization.
  - 3.2.4.1 The board shall elect from among its members the following officers:
    - 3.2.4.1.1 Chairperson.
    - 3.2.4.1.2 Vice chairperson.
    - 3.2.4.1.3 Secretary.

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3.2.4.1.4 At least one registrar.  
3.2.4.2 The conference relations committee of the board shall be chaired by the vice chairperson of the board and shall be composed of as many members as the board shall decide. District superintendents may not serve on the conference relations committee.  
3.2.4.3 The board may establish further committees of itself as it may deem necessary.

3.3 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

- 3.3.1 Purpose – Preparation and presentation to the annual conference a slate of nominees for the conference agencies, giving careful consideration to racial/ethnic, geographic, demographic, age, and gender balance.
- 3.3.2 Duties.
  - 3.3.2.1 Preparation of a slate of nominees for presentation to the annual conference. The committee shall have the duty, whenever necessary, to assign nominees to specific classes within an agency.
  - 3.3.2.2 Assist other agencies with the following:
    - 3.3.2.2.1 Identifying the skill sets and perspectives needed to perform the agency's work.
    - 3.3.2.2.2 Auditing the skill sets of current and prospective members.
  - 3.3.2.3 Except as otherwise provided by *The Book of Discipline*, filling agency vacancies that occur between sessions of the annual conference.
  - 3.3.2.4 By a three-fourths vote, the committee may remove from office any member of an agency for whose nominations it is responsible should that member fail to perform the duties required.
- 3.3.3 Membership.
  - 3.3.3.1 Two persons nominated by the annual conference session.
  - 3.3.3.2 Ten persons nominated by the Conference Leadership Council.
  - 3.3.3.3 *Ex officio* with vote.
    - 3.3.3.2.1 A district superintendent designated by the cabinet.
    - 3.3.3.2.2 Conference lay leader (or designated representative).
    - 3.3.3.2.3 Chairperson (or representative) of the Committee on Rules.
    - 3.3.3.2.4 Secretary of the annual conference.
  - 3.3.3.4 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote – Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 3.3.3.5 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, staggered annually.
- 3.3.4 Organization – The committee shall elect the following officers from among its members:
  - 3.3.4.1 Chairperson.
  - 3.3.4.2 Vice chairperson.
  - 3.3.4.3 Secretary.

3.4 COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

- 3.4.1 Purpose – Provide personal support and counsel to the resident bishop.

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- 3.4.2 Duties.
  - 3.4.2.1 Support the resident bishop in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church, with special reference to areas in which the bishop has presidential responsibility.
  - 3.4.2.2 Be available to provide counsel to the resident bishop.
  - 3.4.2.3 Make determinations and appropriate recommendations concerning the episcopal needs of the conference.
  - 3.4.2.4 Advise the bishop as to conditions within the annual conference.
  - 3.4.2.5 Interpret the nature and function of the episcopal office to the annual conference.
  - 3.4.2.6 Engage in annual consultation and appraisal concerning the balance of the resident bishop's relationship to and responsibilities within the annual conference and its agencies.
  - 3.4.2.7 Report the annual conference's needs concerning episcopal leadership to the jurisdictional committee on the episcopacy via the committee's representatives thereto. The committee's representatives to the jurisdictional committee on the episcopacy shall ensure that this report includes profiles of the annual conference's assets, limits, and strengths, and that it shall be used when the jurisdictional committee assigns bishops to episcopal areas.
  - 3.4.2.8 Ensuring that the Committee on the Episcopal Residence (§ 5.7, below), which is amenable to it, is fulfilling its responsibilities pursuant to *The Book of Discipline* and the Plan of Organization and direction and of the annual conference.
  - 3.4.2.9 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 637 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 3.4.3 Membership.
  - 3.4.3.1 Members nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 3.4.3.1.1 Six clergy members of the conference.
    - 3.4.3.1.2 Five lay persons who shall be professing members of a local church within the conference.
  - 3.4.3.2 The Conference Lay Leader
  - 3.4.3.3 Three members appointed by the resident bishop who, if laity, shall be professing members of a local church within the conference and, if clergy, shall be members of the annual conference.
  - 3.4.3.4 Members of the jurisdictional committee on the episcopacy who reside within the bounds of the conference shall be *ex officio* members with vote.
  - 3.4.3.5 No staff person of the annual conference or any agency thereof, nor an immediate family member of such staff person shall serve as a member of the committee, except that this prohibition shall not apply to the conference lay leader nor to members of the jurisdictional committee on the episcopacy residing within the bounds of the conference.
  - 3.4.3.6 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.



1 3.4.3 Organization – The committee shall elect from among its members the  
2 following officers:

3 3.4.3.1 Chairperson.

4 3.4.3.2 Vice chairperson.

5 3.4.3.3 Secretary.

6 3.4.4 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference  
7 Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

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9 ~~3.5 PROTECTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM~~

10 ~~3.5.1 Purpose – Train and certify those who will work with children, youth, or  
11 vulnerable adults at conference events.~~

12 ~~3.5.2 Duties.~~

13 ~~3.5.2.1 Propose changes to the conference protection policy (§ 9,  
14 below) as needed.~~

15 ~~3.5.2.2 In accordance with the policies and procedures of the  
16 conference protection policy (§ 9, below), train and certify  
17 volunteers to work with children, youth, and vulnerable  
18 adults at conference events.~~

19 ~~3.5.2.3 In accordance with the policies and procedures of the  
20 conference protection policy (§ 9, below), train volunteer  
21 certification trainers.~~

22 ~~3.5.2.4 In accordance with the policies and procedures of the  
23 conference protection policy (§ 9, below), process and  
24 certify (or decline, as appropriate) applications for  
25 protection policy certification.~~

26 ~~3.5.3 Membership.~~

27 ~~3.5.3.1 Eight adults (at least 18 years of age) who shall be  
28 members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing  
29 members of a local church within the annual conference (if  
30 laity).~~

31 ~~3.5.3.2 Members shall serve four year terms, renewable once, in  
32 annually staggered classes.~~

33 ~~3.5.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on  
34 Nominations.~~

35 ~~3.5.4 Organization – The committee shall elect the following officers from among  
36 its members:~~

37 ~~3.5.4.1 Chairperson.~~

38 ~~3.5.4.2 Vice chairperson.~~

39 ~~3.5.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference  
40 Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).~~

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42 § 4 AGENCIES RELATING TO VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS

43  
44 4.1 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

45 4.1.1 Purpose – To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons  
46 through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to  
47 expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of  
48 the church.

49 4.1.2 Duties.

50 4.1.2.1 Work with the district and local units of United Methodist  
51 Women in developing programs to meet the needs and  
52 interests of women and the concerns and responsibilities  
53 of the global church.

54 4.1.2.2 Promote the plans and responsibilities of the national  
55 office of United Methodist Women.

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- 4.1.2.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 647 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 4.1.3 Membership.
  - 4.1.3.1 The membership shall be composed of all of the members of the local United Methodist Women units existing within the bounds of the conference.
  - 4.1.3.2 *Ex officio* with vote
    - 4.1.3.2.1 Resident bishop.
    - 4.1.3.2.2 Members of the board of directors of the national office of United Methodist Women residing within the bounds of the conference.
    - 4.1.3.2.3 Members of the United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group residing within the bounds of the conference.
    - 4.1.3.2.4 Members of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women leadership team residing within the bounds of the conference.
- 4.1.4 Organization – The United Methodist Women shall elect from among its members the following positions:
  - 4.1.4.1 President.
  - 4.1.4.2 Treasurer.
  - 4.1.4.3 Secretary.
  - 4.1.4.4 A committee on nominations whose membership shall be determined by the membership of the United Methodist Women.
  - 4.1.4.5 Any other committees that the membership may create.
- 4.1.5 Relationship – The conference United Methodist Women shall relate to the national organization of United Methodist Women.

4.2 UNITED METHODIST MEN

- 4.2.1 Purpose – A creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know God and Jesus Christ that meets the inspirational needs of men in evangelism, mission, and spiritual discipline.
- 4.2.2 Duties.
  - 4.2.2.1 Promote the objectives and responsibilities of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.
  - 4.2.2.2 Establish, support, and maintain local church units of United Methodist Men.
  - 4.2.2.3 Empower personal witness and evangelism in men.
  - 4.2.2.4 Encourage the involvement of men in mission.
  - 4.2.2.5 Promote the scouting movement and other youth organizations recognized by the General Commission on United Methodist Men.
  - 4.2.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 648 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 4.2.3 Membership.
  - 4.2.3.1 The membership of the United Methodist Men shall be made up of all men who are professing members of local churches within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 4.2.3.2 *Ex officio* members.
    - 4.2.3.2.1 Any member of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men residing within the bounds of the conference.

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- 4.2.3.2.2 Any member of the General Commission on United Methodist Men residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
- 4.2.3.2.3 Conference lay leader (or designated representative).
- 4.2.3.2.4 Resident bishop.

