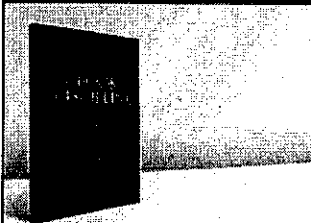


## What does an annual conference HAVE to do?



Requirements of the *Discipline*

### Purpose of an Annual Conference

- The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

• ¶ 601

### Powers & Duties

- The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the *Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, provided that in exercise of its powers, each annual conference shall act in all respects in harmony with the policy of The United Methodist Church with respect to elimination of discrimination.

• ¶ 604.1

### Required Agencies

- The annual conference is responsible for structuring its ministries and administrative procedures in order to accomplish its purpose (¶ 601), with the exception of the mandated provisions of ¶¶ 611, 635, 636, 637, 639, 640, 647, 648. In doing so it shall provide for the connectional relationship of the local church, district, and conference with the general agencies.

• ¶ 610

### Required Agencies

- ¶ 611: Council on Finance and Administration
- ¶ 635: Board of Ordained Ministry
- ¶ 636: Administrative Review Committee
- ¶ 637: Episcopacy Committee
- ¶ 639: Board of Pensions
- ¶ 640: Board of Trustees
- ¶ 647: United Methodist Women
- ¶ 648: United Methodist Men

### But also...

- In each annual conference there shall be a conference commission on archives and history. ¶ 641
- There shall be a committee on investigation [of a diaconal minister].... ¶ 2703.2
- There shall be a committee on investigation [of a clergy member].... ¶ 2703.2 of the 2008 *Discipline*, reinstated by Judicial Council Decision 1296

### Required People

- Secretary: ¶ 603.7
- Statistician: ¶ 603.7
- Chancellor: ¶ 603.8
- Lay Leader: ¶¶ 603.9, 607
- Director of Lay Servant Ministries: ¶ 607.8
- Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services: ¶ 619
- Secretary of Global Ministries: ¶ 633.3

### Flexibility of Design

• Annual conferences are permitted the flexibility to design conference and district structures in ways ... that place secondary any prescribed structure, except for the mandated entities in ¶ 610 above. In doing so, an annual conference shall provide for the functions and General Conference connections with all general agencies.... There shall be clear connections between the General Conference agencies, annual conference program and administrative entities, and the local congregations.

• ¶ 610.1

### But not too flexible...

• All boards, commissions and committees mandated by the *Discipline* shall be maintained, clearly identified and defined and the connectional relationship shall be clear and obvious. Any equivalent structure must be defined by name, function, connection and membership. An annual conference cannot vote to approve, disapprove or modify the *Discipline* in development of a plan of structure.

• Judicial Council Decision 1198

### “Or Equivalent Structure”

- Commission on Equitable Compensation: ¶ 625.1
- Board of Church & Society: ¶ 629.1
- Board of Discipleship: ¶ 630
- Board of Laity: ¶ 631.1
- Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns: ¶ 632.1
- Board of Global Ministries: ¶ 633.1
- Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry: ¶ 634.1
- Episcopal Residence Committee: ¶ 638.2

### “Or Equivalent Structure”

- Structure for Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns: ¶ 642.1
- Commission on Religion & Race: ¶ 643.1
- Commission on the Status & Role of Women: ¶ 644
- Commission on the Small Membership Church: ¶ 645
- Commission on Communications: ¶ 646
- Council on Youth Ministries: ¶ 649.1
- Council on Young Adult Ministry: ¶ 650
- Committee on Disability Concerns: ¶ 653
- Committee on Native American Ministry: ¶ 654

### “Or Equivalent Structure”?

• In each annual conference there shall be a conference council on finance and administration ... or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain connectional relationships.

• ¶ 611

**“Or Designated Person”**

- There shall be in each annual conference or episcopal area a director of communications or designated person to focus and guide the communications ministry of The United Methodist Church within the annual conference or episcopal area.

• ¶ 609

**Checks & Balances**

- There shall be clear checks and balances regarding program functions and financial/administrative functions within the annual conference.

• ¶ 610.1.b

**General Conference  
Petitions From the  
Association of Annual  
Conference Lay Leaders**

**Proposed Constitutional  
Amendment**

- Add the following to ¶ 33: Except when the General Conference shall prescribe specific features of its organization and structure, each annual conference, as the basic body of the Church, shall have authority to organize and structure itself as it shall determine.

**Petition on Permissiveness in  
Annual Conference Structure**

- Director of Communications or designated person would be optional.
- Clear connections between general agencies, conference agencies, and local churches would be optional.
- That the Council on Finance & Administration could be replaced by an equivalent structure would be made more explicit.

**The following would become optional:**

- Board of Church & Society
- Board of Discipleship
- Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns
- Board of Global Ministries
- Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministry
- Commission on Archives & History
- Structure for Christian Unity & Interreligious Relationships
- Commission on Religion & Race
- Commission on the Status & Role of Women
- Commission on the Small Membership Church