

Pleasant Plains, IL (1976); Rehoboth Church, near Union, WV (1968); Robert Strawbridge's Log House, near New Windsor, MD (1968); Rutersville Cluster, Rutersville, TX (1988); St. George's Church, Philadelphia, PA (1968); St. Simon's Island, GA (1968); Simpson House, Philadelphia, PA (2012); Wesley Foundation, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (1996); Town of Oxford, GA (1972); United Brethren Founding Sites Cluster, Frederick, Keedysville, and Beaver Creek, MD (2000); Wesleyan College Cluster, Macon, GA (1992); Western Union/Westmar College Campus, Le Mars, IA; (2020); Whitaker's Chapel, near Enfield, Halifax County, NC (1972); Willamette Mission, near Salem, OR (1992); Woman's Foreign Missionary Society founding site, Boston, MA (2004); Wyandot Indian Mission, United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC (2016); Upper Sandusky, OH (1968); and Zoar United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA (1984).

¶1801.

Petition Number: 20674-IC-¶1801-G; Brooks, Lonnie - Anchorage, AK, USA.

Merge UCom into GCFA

For the purpose of merging the General Commission on Communication (UCom) into the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) and making the ministry of communications part of the work of GCFA, the following action is taken:

Amend ¶ 802 as follows:

¶ 802. *Name*—There shall be a General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church, hereinafter called the council. The council shall have authority to choose for itself a name under which it may be incorporated or otherwise conduct business.

Amend ¶ 804 by assigning subparagraph number §804.1 to the existing paragraph and appending a new subparagraph as follows:

§804.2 The General Council on Finance and Administration shall take responsibility for the United Methodist ministry of communications by acquiring the assets, liabilities, and operations of the General Commission on Communication (UCom) by December 31, 2020. The responsibilities of GCFA shall be as prescribed herein, including those of the former General Commission on Communication.

Amend ¶ 805 as follows:

¶ 805. *Organization*—1. *Membership*—The twenty-one voting members of the council shall be elected quadrennially.

a) ~~Sixteen~~ Fourteen (14) voting members of the council shall be elected by the General Conference and be nominated as follows:

(1) two bishops including one from a central conference, nominated by the Council of Bishops;

(2) ~~eleven~~ nine (9) persons from the jurisdictions, nominated by the college of bishops in each jurisdiction based upon an allocation by the secretary of the General Conference so as to insure that the membership of the council reflects the proportionate membership of the jurisdictions based upon their combined clergy and lay membership, provided that no jurisdiction shall be guaranteed a seat on the council by this provision, and

(3) three persons from the central conferences—one member from Africa, one from Europe, and one from the Philippines—nominated by the Council of Bishops.

b) It is recommended that in selecting the voting members from the jurisdictions and central conferences attention be given to ensuring adequate representation of racial and ethnic groups and young people, and that approximately one-third be clergy in full connection, one-third be laymen, and one-third be laywomen.

c) ~~Five~~ Seven (7) voting members of the council shall be nominated and elected by the council in such a manner as set forth in the council's bylaws, provided, not more than one of these ~~five~~ seven voting members shall be from the same jurisdictional or central conference. These ~~five~~ seven voting members shall be selected for the purpose of bringing to the council special knowledge, experience, or diversity.

d) The general secretaries who serve as the chief executive officers of the general agencies and the president/ chief executive officer of The United Methodist Publishing House may sit with the council and shall have the right to the floor without the privilege of voting.

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH INSERTED HERE

NEW. The members of the executive committee of the Board of Directors of UCom serving at the close of General Conference 2020 shall become members of the Board of Directors of GCFA with voice but not vote upon the discontinuation of UCom and shall serve through the remainder of the quadrennium to ensure the adequate representation of the communications ministry through the period of transition.

e) The voting members, including bishops, shall not be eligible for membership on, or employment by, any other general agency of The United Methodist Church (¶ 701.2), except where the *Book of Discipline* specifically provides for such interagency representation. Members shall also be guided by such conflict-of-interest policies and provisions as may from time to time be adopted by the General Conference or by the council itself.

f) Members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

g) Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conference shall be filled by the council on nomination of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction concerned (see ¶ 712) if the vacancy is among members chosen to represent a jurisdiction, or, in the event of a vacancy among the episcopal or central conference representative members, on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Vacancies among the five seven voting members nominated and elected by the council shall be filled in such a manner as set forth in the council's bylaws.