- 4.2.4 Organization.
  - 4.2.4.1 The organization shall elect the following officers from among its members:
    - 4.2.4.1.1 President.
    - 4.2.4.1.2 Vice-president.
    - 4.2.4.1.3 Secretary.
    - 4.2.4.1.4 Treasurer.
  - 4.2.4.2 The resident bishop shall serve as the honorary president.
  - 4.2.4.3 The organization may elect additional officers and committees as its members may direct.
- 4.2.5 Relationship – The conference United Methodist Men shall relate to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

4.3 BOARD OF LAITY

- 4.3.1 Purpose.
  - 4.3.1.1 Foster an awareness of the role of laity in the church.
  - 4.3.1.2 Develop and promote stewardship within the annual conference.
  - 4.3.1.3 Provide for the training of lay members of the annual conference.
  - 4.3.1.4 Provide support and direction for the ministry of the laity at all levels of the church.
  - 4.3.1.5 Provide organization and support for the development of local church leaders.
- 4.3.2 Duties.
  - 4.3.2.1 Develop and promote programs to cultivate the further understanding of the theological and biblical basis for the ministry of the laity.
  - 4.3.2.2 Give direction and guidance to lay programs within the conference.
  - 4.3.2.3 Give support and direction to the conference for local church leadership development.
  - 4.3.2.4 Advocate for the needs of lay people within all levels of the church.
  - 4.3.2.5 Organize a conference committee on lay servant ministries in accordance with ¶¶ 266-268 of *The Book of Discipline*. **The conference committee on lay servant ministries shall be amenable to the Board of Laity.**
  - 4.3.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 631 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 4.3.3 Membership.
  - 4.3.3.1 Conference lay leader.
  - 4.3.3.2 Conference associate lay leader.
  - 4.3.3.3 The district lay leaders.
  - 4.3.3.4 The associate district lay leaders.
  - 4.3.3.5 Conference director of lay servant ministries.
  - 4.3.3.6 President of the United Methodist Men (or representative).
  - 4.3.3.7 President of the United Methodist Women (or representative).

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- 4.3.3.8 Convener of the Division of Young Adult Ministry of the Board of Young People’s Ministries.
- 4.3.3.9 Convener of the Division of Youth Ministry of the Board of Young People’s Ministries.
- 4.3.3.10 Conference scouting coordinator.
- 4.3.3.11 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
- 4.3.3.12 A district superintendent designated by the cabinet.
- 4.3.4 Organization.
  - 4.3.4.1 The conference lay leader shall be the chairperson of the board.
  - 4.3.4.2 The conference associate lay leader shall be the vice chairperson of the board.
- 4.3.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

4.4 BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRIES

- 4.4.1 Purpose.
  - 4.4.1.1 Strengthen youth ministry in the local churches of the annual conference.
  - 4.4.1.2 Strengthen young adult ministry in the local churches of the annual conference.
  - 4.4.1.3 Interpret and promote United Methodist ministries in higher education.
- 4.4.2 Duties.
  - 4.4.2.1 Administrative Team
    - 4.4.2.1.1 Tend to the administrative work of the Board
    - 4.4.2.1.2 Meet at least four (4) times per year.
    - 4.4.2.1.3 Budget – prepare annual request for budget; administer budget during the year.
    - 4.4.2.1.4 Review and issue grants; receive and review reports of ministries that were funded.
    - 4.4.2.1.5 Ensure compliance with MAC policies for ministries with young people.
    - 4.4.2.1.6 Annually hold listening session with Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Youth and Young Adults, in order to make administrative decisions that will benefit Young People across the Conference.
    - 4.4.2.1.7 Will help fulfill all responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 649 and ¶ 650 of *The Book of Discipline*.
    - 4.4.2.1.8 Maintain the MAC Protection Policy. This includes annual review of the policy, making necessary updates and managing relevant resources.**
    - 4.4.2.1.9 Relative to the MAC policy, the Team will reach out to ensure that the needs of the children’s and vulnerable adult are being met and honored.**
  - 4.4.2.2 Initiative Teams

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- 4.4.2.2.1 There will be a variety of teams, facilitated by the Conference Coordinators of youth, youth workers, and young adults across the Michigan Conference.
- 4.4.2.2.2 Will function as “idea-generating” teams to meet current and future needs of youth and young adult ministries, providing space for youth and young adults to freely express themselves on issues vital to them. Also, will help for youth and young adult caucuses.
- 4.4.2.2.3 Will meet at least twice per year for fellowship, check-ins, visioning, discussion of important issues. This would also provide opportunity to consider legislation before the annual conference and/or to submit to the annual conference.
- 4.4.2.2.4 The Coordinators will act as a bridge between Initiative Teams and the Administrative Team.
- 4.4.2.2.5 Will help fulfill all responsibilities enumerated in
- 4.4.2.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 649 and ¶ 650 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 4.4.2.3 Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry.
  - 4.4.2.3.1 Make recommendations concerning annual conference policies in the area of higher education.
  - 4.4.2.3.2 Train and provide resources for the local churches of the annual conference in areas of higher education and campus ministry.
  - 4.4.2.3.3 Evaluate schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries related to the annual conference, with concern for the quality of their performance, the integrity of their mission, and their response to the missional goals of the annual conference.
  - 4.4.2.3.4 Advocate for the financial needs of conference-related schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries.
  - 4.4.2.3.5 Monitor the annual conference’s fiduciary and legal relationships with United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries.
  - 4.4.2.3.6 Assist colleges and universities affiliated with the annual conference in raising funds and attracting students.
  - 4.4.2.3.7 Encourage participation in campus ministries.
  - 4.4.2.3.8 Provide resources and training for campus ministries.
  - 4.4.2.3.9 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 634 of *The Book of Discipline*.

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- 4.4.3 Membership.
    - 4.4.3.1 Administrative Team
      - 4.4.3.1.1 Two clergy persons, two laity, the Coordinator of Youth Initiatives, the Coordinator of Young Adult Initiatives, and a representative of the Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministries. It is preferable, but not mandated, that the clergy and laity are young adults, youth or youth workers.
      - 4.4.3.1.2 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 4.4.3.2 Division of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
      - 4.4.3.2.1 Six people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
      - 4.4.3.2.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
      - 4.4.3.2.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
      - 4.4.3.2.4 *Ex officio* with vote – Any member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 4.4.4 Organization.
    - 4.4.4.1 The board shall be organized in three **working groups** as enumerated above.
    - 4.4.4.2 Each **group** shall elect from among its members a convener.
    - 4.4.4.3 One of the conveners shall serve as vice chairperson of the board. The conveners shall decide amongst themselves who this shall be.
    - 4.4.4.4 In addition to the members enumerated above, an additional person, nominated by the Committee on Nominations, shall serve as the chairperson of the board. This chairperson shall be a member of the annual conference (if clergy) or a professing member of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
    - 4.4.4.5 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote – A representative of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Board.
  - 4.4.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).
  - 4.4.6 Relationship – The board shall relate to the following general agencies.
    - 4.4.6.1 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.
    - 4.4.6.2 Discipleship Ministries.
- 4.5 BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
- 4.5.1 Purpose.
    - 4.5.1.1 Lead and assist the local churches of the annual conference in their efforts to communicate and celebrate the redeeming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and to invite persons into discipleship through this love.

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- 4.5.1.2 Inform the conference and its agencies of the needs and opportunities of small membership churches.
- 4.5.1.3 Interpret and advocate for the unity of the Christian church, while encouraging dialog and cooperate with persons of other religions, starting at the local church level.
- 4.5.1.4 Promote and interpret ethnic local church concerns to the annual conference.
- 4.5.1.5 Collaborate with the director of congregational vibrancy in overseeing any staff and processes related to the development of vital congregations and new church development.
- 4.5.2 Duties.
  - 4.5.2.1 Division of Congregational Vibrancy.
    - 4.5.2.1.1 Develop a unified and comprehensive program for leadership training to serve all age groups in the home, church, and community.
    - 4.5.2.1.2 Develop and promote a comprehensive program of Christian education for all ages.
    - 4.5.2.1.3 Provide training for local church confirmation leaders.
    - 4.5.2.1.4 Plan and promote an effective, comprehensive ministry of evangelism for persons of all ages.
    - 4.5.2.1.5 Promote the use of *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The United Methodist Book of Worship* in all local churches of the conference.
    - 4.5.2.1.6 Promote seminars and training events in the area of worship, including music and other arts.
    - 4.5.2.1.7 Plan and promote a comprehensive program of stewardship for all age groups.
    - 4.5.2.1.8 Develop programming for the local church regarding ecology and the environment.
    - 4.5.2.1.9 Promote and provide training regarding spiritual formation and devotional life for persons of all ages.
    - 4.5.2.1.10 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 630 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 4.5.2.2 Division on the Small-Membership Church.
    - 4.5.2.2.1 Assist the Committee on Nominations in ensuring that laity and clergy from small-membership churches are included in the decision-making agencies of the annual conference.
    - 4.5.2.2.2 Assist the resident bishop and cabinet in focusing on issues related to small membership churches.
    - 4.5.2.2.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 645 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 4.5.2.3 Division on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.

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- 4.5.2.3.1 Recommend to the annual conference goals, objectives, and strategies for the development of ecumenical relationships.
- 4.5.2.3.2 Encourage participation by the local churches of the annual conference in ecumenical ministries and missions.
- 4.5.2.3.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 642 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 4.5.3 Membership.
  - 4.5.3.1 Division of Congregational Vibrancy.
    - 4.5.3.1.1 Four people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
    - 4.5.3.1.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
    - 4.5.3.1.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 4.5.3.1.4 *Ex officio* with vote – any member of Discipleship Ministries residing within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 4.5.3.2 Division on the Small-Membership Church.
    - 4.5.3.2.1 Four people who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).
    - 4.5.3.2.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
    - 4.5.3.2.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 4.5.3.3 Division on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships.
    - 4.5.3.3.1 Six persons who shall be members of the annual conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local church within the annual conference (if laity), one of whom shall serve as the district coordinator for Christian unity and interreligious relationships.
    - 4.5.3.3.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
    - 4.5.3.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 4.5.3.3.4 *Ex officio* with vote – any United Methodists residing within the bounds of the annual conference who are members of the following:
      - 4.5.3.3.4.1 The Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops.
      - 4.5.3.3.4.2 The governing board of the National Council of



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the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

4.5.3.3.4.3 The World Methodist Council.

4.5.3.3.4.4 The United Methodist delegation to the most recent World Council of Churches Assembly.

4.5.3.3.4.5 The United Methodist delegation to the most recent plenary meeting of Churches Uniting in Christ.

4.5.4 Organization.

4.5.4.1 The board shall be organized in four divisions as enumerated above.

4.5.4.2 Each division shall elect from among its members a convener. One of the conveners shall serve as vice chairperson of the board; the conveners shall decide amongst themselves who this shall be.

