



Secretary of the General Conference
The United Methodist Church



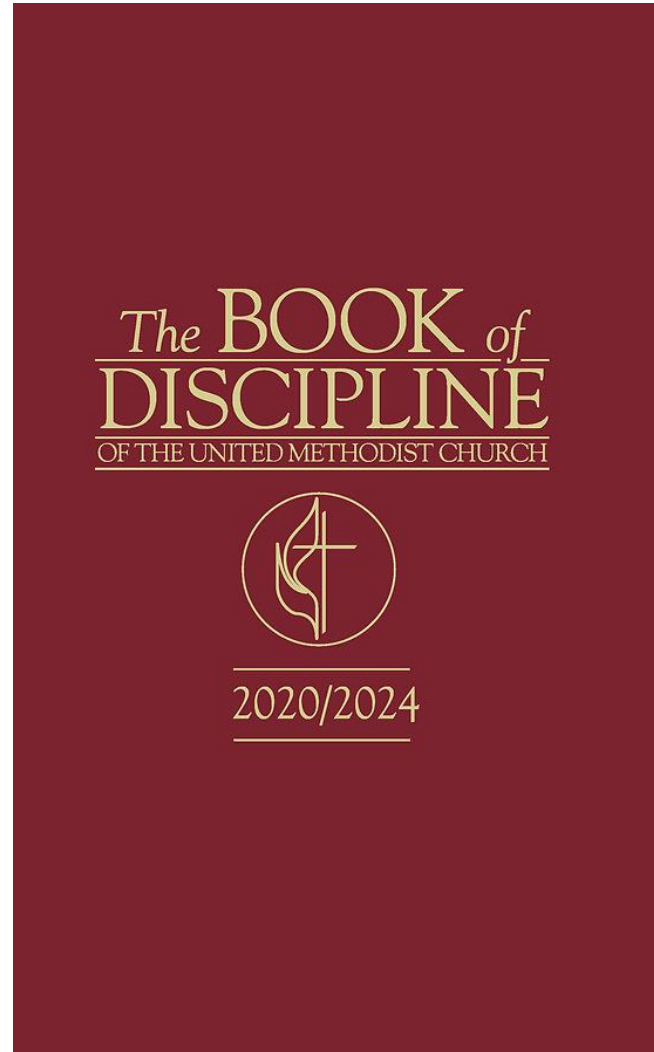
QUADRENNIAL TRAINING 2025

Annual Conference Secretary Track

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Session 1: Book of Discipline Review and General Conference Changes

2020/2024 Book of Discipline



Redline of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline



What Were the Significant Changes



603.4 The annual conference sessions shall be held in places that are accessible to people with disabilities and that, when possible, have sustainable practices for energy, waste, and consumption.

613.19 To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any group, or otherwise use such funds, to reject any LGBTQIA+ person or openly discriminate against LGBTQIA+ people, in order to follow to commitment of The UMC “not to reject or condemn lesbian or gay members and friends”(¶161.G), and to honor our commitment to the inclusion of all people in the life of the church “that enables all persons to participate in the life of the church, the community, and the world” (¶140). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. Funding shall not be provided for dialogs or educational events where rejection of LGBTQIA+ persons is promoted.

What Were the Significant Changes



625 . ~~624~~5. *Equitable Compensation*—1. There shall be in each annual conference a commission on equitable compensation ~~or other structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationships~~. It shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergypersons, including at least one layperson and one clergyperson from churches of fewer than two hundred members, who are nominated by the conference nominating committee and elected by and amenable to the annual conference. It is recommended that in selection of commission members, consideration shall be given to inclusiveness. ~~The chair of the commission shall alternate between lay and clergy or be shared by such.~~ In addition, one district superintendent named by the cabinet shall be a nonvoting member. Members of the executive committee of the National Association of Commissions on Equitable Compensation shall be *ex officio* members of their respective annual conference's commission.

2. It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference. The commission on equitable compensation shall meet at least twice a year for the purpose of: ~~by:~~ (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; ~~and~~ (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference; ~~and~~ (e) recommending the amount needed to fund the Equitable Compensation Fund as described and secured in ¶¶ 614.1e and 625.7....