...

4.b) *Committee on Personnel Policies and Practices*—The council shall organize a committee consisting of three representatives from the General Council on Finance and Administration, one of whom shall serve as chairperson, and one representative of each of the following 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 Archives and History, ~~the General Commission on Communication~~, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and the General Commission on United Methodist Men. Each of the aforementioned representatives shall be selected by the council, board, or commission represented from its membership. The general secretary of the council, or his or her designee, shall sit with this committee with voice but not vote.

...

Following ¶ 805.4.c) insert new subparagraphs as follows:

d) Following completion of the acquisition of the communications ministry the council will form a Committee on Communications to be membered and staffed as deemed necessary by the council. Any funds budgeted to UCom by the General Conference for the 2021-2024 quadrennium will follow the function and devolve to GCFA following the completion of the period of transition.

e) The Committee on Communications shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) Communication is a strategic function necessary for the success of the mission of The United Methodist Church. It shall be the official newsgathering and distributing body for The United Methodist Church. In discharging its responsibilities, in keeping with the historic freedom of the press, it shall operate with editorial freedom as an independent news bureau serving all segments of church life and society, making available to both religious

and public news media information concerning the church at large.

(2) It shall have primary responsibility on behalf of the church to relate to the public media in presenting the Christian faith and work of the church to the general public through the most effective communication channels. It will provide such structures and strategies as are deemed helpful to the church in its witness through the media. It shall unify and coordinate public media messages and programs of United Methodist general agencies.

(3) It shall give special attention to television, including broadcast television, cable, videotape, videodisc, and satellite. It shall provide counsel and resources to annual conferences—and through conferences, to districts and local churches—to develop and strengthen their television ministries. Responsibilities of the committee shall include program production and placement, and relationships to commercial broadcasters at the national level in the United States.

(4) It shall create and participate in partnerships with national, international, interdenominational, interfaith, and other organizations working in communications as deemed relevant to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

(5) It shall have responsibility to work toward promotion and protection of the historic freedoms of religion and the press, and it shall seek to increase the ethical, moral, and human values of media structures and programs.

(6) It shall have general supervision over the public relations strategy and activity for The United Methodist Church.

(7) It shall plan, create, produce or cause to be produced, and distribute or cause to be distributed resources that are informative and vital to the religious life of all United Methodists. It shall work with all United Methodist entities in coordinating resources produced for strategic church initiatives.

(8) It shall oversee a comprehensive communication system for the church, providing a total view of communication structure and practices, including telecommunications. It shall create networks of communicators at all levels, including local church, district, conference, jurisdiction, and general church. These networks may include periodic consultations for such purposes as idea exchange, information sharing, joint planning, and monitoring and evaluating the total church's communication enterprises. With respect to the use of computers for communication purposes, the committee shall coordinate with other GCFA committees.

(9) It shall provide guidance, resources, and training for the local church coordinator of communications, pro-

vided that training at the local level shall be through and in cooperation with annual conferences.

(10) It shall educate and train in communication principles and skills, including the following: (a) national workshops and training experiences in communication skills related to various media; (b) consultation with and assistance to annual conferences, districts, and racial and ethnic groups in training local church persons, especially the local church coordinator of communications; (c) training experiences for bishops, personnel of general church agencies, and other groups on request; (d) providing and facilitating apprenticeship, internship, and scholarship programs for church communicators; and (e) counseling schools of theology and other institutions of higher education about the training of faculty, candidates for the ordained ministry, and laypersons in the principles and skills of communication, media resource development, and media evaluation.

(11) It shall determine and implement policy for the marketing of all financial causes demanding churchwide promotion or publicity.

(12) It shall undertake the marketing of any cause or undertaking, financial or otherwise, not herein mentioned demanding churchwide promotion or publicity, provided such action is approved by other appropriate bodies. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall determine the source of the funding for any such authorized promotions.

(13) Appeals for giving that are made to United Methodists shall be consistent with the aims of Christian stewardship. The committee and the General Board of Discipleship will cooperate in order that programs and resource materials of the two bodies may be in harmony in their presentation of Christian stewardship.

