

A large conference hall filled with people seated at round tables, facing a stage with large screens. The text "General Conference" is overlaid in white outline font, with a red horizontal line underneath. The background shows a stage with large screens displaying a religious scene, and a large audience seated at round tables with yellow name tags.

# General Conference

NAACT + UMITA | 2023

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# Powers and Duties

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**¶16** *The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional...*



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# Powers and Duties

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- **¶33** ...*[The Annual Conference] shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.*



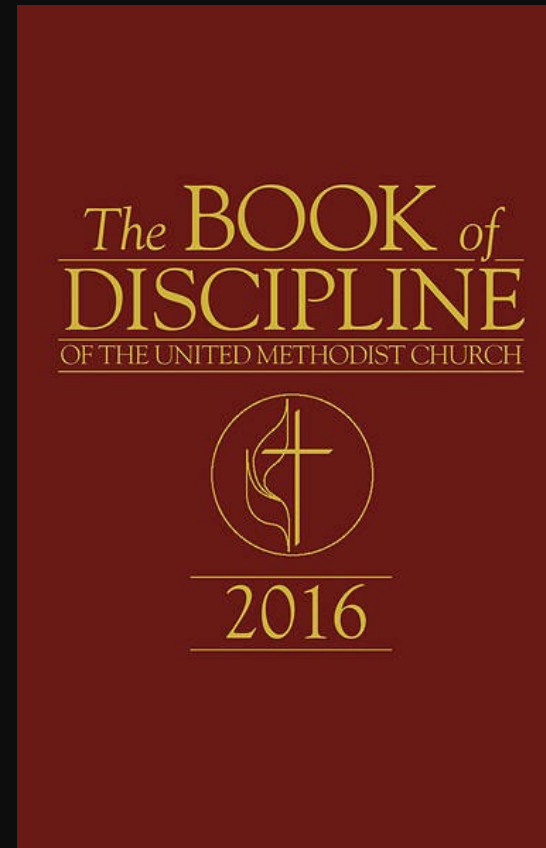
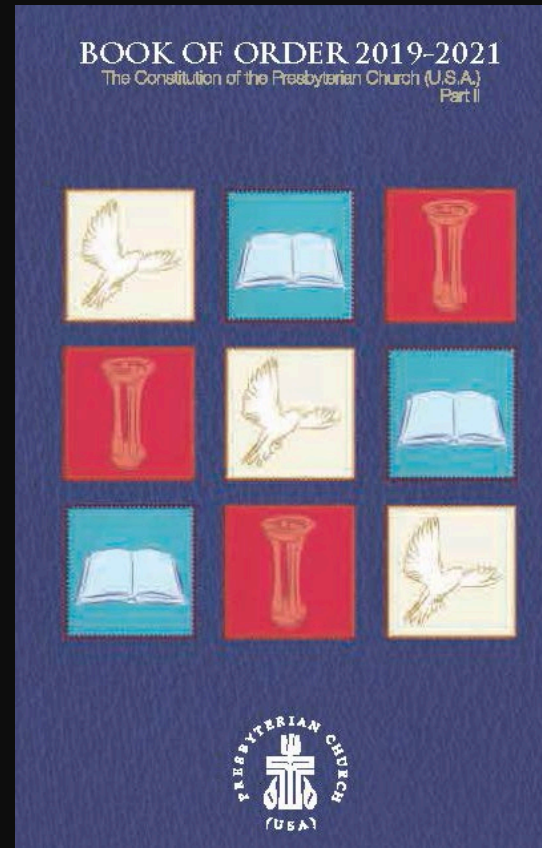
- Enact changes to the Book of Discipline

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# Powers and Duties

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# Bigger & Badder



# Bigger & Badder

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PCUSA

79,834

UMC

331,822

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# Powers and Duties

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- Enact changes to the Book of Discipline
- Determine number of bishops
- Approve the general funds apportionments and allocations
- Approve constitutional amendments for ratification by annual conferences
- Control the weather



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# The Legislative Process

The legislative process begins with the submission of proposals.

Anyone, including individual members and church organizations, can submit legislation.





# The Legislative Process

Legislation is assigned to specific legislative committees that review, discuss, and potentially amend the legislation.

Committees report their recommendations to the entire General Conference.



# The Legislative Process

Delegates approve or reject most legislation en masse. A few proposals are debated on the plenary floor.

Most legislation will never be discussed in plenary.



# The Legislative Process

All approved legislation is then compiled, correlated, reviewed, and edited into a new Book of Discipline.

GCFA and Wespath provide detailed guidance and analysis on changes that effect our work.



# The Judicial Council

All legislation, proposed and approved, is subject to review by the Judicial Council



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# The Big Debates for GC24

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# Human Sexuality Debate

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- Ordination standards
- Marriage
- Rights of churches to decide on these matters
- The future of disaffiliation & the Trust Clause

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# Regional Autonomy Debate

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- Rights and responsibilities of US church to govern its own affairs
- Powers and duties of regional conferences
- US as single or multiple region(s)



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# Finance & Admin. Debate

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- New US pension plan
- Wespath's investment strategy and services
- The Budget
  - The Base Percentage
  - # of Bishops
  - General agency allocations





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# Finance & Admin. Debate

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	Pre Disaffiliation	Post Disaffiliation
Net Local Church Expenditures	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Current Base Pct. <b>3.28%</b>	329,000	263,200
Original Proposed <b>2.70%</b>	270,000	216,000
New Proposed <b>2.54%</b>	254,000	203,200

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# Polity & Policy Debate

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- GC2026, 2028, or both?
- Global Book of Discipline
- *The Connection* proposal
- Agency restructuring

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# What Can We Do?

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- Educate
- Organize
- Communicate
- Advocate



Thank You!