What Were the Significant Changes



627 *Compensation for Extension Ministries*—Every clergy member of an annual conference appointed to extension ministry shall furnish annually to the conference secretary at such time as the secretary shall direct a statement of his or her total compensation (including base compensation, travel, automobile, housing, and other expenses allowed and paid) for the year then ending, and said compensation of all clergy appointed to ~~extension ministry shall be published in the journal of the annual conference~~.⁸² When this information is not furnished, the appointment

What Were the Significant Changes



- 628 . *Conference Board of Church and Society*—1. The annual conference shall organize a board of church and society or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry and maintain the connectional relationship between the General Board of Church and Society and the conference, district, and local church, as well as for church and society responsibilities related to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of Church and Society as set forth in ¶¶ 1002- 1004.
2. The conference board of church and society or equivalent structure shall be composed of those persons as determined by the annual conference, including, by virtue of their offices, the mission coordinator for social action of the conference United Methodist Women and members of the General Board of Church and Society from the annual conference who shall serve within limits set by ¶¶ 610.6 and 710.6. The conference board of church and society or equivalent structure shall **also name a conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator who will be responsible for helping the conference develop programs to become more ecologically sustainable and to address environmental injustices and shall** name a conference Peace with Justice Coordinator who will be responsible for administering the conference Peace with Justice Special Sunday Offering receipts and for coordinating peace and justice ministries. Guidelines for inclusiveness in the membership shall be followed (¶ 610.5).

What Were the Significant Changes



635 . *Conference Administrative Review Committee*—There will be an administrative review committee composed of three clergy in full connection and two alternates who are not members of the cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry, or immediate family members of the above. The committee shall be nominated by the bishop and elected quadrennially by the clergy session of members in full connection with the annual conference. Its only purpose shall be to ensure that the disciplinary procedures for discontinuance of provisional membership (§ 327.6), involuntary leave of absence (§ 354), involuntary retirement (§ 357.3), ~~or~~ administrative location (§ 359), **or a resolution process (§ 362.6)** are properly followed. Additionally, if in the event of unresolved issues related to medical leave (§ 356.4) a fair process hearing (§ 361.2) occurs, the administrative review committee shall ensure that fair process was followed.

The entire administrative process leading to the action for change in conference relationship, **or any just resolution process**, shall be reviewed by the administrative review committee, and it shall report its findings to the clergy session of members in full connection with the annual conference prior to any action of the annual conference. The administrative review committee shall notify the parties of the review of the process. The administrative fair process hearing procedures (§ 361.2) should be followed by the administrative review committee. Prior to its report, if the committee determines that any error has occurred, it may recommend to the appropriate person or body that action be taken promptly to remedy the error, decide the error is harmless, or take other action ⁸⁸