4.5.4.3 In addition to the members enumerated above, an additional person, nominated by the Committee on Nominations, shall serve as the chairperson of the board. This chairperson shall be a member of the annual conference (if clergy) or a professing member of a local church within the annual conference (if laity).

4.5.4.4 The director of congregational vibrancy shall be an *ex officio* member of the board with vote.

4.5.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

4.5.6 Relationship – The board shall relate to Discipleship Ministries.

4.6 COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY

4.6.1 Purpose.

4.6.1.1 Implement the National Plan for Hispanic Ministry within the bounds of the conference.

4.6.1.2 Provide direction and leadership for Hispanic/Latino ministries within the conference.

4.6.2 Duties – The committee shall, in keeping with its purpose (as set forth in § 4.6.1, above), define its duties in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.

4.6.3 Membership – The committee shall define its membership in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.

4.6.4 Organization – The committee shall organize itself in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.

4.6.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

4.7 COMMITTEE ON ASIAN-AMERICAN MINISTRY

4.7.1 Purpose.

4.7.1.1 Develop and support leadership for Asian-American churches and communities within the annual conference.

4.7.1.2 Train, support, and empower Asian-American clergy and lay leadership for effective ministry in their churches, their communities, and the world.

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- 4.7.2 Duties – The committee shall, in keeping with its purpose (as set forth in § 4.7.1, above), define its duties in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.7.3 Membership – The committee shall define its membership in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.7.4 Organization – The committee shall organize itself in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.7.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

4.8 COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY

- 4.8.1 Purpose – Monitor and promote Native American ministries within the annual conference.
- 4.8.2 Duties.
  - 4.8.2.1 Manage the distribution of the Native American Ministries Sunday offering.
  - 4.8.2.2 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 654 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 4.8.2.3 The committee shall, in keeping with its purpose (as set forth in § 4.8.1, above), define any other duties in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.8.3 Membership.
  - 4.8.3.1 Insofar as possible, the majority of the committee’s members should be Native Americans.
  - 4.8.3.2 Taking into account the mandate of § 4.8.3.1, above, the committee shall define its membership in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.8.4 Organization – The committee shall organize itself in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.8.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

4.9 COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRY

- 4.9.1 Purpose.
  - 4.9.1.1 Develop and support leadership for African-American churches and communities within the annual conference.
  - 4.9.1.2 Train, support, and empower African-American clergy and lay leadership for effective ministry in their churches, their communities, and the world.
- 4.9.2 Duties – The committee shall, in keeping with its purpose (as set forth in § 4.9.1, above), define its duties in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.9.3 Membership – The committee shall define its membership in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.9.4 Organization – The committee shall organize itself in any way it sees fit, subject to the approval of the Conference Leadership Council.
- 4.9.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council (§ 3.1, above).

§ 5 ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

5.1 COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.

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- 5.1.1 Purpose – To develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference.
- 5.1.2 Duties.
  - 5.1.2.1 Cooperation with the Conference Leadership Council in the development of the conference benevolences budget pursuant to ¶ 612.7 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.1.2.2 Presentation to the annual conference of a budget, developed in conjunction with the recommendations of the Conference Leadership Council.
  - 5.1.2.3 Development of a ministry share formula for approval by the annual conference.
  - 5.1.2.4 Ensure that appropriate compensation is provided for Clergy Assistant to the Bishop, the district superintendents, and the director of connectional ministries.
  - 5.1.2.5 Develop policies for clergy moves undertaken in connection with a change in appointment.
  - 5.1.2.6 Make a recommendation to the annual conference regarding any request for a conference-wide financial appeal.
  - 5.1.2.7 Ensure that the Commission on Equitable Compensation (§ 3.14, below), is fulfilling its responsibilities pursuant to *The Book of Discipline* and the direction of the annual conference.
  - 5.1.2.8 Create and define, in consultation with the Committee on Human Resources, the position of Director of Conference Benefits and Human Resources.
  - 5.1.2.9 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶¶ 613-618 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- 5.1.3 Membership.
  - 5.1.3.1 With voice and vote.
    - 5.1.3.1.1 Six clergy members of the annual conference.
    - 5.1.3.1.2 Seven lay people who are professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
    - 5.1.3.1.3 At least one of the thirteen members enumerated above shall be appointed to (in the case of a clergy person) or a member of (in the case of a lay person) a church with fewer than two hundred members.
  - 5.1.3.2 *Ex officio* with voice and vote – Any member of the General Council on Finance and Administration who resides within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 5.1.3.3 *Ex officio* with voice only.
    - 5.1.3.3.1 Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
    - 5.1.3.3.2 Resident Bishop or clergy assistant to the Bishop (at the Bishop’s discretion).
    - 5.1.3.3.3 A district superintendent chosen by the Cabinet.
    - 5.1.3.3.4 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).

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- 5.1.3.3.5 Director of Benefits and Human Resources.
- 5.1.3.3.6 Any other conference directors as the Conference Leadership Council shall designate.
- 5.1.3.3.7 Any director level benefits officer as determined by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- 5.1.3.3.8 Chair of the Board of Trustees or their designee.
- 5.1.3.4 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
- 5.1.3.5 Members shall serve four-year terms (starting at the close of the annual conference session following General Conference), renewable once, with quadrennially staggered classes.
- 5.1.4 Organization.
  - 5.1.4.1 The council shall elect from among its voting members a president, a vice president, and a secretary.
  - 5.1.4.2 The Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619) shall be the council treasurer.
- 5.1.5 Relationship – The council shall relate to the General Council on Finance and Administration.
- 5.2 BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS
  - 5.2.1 Purpose – Have charge of the interests and work of providing pension benefits and health insurance coverage to the clergy and eligible lay employees of the annual conference.
  - 5.2.2 Duties.
    - 5.2.2.1 Provide retirement, disability, and death benefits for all clergy members of the annual conference, their surviving spouses, and their dependent children.
    - 5.2.2.2 Work with the Clergy Retirement Security Program of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
    - 5.2.2.3 Provide health insurance coverage for all clergy members, full-time local pastors, and full-time lay employees of the annual conference.
    - 5.2.2.4 Continuously evaluate the quality and cost of the conference health insurance plan.
    - 5.2.2.5 Provide information regarding conference health insurance benefits to all persons upon request.
    - 5.2.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 639 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.2.3 Membership.
    - 5.2.3.1 Six clergy members of the annual conference.
    - 5.2.3.2 Six lay persons who shall be professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
    - 5.2.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 5.2.3.4 Members shall serve one non-renewable eight-year term, in annually staggered classes.
    - 5.2.3.5 *Ex officio* with vote.
      - 5.2.3.5.1 Any board member of Wespath Benefits and Investments residing within the bounds of the annual conference.

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- 5.2.3.5.2 A district superintendent designated by the cabinet.
  - 5.2.3.6 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote.
    - 5.2.3.6.1 Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
    - 5.2.3.6.2 Director of Benefits and Human Resources.
    - 5.2.3.6.3 Any other conference directors as the Conference Leadership Council shall designate.
    - 5.2.3.6.4 Any director level benefits officer as determined by the Board.
  - 5.2.4 Organization.
    - 5.2.4.1 The committee shall elect from among its members the following officers:
      - 5.2.4.1.1 Chairperson.
      - 5.2.4.1.2 Vice chairperson.
      - 5.2.4.1.3 Secretary.
    - 5.2.4.2 The Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619) shall serve as the treasurer of the board.
    - 5.2.4.3 The executive committee of the board shall be composed of the four officers enumerated above.
  - 5.2.5 Relationship – The board shall relate to Wespath Benefits and Investments.
- 5.3 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
- 5.3.1 Purpose – To ensure that the disciplinary procedures for involuntary changes in conference relationship are followed.
  - 5.3.2 Duties.
    - 5.3.2.1 Review the entire administrative process leading to the action for a change in conference relationship.
    - 5.3.2.2 Report to the clergy session on the finding of its review.
    - 5.3.2.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 636 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.3.3 Membership.
    - 5.3.3.1 Three full clergy members of the annual conference.
    - 5.3.3.2 Two additional full clergy members of the annual conference who shall serve as alternate committee members.
    - 5.3.3.3 None of the foregoing shall be a district superintendent (or a relative thereof) or a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry (or a relative thereof).
    - 5.3.3.4 Members shall be nominated by the Bishop.
    - 5.3.3.5 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once.
- 5.4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- 5.4.1 Purpose – Management of property owned by the annual conference.
  - 5.4.2 Duties.
    - 5.4.2.1 Receive and hold in trust for the benefit of the annual conference all donations and bequests of real property and tangible personal property made to the annual conference.
    - 5.4.2.2 Maintain all conference property.

