

Discipleship Ministries
(The General Board of Discipleship)
Legislation submitted to the 2020 General Conference

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Discipleship Ministries' vision is "to see a vital and vibrant church on fire to transform the world." The Agency has recently completed a rigorous three-year process to create a more holistic, integrated and focused approach in assisting United Methodist leaders in their disciple-making efforts. Discipleship Ministries has identified three overarching strategic priorities.

The agency's three strategic priorities are:

1. An intentional disciple-making process in every church;
2. Engagement with people currently outside the church;
3. Cultivating local (contextual) resources around the globe.

Each of these priorities has clear strategies that articulate how the priority will be achieved. A significant step toward reaching these priorities is to simplify the language in the paragraphs of The Book of Discipline related to Discipleship Ministries (§§ 1101-1212). The board believes that by simplifying some of the paragraphs and removing duplication of efforts will be a major step toward reflecting the current reality of the church and the shifting needs of the denomination.

The 20 pieces of legislation submitted to the 2020 General Conference from Discipleship Ministries assists the agency in the adaptive challenge of being "brokers of knowledge and conveners of strategic conversations". By intentionally living into a wholistic approach to our ministry with church leaders we can better assist the denomination in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Included in the legislation submitted is one petition that largely updates and simplifies the language and structure of the Division on Ministries with Young People. The legislation submitted allows for greater flexibility to serve young people and renames it The Young People's Connectional Network.

There are also five (5) resolutions submitted from the board.

The challenge for all agencies during this time is to live within the current realities of shrinking financial resources. Therefore,

Discipleship Ministries has completed an organizational redesign to simplify its structure and reduce its staff to better align itself with shrinking world-service resources. By doing this, we keep our focus on what we believe is the core focus of our work – helping church leaders make disciples.

The Connectional Table, the body charged with coordinating and evaluating the ministries of the general agencies, lifted up Discipleship Ministries' efforts as a model of living into the denomination's current financial reality:

“We celebrate that Discipleship Ministries is ahead of the curve in focusing its ministry for strategic impact. It has reorganized its staff to better focus its mission. This reorganization is having positive budgetary impact and reflects good stewardship and a healthy understanding of the connection's current financial reality.”

CT Allocations Team Report, January 29, 2019.

Discipleship Ministries, through the legislation submitted, is actively moving into a defined future that results in a more flexible organization attuned to the desires of its stakeholders while developing more targeted and higher-impact content to meet the needs of a changing denomination.

Legislation text and rationale follows.

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
	¶268	Make National Plan Less US Centric	Make Hispanic/Latino National Plan Less US Centric. Removes the word "national".	Amend ¶268 as follows: 3c) completed a track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment as defined by the General Board of Discipleship, or the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in collaboration with the General Board of Discipleship, and the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure; 3e) had all requirements for certification, including appropriate screening and assessment as defined by the annual conference, reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be certified lay ministers and to make recommendation for certification (see ¶ 666.11). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the candidate, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final certification by that committee. 4e) had all requirements for recertification reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be renewed as certified lay ministers and to make recommendations for recertification (see ¶ 666.11). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the certified lay minister, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final recertification by that committee.
	¶269	Make National Plan Less US Centric	Make Hispanic/Latino National Plan Less US Centric. Removes the word "national".	Amend ¶269 as follows: Lay missionaries are committed laypersons, mostly volunteers, who are willing to be trained and to work together as a ministry team with their pastor-mentor, in order to develop and lead faith communities, establish community ministries, develop church school extension programs, and engage in congregational development with and into the local community. Lay missionaries are formed according to, and follow the guidelines established by, the National Committee of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, working in conjunction with the annual conference. They are certified jointly by their annual conference and the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. The ministry team is supported by and accountable to the local congregation, district or annual conference entity that assigns it to its mission. The concept of the lay missionary is based theologically on the ministry of the laity, in order to complement the work of the pastor. ¹³ A certified lay missionary shall be equivalent to a certified lay servant in the processes of certification as a lay minister (¶ 268.3-6), and the Module I-Module II formational sequence and Module IIIs for continuing education of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry shall be equivalent to the track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment, and the advanced course or approved continuing education events described therein. <u>The modular formational sequence and continuing education requirements of the Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry for lay missionaries shall be equivalent to the track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment, and the advanced course or approved continuing education events described therein.</u>
	¶533	Update Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries to Reflect Proposed Changes to Division on Ministries with Young People	Update Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries to Reflect Proposed Changes to Division on Ministries with Young People	¶533.1. Jurisdictions shall engage youth, young adults, and adults who work with them in creative partnership to: a) Network youth, young adults and young people's ministries throughout the region, b) Support young people's ministries in the annual conferences, and c) Provide a process by which <u>representatives nominees</u> are chosen and sent to to send applications to the Global Young People's Convocation and the Division on Ministries With Young People-Young People's Connectional Network . 2. Jurisdictions are encouraged to organize their Young People's Ministries in creative ways that work best for their context. The jurisdictional young people's ministries coordinator shall help design, maintain, and revise any processes to accomplish this work. In any process or coordinating group for Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries, the following representation is encouraged: a) Participants from each conference in the jurisdiction. b) Racial/ethnic representation that reflects the demographic make-up of the jurisdiction. c) Participants who bring a variety of theological and cultural perspectives. d) Youth and young adults who may or may not also be serving on Conference Councils of Youth/Young Adult Ministry. e) Adult workers who may or may not also be conference youth/young adult staff or similar designee. 3. There shall be a jurisdictional young people's ministries coordinator who shall be accountable to the jurisdictional council on ministries or equivalent structure and the jurisdictional young people's ministries coordinating team. This coordinator may or may not be the same person as the adult <u>representative nominee</u> to the Division on Ministries With Young People Young People's Connectional Network . 4. Responsibility to Choose <u>Representatives Nominees</u> to the Division on Ministries With Young People Young People's Connectional Network —Using a process appropriate to each jurisdiction's context, the Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries shall: a) Choose Nominate <u>one youth, one young adult, and one adult worker member to apply</u> to serve on the Division on Ministries With Young People Young People's Connectional Network of the General Board of Discipleship for a four-year term. Youth chosen nominated <u>to serve on the apply to Division on Ministries With Young People</u> shall be age sixteen or younger at the time of appointment <u>nomination</u> . <u>Young adults nominated to apply shall be age 30 or younger at the time of nomination.</u> b) Nominations shall come from annual conference councils on youth ministry or equivalent structure, local churches, districts, conference youth coordinators, or other interested clergy or laity. c) The Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries should ensure that either the youth or , young adult, or adult worker nominated <u>representative (who is elected in the jurisdictional election)</u> will be a racial/ethnic young person. d) As far as possible, members of nominees to the Division on Ministries With Young People Young People's Connectional Network from each jurisdiction shall be from two different more than one annual conferences in that jurisdiction. 5. Responsibility to Choose Representatives to Attend the Global Young People's Convocation— In the year prior to the Global Young People's Convocation, Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries shall choose five youth and one adult to serve as voting delegates to the Global Young People's Convocation.

