

Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters General Book of Discipline – new Part VI, draft 2020

Overview of structuring of sections in chapters 1-7

Chapter One

The Local Church

- Section I. The Church and Pastoral Charge (¶¶ 201ff)*
- Section II. Church Membership (¶¶ 206ff)*
- Section III. Care of Members (¶¶ 219ff)*
- Section IV. Organization of the Local Church (¶¶ 225ff)*
- Section V. The Charge Conference (¶¶ 228ff)*
- Section VI. The Church Council (¶¶ 234ff)*

Chapter Two

The Ministry of the Ordained

- Section I. The Meaning of Ordination and Conference Membership (¶¶ 301ff)*
- Section II. Candidacy for Licensed and Ordained Ministry (¶¶ 309ff)*
- Section III. License for Pastoral Ministry (¶¶ 312ff)*
- Section IV. Associate Membership (¶¶ 317ff)*
- Section V. Provisional Membership (¶¶ 320ff)*
- Section VI. The Order of the Deacon (¶¶ 326ff)*
- Section VII. The Order of the Elder (¶¶ 329ff)*
- Section VIII. Clergy From Other Annual Conferences, Other Methodist and Christian Denominations (¶¶ 336f)*
- Section IX. Mentoring, Evaluation, Continuing Education, and Sabbatical Leave (¶¶ 338ff)*
- Section X. Changes of Conference Relationship (¶¶ 342ff)*
- Section XI. Administrative Fair Process and Complaint Procedure (¶¶ 352f)*

Chapter Three

The Superintendency

- Section I. The Nature of Superintendency (¶¶ 401)*
- Section II. The Council of Bishops and the Role of a Bishop (¶¶ 402f)*
- Section III. The Responsibilities of a Bishop (¶¶ 404ff)*
- Section IV. Election, Assignment, and Termination of Bishops (¶¶ 407ff)*
- Section V. Cabinet and District Superintendency (¶¶ 415ff)*
- Section VI. Ecumenical Relationships (¶¶ 418ff)*
- Section VII. Committee on Faith and Order (¶¶ 423f)*

Chapter Four

The Ministry of the Ordained

In Chapter 4, each level of conference is presented in a consistent structuring:

- 5X1. Purpose
- 5X2. Powers and Duties (General Conference: only “Powers”)
- 5X3. Membership
- 5X4. Conference session
- 5X5. Records & Archives
- 5X6. Conference Agencies

5X7. Properties

According to this unifying structure, existing elements were reordered, and where needed and useful (e.g. a purpose statement for each conference level) added. Because Jurisdictional Conferences only exist in the US, the content has been moved into the new Part VII, but the unifying structuring has been used also within the new Part VII.

- Section I. The General Conference* (§§ 501-507)
- Section II. Jurisdictional Conferences* (§§ 508-509)
- Section III. Central Conferences* (§§ 511-517)
- Section IV. Provisional Central Conferences* (§§ 521-527)
- Section V. Annual Conferences* (§§ 531-539)
- Section VI. Provisional Annual Conferences* (§§ 541-547)
- Section VII. District Conferences* (§§ 551)
- Section VIII. Missions* (§§ 561-564)
- Section IX. Joining The United Methodist Church* (§§ 571)

Chapter Five Administrative Order

For Chapter 5, the Standing Committee presents some samples of its ongoing work. The core values for the revision work are:

- Alignment (with the mission);
- Global (in scope);
- Simplification (of the various elements);
- Focus (on the specifics);
- Creativity (of the ministries);
- Relevance (to the context);
- Consistency (of the format).

The main focus of these samples is: not “how” an agency should work, but “why” the work of an agency is essential to creating a Methodist ethos and presence in diverse settings across the world. Therefore, the ongoing work on chapter 5 is developing the following minimum description for each section:

- XX1. Provision (with scriptural / theological / Wesleyan grounding);
- XX2. Purpose / mission;
- XX3. Goals / strategies;
- XX4. Amenability and Accountability.

Additional elements (e.g. membership; organizational, or legal, etc.) will be needed for a finalized draft. They may be contained in GC-R paragraphs (*General Conference-Regulations*) within this new Part VI, or may be moved to the new Part VII (*Additional Organization and Administration*).

The provisional structuring of sections is as follows:

- Section I. General Provisions* (§§ 701ff)
- Section II. Programmatic Ministries I – General Board of Church and Society* (§§ 711ff)
- Section III. Programmatic Ministries II – General Board of Discipleship* (§§ 721ff)
- Section IV. Programmatic Ministries III – General Board of Global Ministries* (§§ 731ff)
- Section V. Programmatic Ministries IV – General Board of Higher Education and Ministry* (§§ 741ff)
- Section VI. Focused Ministries I – Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters* (§§ 801ff)
- Section VII. Focused Ministries II – Ministries with Young People* (§§ 811ff)
- Section VIII. Focused Ministries III – United Methodist Women* (§§ 821ff)

- Section IX. Focused Ministries IV – United Methodist Men (¶¶ 831ff)*
- Section X. Focused Ministries V – General Commission on Religion and Race (¶¶ 841ff)*
- Section XI. Focused Ministries VI – General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (¶¶ 851ff)*
- Section XII. Focused Ministries VII – Just Peace (¶¶ 861ff)*
- Section XIII. Organizational Ministries I – General Commission on Archives and History (¶¶ 901ff)*
- Section XIV. Organizational Ministries II – General Commission on Communication (¶¶ 911ff)*
- Section XV. Organizational Ministries III – General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath) (¶¶ 921ff)*
- Section XVI. Organizational Ministries IV – The United Publishing House (¶¶ 931ff)*
- Section XVII. Organizational Ministries V – Connectional Table (¶¶ 941ff)*
- Section XVIII. Organizational Ministries VI – General Council on Finance and Administration (¶¶ 951ff)*

Chapter Six Church Property

- Section I. All Titles In Trust (¶¶)*
- Section II. Compliance With Law (¶¶)*
- Section III. General Provisions for Church Officers (¶¶)*
- Section IV. Annual Conference, District, Local Church and General Agency Property (¶¶)*

Chapter Seven Judicial Administration

- Section I. The Judicial Council (¶¶)*
- Section II. Fair Process in Judicial Proceedings (¶¶)*
- Section III. Procedures for Referral and Investigation of a Judicial Complaint (¶¶)*
- Section IV. Trials (¶¶)*
- Section V. Appeals (¶¶)*