

## Constitutional Amendments

As you prepare for annual conference among the items of business that must be considered are the proposed constitutional amendments. There are thirty-two (32) of them this year. In five instances, two amendments are proposed for the same paragraph. Twenty-three (23) amendments are for one purpose, to create regional conferences as a uniform global structure for the church.

The number of persons voting “yes” and the number of persons voting “no” on each amendment must be recorded and transmitted to the Council of Bishops. Amendments may be debated, but may not be amended.

It may be helpful to note that the following amendments are all part of the Worldwide Nature of The United Methodist Church proposal and consider them in sequence: III, IV, V, VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII.

You may want to notice amendments V and VI for ¶ 15, amendments XIV and XV for ¶ 32, amendments XVI and XVII for ¶ 33, and amendments XIX and XX for ¶ 35. Included with the rationale is a statement of the resulting paragraphs if both amendments in each pair are adopted. Amendments VII and VIII are both for ¶ 16, but for different subparagraphs, so there is not interactive affect upon the paragraph.

### **Rationale for Proposed Constitutional Amendments The United Methodist Church Voted General Conference April-May 2008**

- I. The proposed amendment emphasizes the wideness of God’s mercy and the availability of the ministry of the church to all.
- II. The proposed amendment requires the adoption of ethics and conflict of interest policies to ensure accountability and fiduciary integrity.
- III. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.
- IV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.
- V. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

- 1 VI. The proposed amendment allows for representation in the General Conference at other  
2 than proportional levels during a transitional period for the admission of an annual  
3 conference into the United Methodist Church.  
4
- 5 VII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
6 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
7 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
8
- 9 VIII. The proposed amendment would add “gender” to those categories of persons protected  
10 in this list of duties of General Conference.  
11
- 12 IX. The proposed amendment would ensure a minimum basis of support for the election of  
13 bishops at jurisdictional conferences.  
14
- 15 X. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
16 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
17 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
18
- 19 XI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
20 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
21 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
22
- 23 XII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
24 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
25 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
26
- 27 XIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
28 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
29 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
30
- 31 XIV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
32 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
33 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
34
- 35 XV. The proposed amendment allows definition of the lay and clergy membership of the  
36 annual conference by the General Conference without going through the constitutional  
37 amendment process. This portion of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*  
38 (Section VI, Article I of the Constitution) has been amended 16 times since 1968.  
39
- 40 XVI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
41 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
42 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
43
- 44 XVII. The proposed amendment would make supporting constitutional changes to allow  
45 reinstatement of legislation adopted by the 2004 General Conference and subsequently  
46 declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council to allow lay persons on the committee  
47 on investigation to vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of  
48 clergy.  
49

- 1 XVIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
2 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
3 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
4
- 5 XIX. The proposed amendment would allow additional clergy members to participate in the  
6 election of clergy delegates to general, jurisdictional or central conferences.  
7
- 8 XX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
9 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
10 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
11
- 12 XXI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
13 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
14 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
15
- 16 XXII. The proposed amendment formally recognizes that the Baltimore-Washington  
17 Conference has been appointing pastors, superintending the congregations and  
18 integrating the congregations of Bermuda into the life of the Baltimore-Washington  
19 Conference. The General Board of Global Ministries and the Baltimore-Washington  
20 Conference recognize these churches as United Methodist congregations.  
21
- 22 XXIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
23 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
24 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
25
- 26 XXIV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
27 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
28 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
29
- 30 XXV. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
31 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
32 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
33
- 34 XXVI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
35 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
36 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
37
- 38 XXVII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
39 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
40 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
41
- 42 XXVIII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures  
43 for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
44 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
45
- 46 XXIX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
47 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
48 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.

1 XXX. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
2 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
3 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
4

5 XXXI. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures for  
6 all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
7 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
8

9 XXXII. The proposed amendment allows the General Conference to create similar structures  
10 for all of our world-wide church. Each Annual Conference would belong to a Regional  
11 Conference which would be able to organize sub-units called Jurisdictional Conferences.  
12

13 Amendments III, IV, V, VII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XVI, XVIII, XX, XXI, XXIII, XXIV,  
14 XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI, and XXXII are all part of the  
15 Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church proposal. The rationale is identical for  
16 these amendments.  
17

18 Amendments V and VI are both for ¶ 15. Amendments VII and VIII are both for ¶ 16, but  
19 for different subparagraphs. Amendments XIV and XV are both for ¶ 32. Amendments  
20 XVI and XVII are both for ¶ 33. Amendments XIX and XX are both for ¶ 35.  
21

