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Suggested Title: Modified Traditional Plan – Global Episcopacy Committee

*Discipline* Paragraph or *Resolution* Number, if applicable: *Discipline* ¶¶ 512, 404.2b

General Church Budget Implications: Yes – Meeting expenses for 2021-24 Quadrennial Budget

Global Implications: Yes

Amend ¶ 512 to make the Global Episcopacy Committee responsible for accountability to the provisions of this plan by bishops and annual conferences.

¶ 512. ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on~~ Global Episcopacy Committee—1. There shall be an ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy~~ a Global Episcopacy Committee elected by the General Conference consisting of one of the persons (designated by each delegation) nominated by their annual conference delegations to serve on the several jurisdictional or central conference committees on episcopacy. The committee shall meet not later than the fifth day of the conference session and at the time and place set for their convening by the president of the Council of Bishops and shall elect from their number a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The functions of this joint committee shall be:

a. To discuss the possibility of transfers of bishops across jurisdictional or central conference lines at the forthcoming jurisdictional or central conferences for residential and presidential responsibilities in the ensuing quadrennium;

b. To administer by its executive committee the complaint process for any complaints filed against bishops who are alleged to have not fulfilled their commitment under ¶ 2801.7a or who are alleged to have committed one of the chargeable offenses under ¶ 2702.1a-b. The executive committee shall use the process of ¶¶ 413 and 2704.1, but substitute for the president and secretary of the relevant college of bishops. Any supervisory response shall be administered by two elders who are members of the executive committee as chosen by the committee, and who are not appointed to serve in the jurisdiction or central conference where the respondent bishop is serving. A majority vote of the executive committee shall be required to dismiss a complaint as having no basis in law or fact, to refer a

matter as an administrative complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, to refer a matter to a counsel for the church as a judicial complaint, or to request the Council Relations Committee of the Council of Bishops to place a bishop on involuntary leave or involuntary retirement. The provisions of this sub-paragraph take precedence over any conflicting provisions in the *Discipline* not contained in the Constitution and are to be administered consistently with ¶ 2801.7.

c. To investigate allegations that an annual conference has not fulfilled its commitment under ¶ 2801.1a and by majority vote mandate remedial action or place the annual conference on the list of ¶ 2801.3. Any such action by the Global Episcopacy Committee may be appealed to the Judicial Council at its next scheduled session by the affected annual conference. Any sanctions imposed under ¶ 2801.4 shall take effect six months after the Global Episcopacy Committee acts or after an appeal is heard, whichever is later.

d. To monitor the changing landscape of annual conferences and bring recommendation to General Conference related to reorganization of the jurisdictional or central conferences that may be warranted based on the effects of annual conferences leaving the connection. Any recommendation for reconfiguring a central conference must also be considered by the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

e. and To review on the basis of missional needs an application from a jurisdiction which, by number of its church members as provided in ¶ 404, would experience a reduction in the number of its bishops, and recommend the number of bishops to which that jurisdiction should be entitled to the General Conference for determination by the General Conference. This provision regarding missional needs is enabling, and it is not constraining on the power of General Conference to act in the absence of a recommendation from the committee.

It shall elect an executive committee consisting of the officers named above and ~~two clergy and two laypersons from the nominees to each jurisdictional committee, elected by that committee to conduct consultations with bishops and others interested in possible episcopal transfers. One of the persons elected from each jurisdiction shall be the chairperson, or the chairperson's designee, of the~~ each jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy. The executive committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson, and it shall have plenary power for the full committee between full committee sessions. It shall be responsible to the ~~interjurisdictional~~ Global committee, and in fulfillment of that responsibility and in the interest of continuity of the work of the committee, the outgoing chairperson, or the chairperson's designee, shall present a report to the newly seated committee on the previous quadrennium's work as well as recommendations on what the coming quadrennium's work might include.

The Global Committee or its executive committee may meet for any of its functions via video or phone conference or other electronic means.

A record of the proceedings of the committee shall be kept by the Office of Episcopal Services of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

2. A bishop may be transferred across jurisdictional or central conference lines only when that bishop has consented to such transfer and has served at least one quadrennium in or under assignment by the jurisdiction or central conference in which the bishop was elected. Such a transfer shall be concluded when the committee on episcopacy of each jurisdiction or central conference involved has approved the transfer(s) by a majority vote of those present and voting, insofar as the transfer(s) affects those jurisdictions or central conferences. (See ¶ 49, Article V.)

3. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on~~ Global Episcopacy Committee shall be recognized as the official body through which cross-jurisdictional or cross-central conference transfers shall be arranged. Should a bishop request transfer, the bishop has the option to identify the receiving jurisdiction or

central conference. A jurisdiction or central conference may request that a specific bishop be transferred or may indicate a willingness to accept a bishop transferring from another jurisdiction or central conference. Request for transfer from either a bishop or jurisdictional or central conference committees on episcopacy shall be received by the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Global Episcopacy ~~Committee~~ by April 1 of the year preceding the year of jurisdictional or central conference conferences. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Global Episcopacy ~~Committee~~ will arrange consultation between bishop(s) requesting transfer and the appropriate jurisdictional or central conference committee(s) on episcopacy by January 1 of the year of jurisdictional or central conference conference(s). Once the jurisdictional or central conference committee(s) on episcopacy has taken action, jurisdictional or central conference secretaries shall inform the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Global Episcopacy ~~Committee~~ not later than ~~August 1~~ two weeks following jurisdictional or central conference conferences.

4. The ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Global Episcopacy ~~Committee~~ will report to each General Conference the action taken during the previous quadrennium.

Amend ¶ 404.2b to change the name “Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy” to “Global Episcopacy Committee.”

404.2b) If the number of church members in a jurisdiction shall have decreased by at least 10 percent below the number of church members which had previously entitled the jurisdiction to its number of bishops, then the number of bishops to which it shall be entitled shall be determined on the basis of missional needs, as approved by the General Conference on the recommendation of the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Global Episcopacy ~~Committee~~, provided however that said jurisdiction shall be entitled to no less than the number of bishops to which it would be entitled under

subparagraph a) above. It shall be the responsibility of the affected jurisdiction, through its Committee on Episcopacy, to request consideration of its missional need for an exception, and in the absence of such a request, there shall be no obligation on the part of the ~~Interjurisdictional Committee on Global~~ Episcopacy Committee to consider such an exception nor to make any report on such an exception to General Conference. In no case shall there be any constraint on General Conference's power to act in the absence of such a recommendation or to reject any recommendation that might be received.

Date: 7/5/18

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