



# Restore & Release Plan

## Legislation Aimed at Restoring Order in the UMC and Creating a Progressive Affiliate Jurisdiction

Version 1.1

Updated January 23, 2015

### Introduction:

In the spirit of continued commitment to amicable unity in The United Methodist Church, this proposal is offered for a nation-wide Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction (APJ) to stand alongside the five standard geographic jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church. Annual conferences of The United Methodist Church would be allowed to enter the APJ without penalty and pursue, within limits, standards that not allowed under *The Book of Discipline*. Individual churches and clergy would have the opportunity to dissent from the jurisdictional affiliation of their annual conference and either stay in their standard jurisdiction as part of another conference or enter the progressive jurisdiction. While remaining United Methodist, the APJ would have a distinctive logo and would be granted somewhat limited vote at General Conference and customized representation on general agencies.

Along with measures to create the new Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction, you will find in this “six jurisdiction proposal” some measures to restore order in The United Methodist Church. These include the conditional discontinuation of a bishop who defied established church teaching, the creation of a General Commission on Episcopal Accountability, and the establishment of minimum sentences for clergy performing same sex weddings.

The Restore and Release Plan envisions a traditionalist coalition passing the measures aimed at restoring order to the UMC and a broader coalition, including Progressives, who would join in the constitutional and other provisions needed to create the APJ. The “restore” elements are crucial to the



1 unity of the UMC because they provide impetus for conferences to take seriously the invitation to join  
2 the APJ if they cannot abide by the rules contained in our covenant.

### 3 MEASURES TO CREATE A

## 4 PROGRESSIVE AFFILIATE JURISDICTION

### 5 TWO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

6 The following constitutional changes require a 2/3 General Conference majority vote and ratification by  
7 2/3 majority vote of the aggregate members of the annual conferences.

#### 8 **Amendment #1: Allow for a Jurisdiction Based on Something Other** 9 **Than Geography.**

##### 10 **Division Two, Section One, Article II (¶ 9)**

11 “There shall be jurisdictional conferences for the Church in the United States of  
12 America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided  
13 that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional or central  
14 conference based on ~~any ground other than geographical and regional division~~ race or  
15 ethnicity.”

16 **Rationale:** *The original language was enacted to drive a nail in the coffin of the*  
17 *racial segregation that was behind the creation of the Central Jurisdiction of The*  
18 *Methodist Church. The amendment removes the general language which*  
19 *prohibited non-geographic jurisdictions and inserts more specific language that*  
20 *continues the constitutional assurance that jurisdictions will not be used as a*  
21 *tool for racial segregation.*



1 **Amendment #2: Allow for the Creation of an Affiliate Progressive**  
2 **Jurisdiction Empowered to Adapt the *Book of Discipline*.**

3 **Division Two, Section VII, Article 1 (¶137)**  
4

5 "The United Methodist Church shall have *jurisdictional conferences made up as follows:*  
6 *Northeastern—Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland,*  
7 *Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont,*  
8 *the Virgin Islands, West Virginia.*

9 *Southeastern—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South*  
10 *Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.*

11 *North Central—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South*  
12 *Dakota, Wisconsin.*

13 *South Central—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico,*  
14 *Oklahoma, Texas.*

15 *Western—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada,*  
16 *Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and the territory of the United States in the Pacific*  
17 *region.*

18 There shall also be an Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction for those annual conferences in  
19 The United States whose majority supports a flexible interpretation of our doctrinal standards  
20 and a progressive understanding of marriage and human sexuality. Annual conferences may  
21 enter the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction by the process elsewhere determined by General  
22 Conference.

23 This Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction shall be empowered to make such changes and  
24 adaptations of the General Discipline as the jurisdiction chooses, subject to such powers that  
25 have been or shall be vested in the General Conference. The Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction  
26 may appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising on the rules, regulations, and  
27 such revised, adapted, or new sections of the affiliate jurisdictional Conference Discipline  
28 enacted by the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction. *The Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction shall be*  
29 *entitled to the same ratio of representation at General Conferences as other jurisdictions, but*  
30 *delegates from the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction shall not vote on matters not binding upon*  
31 *their jurisdiction.* Enabling legislation passed by General Conference to implement this  
32 amendment shall become effective and begin to be implemented when the Council of Bishops  
33 shall certify the amendment's ratification. The jurisdictional realignments needed to implement  
34 this paragraph shall not be subject to the consent of the annual conferences required in the  
35 provisions of ¶¶16.12 and 39. Notwithstanding other constitutional provisions, the Affiliate