### 22 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – I**

23  
24  
25 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
26 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
27 of 558 Yes, 276 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
28

29 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division One, ¶ 4, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division  
30 One, ¶ 4, *Article IV*)) amend by deletion and addition as follows:  
31

32 After “worth” add “and that we are in ministry to all” and after “persons” delete “without  
33 regard to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition” and after “sacraments,” add  
34 “and” and after “members” delete “, and” and insert a period and add “All persons,” and after  
35 “faith” add “and relationship in Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to” and after “body” delete “of the  
36 Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition”.  
37

38 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 4 (¶ 4) would read:  
39

40 Inclusiveness of the Church — The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal,  
41 which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of  
42 sacred worth and that we are in ministry to all. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship  
43 services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, and upon baptism be admitted as  
44 baptized members. All persons, upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith and relationship in  
45 Jesus Christ, shall be eligible to become professing members in any local church in the connection.  
46 In the United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be  
47 structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body.  
48

49 AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – II**

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

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

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

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

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

AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – III**

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

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

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

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

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

AND



**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VI**

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

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

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

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

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

AND

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

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

1 AND

2  
3 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VII**

4  
5 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
6 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
7 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
8

9 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
10 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
11

12 In ¶ 16.3 and 16.10 delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”, and add “(The  
13 change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
14 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the 16.10.  
15

16 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.3 and .10 (¶ 16.3 and .10) would  
17 read:  
18

19 3. To define and fix the powers and duties of annual conferences, provisional annual  
20 conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of regional conferences, district conferences,  
21 charge conferences, and congregational meetings.  
22

23 10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional  
24 conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences.  
25 (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
26 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)  
27

28 AND

29  
30 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – VIII**

31  
32 On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
33 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
34 of 804 Yes, 39 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
35

36 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
37 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section II, ¶ 16, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
38

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

40  
41 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 16.1 and .14 (¶ 16.1 and .14) would  
42 read:  
43

44 1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of Church membership, which  
45 shall in every case be without reference to race, gender or status.  
46

47 14. To secure the rights and privileges of membership in all agencies, programs, and  
48 institutions in The United Methodist Church regardless of race, gender or status.  
49

1 AND  
2

3 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – IX**  
4

5 On April 29, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
6 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
7 of 821 Yes, 50 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
8

9 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of*  
10 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section IV, ¶ 23, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:  
11

12 Add “, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates”  
13 before the period at the end of the first sentence.  
14

15 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 23 (¶ 23) would read:  
16

17 The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual  
18 conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the  
19 General Conference, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates.  
20 The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.  
21

22 AND  
23

24 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – X**  
25

26 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
27 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
28 of 649 Yes, 195 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
29

30 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of*  
31 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, and ¶ 28, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
32

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

35 Delete “shall” before “be” and add “may” before “be” and delete “central” before  
36 “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and delete “outside the United States of  
37 America” before “with” in the first sentence. Delete the second sentence. Delete “Subsequently” at  
38 the beginning of the third sentence and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional”  
39 before “conferences” in the third and fourth sentences, and add “(The change in name from  
40 “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note  
41 will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.  
42

43 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, the heading of Section V and ¶ 28 (¶ 28)  
44 would read:  
45

46 Section V. Regional Conferences  
47

48 ¶ 28. *Article I*.-There may be regional conferences for the work of the Church with such duties,  
49 powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. The General Conference shall have authority to

1 change the number and boundaries of regional conferences. The regional conferences shall have the  
2 duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth. (The change in name from “central” to  
3 “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
4 removed from the Constitution.)

5  
6 AND

7  
8 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XI**

9  
10 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
11 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
12 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

13  
14 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of*  
15 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 29, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

16  
17 Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first  
18 sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at  
19 which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the  
20 paragraph.

21  
22 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 29 (¶ 29) would read:

23  
24 The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis  
25 established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers. (The  
26 change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
27 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

28  
29 AND

30  
31 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XII**

32  
33 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
34 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
35 of 749 Yes, 119 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

36  
37 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of*  
38 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 30, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

39  
40 Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first  
41 sentence. Delete the second sentence and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional”  
42 takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from  
43 the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

44  
45 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 30 (¶ 30) would read:

46  
47 The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General  
48 Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective  
49 regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. (The

1 change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
2 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)  
3

4 AND  
5

6 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIII**  
7

8 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
9 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
10 of 544 Yes, 252 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
11

12 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
13 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section V, ¶ 31, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
14