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- 5.4.2.3 Sell any conference property as may be directed by the annual conference or allowed by *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.4.2.4 In conjunction with the conference chancellor, manage any legal affairs related to any conference property.
  - 5.4.2.5 The Board of Trustees shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation.
  - 5.4.2.6 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 2512 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.4.3 Membership.
    - 5.4.3.1 Six clergy members of the annual conference.
    - 5.4.3.2 Six lay persons who are professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
    - 5.4.3.3 *Ex officio* with voice, but not vote.
      - 5.4.3.3.1 Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
      - 5.4.3.3.2 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
      - 5.4.3.3.3 President of the Council on Finance and Administration, or their designee.
    - 5.4.3.4 All board members must be at least eighteen years of age.
    - 5.4.3.5 All board members must fulfill any other criteria for serving on the board of directors of a corporation that the laws of the State of Michigan may require.
    - 5.4.3.6 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
    - 5.4.3.7 Except as otherwise required by law, members shall be elected to four-year terms, renewable once, with annually staggered classes.
  - 5.4.4 Organization.
    - 5.4.4.1 Except as otherwise required by law, the board shall elect the following from among its members:
      - 5.4.4.1.1 Chairperson.
      - 5.4.4.1.2 Vice chairperson.
      - 5.4.4.1.3 Secretary.
    - 5.4.4.2 Except as otherwise required by law, the Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619) shall serve as the board treasurer.
- 5.5 COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION
- 5.5.1 Purpose – Consideration of judicial complaints against clergy members of the annual conference, clergy on location within the bounds of the annual conference, local pastors, and diaconal ministers.
  - 5.5.2 Duties.
    - 5.5.2.1 Conduct an investigation into the allegations made in a judicial complaint made against any of the persons enumerated above.
    - 5.5.2.2 Issue a bill of charges and specifications against the respondent to a judicial complaint upon a finding of reasonable grounds.
    - 5.5.2.3 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶¶ 2703-2706 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 5.5.3 Membership.
    - 5.5.3.1 Four ordained clergy members of the annual conference.

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- 5.5.3.2 Three lay people who are professing members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 5.5.3.3 Three ordained clergy members of the annual conference shall serve as alternate members.
  - 5.5.3.4 Six lay people – three of whom, if possible, shall be diaconal ministers – who are professing members of a local church within the annual conference shall serve as alternate members.
  - 5.5.3.5 Members shall be nominated by the resident bishop.
  - 5.5.3.6 Members shall serve a one-quadrennium term.
  - 5.5.3.7 Members of the following entities and their immediate family members shall be ineligible for membership of the committee:
    - 5.5.3.7.1 Cabinet.
    - 5.5.3.7.2 Board of Ordained Ministry.
- 5.5.4 Organization.
- 5.5.4.1 The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its membership.
  - 5.5.4.2 Seven members (or alternate members seated as members) shall constitute a quorum.
  - 5.5.4.3 For the investigation of complaints against a diaconal minister, two alternate lay members shall be seated (bringing the total of lay members to five).

5.6 COMMITTEE ON RULES

- 5.6.1 Purpose.
  - 5.6.1.1 In consultation with the Conference Leadership Council, maintain the efficient functionality and disciplinary compliance of the annual conference plan of organization.
  - 5.6.1.2 Consult with the Commission on the Annual Conference Session to ensure the efficient and orderly flow of the legislative process in preparation for and at the annual conference session.
- 5.6.2 Duties.
  - 5.6.2.1 Initiate and propose revisions of the annual conference plan of organization **and rules of order** as appropriate.
  - 5.6.2.2 **At the organizing session of the annual conference, present a report and recommendations for the plan of organization and/or rules of order, including (1) any changes it proposes and (2) its recommendations relating to changes proposed by others. Its report and recommendations shall be furnished to conference members as provided in Rule 5.1.3**
  - 5.6.2.3 Assign and train legislative committee chairs and recorders.
- 5.6.3 Membership.
  - 5.6.3.1 Eight voting members who shall be either clergy members of the annual conference or lay people who are members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 5.6.3.2 *Ex officio* with vote.
    - 5.6.3.2.1 Legislative Coordinator (Selected by the Commission on the Annual Conference Session)
    - 5.6.3.2.2 Annual Conference Facilitator.
    - 5.6.3.2.3 A district superintendent designated by the cabinet.

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5.6.3.2.4 Annual Conference Secretary.  
5.6.3.2.5 Conference parliamentarian (if one is appointed by the bishop).

5.6.3.3 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote – Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).

5.6.3.4 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.

5.6.3.5 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable twice, in annually staggered classes.

5.6.4 Organization.

5.6.4.1 The committee shall elect from among its members the following officers:

5.6.4.1.1 Chairperson.

5.6.4.1.2 Vice-chairperson.

5.6.4.1.3 Secretary.

5.7 EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

5.7.1 Purpose – Give oversight in matters of upkeep, maintenance, improvements, and insurance for the episcopal residence.

5.7.2 Duties.

5.7.2.1 Make recommendations regarding the purchase or sale of an episcopal residence.

5.7.2.2 Prepare a proposed annual budget for the cost of providing the episcopal residence.

5.7.2.3 Supervise the expenditure of funds related to the maintenance and upkeep of the episcopal residence.

5.7.2.4 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 638 of *The Book of Discipline*.

5.7.3 Membership.

5.7.3.1 Chairperson of the Committee on the Episcopacy (or representative).

5.7.3.2 President of the Council on Finance and Administration (or representative).

5.7.3.3 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees (or representative).

5.7.3.4 Others may be co-opted, with voice but without vote, as needed.

5.7.4 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Committee on the Episcopacy (§ 3.10, above).

5.8 COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

5.8.1 Purpose – Recommend conference standards for pastoral support and administer funds used to supplement pastoral support in instances where a charge is unable to meet its support requirements.

5.8.2 Duties.

5.8.2.1 Submit to the annual conference session a recommended schedule of the required minimum salary for appointed pastors.

5.8.2.2 Recommend to the annual conference standards and guidelines to be used in determining whether a charge qualifies for equitable compensation support.

5.8.2.3 Administer the equitable compensation fund in accordance with the standards and guidelines adopted by the annual conference.

5.8.2.4 Fulfill all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 625 of *The Book of Discipline*.



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- 5.8.3 Membership.
  - 5.8.3.1 Four clergy members of the annual conference, at least one of whom shall be appointed to a church with fewer than 200 members.
  - 5.8.3.2 Four lay persons who shall be professing members of a church within the annual conference, at least one of whom shall be a member of a church with fewer than 200 members.
  - 5.8.3.3 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in annually staggered classes.
  - 5.8.3.4 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations.
  - 5.8.3.5 *Ex officio* with vote.
    - 5.8.3.5.1 A district superintendent appointed by the cabinet.
    - 5.8.3.5.2 A member of the Council on Finance and Administration.
  - 5.8.3.6 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote – Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
- 5.8.4 Organization.
  - 5.8.4.1 The commission shall elect from among its members the following officers:
    - 5.8.4.1.1 Chairperson.
    - 5.8.4.1.2 Vice chairperson.
    - 5.8.4.1.3 Secretary.
  - 5.8.4.2 The Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619) shall serve as the treasurer of the commission.
- 5.8.5 Amenability – The board shall be amenable to the Council on Finance and Administration (§ 5.1, above).

5.9 COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

- 5.9.1 Purpose – Provide adequate program and support staff to carry out the purposes, goals, and responsibilities of the annual conference.
- 5.9.2 Duties.
  - 5.9.2.1 The committee shall be amenable to the Council on Finance and Administration with respect to administrative human resources policies and procedures. While the committee is primarily an administrative committee, it has a critical role in the programming functions of the conference. It is the responsibility of the committee to constantly evaluate the conference’s staffing needs vis-à-vis the vision and mission of the conference.
  - 5.9.2.2 The committee shall also be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council, having input and taking direction on conference staffing as it relates to the mission and vision of the conference.
  - 5.9.2.3 Consult and collaborate with director level staff and the appointive cabinet (as needed) on the hiring, evaluation, support, training, and termination of non-exempt and exempt staff.
  - 5.9.2.4 Guide the annual evaluation of director level staff.
  - 5.9.2.5 Oversee the implementation of conference human resources policies and procedures handbook.

- 1 5.9.2.6 Oversee the editing and maintenance of the conference  
2 employee handbook.  
3 5.9.2.7 Define the role and functions of the Director of Benefits  
4 and Human Resources in consultation with the Council on  
5 Finance and Administration.  
6 5.9.3 Membership.  
7 5.9.3.1 Eight people who shall be members of the annual  
8 conference (if clergy) or professing members of a local  
9 church within the annual conference (if laity).  
10 5.9.3.2 Members shall serve four-year terms, renewable once, in  
11 annually staggered classes.  
12 5.9.3.3 Members shall be nominated by the Committee on  
13 Nominations.  
14 5.9.3.4 *Ex officio* with vote.  
15 5.9.3.4.1 Bishop or clergy assistant to the Bishop  
16 (at the Bishop's discretion).  
17 5.9.3.4.2 A district superintendent chosen by the  
18 cabinet.  
19 5.9.3.5 *Ex officio* with voice, but no vote.  
20 5.9.3.5.1 Director of Connectional Ministries (see  
21 *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).  
22 5.9.3.5.2 Director of Administrative Services and  
23 Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of*  
24 *Discipline*, ¶ 609).  
25 5.9.3.5.3 Director of Benefits and Human  
26 Resources.  
27 5.9.3.5.4 Chair of the personnel committee of the  
28 Council on Finance and Administration.  
29 5.9.4 Organization.  
30 5.9.4.1 A chairperson chosen by the Committee on Nominations  
31 from among the members.  
32 5.9.4.2 A vice-chairperson chosen by the Committee on Human  
33 Resources from among its membership.  
34 5.9.4.3 A secretary chosen by the Committee on Human  
35 Resources from among its membership.  
36 5.9.5 Amenability – The committee shall be amenable to the Council on Finance  
37 and Administration (§ 5.1., above) and the Conference Leadership Council  
38 (§ 3.1, above) as expounded in §§ 5.9.2.1 and 5.9.2.2, above.  
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40 § 6 **RULES OF ORDER**

41  
42 6.1 PRE-CONFERENCE

43 6.1.1 Reports.