1 Progressive Jurisdiction shall be responsible for funding its own programs and episcopal  
 2 expenses.

3  
 4 ***Rationale:*** *This amendment allows for the creation of an Affiliate Progressive*  
 5 *Jurisdiction that has the same power to adapt our Book of Discipline as our Central*  
 6 *Conferences now enjoy. In exchange, delegates to General Conference by the APJ are*  
 7 *not allowed to vote on those sections of the Book of Discipline which they are otherwise*  
 8 *free to adapt. The APJ may elect a court to decide questions of law about their*  
 9 *jurisdictional Discipline.*

10  
 11 **NON-CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

12 **Change #1: Give the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction the Same**  
 13 **Flexibility as Central Conferences and Extend this Flexibility to**  
 14 **include the Body of the Social Principles.**

15 **Part II, GLOBAL BOOK OF DISCIPLINE**

16 ¶101 *The Book of Discipline* reflects our Wesleyan way of serving Christ through  
 17 doctrine and disciplined Christian life. We are a worldwide denomination united  
 18 by doctrine, discipline and mission through our connectional covenant. The  
 19 *Book of Discipline* expresses that unity. Each central conference and Affiliate  
 20 Progressive Jurisdiction may make changes and adaptations to the *Book of*  
 21 *Discipline* to more fruitfully accomplish our mission in various contexts.  
 22 However, some portions of the *Book of Discipline* are not subject to adaptation.  
 23 The following parts and paragraphs are not subject to change or adaptation  
 24 except by action of the General Conference. The Standing Committee on Central  
 25 Conference Matters has primary responsibility for proposing to General  
 26 Conference revisions to this paragraph.

27 Parts I, III-V

- 28 1. Constitution ¶¶ 1-61  
 29 2. Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶¶ 101-104  
 30 3. The Ministry of All Christians ¶¶ 120 – 142  
 31 4. Social Principles Preface, and Preamble and ¶¶160 – 166  
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***Rationale:** These changes give the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction the same freedom to adapt some parts of the Book of Discipline to their ministry context as is made available to the central conferences. Eliminating the restriction placed upon adapting the main body Social Principles allows the APJ to adjust them according to their context. The Preface and Preamble to the Social Principles, being very general in nature, are not to be subject to adaptation. The Discipline remains the normative standard for United Methodism that can be amended only at General Conference, which remains the sole voice of the general church even though the APJ and central conferences may adapt much of it to their missional circumstances.*

**Change #2: Define the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction and the Process by which It Is Organized.**

- ¶538. The Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction – There shall be an Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction for those annual conferences in The United States whose majority supports a flexible interpretation of our doctrinal standards and a progressive understanding of marriage and human sexuality. Other provisions notwithstanding, the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction shall function as other jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church except for the following provisions:
1. The jurisdiction shall be empowered to make such changes and adaptations of the Book of Discipline as the mission of the jurisdiction require, especially concerning the organization and administration of the work on local church, district, annual conference, and jurisdictional levels, provided that no action shall be take that is contrary to the Constitution (¶¶1-61), General Rules, Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task (¶¶101-104), The Ministry of All Christians (¶¶120-142), The Preface and Preamble to the Social Principles, and provided that the spirit of the connectional relationship is kept with the general church. Subject to these restrictions, the jurisdiction may delegate to a constituent annual conference the power to make one or other of the changes and adaptations referred to in this paragraph, upon request of such annual conference.
  2. The jurisdiction shall be free to adapt the ordination standards in ¶304.3 that prohibit self-avowed practicing homosexuals from being certified as candidates for ministry, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.



