

Restructuring of Connectional Table Membership

Amend *Discipline* ¶906.1 as follows:

¶ 906. *Organization of the Connectional Table*—1. *Membership*—The ~~voting members~~ membership of the Connectional Table shall consist of ~~49~~ 48 persons as follows:

a) ~~Twenty-eight~~ persons representing the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Jurisdictions ~~elected through jurisdictional and central conferences~~ shall serve with vote. They shall be chosen in the following manner: five members from each region, two clergy and three laity, with at least one female layperson, one female clergy, and one person under the age of twenty-six at the time of election, ~~one from each of the central conferences by their own nomination processes and 21 from the jurisdictional conferences elected by the jurisdictional nomination process. Jurisdictional membership shall include one person from each jurisdiction and the balance of the jurisdictional members shall be allocated by the Secretary of the General Conference so as to insure to the extent possible that the members represent the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon the combined clergy and lay membership-~~ representing the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Jurisdictions. In the regions of Africa, Asia, and Europe, these persons shall be nominated and elected by the Central Conference or Central Conferences of that region through their own nomination and election process. In the region of the Jurisdictions, one nominee will be elected from each jurisdiction by the jurisdictional nomination process as allocated by the Secretary of the General Conference.

b) ~~An effective~~ An active bishop, selected by the Council of Bishops, serves as the chair of the Connectional Table with vote.

c) The ecumenical officer of the Council of Bishops, ~~and the presidents of the following agencies: General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Commission on Religion and Race, General Commission on Status and Role of Women, General Commission on United Methodist Men, General Commission on Communication, and General Commission on Archives and History, program related agencies that are accountable to the Connectional Table (as expressed in ¶ 702.3). The chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and the president of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall also sit with voice and vote on the Connectional Table.~~ and one bishop from each of the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Jurisdictions, chosen by the Leadership Discernment Team of the Council of Bishops, shall serve on the Connectional Table with vote.

d) One youth ~~and one~~ or young adult elected by the Connectional Table upon nomination by the membership of the Division on Ministries With Young People from among its members shall serve on the Connectional Table with vote.

e) One member from each of the racial/ethnic caucuses shall serve on the Connectional Table with vote, as elected by the Connectional Table upon nomination from: Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Methodists Associated ~~to Represent~~ Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latinx Americans, the Native American International Caucus, the ~~National~~ New Federation of Asian American United Methodists, and the Pacific Islanders ~~National~~ Caucus of United Methodists.

f) The general secretaries of ~~the above-named agencies:~~ the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on Status and Role of Women, the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and the General Commission on Communications, program-related agencies that are accountable to the Connectional Table (as expressed in ¶ 702.3), shall sit at the Table with the right of voice but not vote. ~~The chairperson of the Commission on the General Conference, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, and the president of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall also sit with voice and vote on the Connectional Table.~~ The general secretaries of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women), the publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House, and the secretary of General Conference shall sit at the Table with the right of voice but not vote.

g) Two ecumenical partners shall be chosen quadrennially by the Connectional Table Executive Committee in consultation with the Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops to sit at the Table with the right of voice but not vote.

~~g~~ h) Jurisdictional, central conferences, and other groups involved in the nominating and election of persons to the Connectional Table shall ensure ~~the diversity objectives~~ according to race, ethnicity, national origin, as well as central conference membership when possible. ~~of, insofar as possible, fifty percent clergy, fifty percent laity, fifty percent female, fifty percent male, not less than thirty percent members of racial/ ethnic groups (excluding central conference members), and not less than ten percent youth and young adults, ensuring diversity as otherwise provided in ¶ 705.4b.~~

~~h~~ i) Vacancies of members elected from central and jurisdictional conferences occurring between sessions of the general conference shall be filled by the College of Bishops where the vacancy occurred, in so far as possible from the same annual conference.

~~ì~~ j) Members shall meet all the membership qualifications as expressed in ¶ 710.

Rationale:

A new structure of regional representation reorganizes the membership of the Connectional Table to be holistic and nimble in carrying out its role of discerning and articulating the vision and stewarding the mission, ministry, and resources of our worldwide church.