



DATA-DRIVEN DISCERNMENT

CHARTING HOPE AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

Strengthening the Episcopal Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Sometimes I hear Bishops and Episcopal Areas used interchangeably. Are they the same?** They are not. An Episcopal Area is a boundary set by the Jurisdictional or Central Conference. A Bishop is a clergy member elected to the Episcopacy, who serves in a specific Episcopal Area. Occasionally, Bishops are also asked to serve as interim in additional Episcopal Area. Currently, we have 58 active Bishops and two retired Bishops functioning as interims, serving the 66 Episcopal Areas.
- 2. The video states there would be a deficit in the Episcopal Fund in 2026 if we elect Bishops to all 71 episcopal areas. I thought there were fewer Episcopal Areas?** Currently, there are 66 Episcopal Areas. In 2016, General Conference approved 5 additional areas in Africa, but further action is needed by the 2020 General Conference to establish the Episcopal Area boundaries on that measure, which will bring the total to 71, the amount that GCFA must budget for.
- 3. So, how many Bishops do we have currently and where?** In the Jurisdictional Conferences, there are 39 active Bishops, plus one interim (46 Bishops have been approved by the last General Conference). In the Central Conferences, there are 19 active Bishops, plus one interim. There are a total of 58 active Bishops, and two interims, for a total of 60 (66 approved by the last General Conference).
- 4. Will regionalization affect the number of Episcopal Areas?** Adoption and ratification of a “regionalization” plan could ultimately impact how many total episcopal areas are authorized, but it would be several years before any such change could be effectuated and would not be known when the 2025-2028 budget is adopted by the General Conference.
- 5. Who decides the number of Episcopal Areas?** General Conference decides the *maximum* number of episcopal areas, but each Jurisdiction and Central Conference area can decide how many Bishops to elect, up to that maximum.
- 6. Who approves the financing and disbursements of the Episcopal Fund?** General Conference approves an overall budget for the denomination, including the allocation to the Episcopal Fund. GCFA has latitude to set salaries and housing and office allowances.