(14) It shall provide content for clergy and laity in local congregations in a variety of accessible formats to promote understanding and appreciation of the global, connectional church, to develop support for and encourage participation in initiatives, ministries, and missions of the general church and its agencies, and to provide resources and information to assist local congregations and their leaders in carrying out their ministries. This committee shall obtain from the churches or district superintendents the names of church leaders entitled to receive this content so as to compile a subscription list.

(15) It shall lead in communication study and research, applying findings from the professional and academic communities to the work of the church, and in evaluative communication research. It shall cooperate with other church bodies in communication research and development work and share the findings of study and research.

(16) It shall represent United Methodist interests in new technological developments in the field of communication, including research, the evaluation of new devices and methods, and the application of technological developments to the communication services of the church.

(17) It may develop information, resources, databases, and services that provide channels of communication to and from all levels of the church.

(18) It shall provide resources, counsel, and staff training for area, conference, and district communication programs and develop guidelines in consultation with persons working in areas, conferences, and districts.

(19) It shall produce materials for program interpretation in cooperation with the Connectional Table and the general program boards, including the official program calendar of the denomination.

(20) The committee shall be charged with planning and implementation of the official United Methodist presence on and use of the internet, the World Wide Web, or other computer services that can connect United Methodist conferences, agencies, and local churches with one another and with the larger world.

(21) The committee shall be responsible for recommending to GCFA the official brand guidelines of The United Methodist Church. Such branding guidelines shall be consistent with the standards established by GCFA to preserve the denomination's intellectual property. The committee shall work with other GCFA committees and personnel to ensure the use of the cross and flame logo at every level of the church (see ¶ 807.10).

Amend ¶ 807.10 as follows:

¶ 807.10. To supervise the use of the official United Methodist insignia and preserve the integrity of its design; in cooperation with the General Commission on Communication.

Amend ¶ 812.4 as follows:

4. The General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration shall promote the World Service Fund.

Amend ¶ 813.5 as follows:

¶ 813.5. The General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration shall promote the General Administration Fund.

Amend ¶ 814.7 as follows:

¶ 814.7. The General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration shall promote the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.

Amend ¶ 815.3 as follows:

¶ 815.3. Promotion of the Black College Fund shall be by the Division of Higher Education and in consultation with the Council of Presidents of the Black Colleges, in cooperation with and with the assistance of the General

~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~, the cost being a charge against the Black College Fund receipts and within a budget approved by the Division of Higher Education and the General Council on Finance and Administration.

Amend ¶ 816.4 as follows:

¶ 816.4. The General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall promote the Ministerial Education Fund.

Amend ¶ 818.1 as follows:

¶ 818. Purpose—1. . . . The General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall promote the Episcopal Fund.

Amend ¶ 820.7 as follows:

¶ 820.7. General promotion of this program, for purposes of name identification and visibility, shall be the responsibility of the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~.

Amend ¶ 821 as follows:

¶ 821.3. Promotional expenses for World Service Specials shall be borne by the respective participating agencies in proportion to the amount received by each in World Service Specials. The causes of World Service Specials shall be coordinated with other financial appeals and shall be promoted by the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~.

4. The appeals for World Service Specials shall be channeled through bishops, district superintendents, and pastors. Details of the procedure shall be determined by the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ in consultation with representatives of the recipient agencies or entities.

5. In each annual conference, World Service Specials and UMCOR Sunday shall be promoted by the appropriate conference agency with the appropriate general agency and the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~.

Amend ¶ 823 as follows:

¶ 823.3. Promotional expenses for Advance Specials shall be borne by the respective participating units in proportion to the amount received by each in Advance Specials. The causes of the Advance shall be coordinated with other financial appeals and shall be promoted by the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~.

4. The appeal for Advance Specials shall be channeled through bishops, district superintendents, pastors and other individuals. Details of the procedure shall be determined by the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ in consultation with the designated unit of the General Board of Global Ministries and the Advance Committee.