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				6. Other suggested responsibilities for the Jurisdictional Young People's Ministries: a) Initiate and support jurisdictional events (camps, conferences, workshops, and so forth). b) Recommend priorities, concerns, and/or policies to the Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> . c) Promote the establishment and awareness of the needs, concerns, issues, and so forth , of racial and ethnic persons through caucuses, camps, and consultations, and so forth . d) Promote the spiritual growth of participants in the jurisdictional young people's ministry events and activities. e) Promote an evangelistic outreach with young people and through young people by providing educational opportunities and resources that increase their awareness, exposure, and engagement in the areas of mission, social justice, discipleship, leadership development, and spiritual formation as they relate back to their annual conference and local church. f) Provide training and supportive experiences for conference young people's ministries personnel. g) Enable communication between general and conference levels of young people's ministries.
	¶547.4	Update ¶547.4 to Reflect Proposed Changes to Division on Ministries with Young People	Update ¶547.4 to Reflect Proposed Changes to Division on Ministries with Young People	Amend ¶547.4 as follows: 4. A central conference may have a standing committee on young people's ministry. This committee shall be composed of youth, young adults, and adult leaders of youth or young-adult ministry from each annual conference in the central conference. The duty of this committee shall be to study the relation of young people to the Church and to devise ways and means of developing the Church's ministry for, with, and by young people. The committee shall make recommendations to the central conference regarding youth and young-adult organizations within its areas as well as <u>nominate one youth, one young adult, and one adult worker to apply to serve on the Young People's Connectional Network of the General Board of Discipleship for a four-year term (¶1206), elect delegates to the Global Young People's Convocation (¶1210).</u>
	¶1101	Update Language for General Board of Discipleship	Update Language to reflect current mission of the denomination.	¶ 1101. Purpose -1. There shall be a General Board of Discipleship, the purpose of which is found within the expression of the total mission of the Church. Its primary purpose shall be to assist annual conferences, districts, and local churches of all membership sizes <u>to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world</u> in their efforts to win persons to Jesus Christ as his disciples and to help these persons to grow in their understanding of God that they may respond in faith and love, to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation means, increasingly identifying themselves as children of God and members of the Christian community, to live in the Spirit of God in every relationship, to fulfill their common discipleship in the world, and to abide in the Christian hope. 2. The board shall use its resources to enhance the meaning of membership as defined in ¶¶ 216-220, which emphasizes the importance of the identification of church membership with discipleship to Jesus Christ. The board shall seek to enable congregations to carry out their primary task and shall provide resources that support growth in Christian discipleship. In doing its work, the board shall listen to the needs and requests of the Church, conduct research, design and produce resources, offer training, and deliver resources. All of this is to support congregations in their primary task of reaching out and receiving all who will respond, encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love made known in Jesus Christ, providing opportunities for them to be nurtured and formed in the Christian faith, and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples. The board, through all activities, shall lead and assist congregations in becoming inclusive communities of growing Christians, celebrating and communicating to persons of every age, racial and ethnic background, and social condition the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. 3. Members of the <u>Board of Directors of the</u> General Board of Discipleship shall assume fiduciary, strategic, and generative governing functions. Fiduciary responsibilities include ensuring financial, legal, and ethical stewardship of tangible assets; accountability for stated performance standards; ensuring the annual evaluation of the general secretary; and providing counsel to the general secretary regarding evaluation and deployment of staff. Strategic responsibilities include ensuring that priorities, goals, achievement markers, and agency resources are aligned with the mission, vision, and values of the agency. Generative responsibilities include long-range analysis and planning in accordance with agency mission, vision, and values; setting direction and priorities for the agency; and exploring options in order to amend priorities when needed. 4. Members of the <u>Board of Directors of the</u> General Board of Discipleship are to be dedicated Christian leaders who have a heart for the local church and a passion for making disciples. They must be willing to invest time and skills to support the work of the board, including interpreting and articulating the GBOD strategy in a variety of contexts. They must engage in regular and intentional conversation with networks and individuals throughout the church to ensure that the wide diversity of people and perspectives present in The United Methodist Church are considered as the board carries out its responsibilities. They must be committed to supporting and implementing the mandates and foci of the general church as well as the General Board of Discipleship.
	¶1102	Eliminate Redundancy in ¶1102	Combining information to eliminate redundancy.	¶ 1102. Responsibilities -All the responsibilities assigned to the units within the board shall be considered to be the responsibilities of the board. In addition to these, the board shall have authority to: 1. Provide for special publications directed toward the local church nurture, outreach, witness ministries, age-level and family ministries, ministry group representatives, the ministry group chairpersons, the pastor, and the other local church officers for whom the board has primary responsibility. 2. Manage and produce <i>The Upper Room</i> daily devotional guide and a wide range of other resources to help people grow in their relationship with God. <u>3. Facilitate arenas that broker knowledge, convene strategic conversations, provide for contextualized ministries, and build upon Wesleyan theology and traditions for local church and annual conference clergy and lay leadership in the</u>