15 Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in the first  
16 sentence.  
17

18 Add “In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences,” at the  
19 beginning of ¶ 31.2 and delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before  
20 “conferences.” Add “In those regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences,  
21 bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional conferences.”  
22

23 Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” in ¶ 31.3,  
24 .6, and .7 and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at  
25 which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the  
26 paragraph.  
27

28 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 31 (¶ 31) would read:  
29

30 The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be  
31 conferred by the General Conference:  
32

33 1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and  
34 institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.  
35

36 2. In those regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, to elect the bishops  
37 for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a  
38 basis fixed by the General Conference, and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support  
39 of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference. In those regional conferences  
40 where there are jurisdictional conferences, bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional  
41 conferences.  
42

43 3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their  
44 administrative officers.  
45

46 4. To determine the boundaries of the annual conferences within their respective areas.  
47

48 5. To make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries  
49 including such changes and adaptations of the General Discipline as the conditions in the respective

1 areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General  
2 Conference.

3  
4 6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and such  
5 revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional conference Discipline enacted by the regional  
6 conference.

7  
8 7. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling  
9 preacher of that regional conference from the decision of a committee on trial. (The change in  
10 name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical  
11 procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

12  
13 AND

14  
15 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIV**

16  
17 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
18 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
19 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

20  
21 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of*  
22 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

23  
24 Delete “central” before “conferences” and add “regional” before “conferences” and add  
25 “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
26 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph. In  
27 a separate action on ¶ 35, an editorial change was proposed to replace “probationary members” with  
28 “provisional members” wherever the term appears in the constitution.

29  
30 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

31  
32 The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy  
33 membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate  
34 members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing  
35 members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses and home missionaries  
36 under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president  
37 of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference  
38 lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference  
39 Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young  
40 adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual  
41 conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and  
42 seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each  
43 district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the  
44 annual conferences of the regional conferences, the four-year participation and the two-year  
45 membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty  
46 (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and  
47 active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be  
48 entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for  
49 the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall

1 have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding  
2 their election.

3 If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy members of the annual conference,  
4 the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members  
5 to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

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

8  
9 AND

10  
11 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XV**

12  
13 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
14 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
15 of 718 Yes, 117 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

16  
17 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of*  
18 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 32, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

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

22  
23 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 32 (¶ 32) would read:

24  
25 The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General  
26 Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for  
27 one year preceding their election.

28 If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual  
29 Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of  
30 additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

31 AND

32  
33 If both Amendments XIV and XV are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

34  
35 The annual conference shall be composed of lay and clergy members as defined by the General  
36 Conference. Lay members shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for  
37 one year preceding their election.

38 If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the Annual  
39 Conference, the Annual Conference shall by its own formula, provide for the election of  
40 additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference.

41  
42 AND

43  
44 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVI**

45  
46 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
47 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
48 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

49

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

3  
4 Add “, regional” following “General” and before “and” and delete “the” before  
5 “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” in the first sentence. Add “(The  
6 change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
7 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

8  
9 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

10  
11 The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right  
12 to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General,  
13 regional and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference  
14 relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not  
15 been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay  
16 members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except  
17 that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry may vote on matters of  
18 ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay  
19 members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district  
20 committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as  
21 the General Conference under the Constitution may determine. (The change in name from  
22 “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note  
23 will be removed from the Constitution.)

24  
25 AND

26  
27 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVII**

28  
29 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
30 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
31 of 812 Yes, 49 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

32  
33 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of*  
34 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 33, *Article II*) amend by addition, as follows:

35  
36 Add “and the committee on investigation” following “ministry.”

37  
38 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 33 (¶ 33) would read:

39  
40 The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right  
41 to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General  
42 and the jurisdictional or central conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference  
43 relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not  
44 been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay  
45 members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except  
46 that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on  
47 investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with  
48 the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full  
49 participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge

1 such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may  
2 determine.