Amend ¶ 824 as follows:

¶ 824. *General Church Special Sunday Offerings*—The following are the churchwide special Sundays with offerings to be used in support of general church causes:

1. *Human Relations Day*—Historically, **Human Relations Day** has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Congregations are encouraged to observe Human Relations Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to further the development of better human relations. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society. In connection with Human Relations Day, the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses (see ¶ 263.1). Funds shall be administered by the agencies under which approved programs are lodged.

2. *UMCOR Sunday*—Historically, **UMCOR Sunday** has been celebrated with an offering on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Congregations are encouraged to observe UMCOR Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to share the goodness of life with those who hurt (¶ 263.2). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, General Board of Global Ministries (¶ 1330.2), in accordance with the following directives:

a) All local churches shall be fully informed and encouraged to receive a freewill offering in behalf of the relief program.

b) Insofar as possible, planning and promotion of One Great Hour of Sharing²² shall be done cooperatively with other denominations through the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Offering receipts shall be administered by The United Methodist Church. In connection with UMCOR Sunday,²³ the General ~~Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agency under which approved programs are lodged.

3. *United Methodist Student Day*—Historically, **United Methodist Student Day** has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. Congregations are encouraged to observe United Methodist Student Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The offering shall support United Method-

ist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund (§ 263.4). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In connection with United Methodist Student Day, the ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agency under which approved programs are lodged.

4. *World Communion Sunday*—Historically, **World Communion Sunday** has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. Congregations are encouraged to observe World Communion Sunday on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to assist racial and ethnic persons pursuing various avenues of ministry. In connection with World Communion Sunday, the ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal according to the following directives:

a) Each local church shall be requested to remit as provided in § 824.8 all of the Communion offering received on World Communion Sunday and such portion of the Communion offering received at other observances of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the local church may designate.

b) The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to be divided as follows: 50 percent World Communion Scholarships; 35 percent Ethnic Scholarship Program, and 15 percent Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Funds shall be administered by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, in consultation with various ethnic groups (§ 263.3).

5. *Peace with Justice Sunday*—Historically, **Peace with Justice Sunday** has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Congregations are encouraged to observe Peace with Justice Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to witness “to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world” (§ 263.5). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Church and Society. In connection with Peace with Justice Sunday, the ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal.

a) The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the monies for Peace with Justice Ministries in the

annual conference, to be administered by the conference board of church and society or an equivalent structure.

b) The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the monies to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

c) The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of the promotional expenses, to the General Board of Church and Society under which approved programs are lodged.

6. *Native American Ministries Sunday*—Historically, **Native American Ministries Sunday** has been celebrated with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. Congregations are encouraged to observe Native American Ministries Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. The purpose shall be to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences and in Native American rural, urban, and reservation ministries and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries, and to provide scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology (§ 263.6). The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In connection with Native American Ministries Sunday, the ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration shall allocate net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses. Funds shall be administered by the agencies under which approved projects are lodged.

7. The ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall promote all authorized churchwide special Sundays with offerings in consultation with participating agencies. Promotional expenses for each offering shall be a prior claim against the receipts of the offering promoted. In each case, such expenses shall be within a budget approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration ~~upon recommendation of the General Commission on Communication~~ after consultation with participating agencies. In the promotion of these offerings, the spiritual implications of Christian stewardship shall be emphasized.

8. Receipts from all authorized churchwide special Sunday offerings shall be remitted promptly by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall remit monthly to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Local churches shall report the amount of the offerings in the manner indicated on the annual conference report form.

Amend ¶ 906.1.c) as follows:

¶ 906.1.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)

Amend ¶ 1120.4 as follows:

¶1120.4. *Membership*—The committee shall be composed of one board member and one staff member from each of the following agencies: the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; one member (board or staff) from each of the following: the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on United Methodist Men, The United Methodist Publishing House, ~~the General Commission on Communication~~, United Methodist Women; one active or retired bishop representing the Council of Bishops, and one central conference representative; five older adults, one to be selected by each jurisdictional College of Bishops; and no more than three members to be selected by the committee for expertise and/or professional qualifications, and no more than three additional members to be selected by the committee for inclusiveness (racial/ethnic, disability, age, gender, laity, clergy, or geographic distribution).

Delete ¶ 1207.2.(j) in its entirety.