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				3. Provide systems of resources and support to users of resources that will assist people in the historic disciplines of the Church, i.e., Christian education, evangelism, lay ministries, spiritual growth, stewardship, and worship. <u>The board's response will address faith formation and discipleship systems for:</u> These resources will address ministry concerns across <u>a.) all ages and stages of life, including support for comprehensive, specific ministries with children, youth, and adults including resources that ensure their safety and care; ages and family groupings and across programmatic and administrative functions of the congregation in order to improve ministry and the quality of Christian leadership for the future ministry of the Church.</u> 4. Develop and provide resources, training, and consultation for pastors of congregations. These resources will focus on equipping pastors for their spiritual and visioning <u>b.) clergy and lay</u> leadership roles with their <u>in</u> congregations; and their role as partners with the laity. 5. Develop and provide resources, training, and consultation for pastors and congregational leaders as they enhance and evaluate the <u>c.)</u> ministries of the laity and initiate new forms of ministry that nurture faith, build Christian community, and equip people for ministry in daily life; 6. Provide resources and training that will assist annual conference leaders in building, improving, and sustaining systems that develop spiritual leaders for congregations. 7. Provide resources and training that will assist leaders in planning and administering comprehensive children, youth, young-adult, adult, and older-adult ministries that encourage lifelong learning and growth in faith, that strengthen understanding of God and relationship with God and other people, and that lead to spiritual maturity in faith and in practice. 8. <u>d.) Provide representation in cooperation with</u> ecumenical and interdenominational <u>partners</u> agencies as they relate to the work of the board; 9. <u>c.) Respond to requests and needs for mutual</u> ministries throughout the world, in consultation with <u>annual</u> conferences and appropriate agencies; 10. <u>Engage in f.) needed</u> research, experimentation, innovation, and the testing and evaluation of programs, resources, and methods to discover more effective ways to help persons achieve the purpose set forth in ¶ 1101. <u>This responsibility will include authority for experimentation and research in all areas of ministry assigned to the General Board of Discipleship and will encourage cooperation with other agencies in the conduct of such research and experimentation. This research and experimentation may be assigned to appropriate units within the board.</u> 11-4. Ensure that ethnic local church concerns shall be an integral part of the total life of the board, providing guidance, resourcing, and training <u>as appropriate</u> so that these concerns are incorporated in all areas of discipleship in the local church.
	¶1106.4	Broaden the Idea of Christian Education	Broaden the Idea of Christian Education	4. In the discharge of its responsibility for Christian education in The United Methodist Church, the board may establish and provide for participation by church school groups <u>local churches</u> in a fund (or funds) for missions and Christian education in the United States and overseas. Plans for the allocation of, administration of, and education for this fund(s) shall be developed cooperatively by such means as the board shall determine in consultation with the General Board of Global Ministries.
	¶1108	Broaden the Idea of Faith Formation	Add for clarity "Faith Formation, Intentional Discipleship and Christian Education." Streamline and add to previous paragraphs, including small group and intentional discipleship ministries and eliminating ¶ 1117.	¶ 1108. Faith Formation, Intentional Discipleship and Christian Education -1. The board shall have general oversight of the educational interests of the Church <u>which includes small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u> as directed by the General Conference. The board shall be responsible for the development of a clear statement of the biblical and theological foundations of Christian education, <u>small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u> consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church and the mission of the board. The board shall devote itself to strengthening and extending the teaching ministry of the Church through research; testing new approaches, methods, and resources; evaluation; and consultation. 2. Through the ministry of Christian education, <u>small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u>, United Methodist congregations shall reach out to people of all ages as they are, encourage them to commit themselves to Christ and membership in his church, provide opportunities for them to grow in faith and to connect that faith with their daily lives, and equip them to live as God's people in the world. Opportunities for Christian education, <u>small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u> shall include <u>formational</u> educational aspects of all the general areas and interests of the denomination, such as evangelism, stewardship, missions, Christian social action, and Bible instruction. The ministry of Christian education, <u>small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u> shall be developed as a comprehensive, unified, and coordinated program for children, youth, adults, and families in local churches. It shall be promoted and administered by the board in cooperation with those agencies responsible for Christian education, <u>small group and intentional discipleship ministries</u> in <u>jurisdictions</u>, annual conferences, districts, and local churches. It shall give careful consideration to the needs of all churches, such as small and large membership churches, rural and urban settings, and ethnic populations.
	¶1109	Broaden the Idea of Faith Formation	Updated language while eliminating detailed lists since ministry areas can change with need and the broader description allows both inclusion and change.	¶ 1109. Faith Formation, Intentional Discipleship, and Christian Education Responsibilities and Standards -The board shall organize as may be necessary for carrying on the educational ministry throughout the whole life span of persons. The board shall: 1. Formulate and interpret the philosophy of Christian education <u>and faith formation</u> based on biblical, theological, and educational foundations (consistent with the Doctrinal Standards and General Rules of The United Methodist Church, ¶ 104) as they relate to <u>teaching and learning</u>, the church school and related activities; individual or group study; fellowship, education, and action groups for children, youth, and adults; related educational programs provided by civic youth serving agencies; weekday preschools and kindergartens; daycare centers; choirs, drama groups, mission studies; education for leisure; outdoor education; camping; education of persons with developmental disabilities and others of special need; special Bible study groups; confirmation and church membership training. 2. Develop <u>Promote contextual</u> educational approaches in a variety of settings that appeal to persons of different ages, lifestyles, learning needs, and theological perspectives. 3. Develop educational approaches that will enable persons of different, racial, ethnic, and cultural groups <u>to appropriate the gospel for their own life situations, with particular attention given to the needs of persons with disabilities.</u>

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				4. Promote church school extension in a variety of ways, such as providing resources and training that help persons in sponsoring new church schools, starting new church school classes, and expanding teaching and learning opportunities in the congregation and the community. 5- <u>3.</u> Provide resources and support services for <u>clergy and lay leadership</u> pastors, parents, educational leaders, teachers, and others <u>who are</u> responsible for teaching and learning with persons across the life span at the local church, district, and conference levels. <u>These resources may include:</u> 6- Provide resources and support services for a.) teacher recruitment, development, and training in biblical, theological, and ethical thinking, as well as in; <u>b.)</u> procedures and methods <u>for teaching and learning;</u> work with the colleges and seminaries of the Church wherever possible to forward the common interest in the training of professional Christian educators and the training of ministerial students in local church Christian education; provide national camp training events and assist jurisdictions and annual conferences in designing, guiding, and resourcing camp training programs and outdoor Christian education. 7- Set c.) standards and <u>provide</u> guidance concerning programming, leadership, and grouping for the various educational settings of the Church, including the church school. 8- Establish <u>and d.)</u> guidelines for the organization and administration of the church school; for recording and reporting membership and attendance <u>in educational settings,</u> of the church school; and for the equipment, arrangement, and design for church school buildings and rooms, with particular attention given to the needs of persons with disabilities. 9- Provide resources and services related to the training and work of local church directors, ordained and diaconal ministers, and associates of Christian education and educational assistants. 10. Provide assistance and information for groups and organizations with direct oversight for United Methodist-related camp/retreat centers and ministries, to help them with their responsibility to establish standards, policies, and procedures related to physical facilities, program, and leadership. To the extent possible, all camps/retreat centers shall be accessible to persons with disabilities. 11. Cooperate with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry as they develop standards for certifying professional ministry careers as provided in ¶ 1421.2c and promote the continuing growth of local church staff related to educational ministries. 12- Provide resources, models, and training to support annual conferences and local churches as they help people make decisions related to their general Christian vocation as well as their specific occupations or careers. 13. Review and recommend for approval the curriculum plans developed in cooperation with the other boards and agencies in the Curriculum Resources Committee and interpret and support the curriculum developed by the committee. 14. Promote the observance of Christian Education Sunday (¶¶ 265.1, 1806.12). 15. <u>Promote the General Rule of Discipleship “to witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit”²⁷ by advocating the formation of Covenant Discipleship Groups or equivalent models applicable to varied contextual settings for all ages.</u>
	¶1110	Examples in ¶1110 Eliminated for Clarity	Eliminated the many examples while retaining cooperation as a necessary duty.	¶ 1110. Cooperation -1. The board shall cooperate with other general boards and agencies <u>and ecumenical partners</u> in the promotion of stewardship, evangelism, worship, mission education, and social action, and in the evaluation of these ministries from the perspective of sound educational procedure. 2- The board, in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries, shall be responsible for developing a unified program of mission education for all age groups in the local church. The mission education program shall include provisions for the following: <i>a)</i> Linking emerging philosophies of mission and of education through information flow and cooperative work of the respective staffs and boards; <i>b)</i> Developing and interpreting varied styles of mission education appropriate to different groups, including age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures; <i>c)</i> Curriculum planning for education in mission, providing mission information about projects supported by The United Methodist Church (including ecumenical projects) through the church school resources, and preparing curricular and other materials for mission education; <i>d)</i> Participating with various agencies in the design, development, and promotion of ecumenical mission education resources; <i>e)</i> Developing and interpreting educational approaches and channels for mission giving of children, youth, and adults, such as the Children’s Fund for Christian Mission; <i>f)</i> Developing and interpreting models for new approaches to mission study and educational participation in mission; <i>g)</i> Providing information regarding educational criteria to the staff of the General Board of Global Ministries for use in certifying leaders for schools of mission; <i>h)</i> Disseminating a comprehensive listing of mission resources for leaders; <i>i)</i> Cooperating with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries in providing an emphasis on mission education in the schools of theology through United Methodist courses on history, polity, and doctrine now required for candidates considering ordination or consecration. 3. The board shall have authority to cooperate with other agencies of the Church, with defined organizations, and with ecumenical agencies to promote the ministry of Christian education. 4. The board is authorized to cooperate with the General Board of Global Ministries in the planning and execution of programs for the strengthening and development of the town and country, urban, and ethnic local church ministries of The United Methodist Church and of interdenominational cooperation in these fields.