44 6.1.1.1

45 All agencies that are directly amenable to the annual  
46 conference (enumerated hereinabove) and director-level  
47 staff of the annual conference are required to submit an  
48 annual report to the conference secretary no later than  
49 February 15. These reports shall be available on the  
50 conference website no later than April 1 and shall be  
51 included in the conference journal. Each agency's report  
52 shall include the report of any agencies amenable to it.  
53 (See § 6.1.1.4, below.)

54 6.1.1.2

55 Notwithstanding § 6.1.1.1, the Board of Pension and  
56 Health Benefits and the Director of Administrative  
Services and Conference Treasurer shall submit an  
annual report no later than March 31.

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- 6.1.1.3 Notwithstanding § 6.1.1.1, the Committee on Nominations shall submit an annual report no later than the start of the annual conference session.
- 6.1.1.4 All agencies not directly amenable to the annual conference (enumerated hereinabove) shall submit a report to the agency to which they are amenable no later than January 20. These reports shall be included in the reports of those supervising agencies as specified in § 6.1.1.1, above.
- 6.1.1.5 The report of the conference statistician shall be available on the conference website no later than March 31 and shall be printed in the Journal.
- 6.1.1.6 The proposed plan of organization of the annual conference shall be made available on the conference website no later than April 15 and shall be printed in the Journal.
- 6.1.2 Resolutions.
  - 6.1.2.1 A resolution – a motion to initiate new business in the annual conference session – may be submitted by any of the following:
    - 6.1.2.1.1 A clergy member of the annual conference.
    - 6.1.2.1.2 A professing member of a local church within the annual conference.
    - 6.1.2.1.3 A specific person on behalf of an agency or other subdivision of the annual conference.
    - 6.1.2.1.4 A specific person on behalf of a local church or ministry setting of the annual conference or a committee thereof.
  - 6.1.2.2 All resolutions, upon being introduced in the annual conference session, must be presented by a member (clergy or lay) of the annual conference. The presenter of the resolution need not be the author of the resolution.
  - 6.1.2.3 All resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Legislative Coordinator no later than February 15.
  - 6.1.2.4 A copy of any resolution that would require an expenditure of more than \$1000 must be sent to the Council on Finance and Administration, along with a five-year cost projection, no later than February 1.
  - 6.1.2.5 If a resolution is submitted by multiple persons or entities, only the name of the person(s) actually signing it shall be published as the submitter. If more than two people actually sign a resolution, only the first two names will be published, along with the total number of additional signers.
  - 6.1.2.6 Resolutions may be accompanied by a rationale, which shall not exceed 300 words.
  - 6.1.2.7 The Committee on Rules reserves the right to edit any resolution for grammar, spelling, and clarity. The committee’s edits shall not substantively alter the resolution.
  - 6.1.2.8 Anyone submitting a resolution that affects other people or other entities is strongly encouraged to consult with the affected parties before submitting the resolution.

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- 6.1.2.9 Anyone wishing to introduce a resolution (that was not timely submitted) directly in the plenary at the Annual Conference session must (in addition to requesting a suspension of the rules [§ 6.1.2.3]) have brought the following:
  - 6.1.2.9.1 At least 1700 paper copies of the resolution.
  - 6.1.2.9.2 A copy of the resolution on a thumb drive.
- 6.1.3 All resolutions and other items that must be voted or acted upon by the annual conference shall be posted to the conference website no later than April 15.
- 6.1.4 All requests for presentation time at the annual conference session must be made to the Commission on the Annual Conference Session no later than February 15. The granting of such requests shall be at the discretion of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session.

6.2 MEMBERSHIP

- 6.2.1 The annual conference membership shall be composed of the following:
  - 6.2.1.1 Clergy members as defined in ¶¶ 32 and 602 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 6.2.1.2 At least one lay person elected by each charge.
    - 6.2.1.2.1 A charge that has more than one church will elect one lay member for each church. Additional members for a church in a multipoint charge will be elected in accordance with 6.2.1.2.3.
    - 6.2.1.2.2 Each charge with more than one clergy person under episcopal appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members as it has clergy under episcopal appointment.
    - 6.2.1.2.3 Churches with more than 167 professing members shall be entitled to at least one lay member for every 167 professing members or major fraction thereof.
    - 6.2.1.2.4 Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years.
    - 6.2.1.2.5 The rule that lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years (§ 6.2.1.2.4, above) shall not apply in the case of youth (under age 18).
  - 6.2.1.3 Deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference.
  - 6.2.1.4 Diaconal ministers who are members of a local church within the annual conference.
  - 6.2.1.5 Presidents of the conference United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.
  - 6.2.1.6 Conference lay leader.
  - 6.2.1.7 District lay leaders.
  - 6.2.1.8 Convener of the Division of Youth Ministry of the Board of Young People's Ministries.
  - 6.2.1.9 Convener of the Division of Young Adult Ministry of the Board of Young People's Ministries.

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- 6.2.1.10 One person between the ages of 12 and 18, inclusive, from each district.
- 6.2.1.11 One person between the ages of 18 and 30, inclusive, from each district.
- 6.2.1.12 Conference director of lay servant ministries.
- 6.2.1.13 Conference secretary of global ministries.
- 6.2.2 In order to equalize lay and clergy membership as required by ¶¶ 32 and 602.4 of *The Book of Discipline*, the following persons, when laity, shall be members of the annual conference in the order listed below.
  - 6.2.2.1 Conference secretary.
  - 6.2.2.2 Conference chancellor.
  - 6.2.2.3 Annual Conference Coordinator.
  - 6.2.2.4 Director of Administrative Services/Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
  - 6.2.2.5 Conference parliamentarian.
  - 6.2.2.6 Associate conference lay leader.
  - 6.2.2.7 Director of Connectional Ministries (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 608).
  - 6.2.2.8 Any other conference director.
  - 6.2.2.9 Any conference associate director or program staff coordinator
  - 6.2.2.10 Chairperson of the Committee on the Episcopacy.
  - 6.2.2.11 Persons serving on general or jurisdictional agencies or the Connectional Table.
  - 6.2.2.12 Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences for the four Annual Conference sessions following their election.
  - 6.2.2.13 Conference statistician.
  - 6.2.2.14 Members of the Committee on Rules.
  - 6.2.2.15 Members of the Conference Leadership Council.
  - 6.2.2.16 Members of the Council on Finance and Administration.
  - 6.2.2.17 Trustees of the annual conference.
  - 6.2.2.18 Legislative coordinator.
  - 6.2.2.19 Conference facilitator.
  - 6.2.2.20 Members of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session.
  - 6.2.2.21 Members of the Committee on the Journal.
  - 6.2.2.22 Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry.
  - 6.2.2.23 Chairpersons of other conference agencies (enumerated in §§ 2-5, above).
- 6.2.3 Any remaining lay members necessary for equalization shall be selected by the Board of Laity.
- 6.2.4 The following, if laity, shall be granted voice but not vote:
  - 6.2.4.1 A representative from each of the affiliate entities enumerated in § 11, below.
  - 6.2.4.2 Affiliate clergypersons.
- 6.3 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COST OF ATTENDANCE
  - 6.3.1 Active clergy – The local church or ministry to which clergy are appointed shall pay for registration, room, and board.
  - 6.3.2 Retired clergy (except as stated in § 6.3.7, below).
    - 6.3.2.1 The annual conference shall pay for registration.
    - 6.3.2.2 Retired clergy shall pay for their own room and board.
  - 6.3.3 Laity representing charges – The charge shall pay for registration, room, and board.

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- 6.3.4 Laity attending by virtue of office (enumerated in §§ 6.2.1.3 through 6.2.1.13 and 6.2.2, above) – The annual conference shall pay for registration, room, and board.
- 6.3.5 Laity selected by the Board of Laity (as per § 6.2.3, above) – The annual conference shall pay for registration, room, and board.
- 6.3.6 Those who are being received into provisional membership and who are not currently serving as local pastors – the Board of Ordained Ministry shall pay for registration, room, and board.
- 6.3.7 Notwithstanding § 6.3.2, above, the Board of Ordained Ministry shall pay for registration, room, and board for retired clergy serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

6.4 THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION

- 6.4.1 In accordance with ¶ 603.2 of *The Book of Discipline*, the Bishop shall determine the time of the annual conference session.
- 6.4.2 The Commission on the Annual Conference Session shall determine the place and the program for the annual conference session.
- 6.4.3 In addition to the business (plenary) sessions of the annual conference, the following sessions shall also be held:
  - 6.4.3.1 An orientation session for lay members of the annual conference shall be held early in the conference session. It is recommended that this be done as early as possible.
  - 6.4.3.2 Clergy session.
    - 6.4.3.2.1 A clergy session shall be held at which questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy shall be addressed.
    - 6.4.3.2.2 Ordained clergy and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall have voice and vote in the clergy session.
    - 6.4.3.2.3 Non-ordained clergy shall have voice, but no vote in the clergy session.
    - 6.4.3.2.4 Lay persons, other than those serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry, shall not be admitted to the clergy session unless the clergy session shall expressly authorize otherwise.
  - 6.4.3.3 Corporate session.
    - 6.4.3.3.1 A corporate session shall be held to handle any corporate matters that may be required by the laws of the State of Michigan and any other business specified by the Board of Trustees.
    - 6.4.3.3.2 The chair of the Board of Trustees shall preside at the corporate session.
- 6.4.4 All materials distributed by the ushers at the annual conference session must be approved by either the Commission on the Annual Conference Session or the Committee on Rules.
- 6.4.5 Voting area.
  - 6.4.5.1 At the first business session of the annual conference session, a voting bar shall be fixed. All members of the annual conference, lay and clergy, must display a membership badge in order to be admitted to the bar of the conference.
  - 6.4.5.2 Except for volunteers assisting with the functioning of the annual conference session (e.g., ushers and pages), paid