- 1                   3. The jurisdiction may appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions  
2                   arising on the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections  
3                   of the *Affiliate Progressive Jurisdictional Conference Discipline* enacted by  
4                   the jurisdiction.
- 5                   4. The jurisdiction shall develop its own logo which may be an adaptation of  
6                   The United Methodist Cross and Flame, pending approval by The General  
7                   Council on Finance and Administration. Churches of the jurisdiction shall  
8                   use the logo of the jurisdiction and indicate their jurisdictional affiliation on  
9                   signage and letterhead.
- 10                  5. While the jurisdiction shall be entitled to the same ratio of General  
11                  Conference delegates as other jurisdictions, these delegates shall be  
12                  restricted from voting on changes to parts of the Discipline that the  
13                  jurisdiction is empowered to adapt.
- 14                  6. The jurisdiction is entitled to full representation on, the General Council on  
15                  Finance and Administration, General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits,  
16                  General Board of Global Ministries, General Commission on Religion and  
17                  Race, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, General  
18                  Commission on United Methodist Men, General Commission on Archives  
19                  and History, General Commission on Communications, Standing Committee  
20                  on Central Conference Matters, United Methodist Publishing House, and  
21                  United Methodist Women.
- 22                  7. The jurisdiction shall be entitled to one representative on the Connectional  
23                  Table.
- 24                  8. The jurisdiction is not entitled to representation on the General Board of  
25                  Church and Society, General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of  
26                  Higher Education and Ministry, or affiliate bodies of these general agencies.
- 27                  9. Assessment of general church apportionments to the jurisdiction shall take  
28                  the following factors into consideration:
  - 29                      a. The jurisdiction shall be responsible for funding its own programs  
30                      and episcopal expenses.
  - 31                      b. The jurisdiction shall share in general church support of Central  
32                      Conference bishops through The Episcopal Fund.
  - 33                      c. As the jurisdiction is not bound by the body of the Social Principles,  
34                      it does not participate in the budget of the General Board of Church  
35                      and Society. The jurisdiction may enter into agreements with the  
36                      board for shared services and develop funding agreements as  
37                      negotiated with the General Council on Finance and Administration.
  - 38                      d. As the jurisdiction bears the weight of determining its own  
39                      standards for ministry and ministerial education it shall not be



- 1                    asked to fund the Ministerial Education Fund or the work of the  
2                    General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The jurisdiction  
3                    may enter into agreements with these bodies for shared services  
4                    and develop shared funding agreements as negotiated with the  
5                    General Council on Finance and Administration.
- 6                    **10.** The following process is enacted to implement amended ¶137 creating an  
7                    Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction in the United States. The secretary of the  
8                    General Conference shall work with the bishops to ensure that voting on the  
9                    ratification of these constitutional amendments begins with the regularly  
10                   scheduled annual conference sessions after September 1, 2016 and is  
11                   completed by August 31, 2017.
- 12                   a. The Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction shall encompass the entire  
13                   United States of America and overlap geographically the five  
14                   standard jurisdictions.
- 15                   b. In anticipation of the approval of the relevant constitutional  
16                   amendments, the 2016 General Conference shall (subsequent to  
17                   approving the amendments by the required two-thirds vote) elect a  
18                   seven-person team to represent the vision of the Affiliate  
19                   Progressive Jurisdiction, consisting of three laypersons, three  
20                   clergypersons, and one bishop. Nominations shall be taken from  
21                   the floor of General Conference at least 24 hours prior to the  
22                   election being held. Each nominee shall certify his/her commitment  
23                   to the general principles contained in the description of the Affiliate  
24                   Progressive Jurisdiction in amended ¶ 37.
- 25                   c. In the ten months following General Conference, the team shall  
26                   write and approve a vision and mission description for the Affiliate  
27                   Progressive Jurisdiction, including a one-page summary. These  
28                   documents shall be the initial guide for decision-making by bishops,  
29                   annual conferences, clergy, congregations, and church institutions  
30                   about a decision whether or not to affiliate with the new  
31                   jurisdiction. The descriptive documents shall be publicly released at  
32                   the time when the Council of Bishops certifies that the relevant  
33                   constitutional amendments have been ratified.
- 34                   d. Episcopal Affiliation—1) No more than 60 days following the  
35                   certification of the constitutional amendments the Affiliate  
36                   Progressive Jurisdiction, each active and retired United Methodist  
37                   bishop serving The United States of America may elect to relate to  
38                   either the new affiliate jurisdiction described in ¶ 37 and in the  
39                   descriptive documents (¶ 538). These jurisdictional choices shall be