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	¶1111	Eliminate Duplication	Words stricken are not necessary because wording is included under responsibilities.	¶ 1111. <i>Evangelism</i> -The board shall have general oversight of the evangelism ministries of the Church as directed by the General Conference. Evangelism is central to the mission of the Church. <i>Evangelism</i> is defined in the <i>Book of Discipline</i> , ¶ 630.1. The board shall share the blessing of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people of all age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures by the development, promotion, and support of all phases of evangelism throughout The United Methodist Church.
	¶1112	Eliminate Duplication	Redundant language eliminated.	¶ 1112. <i>Evangelism Responsibilities</i> - In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, the board shall have general oversight of the evangelism ministries of The United Methodist Church by the envisioning and developing of resources and by training and consultation in various settings. The board shall: 1. Set forth an adequate biblical and theological basis and understanding for the personal, corporate, and social aspects of evangelism, consistent with the doctrine and tradition of The United Methodist Church, and it shall communicate and interpret the same to the membership of the Church. 2. <u>Promote contextual ministries</u> Give emphasis to the development, interpretation, and promotion of ministries of evangelism at the conference, district, and local church levels so that persons who are not active Christian disciples through any local church will be invited and cared for by a United Methodist church. 3. Provide <u>to clergy and laity</u> resources and training for strategies, ministries, and programs in evangelism, including resources for the local church ministry of evangelism (¶ 255). 4. Cooperate with other program agencies of the Church in supporting and equipping both clergy and laity at all levels in involvement in evangelism, church growth, and new congregational development. 5. Provide and encourage research in what creative congregations of various membership sizes and settings are doing in effective evangelism that can serve as models for other churches, and foster experimentation and demonstration of additional evangelistic approaches, consistent with the nature of the Christian gospel and the Church, at all levels of the Church's life, including new congregations and all racial and cultural groups. 6. Provide resources and services for those serving as pastors, diaconal ministers, directors of evangelism, general evangelists, and other professionals in evangelism in local churches. 7. Set standards for elders desiring to serve as general evangelists. The board shall send copies of these standards quadrennially to the bishops, district superintendents, conference boards of discipleship, and general evangelists. An elder who feels called by God to be a general evangelist should prepare definitely for such service under the guidance of the annual conference to which that person belongs. 8. Relate and provide liaison services to <u>Foster cooperation with:</u> a.) denominational and ecumenical associations and fellowships of evangelism. 9. Seek mutual cooperation among and with the; b.) seminaries of the Church and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the training and nurturing of persons for ministry and in continuing education where the responsibilities intersect. 10. Communicate with; c.) other agencies in whose programs the subject matter of who have an interest in evangelism would be included, and provide counsel, guidance, and resources for the implementation of such programs. 11. Participate in and cooperate with the work of the Curriculum Resources Committee of the board for the inclusion of evangelism concepts and resources in local church study curriculum. 12. Provide consultation with; d.) leaders of conferences, districts, local congregations, and other agencies to develop strategies in evangelism for outreach, church revitalization, and new congregational development. 13. Work with the; and, c.) General Board of Global Ministries for the extension of the Church To this end there shall be a Joint Committee on Congregational Development with equal representation of members from the General Board of Discipleship and the General Board of Global Ministries, which shall meet regularly for mutual learning; through developing strategies for Church extension, and providing resources and assistance to conferences and districts in the field of new congregational development and congregational revitalization.
	¶1113	Clarify Responsibilities	Add so that each area of responsibility is parallel in language. Broadens inclusion.	¶ 1113. <i>Worship Responsibilities</i> - <u>The board shall have general oversight of the worship interests of the Church as directed by the General Conference.</u> The board shall: 1. Set forth and interpret the biblical and theological basis for corporate worship with people of all age groupings and the various racial and ethnic cultures through resources, programs, and training materials consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church, and cultivate the fullest possible meaning in the corporate worship celebrations of the Church to the glory of God, including liturgy, preaching, the sacraments, music, related arts, and the observance of the liturgical seasons of the Christian Year. 2. Develop standards and <u>Promote contextual</u> resources for the conduct of public worship in the churches, including liturgy, preaching, the sacraments, music, and related arts. 3. Make recommendations to the General Conference regarding future editions of a book of worship and a hymnal and, as ordered, provide editorial supervision of the contents of these publications, which shall be published by The United Methodist Publishing House. The hymnals of The United Methodist Church are <i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> (1989), <i>Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista</i> (1996), and <i>Come, Let Us Worship: The Korean-English United Methodist Hymnal</i> (2000). The ritual of the Church is that contained in <i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i> (1989), <i>The United Methodist Book of Worship</i> (1992), <i>Mil Voces Para Celebrar: Himnario Metodista</i> (1996), and <i>Come, Let Us Worship: The Korean-English United Methodist Hymnal</i> (2000). 4. Prepare revisions of the ritual of the Church and approved orders of worship for recommendation to the General Conference for adoption. 5. Work with other North American Christian denominations through the Consultation on Common Texts in the continuing development of a common calendar and lectionary and encourage the voluntary use of the <i>Revised Common Lectionary</i> and resources based upon it. 6. Prepare and sponsor the publication of supplemental orders and texts of worship. ²⁶

