

A Resolution Endorsing the Recommendations of the Accountable Discipleship Task Force

Whereas this body, the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 2019 Global Legislative Assembly, authorized the formation of an Accountable Discipleship Task Force to identify, develop and deploy effective models for disciple making as an integral part of the ministry of local churches and communicating the necessity of every Christ follower embracing the call to be disciples and to be makers of disciples;

Whereas the Accountable Discipleship Task Force has delivered its final report to the WCA's Global Council which received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA's 2021 Global Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for study and further development, endorses the following recommendations, directs the WCA staff to advocate in support of such recommendations, and encourages the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church to implement such recommendations:

1. That the Global Methodist Church adopt a clear definition of discipleship with an emphasis on justification by faith and on the goal of entire sanctification. We recommend this definition be codified in *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. We have provided a working definition at the beginning of this report for review by the WCA Council, the Transitional Leadership Council, and the convening conference of the Global Methodist Church.
2. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop an official catechism and catechetical resources to be used by new member classes in local churches, confirmation classes, and in other settings in order to provide people with the theological and practical groundwork for participation in accountable discipleship groups. We recommend that churches entering into the Global Methodist Church also use these catechetical resources in classes and groups with existing members so that all new and existing members of the denomination begin with a common theological grounding.
3. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop and endorse resources for accountable discipleship groups that provide instruction and immersion in the content of the life of discipleship as well as resources for training and equipping leaders of accountable discipleship small groups.
4. That local churches provide opportunities for disciple development in each space of church life (public, social, private, intimate) with an emphasis on moving people toward personal and intimate space in accountable discipleship small groups. Each church is to be held to such a requirement by its presiding elder at the annual charge conference.
5. That the Global Methodist Church adopt participation in an accountable discipleship small group as a basic expectation for membership in the local church and that local churches deploy a phased implementation process as the means of integrating church

membership and accountable discipleship, ultimately requiring participation in an accountable discipleship group for new members and as a prerequisite to serving as a leader in the local church with appropriate accommodation for those who face physical or mental challenges to participate in accountable discipleship groups. This Assembly encourages the Global Methodist Church's Council on Discipleship and Just Ministry to develop training and resources to include persons of all physical and mental capacities.

6. That seminaries approved by the Global Methodist Church, and Courses of Study offered under the auspices of the Global Methodist Church, provide students working toward ordination with coursework, training, and experience in participating in, leading, and developing accountable discipleship groups, including both class meeting groups (personal space) and band meeting groups (intimate space). We also recommend that clergy entering into the Global Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church and other denominations be trained and participate in accountable discipleship groups within the first year of clergy membership in the new denomination.
7. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop an online network where annual conferences and local churches can share best practices as well as designating "teaching churches" around the denomination that are effective in accountable discipleship as models from which local churches might learn and be equipped in developing their own accountable discipleship groups.
8. That new church starts in the Global Methodist Church begin with accountable discipleship groups as an essential requirement for new and charter members.