3  
4 AND

5  
6 If both Amendments XVI and XVII are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

7  
8 The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right  
9 to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General,  
10 regional, and jurisdictional conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference  
11 relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not  
12 been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay  
13 members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except  
14 that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on  
15 investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with  
16 the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full  
17 participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge  
18 such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may  
19 determine. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which  
20 time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

21  
22 AND

23  
24 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XVIII**

25  
26 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
27 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
28 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

29  
30 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*, (2008 *Book of*  
31 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 34, *Article III*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

32  
33 Following “jurisdictional” delete “or central” and add “and regional”, and add “(The change  
34 in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical  
35 procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

36  
37 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 34 (¶ 34) would read:

38  
39 The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its  
40 jurisdictional and regional conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V.  
41 The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General  
42 Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete  
43 the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional and regional conference,  
44 who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the jurisdictional and regional  
45 conference. The additional delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference shall in the order  
46 of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall  
47 also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conference as it may deem  
48 desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional and regional conferences may  
49 act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve

1 delegates are in attendance at the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to  
2 “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
3 removed from the Constitution.)  
4

5 AND  
6

7 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XIX**  
8

9 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
10 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
11 of 696 Yes, 135 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
12

13 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
14 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
15

16 Before “delegates” delete “ordained ministerial” and add “clergy” and before “from” delete  
17 “by and” and before “members” delete “ordained ministerial” and before “members” add “clergy”  
18 and before “the annual” delete “with” and before “the annual” add “and shall be elected by the  
19 clergy members of” and after “or provisional annual conference” add “who are deacons and elders  
20 in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of  
21 their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div.  
22 degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately  
23 preceding the election.”  
24

25 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 35 (¶ 35) would read:  
26

27 The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall  
28 be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of  
29 the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full  
30 connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their  
31 educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div.  
32 degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately  
33 preceding the election.  
34

35 AND  
36

37 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XX**  
38

39 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
40 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
41 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
42

43 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
44 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 35, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
45

46 Delete “or central” following “jurisdictional” and add “and regional” following  
47 “jurisdictional” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1,  
48 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at  
49 end of the paragraph.

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

2  
3 The ordained ministerial delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional and regional  
4 conference shall be elected by and from the ordained ministerial members in full connection with  
5 the annual conference or provisional annual conference. (The change in name from “central” to  
6 “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
7 removed from the Constitution.)”

8  
9 AND

10  
11 If both Amendments XIX and XX are adopted, the resulting paragraph would read:

12  
13 The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or regional conference shall  
14 be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of  
15 the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full  
16 connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their  
17 educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div.  
18 degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately  
19 preceding the election. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1,  
20 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)”

21  
22 AND

23  
24 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXI**

25  
26 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
27 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
28 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

29  
30 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of*  
31 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VI, ¶ 36, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

32  
33 Delete “and” before “jurisdictional” and delete “or central” before “conferences” and add  
34 “and regional” before “conferences” in the first clause, delete “or central” before “conferences” and  
35 add “and regional” before conferences in the last clause and add “(The change in name from  
36 “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note  
37 will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

38  
39 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 36 (¶ 36) would read:

40  
41 The lay delegates to the General, jurisdictional and regional conferences shall be elected by the lay  
42 members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age; *provided*  
43 such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least  
44 two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United  
45 Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof  
46 within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional and  
47 regional conferences. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013  
48 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

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AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXII**

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

In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37, *Article I*) amend by addition, as follows:

Before “Connecticut” add “Bermuda”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIII**

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

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

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

1 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 38 (¶ 38) would read:  
2

3 The work of the Church may be formed into regional conferences, the number and boundaries of  
4 which shall be determined by the General Conference. (The change in name from “central” to  
5 “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
6 removed from the Constitution.)  
7

8 AND  
9

10 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIV**  
11

12 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
13 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
14 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
15

16 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of*  
17 *Discipline*, Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 40, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
18

19 Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and add  
20 “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
21 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.  
22

23 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 40 (¶ 40) would read:  
24

25 Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may  
26 be effected by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the regional  
27 conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective  
28 powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the regional conferences.  
29 (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
30 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)  
31

32 AND  
33

34 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXV**  
35

36 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
37 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
38 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
39

40 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division  
41 Three, ¶ 46, *Article I*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
42

43 Before “conferences” delete “central” and before “conferences” add “regional” and before  
44 “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and add “(The change in  
45 name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical  
46 procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.  
47

48 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 46 (¶ 46) would read:  
49

1 The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and regional conferences and  
2 consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General  
3 Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each regional conference for those elected  
4 by such regional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January  
5 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)  
6

7 AND  
8

9 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVI**  
10

11 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
12 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
13 of 560 Yes, 275 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
14

15 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*,  
16 Division Three, ¶ 48, *Article IV*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
17

18 Before “conference” delete “central” and before “conference” add “regional” and following  
19 “Bishops” delete “, and such” and following “Bishops” add “In regional conferences where there  
20 are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall arrange the plan of episcopal  
21 supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions within their  
22 jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional conferences, the regional  
23 conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013  
24 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of  
25 the paragraph.  
26