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				7. Maintain a cooperative but not exclusive relationship with The United Methodist Publishing House in the preparation and publication of worship resources. 8. Advise the general agencies of the Church in the preparation, publication, and circulation of orders of service and other liturgical materials bearing the imprint of The United Methodist Church, encouraging use of racial and ethnic, <u>ethnic</u>, and cultural worship resources and incorporation of language that recognizes the several constituencies of the Church. (See ¶ 4.) 9. Counsel with the editors of the periodicals and publications of The United Methodist Church concerning material offered in the fields of worship, including preaching, music, and the other liturgical arts. 10. Participate in and cooperate with the Curriculum Resources Committee of the board for the inclusion of worship concepts and resources in local church study curriculum. 11. Encourage in the schools of theology and pastors' schools, and other settings, the offering of instruction in the meaning and design of worship. This should include the worship practices and expressions of various styles (i.e., traditional, contemporary), cultures, and races. 12. Counsel with those responsible for planning and conducting the worship services of the General Conference and other general assemblies of the Church. 13. Give guidance to, provide resources for, and encourage the continuing growth of those persons responsible for music <u>and worship arts</u> leadership in the local church; i.e., directors, ordained ministers, associates, music assistants, and those volunteering in music and the other worship arts. (See ¶ 1405.7.) 14. Cooperate with the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts and The Order of St. Luke in affirming the sacramental life embracing liturgy, preaching, music, and other arts appropriate for the inclusive worship life of the Church. 15. Develop performance standards for associates, directors, and ministers of music in cooperation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and cooperate with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in the development of standards and requirements for certification of directors, associates, and ministers of music as provided in ¶ 1405.6.
	¶1114	Clarify Responsibilities	Add language parallel to other areas of responsibility.	¶ 1114. Stewardship Responsibilities - The board shall have general oversight of stewardship interests of the Church as directed by the General Conference. 1. To interpret the biblical and theological basis for stewardship through programs, resources, and training materials for people of all ages consistent with the doctrines of The United Methodist Church. 2. To provide education, counsel, resourceing, and training for the local church stewardship ministry group chairperson, commission on stewardship, board of trustees, endowment and permanent fund committees, wills and estate planning committees, memorial committees, committee on finance, committee on finance chairperson, financial secretaries, and treasurers, and to develop program resources and training materials for use with and by the above-named persons and/or groups (see ¶ 807.17). Matters relating to procedures involving official records, forms, and reporting of statistical and financial information shall be the responsibility of the General Council on Finance and Administration. 3. To convene strategic conversations and broker knowledge regarding the To create within The United Methodist Church a deepening commitment to personal and corporate Christian stewardship, which includes the use and sharing of talents and resources, and the practice of a Christian lifestyle. 4. To develop strategies, provide resources, and implement actions that lead to a continuing improvement in the level of, <u>and financial</u> giving of United Methodists in providing adequate support for the mission of the Church: <u>for the purpose of strengthening intentional discipleship.</u> 5. To counsel in the area of stewardship and finance with jurisdictional and annual conference program agencies relative to their organizational structure and program responsibilities and assist them in their interpretation of program and resources. 6. To provide counsel, resources, and guidance to conference and area foundations as they fulfill their stewardship functions and to associations such as the National Association of United Methodist Foundations and the National Association of Steward-ship Leaders. 7. To call together regularly United Methodist general agency leaders whose programs include the subject matter of stewardship to work toward common language, consistent stewardship theology, and cooperative efforts, in cooperation with the General Council on Finance and Administration.
	¶1116	Clarify Responsibilities	Updated language and adapted into other paragraphs.	¶ 1116. Ministry of the Laity -The board shall interpret and spread The board shall organize as necessary for interpreting and spreading through the Church all the rich meanings of the universal priesthood of believers, of Christian vocation, and of the ministry of the laity in daily life. The United Methodist Church has <u>While the whole Church has</u> the responsibility of training and enabling the <i>laos</i> -the whole body of its membership-to enter into mission and to minister and witness in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. Although all units of the Church have some responsibility for this imperative, the General Board of Discipleship has a preeminent responsibility in that it is charged with developing discipleship. To this end, the board shall: 1. Help develop an adequate understanding of the theological and biblical basis for ministry of the laity. 2. Develop and interpret ministry of the laity both inside and outside the institutional Church. 3. Provide resources and support services for the development and improvement of leadership in the local church, except as specifically delegated to other agencies, and especially for those persons who serve as members of charge conferences, church councils, councils on ministries, committees on pastor-parish relations, personnel committees, committees on lay leadership, those who serve as lay leaders, lay members of annual conferences, and leaders of related organizations in local churches, districts, annual conferences, and jurisdictions. 4. Assist congregations, districts, and annual conferences in equipping persons for leadership in community ministries. 5. Provide resources and suggested plans for the observance of Laity Sunday in the local church.