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- personnel acting within the course of their duties (e.g., audio-visual technicians and facilities staff), area office staff, and anyone entitled to voice but not vote in the annual conference session (as enumerated in § 6.2.4, above), no one who is not a voting member of the annual conference shall be allowed in the bar of the conference when the conference is in session.
- 6.4.5.3 Except by leave of the annual conference, no member who is not within the bar of the conference at the time a question is called for shall be allowed to vote.
- 6.4.6 Accessibility – Handicap accessible seating areas shall be clearly marked at all Annual Conference business sessions.
- 6.4.7 Voting procedure.
- 6.4.7.1 All voting shall be by show of colored placards unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer. A division of the house shall occur upon motion for same, supported by at least one-fifth of the members present and voting.
- 6.4.7.2 Except as otherwise directed by *The Book of Discipline* or by these rules, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting.
- 6.4.8 No later than 11:00 a.m., the minutes of the previous day’s proceedings shall be made publicly available for viewing, by posting in a conspicuous place at the site of the conference session, posting to the conference website, or e-mailing to conference members.
- 6.4.9 Reports timely submitted for approval need not be read aloud or read into the record before being voted upon.
- 6.4.10 Introductions of speakers shall be limited to two minutes.
- 6.4.11 Opportunity shall be given for announcements to be read by the conference secretary at the close of each business session.
- 6.4.12 Procedures governing speeches from the floor of the business session.
- 6.4.12.1 Microphones shall be placed around the conference floor so that members may speak from near their seats.
- 6.4.12.2 Any member desiring to speak in debate, present any matter, or make any motion shall raise the provided colored placard while seated and wait to be recognized by the chair.
- 6.4.12.3 Upon being recognized by the chair, members shall proceed to the microphone to which they were directed and before saying anything else shall give their name and the church or extension ministry to which they are appointed (in the case of active clergy), church (in the case of laity representing their local church pursuant to § 6.2.1.2, above), agency or position (in the case of laity who are members by virtue of office pursuant to § 6.2.2, above), equalization status (in the case of laity selected by the Board of Laity pursuant to § 6.2.3, above), or retired status (in the case of retired clergy).
- 6.4.12.4 After identifying themselves, members speaking to a motion shall state whether they are speaking for or against said motion.
- 6.4.12.5 Any member desiring to speak on a question of privilege shall, upon being recognized by the chair, briefly state the question but shall proceed only when the chair has decided it to be a privileged question.
- 6.4.12.6 No member shall speak more than twice as to the same motion.

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- 6.4.12.7 Speeches shall be no longer than three minutes in duration. This time period shall begin after a speaker has been properly recognized by the Chair and has properly introduced himself/herself.
- 6.4.12.8 Except for non-debatable motions, no resolution, report, or motion shall be adopted or a question relating thereto decided without opportunity having been given for at least three speeches in favor thereof and three speeches against.
- 6.4.12.9 Before debate on any resolution begins, the presenter or his/her representative shall have the opportunity to speak for up to three minutes.
- 6.4.12.10 At the conclusion of debate on any main motion, the presenter of said motion or his/her representative shall be entitled to speak up to one minute even after the previous question has been called.
- 6.4.13 Legislative committees.
  - 6.4.13.1 The Committee on Rules shall, in consultation with the Commission on the Annual Conference Session, decide the number of legislative committees into which the annual conference will be divided.
  - 6.4.13.2 The conference registrar shall randomly assign all members to a legislative committee, with care being given to make certain that members with disabilities be assigned to a committee meeting in a room with barrier-free access.
  - 6.4.13.3 All resolutions to come before the annual conference shall be assigned by the Committee on Rules to any of the legislative committees. The Committee on Rules may, at its discretion assign resolutions directly to the plenary, bypassing legislative committees. Such an action should only be taken in cases where a resolution is non-controversial and/or highly technical in nature.
  - 6.4.13.4 All resolutions, upon initially being brought to the floor (whether in a legislative committee or in the plenary) shall be introduced by a presenter who must be a member of the annual conference. The presenter shall have up to three minutes to speak to the resolution before debate begins. At the conclusion of debate, the presenter of said motion shall be entitled to speak up to one minute even after the previous question has been called. No resolution shall be considered by its assigned committee unless a presenter is present at the committee session. In the event no presenter for a resolution is present, no one may designate himself/herself as a presenter.
  - 6.4.13.5 All rules governing debate in the plenary session shall govern debate in legislative committees.
  - 6.4.13.6 Notwithstanding § 6.4.13.2, the chairperson and recorder of a given legislative committee shall be members (with all privileges appertaining thereto) of that committee only.
  - 6.4.13.7 Notwithstanding § 6.4.13.2, the presenter of a resolution being considered by a given legislative committee shall be a member of that committee only.
  - 6.4.13.8 If a resolution has more than one presenter, only one of those presenters shall be entitled to voice and vote in the committee (except for presenters who were originally selected by the registrar as members of that committee).



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- 6.4.13.9 When a legislative committee votes in favor of a resolution, the resolution shall come before the plenary as perfected for ordinary debate and discussion in accordance with all applicable rules.
- 6.4.13.10 When a legislative committee votes against a resolution, the question of whether to consider that resolution notwithstanding the vote of the legislative committee shall be brought to the plenary. Only in the event that at least 20% of the plenary votes in favor of consideration shall the resolution then be considered by the plenary.
- 6.4.13.11 When the question of consideration of a resolution notwithstanding the vote of the legislative committee is brought before the plenary in accordance with § 6.4.13.11, the presenter of the resolution shall not have the opportunity to speak before the vote on whether to consider the resolution is taken. Should the plenary vote to consider a resolution notwithstanding the vote of the legislative committee, the presenter shall then have the opportunity to speak for up to three minutes before debate begins and shall have the right to give a concluding speech (§ 6.4.12.10).
- 6.4.13.12 A legislative committee may only consider business assigned to it by the Committee on Rules, except that any substitute resolution duly moved by a member of the legislative committee shall be considered by the committee.
- 6.4.13.13 At the discretion of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session, a non-legislative discussion item may be assigned to the several legislative committees provided that such discussion advances a clearly defined purpose.
- 6.4.13.14 After the legislative committees have concluded their business, the Legislative Coordinator shall compile a written report of their work, to be presented to the plenary as soon as possible. The report shall contain the following:
  - 6.4.13.15.1 Editorial corrections to any resolutions.
  - 6.4.13.15.2 Proposed amendments (to any resolutions or substitute resolutions), including the results of the votes thereon.
  - 6.4.13.15.3 Proposed secondary amendments (to any resolutions or substitute resolutions), including the results of the votes thereon.
  - 6.4.13.15.4 Proposed substitute resolutions, including the results of the votes thereon.
  - 6.4.13.15.5 The results of the final votes taken on all resolutions (or substitutes thereto).
  - 6.4.13.15.6 The names of the committee chairs and recorders.
  - 6.4.13.15.7 A listing of which resolutions have been placed on the consent calendar (see § 6.4.14, below).
- ~~6.4.13.15~~ Once adopted, all resolutions shall be valid until the close of the Annual Conference session eight years thence (unless otherwise prohibited by *The Book of Discipline*).
- 6.4.14 Consent calendar.

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- 6.4.14.1 Any resolution (or substitute resolution) that sustains a vote of concurrence by at least nine-tenths of its legislative committee shall be placed on the conference consent calendar.
- 6.4.14.2 All resolutions placed on the conference consent calendar shall be considered *en masse* by the plenary, whose consideration of the consent calendar shall not be subject to debate, amendment, or substitution.
- 6.4.14.3 Notwithstanding § 6.4.14.2, any resolution may be removed from the consent calendar by a vote of at least two-fifths of the plenary. Any resolution, upon being removed from the consent calendar, shall be considered as an ordinary item of business.
- 6.4.14.4 The consent calendar shall not be brought to a vote until at least two hours after it has been distributed to the members of the conference.
- 6.4.15 Adopted resolutions.
  - 6.4.15.1 All adopted resolutions shall be published on the conference website as soon as is practical.
  - 6.4.15.2 The conference secretary shall determine which resolutions require action by an agency, officer, or employee of the annual conference and shall, as soon as is practical after the close of the annual conference session, submit the relevant resolution(s) to the parties of whom action is required.
  - 6.4.15.3 Any resolution or any portion of a resolution subsequently ruled by a bishop's decision of law to be null, void, and/or of no effect shall immediately be removed from the conference website, and all conference action thereon shall immediately cease. In the event that the Judicial Council fails to sustain the ruling of the Bishop in whole or in part, any reinstated portion of the resolution shall immediately be returned to the conference website, and all conference action thereon shall immediately resume.
  - 6.4.15.4 Except as otherwise specified either therein or by *The Book of Discipline*, all resolutions adopted by the annual conference shall be valid **until the close of the Annual Conference session four years thence** ~~from the close of the annual conference session until the close of the following annual conference session.~~

6.5 NOMINATIONS

- 6.5.1 Each agency shall annually review its membership to identify members who have not functioned. After consultation with the person(s) so identified, a written request for replacement shall be sent to the Committee on Nominations no later than January 10, with a copy of such request sent to the person(s) so identified.
- 6.5.2 Any agency wishing to suggest nominees may do so by submitting the request in writing to the Committee on Nominations no later than January 10.
- 6.5.3 Except as otherwise required by *The Book of Discipline*, all terms of office shall begin at the close of the annual conference session.
- 6.5.4 Aside from *ex officio* membership, no one may serve on more than two agencies at once.