Amend ¶ 1208.3 as follows:

¶ 1208. 3. A minimum of 70 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~~ The General Council on Finance and Administration shall assist the Division on Ministries With Young People in the promotion and interpretation of the Youth Service Fund.

Amend ¶ 1315.1.c)(5)

¶ 1315.1.c)(5) work cooperatively with the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration in promotion of the UMCOR Sunday offering;

Amend ¶ 1405.21 as follows:

¶ 1405.21. To promote, in cooperation with the Gen-

~~eral Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration, churchwide special Sundays and funds: Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and other funds and special days ordered by the General Conference.

Amend ¶ 1636 as follows:

¶ 1636. *Service of the Entire United Methodist Church*—There shall be one complete, coordinated system of literature published by the board for the entire United Methodist Church. This literature is to be of such type and variety as to meet the needs of all groups of our people. The publisher and such other staff as the board and president/CEO shall determine shall consult with the general program agencies, the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration, and the Connectional Table with regard to their publishing needs in order to avoid unnecessary overlapping and duplication.

Delete ¶¶ 1801-1808 in their entirety.

Amend ¶ 263 as follows:

¶ 263. Six churchwide special Sundays with offerings shall be celebrated in each United Methodist Church.

Purpose—General Conference shall determine the purpose of the churchwide offerings upon recommendation of the General Council on Finance and Administration, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table. The purpose of these offerings shall remain constant for the quadrennium, and the net receipts shall be distributed on ratio to the administering agencies by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration (see ¶ 824.7 and ¶ 805.6). The General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall promote these offerings in cooperation with the agencies responsible for the administration of these funds. (See ¶ 1806.12.) Each offering shall be promptly remitted in full by the local church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, who shall transmit the funds in full, except where noted differently below, to the General Council on Finance and Administration within thirty days of receipt in the office of the annual conference treasurer.

1. *Human Relations Day*—Historically, Human Relations Day has been celebrated with an offering on the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Congregations are to observe Human Relations Day on this date or another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God's light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in

relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations.

In connection with Human Relations Day the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall conduct a churchwide appeal. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be allocated on ratio by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration, to the administering agencies:

- a) *Community Developers Program*: 57 percent (General Board of Global Ministries);
- b) *United Methodist Voluntary Services Program*: 33 percent (General Board of Global Ministries) and;
- c) *Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program*: 10 percent (General Board of Church and Society).

2. *UMCOR Sunday*—Historically, UMCOR Sunday¹² has been celebrated with an offering on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Congregations are to observe UMCOR Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. Lent is the season of repentance, self-examination, and awareness of the hurts of the peoples of the world. UMCOR Sunday calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. In connection with UMCOR Sunday, the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, General Board of Global Ministries. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the General Board of Global Ministries.

3. *World Communion Sunday*—Historically, World Communion Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the first Sunday of October. Congregations are to observe World Communion Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. World Communion Sunday calls the church to be the catholic inclusive church. In connection with World Communion Sunday the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Each local church shall be requested to remit as provided in ¶ 823.8 all of the Communion offering received on World Communion Sunday and such portion of the Communion offering received at other observances of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper as the local church may designate.

Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be divided on ratio by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agencies:

- a) *World Communion Scholarships*: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries), with at least one half of the annual amount for ministries beyond the United States;
- b) *Ethnic Scholarship Program*: 35 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry); and
- c) *Ethnic In-Service Training Program*: 15 percent (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry).

4. *United Methodist Student Day*—Historically, United Methodist Student Day has been celebrated with an offering on the last Sunday in November. Congregations are to observe United Methodist Student Day on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The offering supports United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund. In connection with United Methodist Student Day, the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be remitted by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agency.

5. *Peace with Justice Sunday*—Historically, Peace with Justice Sunday has been celebrated with an offering on the First Sunday After Pentecost. Congregations are to observe Peace with Justice Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit calling for God's shalom. Peace with Justice witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world. In connection with Peace with Justice Sunday, the General ~~Commission on Communication~~ Council on Finance and Administration shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Church and Society.

a) The annual conference treasurer shall retain 50 percent of the receipts for Peace with Justice ministries in the annual conference, to be administered by the annual conference board of church and society or an equivalent structure.

b) The annual conference treasurer shall remit the remaining 50 percent of the receipts to the General Council on Finance and Administration. Net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, shall be distributed by the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration to the administering agency for Peace with Justice ministries.