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				6. Provide support to conference director and district director of Lay Servant Ministries, to conference and district committees on Lay Servant Ministries, and to the Association of Conference Directors of Lay Servant Ministries. In consultation with the conference directors, set standards for certified lay servants, certified lay speakers, and certified lay ministers and provide teaching resources for use by annual conference and district committees. 7. Provide support services to conference and district lay leaders and conference and district boards of laity or equivalent structures, to the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders, and to other appropriate associations and conference and district officers and agencies.+D126:D134 8. Initiate a process of coordination and collaboration in developing a comprehensive approach to leadership development and training within all program areas for which the General Board of Discipleship has responsibility. 9. Encourage <u>the selection and training of</u> ordained elders to select and train laity to distribute the consecrated Communion elements to sick or homebound persons following a service of Word and Table. This distribution also may apply to laypersons who have been assigned pastoral roles in a church or in more than one church by the district superintendent.
	¶1117	Adapted and Moved to ¶1108 and ¶1109	Adapted and moved to ¶¶ 1108 & 1109.	¶ 1117. <i>Christian Discipleship Formation Responsibilities</i> -The board shall interpret and promote group ministries in local congregations in order to support the formation of Christian disciples focused on the transformation of the world: 1. <i>Small Group Ministries</i> -Recognizing the diverse means of grace necessary in forming Christian disciples, the General Board of Discipleship shall assist local congregations in developing a comprehensive system of small group ministries by: a) providing resources, training, and support services for leaders of small group ministries that support people in their search for God, in their yearning for community, and in their desire to be formed as Christian disciples; b) providing resources and support services for groups such as cell groups, life groups, care groups, or small groups that equip people throughout the life span for faithful Christian living in the world, and especially those areas for which the General Board of Discipleship has responsibility. When developing resources, attention should be given to the impact of the oral and visual cultures in which we live and to the importance of stories of transformation. 2. <i>Accountable Discipleship</i> -Affirming that our Wesleyan heritage embraces a distinct emphasis of mutual accountability, the General Board of Discipleship shall encourage accountability in congregations by: a) promoting the General Rule of Discipleship: "To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit"27; b) advocating the formation of Covenant Discipleship Groups or equivalent models applicable to the cultural context of the Central Conferences for all ages throughout the church by providing resources, training, and support services that ground leadership in the richness of our Wesleyan tradition; c) providing resources, training, and support services for revitalizing the role of class leaders so that they may interpret the General Rule of Discipleship to all church members and assist the pastor in fostering mutual accountability throughout the congregation and other ministries; d) providing consultative services to jurisdictions, conferences, and districts in the introduction and development of Covenant Discipleship Groups and class leaders in congregations.
	¶1118	Covered in ¶1102.11	Already covered in ¶ 1102.11	¶ 1118. <i>Ethnic Local Church Concerns</i> -The board shall function as an advocate for programs and concerns of ethnic local churches. It shall coordinate efforts to keep the needs of the membership of ethnic churches uppermost in the minds of its membership. The board will ensure that adequate resources fiscal, human, and programmatic are used to support and encourage the ministries of the ethnic local churches.
	¶1119	Covered in ¶1102.3	Incorporated in ¶ 1102.3.	¶ 1119. <i>Age Level, Life Span, and Family Ministries</i> -The board will provide for an integrated and coordinated approach in development of resources and service support for ministries with children, youth, adults of all ages, and families. Through its services to administrative and coordinating leaders, the board will assist congregations and conferences to: a) Build knowledge for development of ministries that support the primary task of the local congregation; b) Provide for the development and nurture of persons at all age levels and stages of growth and for families in diverse configurations; c) Assist individuals and families in spiritual development and growth; and d) Promote the making and keeping of covenants as foundations for family living. The board will also engage in research and testing, consultation and training, and collaborative planning so as to enhance the delivery of resources and services to leaders with age level and family ministries responsibilities. 1. <i>Comprehensive Children's Ministries</i> -The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries for and with children. Such ministries may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: Sunday school and vacation Bible school, weekday ministries for preschool and elementary ages, fellowship and neighborhood groups, scouting ministries, and short term studies and activities within and outside the church facilities. Ministries should focus on biblical foundations, prayer and spiritual formation, community service, personal worth through Jesus Christ, human sexuality, values, United Methodist studies, creative and fine arts, multicultural awareness, outreach to others, and celebration of significant moments in children's lives. Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: assisting congregations to be advocates on behalf of children; identifying the needs and concerns of children, their families and congregations; assessing the status of ministries with children in The United Methodist Church; collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the leaders in congregations and church structures to strengthen the quality of life of children. 2. <i>Comprehensive Young People's Ministries</i> -There shall be a comprehensive approach to development and implementation of youth and young adult ministry programming at all levels of the Church. The comprehensive approach is based on the understanding of the primary task of young people's ministry: to love young people where they are, to encourage them in developing their relationship to God, to provide them with opportunities for nurture and growth, and to challenge them to respond to God's call to serve in their communities. Four component parts undergird this comprehensive ministry:

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
				<i>a) Curriculum</i> -Through the Curriculum Resources Committee (§ 1121), the General Board of Discipleship shall ensure the availability of curriculum and leaders' guides for use in a variety of settings suitable for the needs of all young people, age specific depending on the U. S. or central-conference definitions; <i>b) Program Resources</i> -Additional and supplemental guidebooks and other program aids shall be developed and promoted for effective young-people's ministries programs in the local church and at the district, conference, jurisdictional, and general Church levels; <i>c) Leadership Training and Networking</i> -Leadership training shall be provided to encourage and support adult workers with young people in their roles as teachers, counselors, advisers, and enablers at all levels of the Church. Networking shall be developed through ongoing communication to include workshops, social media, online platforms and publications between leaders in young people's ministries across the denomination for the enhancement of skills and the sharing of effective models and resources; <i>d) Structures</i> -Active and effective structures for young people's ministries programming shall be promoted and maintained at all levels of the United Methodist connection, as identified In the U. S. and central conferences. These structures will encourage the full involvement of young people in leadership and membership and for the advocacy of young people's concerns in all areas of Church life, planning, and administration. <i>3. Comprehensive Adult Ministries</i> -The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries by, with, and for adults. In keeping with the primary task of the board, adult ministries may include but need not be limited to: education and ministries with young adults, middle adults, older adults, and single adults (i.e., widowed, always single, separated, and divorced), and intergenerational programs involving adults. Such a plan would include biblical foundation and study, developmental stages and tasks of adults, faith development and spiritual formation, and leadership training in various models of adult educational ministries. Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: identifying the needs and concerns of adults (i.e., young adults, middle adults, older adults, and single adults); assessing the status of ministries by, with, and for adults in The United Methodist Church; collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the leaders in local congregations, districts, conferences, boards, and agencies to strengthen the quality of faith and life of adults. <i>4. Comprehensive Family Ministries</i> -The board will assist congregations and conferences in developing comprehensive ministries with families. In alignment with the primary task, the ministries may assist families in the following areas: spiritual formation and development, marital growth-ministries, parenting, human sexuality, care giving, and issues affecting the quality of family life. Such a plan would include: biblical exploration and study, as well as theological and experiential understandings of family life and the evolving patterns of family living. Ministries with families will focus on persons rather than structures. The board may organize and administer a Committee on Family Life. The committee will provide an arena for information sharing, collaborative planning, and/or cooperative programming in alignment with the purpose and responsibilities of representative participants. The committee will serve as advocates for ministries with families in all boards and agencies. Responsibilities may include such supportive tasks as: identifying the needs and concerns of families and of congregations, assessing the status of ministries with families in The United Methodist Church, collecting and disseminating pertinent data on issues, models, and programs that inform the work of the boards and agencies to strengthen the quality of family life. The committee will relate to and provide liaison services to ecumenical and interdenominational agencies in the area of family life.
	¶1120	Eliminate Duplication	Eliminate Duplication previously stated.	<i>General Provisions for the Committee on Older Adult Ministries</i> -1. There shall be a Committee on Older Adult Ministries, which shall be administratively related to the General Board of Discipleship. <i>2. Purpose</i> -The committee will provide a forum for information sharing, cooperative planning, and joint program endeavors as determined in accordance with the responsibilities and objectives of the participating agencies. The committee shall serve as an advocate for older adult concerns and issues and shall serve to support ministries by, with, and for older adults throughout The United Methodist Church and its affiliated agencies and in the larger society. <i>3. Responsibilities</i> -The responsibilities of the committee shall include the following: <i>a)</i> Identify the needs, concerns, and potential contributions of older adults. <i>b)</i> Promote a plan of comprehensive ministry by, with, and for older adults in local churches that includes spiritual growth, education, training, mission, service, and fellowship. <i>c)</i> Encourage and support the development of resources and programs that will undergird local church ministries by, with, and for older adults. <i>d)</i> Advocate development and implementation of policies and service designed to impact systems and concepts that adversely affect older adults. <i>e)</i> Educate and keep before the Church the lifelong process of aging, with emphasis on the quality of life, intergenerational understanding and interaction, and faith development. <i>f)</i> Encourage and support the development of resources and programs that can be used by annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, and the denomination at large in training and equipping older adults for new roles in the ministry and mission of the Church. <i>g)</i> Serve as focal point for supplying information and guidelines on older adult ministries to local churches. <i>h)</i> Encourage coordination and networking opportunities among agencies responsible for the development of resources, programs, and policies relating to older adult ministries. <i>i)</i> Support and advocate the provisions contained in <i>The Book of Resolutions</i> of The United Methodist Church related to aging. <i>j)</i> Support and encourage resource development for the celebration of an annual Older Adult Recognition Day. <i>k)</i> Develop and administer a program of financial grants for older adult ministries throughout The United Methodist Church.