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- 6.5.5 The Committee on Nominations, when nominating persons for agency membership, shall give primary consideration to aptness, experience, diversity, inclusiveness, and efficiency.
- 6.5.6 Aside from *ex officio* membership, no employee of the annual conference shall be eligible to serve on an agency that has supervisory responsibility over the area of that employee's work.
- 6.5.7 Except as otherwise provided herein, no district superintendent shall serve on a conference agency.
- 6.5.8 At the annual conference session immediately following General Conference, the annual conference shall elect people – nominated by the Committee on Nominations in consultation with the Conference Leadership Council – to the following positions:
  - 6.5.8.1 Secretary.
  - 6.5.8.2 Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer (see *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 619).
  - 6.5.8.3 Statistician.
- 6.5.9 Except as otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline, every four years beginning in 2022 and continuing in every Quadrennium beginning in 2024, a person named by the Director of Connectional Ministries shall convene each council, board, commission, division or committee for the purpose of organizing and electing its officers. The convener shall be someone other than a member of such group and shall conduct the election of the officers to be elected. Officers elected at these organizing meetings shall serve 4-year terms. If a vacancy occurs in any office during the 4-year term, another member shall be elected to that office for the remainder of the term.

6.6 DEPENDENT CARE

- 6.6.1 While carrying out the responsibilities of the annual conference or any agency thereof, members may be reimbursed for dependent care provided in their homes. Such reimbursement shall not exceed ten hours per day and shall not exceed minimum wage.
- 6.6.2 Each agency shall be responsible for budgeting for appropriate dependent care expenses when considering its membership and time requirements.
- 6.6.3 Dependent care expenses shall be vouchered and reimbursed.
- 6.6.4 Local churches are encouraged to support members in need of dependent care for conference responsibilities by volunteering to provide dependent care whenever possible.
- 6.6.5 Agency members are encouraged to enlist family members and friends for dependent care whenever possible.
- 6.6.6 Conference agencies may choose to provide on-site childcare. In such cases, parents shall be responsible for bringing necessary items (*e.g.*, toys, lunches) for their children. The conference protection policy (§ 9, below) shall be strictly followed.

6.7 GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES

- 6.7.1 Nomination of candidates for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation.
  - 6.7.1.1 Nomination forms designed by the Committee on Rules and the Order of Business shall be made available on the conference website no later than October 15 of the calendar year preceding delegate elections.
  - 6.7.1.2 Candidates may be nominated by themselves or by another clergy member of the annual conference (in the case of clergy) or by another professing member of a local church within the annual conference (in the case of laity).

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- 6.7.1.3 The names of the candidates and the information on their nomination forms shall be posted to the conference website no later than April 1.
- 6.7.2 Election of delegates.
  - 6.7.2.1 Elections shall occur at the annual conference session in the calendar year immediately preceding General Conference.
  - 6.7.2.2 The Commission on the Annual Conference Session shall appoint a group of tellers, who shall be composed of people ineligible (as per ¶¶ 35-36 of *The Book of Discipline*) and/or unwilling to serve as delegates.
  - 6.7.2.3 The election of General Conference delegates and Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall constitute a single process, with General Conference delegates being elected first.
  - 6.7.2.4 Eligible voters may vote for as many different people as are being elected on a particular ballot.
  - 6.7.2.5 In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a vote on a simple majority of valid (*i.e.*, non-defective) ballots cast.
  - 6.7.2.6 Clergy and laity ballots shall be taken separately, alternating between the two.
  - 6.7.2.7 After the designated number of delegates for General Conference has been elected, the election of Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall begin on the following ballot.
  - 6.7.2.8 The Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall serve as reserve delegates to General Conference in the order elected.
  - 6.7.2.9 After the designated number of delegates for Jurisdictional Conference has been elected, an additional ballot shall be taken, on which the two highest vote-getters (regardless of whether their vote totals constitute a majority) shall be elected as reserve delegates to Jurisdictional Conference.
  - 6.7.2.10 Ties shall be broken by the casting of lots.
  - 6.7.2.11 All conference members must be seated in the bar of the conference at the time a vote is taken in order to vote.
  - 6.7.2.12 A ballot that includes more votes than people being elected on that ballot shall be invalid and shall not be counted in the vote total.
  - 6.7.2.13 After each vote, the secretary of the conference (or a person designated by him/her) shall announce the number of votes received by all candidates who received at least 10 votes.
  - 6.7.2.14 Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor prior to the first ballot only, provided the name being offered meets the requirements set forth in ¶¶ 35-36 of *The Book of Discipline*.
  - 6.7.2.15 Candidates' names need not be spelled correctly on a ballot. Any ballot on which the intent of the voter can be reasonably discerned will be counted.
- 6.7.3 Petitions to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
  - 6.7.3.1 Anyone eligible to submit a resolution to the annual conference may submit a proposed petition to General or Jurisdictional Conferences for endorsement by the annual conference.
  - 6.7.3.2 Petitions to General or Jurisdictional Conferences shall be treated like resolutions except that they shall not be

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subject to amendment (although they shall be subject to substitution, and substitute motions shall be subject to amendment).

- 6.7.4 Endorsement of episcopal nominees.
  - 6.7.4.1 At the session of the annual conference immediately prior to Jurisdictional Conference, the annual conference may endorse any number of episcopal nominees, up to the number of bishops being elected.
  - 6.7.4.2 The Jurisdictional Conference delegation, at its discretion, may nominate candidates for endorsement.
  - 6.7.4.3 Immediately following the presentation of the candidates for endorsement recommended by the Jurisdictional Conference delegation, any conference member may make a nomination from the floor.
  - 6.7.4.4 Any full elder eligible for the office of bishop may be endorsed for election. A full elder need not be a member of the annual conference or a declared candidate for the episcopacy in order to be endorsed.
  - 6.7.4.5 A ballot shall be taken no less than four hours after nominations are made.
  - 6.7.4.6 Members may vote for up to the number of episcopal vacancies in the jurisdiction or the number of nominations, whichever is fewer. Provision shall be made on each ballot for a vote of no endorsement.
  - 6.7.4.7 A nominee must receive a vote on at least 60% of the valid (*i.e.*, non-defective) ballots in order to receive the endorsement of the annual conference.
  - 6.7.4.8 The number of ballots taken shall be equal to the number of episcopal vacancies, except that no further ballots shall be taken if either of the following occurs:
    - 6.7.4.8.1 The number of candidates who have received the endorsement of the annual conference has reached the number of episcopal vacancies.
    - 6.7.4.8.2 At least 60% of the valid (*i.e.*, non-defective) ballots cast are for a vote of no endorsement.

6.8 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- 6.8.1 The proceedings of the annual conference shall be governed by the following in order of priority and precedence:
  - 6.8.1.1 *The Book of Discipline.*
  - 6.8.1.2 The acts of the preceding North Central Jurisdictional Conference.
  - 6.8.1.3 The Plan of Organization of the Michigan Annual Conference.
  - 6.8.1.4 Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (*Most Recent Edition*).
- 6.8.2 The Plan of Organization of the Michigan Annual Conference shall remain in force and effect until repealed, amended, or superseded by a vote of at least two-thirds of the annual conference.
- 6.8.3 Notwithstanding § 6.8.2, if any portion of the Plan of Organization of the Michigan Annual Conference be invalidated, either directly or indirectly, by General Conference, the Judicial Council, or an episcopal ruling of law, the remaining portions of the Plan of Organization shall remain in effect.

1 § 7 OFFICERS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2  
3 7.1 SECRETARY

4 7.1.1 Election.

5 7.1.1.1

6 At the first session of the annual conference following  
7 General Conference, the annual conference shall elect a  
8 secretary, nominated by the Committee on Nominations in  
9 consultation with the Bishop, who shall take office  
10 immediately following the adjournment of that session of  
11 the annual conference.

12 7.1.1.2

13 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the outgoing secretary  
14 shall still be responsible for the completion of that year's  
15 conference journal.

16 7.1.1.3

17 The secretary shall serve a four-year term, renewable  
18 once.

19 7.1.1.4

20 If the secretary wishes to retire after one term, he/she  
21 must notify the Committee on Nominations and the  
22 Bishop by January 1 of the year preceding General  
23 Conference.

24 7.1.2

25 The secretary, after certifying the number of lay members necessary for  
26 equalization with clergy members, shall determine the distribution of lay  
27 members (in accordance with the rules hereinabove) and shall notify the  
28 proper persons no later than January 10.

29 7.1.3 Duties.

30 7.1.3.1

31 Serve as the chair of the Committee on the Journal.

32 7.1.3.2

33 Receive all required agency annual reports and shall  
34 ensure that they contain no action items or budget  
35 proposals.

36 7.1.3.3

37 Keep a fair and accurate record of the proceedings of the  
38 annual conference session.

39 7.1.3.4

40 Preserve the journals and papers of the annual  
41 conference.

42 7.1.3.5

43 Receive and review any written notices of corrections and  
44 additions to the conference journal as published,  
45 incorporating them into the permanent records of the  
46 annual conference as appropriate.

47 7.1.3.6

48 Serve *ex officio* on the Commission on the Annual  
49 Conference Session and the Committee on Rules and  
50 the Order of Business.

51 7.2 STATISTICIAN

52 7.2.1 The statistician shall be elected, upon nomination of the Committee on  
53 Nominations in consultation with the Bishop and Conference Treasurer, at  
54 the session of the annual conference immediately following General  
55 Conference.