2020/2024 BOD Changes

Purchase or Secure an
updated Book of
Discipline and Book of
Resolutions

www.cokesbury.com

Check your
Conference Rules to
ensure they reflect
any updated BOD
paragraphs

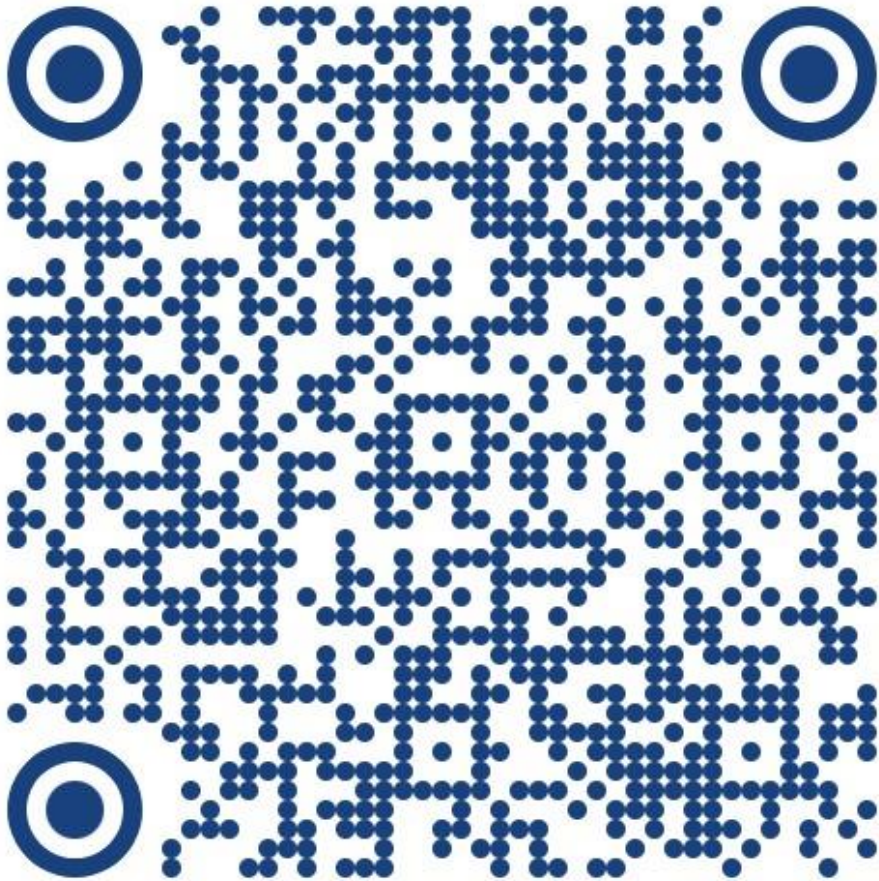
Familiarize yourself
with the necessary
paragraphs for your
duties at Annual
Conference Session

There is a network,
you are not doing this
alone!

2020/2024 General Conference

Constitutional Amendments

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Can also be found at:
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/constitutional-educational-materials>

Constitutional Amendments

Ratification Process



The information below should be shared when convening the voting process for ratification:

- Be sure to reference Paragraph 602, of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline, as it relates to who is eligible to vote on constitutional amendments.
- Be sure to state Paragraph 60, Article 1, of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline states, *“Amendments to the Constitution shall be made upon a two-thirds majority of the General Conference present and voting and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members of the several annual conferences present and voting...”*
- Be sure to provide the pertinent information related to each ballot item, which is representative of the action(s) of the 2020/2024 General Conference: citing the Calendar Item, the General Conference vote outcomes, and date.

Constitutional Amendments Ratification Process

- Be sure to remind the body that the proposed constitutional amendments may be debated but may not be amended. The proposed constitutional amendments are based on the action(s) of the General Conference, and changes by annual conferences will alter the decisions of the General Conference, which is out of order and a violation of the process.
- Please note, these items will be handled as four (4) separate ballots/votes.
 - o The means an annual conference decides to gather the votes is at the discretion of each annual conference (examples include paper ballots, electronically, hand vote, etc.), but there should be strong consideration for equity, accessibility, and an accurate count.
 - o The number of persons voting “yes” and the number of persons voting “no” must be recorded and submitted on an official certification of action.
 - o Once the vote concludes, DO NOT report the results; simply share the total number of people who voted [example: we certify there were 800 votes counted, thank you].

Constitutional Amendments Ratification Process



- The Official Certification of Action must be completed, no later than seven (7) business days from the conclusion of the annual conference session.
- The Official Certification of Action **MUST** be completed and signed by **BOTH** the Presiding Bishop and Annual Conference Secretary to be considered valid.
- The Official Certification of Action must be sent via email to **BOTH** people as detailed below no later than seven (7) business days from the conclusion of the annual conference session:

The Council of Bishops
Executive Secretary
ExecutiveSecretary@umc-cob.org
110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20002

The Office of the General Conference
Secretary of the General Conference
secretary@umcgc.org
PO Box 340029
Nashville, TN 37203-0029

What questions do you have?



How to Reach the Office of the General Conference



W E B S I T E
WWW.UMCGC.ORG



E M A I L
GCOFFICE@UMCGC.ORG

OR
SECRETARY@UMCGC.ORG



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