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[illegible]

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
	¶1205			¶ 1205. Relationship of the Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> to the General Board of Discipleship—The Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall be related to the General Board of Discipleship as follows: Two members of the Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall be elected to the board, one youth and one young adult as defined by the age qualifications for the Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> in accordance with ¶ 1207.1206.
	¶1206			¶1206. Structure—The Division on Ministries With Young People shall be organized around three basic units: United Methodist Youth, United Methodist Young Adults, and United Methodist Workers with Young People.
	¶1207			¶ 1207.1206. Membership —The membership of the Division on Ministries With Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall be inclusive with respect to <u>geography</u> , gender, <u>sexual orientation</u> , race/ethnicity, lay/clergy, and vocation. 1. Membership shall be as follows: a) Twelve youth—1 youth, elected by the youth organization of each central conference <u>7 Youth</u> (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 24); 1 youth, sixteen or younger at the time of election, elected by the jurisdictional youth convocation; b) Twelve young adults—1 young adult elected by the young adult organization of each central conference <u>7 Young Adults</u> (according to the age definition of each central conference, but not to exceed the age of 35) c) Twelve adult workers with young people—1 adult from each central conference, appointed by the central conference nominating committee; 1 adult from each jurisdiction, elected by the jurisdictional conference; <u>4 Adult Workers</u> d) Additional Members: (1) One member of the General Board of Discipleship; (2) Two members of the United Methodist Student Movement steering committee (¶1412.2g); <u>Four additional members who, as determined by the Network, may be nominated to ensure inclusiveness</u> (3) <u>up to 5 additional members who, as determined by the General Board of Discipleship, may be nominated by the division to ensure inclusiveness and expertise</u> <u>One bishop selected by the Council of Bishops</u> <u>2. Nomination of Potential Network Members: 1 youth (according to the age definition of each central and jurisdictional conference, but not to exceed the age of 24 in central conferences or 16 in jurisdictions), 1 young adult (according to the age definition of each central and jurisdictional conference, but not to exceed the age of 35 in central conferences or 30 in jurisdictions), and 1 adult worker shall be nominated by the process outlined by each Jurisdictional Young People's Ministry and by central conference youth organizations.</u> <u>3. Selection of the Network-Nominated potential network members will submit applications to the nominations committee of the current Division on Ministries with Young People. The nominations committee will select the members of the network ensuring representation of all jurisdictions and central conferences.</u> 4. Resource People—The division <u>Network</u> shall be responsible for connecting and highlighting the work of general agencies and other United Methodist entities in youth and young-adult ministry. In order to effectively carry out that charge, one staff person (or board member when staff are not available) from the following entities shall be present (with voice but not vote) at meetings of the division <u>Network</u> . These representatives shall attend at the expense of the sending agency and shall relate the priorities of the division <u>Network</u> to their agency and serve as resource people to the division <u>Network</u> : A. General Board of Church and Society; B. General Board of Discipleship; C. General Board of Global Ministries; D. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; E. <u>General Board of Pension and Health Benefits</u> ; F. <u>General Commission on Archives and History</u> ; G. General Commission on Religion and Race; H. General Commission on the Status and Role of Women; I. General Commission on United Methodist Men; J. General Council on Finance and Administration; K. Connectional Table; L. United Methodist Communications; M. United Methodist Publishing House; N. United Methodist Women ¶1208 1207. Youth Service Fund- There shall be a Youth Service Fund. 1. <i>Organization</i> —The Youth Service Fund shall be a means of stewardship education and mission support of youth within The United Methodist Church. As a part of the Fund's cultivation, youth shall be challenged to assume their financial responsibilities in connection with the total program and budget of the church of which they are members. Local church treasurers shall send the full amount of Youth Service Fund offerings to the treasurer of the annual conference, who shall retain 70 percent of the amount for distribution by the annual conference council on youth ministry. The annual conference treasurer shall send the remaining 30 percent monthly to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to be forwarded to the General Board of Discipleship, Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> . All other Youth Service Fund money raised in the annual conference shall be divided in the same manner and distributed in the same way. 2. <i>Project Review</i> —The youth of the <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall constitute a project review committee to advise the total body in the selection of projects. The project review committee shall be comprised of youth and adult worker members of the <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> as determined by the <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> . The projects shall be chosen according to the policies and criteria established by the The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> . All projects chosen by the network will be communicated back to the annual conferences who contributed funds. 3. A minimum of 70 <u>80</u> percent of the general portion of the Youth Service Fund shall be used to fund Youth Service Fund projects; the remaining amount shall be used for office resourcing and Youth Service Fund promotion and interpretation. United Methodist Communications shall assist the The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> in the promotion and interpretation of the Youth Service Fund.
	¶1208			