- 1 canvassed by the Council of Bishops and made public at the  
2 conclusion of the 60 days. Bishops shall relate to both the new  
3 jurisdiction and their former geographical jurisdiction until the  
4 transition is completed.
- 5 e. Following the 60 days, the College of Bishops for the new  
6 jurisdiction may convene and begin ordering the work of their new  
7 jurisdiction. The College of Bishops for the Progressive Affiliate  
8 Jurisdiction shall oversee the implementation of the new  
9 jurisdiction and serve as a clearinghouse of information for annual  
10 conferences, clergy and congregations desiring to affiliate with the  
11 jurisdiction.
- 12 f. Annual Conference Affiliation—1) Within eight months of the  
13 certification of constitutional amendments, votes shall be held by  
14 secret ballot in each annual conference in the U.S. as to whether or  
15 not to join the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction. A simple majority  
16 vote shall suffice. The vote of each annual conference shall be  
17 canvassed by the Council of Bishops and be final.
- 18 g. Annual conference voting on jurisdictional affiliation shall also elect  
19 a jurisdictional delegation, consisting of the same number of  
20 delegates who were elected to the previous jurisdictional  
21 conference. If clergy are elected who later dissent from the  
22 jurisdictional vote of their annual conference, these clergy become  
23 ineligible to serve. Lay members elected become ineligible to serve  
24 if the local church to which they belong votes to dissent from the  
25 jurisdictional affiliate of the annual conference. Annual conferences  
26 shall elect sufficient numbers of reserve delegates to ensure a full  
27 delegation. Jurisdictional legislation may also be proposed by  
28 annual conferences.
- 29 h. Congregational Affiliation—1) Congregations will automatically  
30 continue to belong to the annual conference to which they  
31 previously belonged unless the congregation takes action to change  
32 affiliations. Congregations who dissent from the jurisdictional  
33 affiliation of their annual conference under this paragraph will have  
34 until December 31, 2018 to indicate, by majority secret ballot vote  
35 of a duly called special church conference, their decision to be  
36 placed in an annual conference of either the Affiliate Progressive  
37 Jurisdiction or the standard jurisdiction to which they previously  
38 belonged. Congregations voting to leave their annual conference  
39 shall remain part of their former annual conference until the



- 1 conclusion of the organizing/reorganizing conference of the new  
2 jurisdiction. 2) Churches wishing to change jurisdictional affiliation  
3 after the process described may do so under the provisions of ¶ 41  
4 of the Constitution.
- 5 i. Clergy Affiliation— 1) Clergy shall have until December 31, 2018 to  
6 notify their bishop of their desire to serve in a jurisdiction other  
7 than the one selected by their annual conference. Their bishop shall  
8 forward the names of these clergy to the college of bishops of the  
9 receiving jurisdiction. Conference membership will continue in the  
10 former conference until a transfer to another annual conference is  
11 complete. 2) Subsequent to their original affiliation, clergy may  
12 elect to transfer from an annual conference in one jurisdiction to an  
13 annual conference in another jurisdiction under the provisions of  
14 ¶1347.1. However, such transfer shall require the additional  
15 approval of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the clergy session of  
16 the receiving annual conference.
- 17 j. Organizing Jurisdictional Conferences—1) The colleges of bishops of  
18 the respective jurisdictions shall call a special organizing or  
19 reorganizing jurisdictional conference for each jurisdiction. The  
20 conferences shall take place during February 2019. 2) At the  
21 organizing/reorganizing conference for each jurisdiction, the annual  
22 conference maps of each jurisdiction shall be redrawn so as to  
23 provide coverage for the entire geographical area assigned to the  
24 jurisdiction. Where possible, coverage shall be attained by widening  
25 the boundaries of existing conferences. Provisional annual  
26 conferences and missionary conferences may be formed as needed.  
27 Bishops shall be assigned to their respective episcopal areas as  
28 elsewhere set forth. New bishops shall be elected as needed under  
29 the provisions of ¶ 404. For the purposes of this transition, bishops  
30 shall begin their new residential assignment on April 1, 2019. 3)  
31 Each jurisdictional conference shall create a system for assisting  
32 clergy desiring to change annual conference affiliation in obtaining  
33 membership status in a new annual conference, in obtaining an  
34 appointment in the new annual conference, and/or in obtaining a  
35 transitional appointment. Clergy may continue to serve in a  
36 conference other than the one where their membership is held until  
37 a suitable appointment is found in their new annual conference. 4)  
38 Following the remapping of annual conferences in each jurisdiction,