6. *Native American Ministries Sunday*—Historically, Native American Ministries Sunday has been celebrated

with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. United States congregations are to observe Native American Ministries Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church. This Sunday serves to remind the church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. In connection with Native American Ministries Sunday, the ~~General Commission on Communication Council on Finance and Administration~~ shall conduct a churchwide appeal. The observance shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Amend ¶ 606.2 as follows:

¶ 606.2. Each annual conference shall send without charge to the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the General Commission on Archives and History, the Central Conference or Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and the Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History two printed copies or a digital version of its annual journal. In addition, the annual conference shall send one printed copy or a digital version of its annual journal to the Connectional Table ~~and one printed copy or a digital version to United Methodist Communications~~. If available, one copy of a digital version of the journal shall be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History and one copy to the General Council on Finance and Administration ~~United Methodist Communications~~.

Amend ¶ 609.a)(9) as follows:

¶ 609.a)(9) To provide the connectional relationship between the conference and the General Council on Finance and Administration ~~United Methodist Communications~~.

Amend ¶ 702.3 as follows:

¶ 702.3. Between sessions of the General Conference, the following general agencies are accountable to the Connectional Table for those functions that are outlined in the 900 ¶¶s: 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 the Status and Role of Women, the General Commission on Archives and History, and ~~the~~ General Commission on United Methodist Men, ~~and the General Commission on Communication~~ in matters pertaining to their program responsibilities.

Amend ¶ 703.6 as follows:

¶ 703.6. *Administrative General Agencies*—The general boards and commissions that have primarily administrative and service functions shall be designated as administrative general agencies. These agencies are the General

Board of Pension and Health Benefits, The United Methodist Publishing House, and the General Commission on Archives and History ~~and General Commission on Communication~~, the last two of which also ~~carry~~ carries program-related responsibilities for which ~~they are~~ it is accountable to the Connectional Table.

Amend ¶ 705.1 as follows:

¶ 705.1. *Nominations by Conferences*—a) Each annual and missionary conference in the United States, upon recommendation from a committee composed of the bishop and the general and jurisdictional conference delegation, and having allowed opportunity for nominations from the floor, shall elect persons to be submitted to a jurisdictional pool. The jurisdictional nominating committee shall select persons for election to the following general church bodies: Connectional Table; General Board of Church and Society; General Board of Discipleship; General Board of Global Ministries; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; General Board of Pension and Health Benefits; The United Methodist Publishing House; Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships; ~~General Commission on Communication~~; General Commission on Religion and Race; and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Jurisdictional conferences may decide that persons elected by the annual and missionary conferences in the United States for inclusion in the jurisdictional pool shall not serve as members of the jurisdictional nominating committee.

Amend ¶ 705.4.c) as follows:

¶ 705.4.c) *Central Conference Membership*—The total central conference membership, including central conference bishops, in general church bodies shall be allocated as follows: four members on the General Commission on Religion and Race; three each (one from each region: Philippines, Europe, Africa) on the General Commission on Archives and History, ~~the General Commission on Communication~~; the General Commission on United Methodist Men, and The United Methodist Publishing House; three each on the General Council on Finance and Administration; seven each (one from each central conference) on the Connectional Table, and the General Board of Church and Society; three on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; four (at least one from each region from the Philippines, Europe, and Africa) on the General Board of Discipleship and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women; and eleven on the General Board of Global Ministries, only two of whom shall be bishops. . . .

Amend ¶ 705.5.a) as follows:

¶ 705.5. *Other General Agencies*—a) Each jurisdictional conference shall elect members from the jurisdictional pool nominated by the annual and missionary

conferences in the United States (§ 705.1) in accordance with the specific membership provisions of those agencies as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*: General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§ 1502.1a), The United Methodist Publishing House (§ 1602), Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (§ 437), ~~General Commission on Communication (§ 1807)~~, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (§ 2104), and General Commission on Religion and Race (§ 2003).

Rationale:

The ministry of communication is critically important, but the independent structure and staff of UMCom is not. In a time when the church in the United States is shrinking and resources are tightening, this function must be relocated.