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
	¶1209			¶1209 <u>1208</u> <i>Grants for Ministries with Young People</i>- There shall be grants made available to local churches, affiliated organizations, campus ministries, districts, annual conferences, provisional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and central conferences of the United Methodist Church. 1. <i>Purpose</i>- The purpose of these grants is to fund dynamic, creative ministries with young people that can serve as model programs for other organizations throughout the connection. 2. <i>Project Review</i>- The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall constitute a project review committee as determined by the group, made up of youth, young adults, and adult workers with young people who are members of the body. The committee may also include a staff representative and one board member each from the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall establish criteria in consultation with the four participating program boards and in relation to the purposes of the network and the program boards. ¶ 1210 <u>1209</u>. Global Young People's Convocation <u>Global Youth and Young Adult Quadrennial Event</u>—There shall be a Global Young People's Convocation global young people's gathering every quadrennium. 1. Purpose—Global Young People's Convocation shall be a global event held once every four years for the purpose of celebrating the mission and vitality of young people in The United Methodist Church; raising the joys and concerns of young people from the global community; developing young people as leaders for effective ministry in local churches and communities of faith, highlighting emerging trends in youth and young-adult <u>young people's</u> ministry, and provide ing a common forum <u>shared space</u> that embraces the global to raise the joys and concerns of a global community, reality of the church. 2. Legislation—During the convocation there shall be opportunities for jurisdiction and central conference delegations and individuals to propose legislation in an appropriate forum. This forum shall be made up of delegations as defined under "Voting members." Legislation brought to the forum shall relate to issues of concern to young people. Legislation adopted by the forum may be referred to the Division on Ministries With Young People or sent to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church carrying the name "United Methodist Young People's Convocation." All legislation, petitions, and programming must be in accordance with ¶ 806.9 and ¶ 806.11. <u>Participation – The global young people's gathering shall be inclusive in nature. It shall have equal representation of youth, young adults, and adult workers from each jurisdiction and central conference.</u> <u>3. Membership</u>—The membership at the forum of the United Methodist Young People's Convocation shall be inclusive in nature and selected as follows: a) Voting members —(1) Five youth (ages 12-18) from each jurisdiction and five youth from each central conference according to the age definition of each central conference. These youth shall be chosen by the process outlined by each Jurisdictional Young People's Ministry and by central conference youth organizations in the year preceding the Global Young People's Convocation. —(2) Five young adults (ages 19-30) from each jurisdiction and five young adults from each central conference according to the age definition of each central conference. These young adults shall be chosen by the process outlined by each Jurisdictional Young People's Ministry and central conference young adult organizations. —(3) Two adult workers with young people from each jurisdiction and two youth and young-adult workers from each central conference. These adults shall be chosen by the process outlined by each Jurisdictional Young People's Ministry and by central conference youth organizations in the year preceding the Global Young People's Convocation. b) Nonvoting members (In all cases, nonvoting members will have the status of voice without vote.) —(1) Youth and young-adult members of the general agencies. —(2) Members and staff of the Division on Ministries With Young People. —(3) Additional members from jurisdictions, central conferences, and ecumenical partners. 2. 3. Expenses—The expenses for the Global Young People's Convocation are to be borne by participants wherever possible. An adequate funding plan shall be devised by the Division on Ministries With Young People to ensure the full participation of elected delegates to Global Young People's Convocation. It is strongly recommended that jurisdictions, central conferences, and annual conference councils on youth and young adult ministries, or equivalent structures, secure funding for Convocation participants who are elected from said conference. A limited amount of need-based scholarships shall be made available through the Division on Ministries With Young People to promote the full participation of the body.
	¶1210			
	¶1211			¶ 1211 <u>1210</u>, <i>Staff</i>-1. The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u> shall have as its chief staff officer an Associate General Secretary. This staff officer shall be nominated by the personnel committee of the General Board of Discipleship for election by the Board. The search committee shall be chaired by the General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship and composed of equal representation from the General Board of Discipleship and the The Division on Ministries with Young People <u>Young People's Connectional Network</u>. 2. All other staff members of the Division <u>Network</u> will be elected or appointed in a manner prescribed by the Board (¶ 714).
	¶1212			¶1212 <u>1211</u>. <i>Division Funding</i>—The operating funds for the division shall be derived from three main sources: World Service Fund, self-funding programs, and the general portion of the Youth Service Fund.

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
	#8031	Re-adopt "By Water and the Spirit"	Re-adopt "By Water and the Spirit"	WHEREAS, the 1996 and General Conference adopted "By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism" and the 2004 General Conference reaffirmed and continued it as an official teaching statement for the church; and WHEREAS, it provides a theological and pastoral basis for understanding our ritual as contained in "Services of the Baptismal Covenant" in our hymnals and Book of Worship; and WHEREAS, it has shaped and guided legislation related to our understanding of church membership and mission, including amendment of the constitution (particularly ¶ 4); Therefore, be it resolved that "By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism" be continued in The Book of Resolutions for the ensuing two quadrennia (2021-2024 and 2025-2028).
	#8032	Re-Adopt "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" as an official teaching document of the Church Resolution 8032	Re-Adopt "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" as an official teaching document of the Church Resolution 8032	WHEREAS, the 2000 General Conference directed the General Board of Discipleship in collaboration with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and the Council of Bishops, to develop a comprehensive interpretive document on the theology and practice of Holy Communion in United Methodism and report their findings and recommendations to the 2004 General Conference; and WHEREAS, in developing its report the Holy Communion Study Committee took intentional steps to heed our United Methodist heritage and history, remain sensitive to the ecumenical church, and hear the voices of United Methodists in the United States as well as in central conferences in the Philippines, Africa, and Europe; WHEREAS, The General Conference adopted "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" in 2004 as an authoritative contemporary statement of its understanding of Holy Communion; and WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has used this document to strengthen our interpretation and practice of the Lord's Supper in its congregations and ministries and as a basis for deepening our ecumenical conversations and relationships with other denominations; Therefore, be it resolved that "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" be continued in the Book of Resolutions as an official interpretive statement of theology and practice in The United Methodist Church for the next two quadrennia (2021-2024 and 2025-2028); and Be it further resolved that This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion be used by the Council of Bishops, Church School Publications of The United Methodist Publishing House, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Board of Discipleship as a guide for teaching and formation of both clergy and laity in relation to Holy Communion; and Be it further resolved that This Holy Mystery be used by The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the Council of Bishops in interpreting United Methodist understandings and practices in ecumenical dialogue; and Be it further resolved that the 2020 General Conference commend to the church the principles, background, and practices in <i>This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion</i> for the interpretation and use of the services of Word and Table in our hymnals and The United Methodist Book of Worship; and Be it further resolved that This Holy Mystery be published in The Book of Resolutions, and that the General Board of Discipleship continue to offer it online and in study editions with a leader's guide.
	New Resolution	Abuse of Older Adults	Abuse of Older Adults	 Adobe Acrobat Document
	New Resolution	Aging in the United States: The Church's Response	Aging in the United States: The Church's Response	 Adobe Acrobat Document

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Petition #	Para./Res.	Title of Petition	Rationale	Petition Text
	New Resolution	Support for The Upper Room's Emmaus Ministries at All Levels of the Church	Urges annual conferences and local churches to support The Upper Room's Emmaus Ministries at All Levels of the Church	WHEREAS, the Emmaus Ministries; including Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, Face to Face, Journey to the Table, and Discovery Weekend, is given to us from the Upper Room; and WHEREAS, the mission of Emmaus Ministries is "Renewing Christian Disciples, Strengthening Local Churches"; and WHEREAS, this ministry brings a spiritual awareness of Jesus Christ to many life-stages in a unique, loving, patient, and kind way; and WHEREAS, we rejoice in the truth which is revealed in this effort; and WHEREAS, this ministry involves many of our members in a very important ministry; and WHEREAS, this ministry enables and encourages members to return to their local churches and be present and future leaders of the church, Therefore, be it resolved, that General Conference: 1. urge all annual conferences to increase their efforts and resources relating to the Walk to Emmaus; 2. encourage churches to enlist and involve their members; older adults, young adults, and youth in the life and work of Emmaus Ministries so that they may return and be leaders within their own congregations; and, 3. encourage the General Board of Discipleship and The Upper Room to continue their emphasis on enhancing the reach of Emmaus Ministries.