- 1                   each annual conference shall draw or adjust its districts to serve all  
2                   the territory within its boundaries.
- 3                   k. *Institutional Affiliation*—Any church-related institution that is  
4                   affiliated with, but not owned by, an annual or jurisdictional  
5                   conference may choose to change their affiliation and relationship  
6                   to the church following the organizing of the new jurisdictions and  
7                   the redrawing of annual conference boundaries. The institution, by  
8                   its own internal processes, may choose to continue affiliation with  
9                   the successor annual or jurisdictional conference with which it was  
10                   previously affiliated, change its affiliation, seek affiliation in both  
11                   jurisdictions at the same time, or remove its church affiliation  
12                   entirely. An institution’s request to affiliate with a different annual  
13                   or jurisdictional conference is contingent upon approval by that  
14                   conference.
- 15                   l. *Congregational Property*—The trust clause of each local  
16                   congregation’s property shall be held and administered by the  
17                   annual conference with which the local church chooses to affiliate  
18                   (¶2501, 2503). All assets and liabilities previously incurred by a  
19                   local congregation shall remain with that congregation, regardless  
20                   of affiliation.
- 21                   m. *Annual Conference Property* -- Annual conferences that vote to  
22                   enter the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction by a margin of at least  
23                   seventy-five percent will do so with their conference properties and  
24                   liabilities intact. Those who opt into the affiliate jurisdiction by a  
25                   margin less than seventy-five percent are required to divide  
26                   conference assets and liabilities proportionately with exiting  
27                   congregations based on the percentage of annual conference  
28                   apportionments each congregation paid, averaged over the  
29                   previous ten years. Clergy transferring from an annual conference  
30                   under the provisions of ¶538 are relinquished of any share of the  
31                   assets or liabilities of that conference.
- 32                   n. *Jurisdictional Property* – If over fifty percent of the aggregate  
33                   number of members in a jurisdiction leaves to join the Affiliate  
34                   Progressive Jurisdiction, properties held by the jurisdiction shall be  
35                   divided with the Affiliate Progressive Jurisdiction proportionately.
- 36                   o. *Arbitration* -- Disputes over the division of assets and liabilities shall  
37                   be settled in binding arbitration by the Judicial Council. Each annual  
38                   or jurisdictional conference shall present its case in written and oral  
39                   form, and the Council shall make the final determination of an





1           **WHEREAS** a just resolution agreement announced on December 30, 2014 in the matter  
2 of the October 26, 2013 wedding effectively pre-empted a judicial complaint process  
3 that might have disciplined Bishop Talbert through other established processes, and

4           **WHEREAS** the Constitution of The United Methodist Church empowers General  
5 Conference to “provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or  
6 unacceptability” (¶16.5),

7           **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that Rev. Melvin Talbert is discontinued as a bishop of The  
8 United Methodist Church, and

9           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rev. Melvin Talbert’s episcopal status may be reinstated  
10 should General Conference create a progressive jurisdiction, affiliate jurisdiction, or  
11 other body where the actions of Bishop Talbert on October 26, 2013 would be viewed as  
12 in harmony with the standards of the new body, and

13           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rev. Melvin Talbert’s reinstatement as bishop would  
14 become effective on the date he affiliated with the progressive jurisdiction or other  
15 body mentioned above, and

16           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rev. Melvin Talbert’s clergy status is retained and  
17 related back to the annual conference from which he was elected, and

18           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as an act of grace and gratitude for his years of service,  
19 Rev. Melvin Talbert’s clergy and episcopal pensions and other retirement benefits shall  
20 be continued.

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22 **MEASURE #2: Creating a New Body Monitoring Bishops’ Enforcement of *The Book of Discipline***

23           **Section XVIII: General Commission on Episcopal Accountability**

24           ¶12402. There shall be a General Commission on Episcopal Accountability in The  
25 United Methodist Church. The general commission shall be amenable to the General  
26 Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General  
27 Conference, the general commission shall be accountable to the Connectional Table by  
28 reporting and interpreting activities in its purpose (¶1702.3).

29           ¶12403. Purpose. The General Commission on Episcopal Accountability shall  
30 monitor the enforcement of the standards of The United Methodist Church by our  
31 bishops who exercise great responsibility in both their teaching office and general  
32 superintending. Believing that our general superintendents are granted sufficient



1 authority to enforce our rules where the will is present to do so, the commission is  
2 empowered to meet substantiated reports of under-compliance to our doctrine and  
3 discipline with public warnings, censure, reductions in episcopal salaries, and/or the  
4 recommendation of bishops for discontinuation by General Conference. The work of  
5 the commission springs from General Conference’s mandate to “initiate and direct the  
6 connectional enterprises of the Church” (¶16.8) and “define and fix the powers, duties,  
7 and privileges of the episcopacy (¶16.5). The work of the commission is not judicial in  
8 nature and does not replace the complaint and trial procedures for bishops found in  
9 ¶2704.1 and ¶2712. The commission is to represent the interests of the General  
10 Conference in the exercise of episcopal supervision:

- 11 1. The commission shall receive and review reports of under-enforcement of  
12 or unchecked disobedience to our discipline in episcopal areas and among  
13 our retired bishops. The commission shall be empowered to meet  
14 substantiated reports with outcomes in keeping with the provisions of this  
15 paragraph.
- 16 2. Evidence of unchecked disobedience may include, but is not limited to,  
17 resolution of complaints regarding chargeable offenses listed in ¶2702 that,  
18 in the judgment of commission, show evidence of failing to curtail further  
19 disobedience to our discipline. While bishops cannot be held responsible  
20 for the decisions of trial courts, they can be held accountable to assigning  
21 counsels for the church that vigorously represent the standards of our  
22 church. Bishops should likewise ensure that just resolution agreements to  
23 which they consent provide adequate disincentive for future offenses.
- 24 3. Reports of noncompliance with the discipline of The United Methodist  
25 Church shall be received in writing by the chairperson and secretary of the  
26 commission. The chairperson shall assign the staff of the commission to  
27 research the validity of the report and prepare a statement of findings  
28 within sixty days of the receipt of the report. The statement of findings shall  
29 be approved by the chairperson and submitted to the bishop in question for  
30 response. No less than thirty days shall be given for the written reply from  
31 the bishop. The statement of findings and the response of the bishop shall  
32 be submitted to the full commission for their review.



- 1                   4. Reports of a bishop advocating doctrine contrary to the Doctrinal Standards  
2                   of The United Methodist Church shall be received and reviewed by the  
3                   commission. Upon request, bishops shall provide transcripts, notes, and/or  
4                   video or audio recordings of the exercise of their public teaching office for  
5                   review by the staff of the commission who shall compile a statement of  
6                   significant findings to the commission. The commission shall submit the  
7                   statement of findings to the bishop in question and allow no less than thirty  
8                   days for written response. The commission shall review the statement of  
9                   findings and the response by the bishop and may meet substantiated  
10                   occurrences of teachings in disharmony with the Doctrinal Standards with  
11                   outcomes in keeping with the provisions of this paragraph.
- 12                   5. The commission may dismiss any report they deem to lack validity.
- 13                   6. Any official actions taken by the commission shall be made public within ten  
14                   days of the action's approval.
- 15                   7. Consideration shall be given by the commission to permissible adaptations  
16                   to our discipline granted to Central Conferences, Missionary conferences,  
17                   and other bodies.
- 18                   8. No adjustment of a bishop's salary shall be made without 60 days' notice to  
19                   both the bishop and the General Council on Financial and Administration.  
20                   The commission shall issue to the bishop any conditions under which the  
21                   salary reduction may be removed. It shall be the bishops' responsibility to  
22                   provide documentation to the commission that conditions have been met.  
23                   The General Council on Finance and Administration shall see that the  
24                   adjustments in episcopal compensation are acted upon in accordance with  
25                   the directives of the commission.
- 26                   9. The commission shall recommend to General Conference for  
27                   discontinuation the names of any bishops they deem as unacceptable.  
28                   These bishops shall be voted upon by General Conference under the  
29                   constitutional provisions of ¶16.5.

30                   **¶12404. Membership – 1.** The commission shall be composed of two members, one clergy  
31                   and one laity, elected from each jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy.  
32                   The Council of Bishops shall provide one bishop to serve on the commission with voice but not  
33                   vote.



- 1 a) Clergy and lay members of the commission shall recuse themselves on matters relating
- 2 to bishops serving the episcopal areas from which the members of the commission were
- 3 elected.
- 4 b) Vacancies shall be filled by reserve members selected from each jurisdictional or central
- 5 conference committee on episcopacy and the equal ratio of clergy and laity shall be
- 6 maintained.
- 7 c) The commission shall elect its own chairperson, secretary, and other officers at the first
- 8 meeting of each new quadrennium.
- 9 d) Members of the commission shall not serve more than three consecutive terms.

10 **MEASURE #3: Establish minimum sentences for officiating at same-sex wedding ceremonies or**

11 **ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions.**

12 ¶2711.4. Other paragraphs of the Discipline notwithstanding, the minimum penalty

13 for clergy found guilty of the chargeable offenses of officiating at a same-sex wedding or

14 conducting a ceremony that celebrates a same-sex union shall be at least a one-year unpaid

15 suspension for the first offense and revocation of conference membership and ordination for

16 any offense thereafter.

For inquiries, please contact [info@jurisdictionalsolution.org](mailto:info@jurisdictionalsolution.org)  
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