27 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 48 (¶ 48) would read:  
28

29 The bishops of each jurisdictional and regional conference shall constitute a College of Bishops. In  
30 regional conferences where there are jurisdictional conferences, the jurisdictional colleges shall  
31 arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences and  
32 missions within their jurisdictions. In regional conferences where there are no jurisdictional  
33 conferences, the regional conference College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal  
34 supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective  
35 territories. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which  
36 time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)  
37

38 AND  
39

40 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVII**  
41

42 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
43 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
44 of 629 Yes, 246 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
45

46 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*,  
47 Division Three, ¶ 49, *Article V*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
48

1 In the first sentence, before “conferences” delete “ or central” and before “conferences” add  
2 “and regional” and in the first sentence of the second paragraph delete “central” before  
3 “conference” and add “regional” before “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central”  
4 to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
5 removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.  
6

7 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 49 (¶ 49) would read:  
8

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

27 In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction or regional conference through the death or disability  
28 of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another jurisdiction or  
29 regional conference to the work of the said jurisdiction or regional conference, with the consent of a  
30 majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction or regional conference. (The change in name from  
31 “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note  
32 will be removed from the Constitution.)  
33

34 AND  
35

### 36 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXVIII** 37

38 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
39 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
40 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.  
41

42 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*,  
43 Division Three, ¶ 50, *Article VI*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:  
44

45 In the third sentence, delete “central” before “conference” and add “regional” before  
46 “conference” and add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1,  
47 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at  
48 end of the paragraph.  
49

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

2  
3 The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The  
4 Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist  
5 Church.

6 The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The  
7 Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of  
8 The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a regional conference  
9 of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing him shall have  
10 determined.

11 The jurisdictional conference shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy  
12 and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference  
13 delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official  
14 administration, and report to the jurisdictional conference its findings for such action as the  
15 conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall  
16 recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the  
17 jurisdictional conference. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1,  
18 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

19  
20 AND

21  
22 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXIX**

23  
24 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
25 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
26 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

27  
28 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*,  
29 Division Three, ¶ 51, *Article VII*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

30  
31 Delete “central” before “or jurisdictional” and add “regional” before “or jurisdictional” and  
32 add “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time  
33 this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

34  
35 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 51 (¶ 51) would read:

36  
37 A bishop presiding over an annual, regional, or jurisdictional conference shall decide all questions of  
38 law coming before the bishop in the regular business of a session; *provided* that such questions be  
39 presented in writing and that the decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference.

40 Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have  
41 been passed upon by the Judicial Council. All decisions of law made by each bishop shall be  
42 reported in writing annually, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council, which shall affirm,  
43 modify, or reverse them. (The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1,  
44 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)

45  
46 AND

47  
48

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXX**

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

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

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

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

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

AND

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXI**

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

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

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

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

The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a jurisdictional or regional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdictional or regional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that jurisdictional or regional conference.
2. To hear and determine any appeal from a bishop’s decision on a question of law made in the annual conference when said appeal has been made by one-fifth of that conference present and voting.
3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in annual conferences.
4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or jurisdictional or regional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members

1 thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a jurisdictional or  
2 a regional conference.

3 5. To have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.

4 6. To provide its own methods of organization and procedure. (The change in name from “central”  
5 to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
6 removed from the Constitution.)

7  
8 AND

9  
10 **Proposed Constitutional Amendment – XXXII**

11  
12 On May 1, 2008, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church  
13 held in Fort Worth, Texas, the following Constitutional Amendment was made by a recorded vote  
14 of 629 Yes, 248 No. It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

15  
16 In the 2004 *Book of Discipline*, Division Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*, (2008 *Book of Discipline*, Division  
17 Five, ¶ 61, *Article II*) amend by deletion and addition, as follows:

18  
19 Delete “central” after “jurisdictional or” and add “regional” after “jurisdictional or” and add  
20 “(The change in name from “central” to “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this  
21 parenthetical procedural note will be removed from the Constitution.)” at end of the paragraph.

22  
23 If voted and so declared by the Council of Bishops, ¶ 61 (¶ 61) would read:

24  
25 A jurisdictional or regional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution  
26 of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If  
27 the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual  
28 conferences according to the provision for amendments. (The change in name from “central” to  
29 “regional” takes effect January 1, 2013 at which time this parenthetical procedural note will be  
30 removed from the Constitution.)

31  
32