56 7.2.2 The statistician shall report directly to the conference treasurer.

7.2.3 The statistician shall serve a four-year term, renewable once.

7.3 FACILITATOR

7.3.1 The conference shall elect, upon nomination of the Committee on  
Nominations, a layperson to serve as facilitator.

7.3.2 The facilitator shall serve a four-year term, renewable once.

7.3.3 The facilitator shall be seated at an announced location on the  
floor of the annual conference session and shall have the duties of  
assisting anyone who needs assistance in understanding and using  
procedures and resources of the conference session.

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7.3.4 The facilitator shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Commission on the Annual Conference Session and the Committee on Rules.

7.3.5 Nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the annual conference for a four-year term, renewable once.

7.4 PARLIAMENTARIAN

7.4.1 The Bishop may, at his or her discretion, appoint a conference parliamentarian.

7.4.2 The parliamentarian shall assist the Bishop in ensuring that the annual conference session is run in accordance with the rules of order set forth hereinabove.

7.4.3 The parliamentarian, should one be chosen, shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure.

7.5 CHANCELLOR

7.5.1 The conference shall designate a chancellor, who shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected quadrennially by the annual conference.

7.5.2 The chancellor shall be a member of a local church within the annual conference and shall also be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Michigan.

7.5.3 Except as prohibited by the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, the chancellor shall serve as legal advisor to the Bishop and to the annual conference.

7.6 DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CONFERENCE TREASURER

7.6.1 Coordinates and collaborates with the Council on Finance and Administration regarding the conference budget process and the oversight of the treasury staff.

7.6.2 Coordinates with the Board of Trustees regarding facility contracts and concerns.

7.6.3 Oversees information technology (I.T.) contracts in consultation with the director of communications.

7.6.4 Elected by the annual conference at the first session following each General Conference.

7.6.5 Directly amenable to the Council on Finance and Administration (§ 2.2, above).

7.6.6 Fulfills all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 619 of *The Book of Discipline*.

7.7 LAY LEADER

7.7.1 Fosters awareness of the role of the laity within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community, and world.

7.7.2 Advocates for the role of the laity in the life of the church, encouraging laypersons in the general ministry of the church.

7.7.3 Meets with the cabinet when matters relating to the coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, or other matters as the cabinet may determine.

7.7.4 Fulfills all other responsibilities enumerated in ¶ 607 of *The Book of Discipline*.

7.7.5 Nominated by the Bishop in consultation with the Board of Laity, and elected for one four-year term.

§ 8 FINANCIAL POLICIES

[Determined by the Council on Finance and Administration.]

1 [https://2022.michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/05/2022-2023-CFA-Policies-Final-](https://2022.michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/05/2022-2023-CFA-Policies-Final-Benefits-Billing-Section.pdf)  
2 [Benefits-Billing-Section.pdf](https://2022.michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/05/2022-2023-CFA-Policies-Final-Benefits-Billing-Section.pdf)

3  
4 § 9 PROTECTION POLICY

5  
6 *[Provided by the Protection Policy Coordinator and the Board of Young Peoples Ministry]*  
7 <https://michiganumc.org/resources/conference-administration/protection-policy/>

8  
9 § 10 HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES

10  
11 *[Provided by the Committee on Human Resources.]*  
12 <https://michiganumc.org/resources/conference-administration/human-resources/>

13  
14 § 11 AFFILIATE ENTITIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

15  
16 11.1 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- 17 10.1.1 Bronson Health Group.  
18 10.1.2 Clark Retirement Community.  
19 10.1.3 Methodist Children’s Home Society.  
20 10.1.4 United Methodist Community House.  
21 10.1.5 United Methodist Retirement Communities, Inc.

22  
23 11.2 AFFILIATED VIA THE BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S MINISTRIES

- 24 10.2.1 Adrian College.  
25 10.2.2 Albion College.  
26 10.2.3 Bay Shore Evangelical Association.  
27 10.2.4 Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (MAUMC).  
28 10.2.5 Lake Louise Christian Community.

29  
30 11.3 AFFILIATED VIA THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY – Michigan  
31 Area United Methodist Church Historical Society, Inc.

32  
33 11.4 AFFILIATED VIA THE COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 34 10.4.1 Michigan Area Loan Funds.  
35 10.4.2 United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

36  
37 § 12 DISTRICTS

38  
39 12.1 Nine Districts. There shall be nine (9) Districts in the Michigan Conference. The  
40 boundaries shall be determined from time to time by the Bishop. (2016 Discipline ¶  
41 415.4)

42  
43 12.2 *Book of Discipline.* At all times, operation of the Districts in the Michigan  
44 Conference shall be subject to the *Book of Discipline*, as amended from time to  
45 time, and this Plan of Organization.

46  
47 12.3 Incorporation. All Districts shall be separately incorporated and shall comply with  
48 the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act. (*Book of Discipline* ¶ 2518.2). The bylaws  
49 shall describe the duties of the Officers and Directors. The District Leadership  
50 Team shall be the Board of Directors of the corporation. The officers of the District  
51 Leadership Team shall be the officers of the corporation.

52  
53 12.4 Basic District Structure. The following shall be the basic structure of each  
54 District.

- 55 12.4.1 District Conference. Each District shall hold a District Conference at least  
56 annually at a time and place selected by the District superintendent in



1 consultation with the District Leadership Team and in a manner consistent  
2 with the Discipline. (2016 Discipline ¶¶ 658-659). Membership of the District  
3 Conference shall be all clergy members of the Michigan Conference  
4 appointed or residing in the District, and the professing members of all  
5 congregations located in the District. No congregation shall be represented  
6 by more than ten (10) professing members.

7 12.4.2 District Leadership Team. Each District shall have a District Leadership  
8 Team.

9 12.4.2.1 Membership. The team shall consist of between six (6)  
10 and fifteen (15) members as nominated by the District  
11 Nominating Committee and as elected by the District  
12 Conference. The members shall serve for three (3) year  
13 terms, and no member may serve for more than three  
14 consecutive terms. The District Conference may stagger  
15 the terms in its discretion. The District Superintendent and  
16 the Lay Leader shall be members with voice and vote. The  
17 District Leadership Team shall elect its own officers; a  
18 Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall also be the  
19 officers of the Corporation. It may elect such additional  
20 officers as it deems appropriate.

21 12.4.2.2 Vision Team. Prior to and at the commencement of each  
22 new District, and for a reasonable time thereafter, at the  
23 discretion of the District Superintendent, a Vision Team  
24 may be organized to do visioning for the District. The  
25 members shall be appointed by the District  
26 Superintendent. This Vision Team will disband after it has  
27 done its initial visioning work and a District Leadership  
28 Team is properly elected by the District Conference. The  
29 Vision Team shall perform the functions of the District  
30 Leadership Team until the District Leadership Team is  
31 properly elected by the District Conference.

32 12.4.2.3 Roles and Responsibilities. The District Leadership Team  
33 shall be the primary programmatic, fiduciary and  
34 administrative agency of District. It may create such  
35 subcommittees as it deems appropriate.

36 12.4.2.3.1 The District Leadership Team officers  
37 shall serve as the Board of Trustees for  
38 the District and perform all functions  
39 inherent in a Board of Trustees, including  
40 the owning of any District real estate and  
41 being the party to any legal contracts.  
42 (*Book of Discipline* ¶2518). Unless the  
43 District Leadership Team is directed by  
44 the Annual Conference Board of  
45 Trustees, the Annual Conference Board  
46 of Trustees shall be responsible for the  
47 sale of all closed church buildings and  
48 parsonages in the District or owned by the  
49 District.

50 12.4.2.3.2 The District Leadership Team shall serve  
51 as the District Board of Missions. It shall  
52 receive and manage all invested and  
53 budgeted funds held by the District.  
54 Invested funds shall consist of funds  
55 currently held by District Boards of  
56 Mission and Church Extension, or their

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equivalent, prior to January 1, 2019. Additional invested funds may be received through gift, fundraising, or the receipt of the proceeds of the sale of closed church property, as determined by the Annual Conference. With the advice of the District Superintendent and the Conference Leadership Council, the District Leadership Team shall make all decisions regarding the use of invested and budgeted funds in the mission and ministry of the District.

12.4.2.3.3 Exception. The United Methodist Union of Greater Detroit shall serve as the Board of Missions for the District(s) which includes the City of Detroit.

12.4.3 Committees Required by Discipline. All Districts shall have a District Committee on the Superintendency, District Committee on Ministry, and District Committee on Church Location and Building. The makeup, meetings, and authority of these committees shall be as required by the Discipline. They shall report regularly to the District Conference and District Leadership Team.

12.4.4 Nominating Committee. There shall be a District Nominating Committee to make recommendations to the District Conference. It shall consist of between four (4) and ten (10) members. The District Superintendent shall be the chair of the Committee and the Lay Leader shall be a member. Members shall be elected to three (3) year terms, with no member serving more than three consecutive terms. Members shall be elected by the District Conference and may be in staggered classes as directed by the District Conference. In making nominations for all District agencies, care shall be taken to have an inclusive membership and that is otherwise representative of the District

12.4.5 Reporting and Accountability. The District Leadership Team shall make oral and written annual reports to the District Conference and such reports as requested to the Michigan Conference of all of its activities, including the receipt, investment, management and disbursement of assets. The District Leadership Team shall also be amenable to the Conference Leadership Council, and shall be amenable to the Conference Board of Trustees for property related matters and to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration for all financial matters.

12.5 Other Agencies. The District may have such other agencies as the District Conference may determine from time to time not inconsistent with the Discipline or this Plan of Organization.

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