

Draft of a *General Book of Discipline* 2020

New Part VI

General Organization and Administration

Chapter Five

Administrative Order

Important Note on the draft for Chapter 5:

For Chapter 5, the Standing Committee presents some samples of its ongoing work. The samples indicate the direction of the transformative work needed in this chapter for discerning essentials that shall bind us connectionally together in being agents of God’s mission on all levels of conferencing. There has been a clear realization that the existing Chapter 5 is an extremely U.S. created and driven chapter. In order to give contextual freedom to adapt, there must be a clearly stated way in which that contextualization can occur (e.g. below ¶821 United Methodist Women).

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 has developed the following minimum description for the new Part VI with samples in a consistent format:

- Provision with scriptural / theological / Wesleyan grounding;
- Purpose / mission;
- Goals / strategies;
- 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*).

This unfinished draft gives an idea how a consistent structuring of Chapter 5, with a focus on “why”, might look like.

As this chapter contains samples and no finalized draft, Judicial Council Decisions are not yet updated. Furthermore, no additional versions for a full comparison to the BOD2016 with tracking changes have been produced so far.

Chapter Five

Administrative Order

*“God’s self-revelation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ summons the church to ministry in the world through witness by word and deed in light of the church’s mission. ... United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a **connectional covenant** in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission ...”* (¶ 124-125)

Section I. General Provisions

[BOD ¶¶ 701-724 → GBOD ¶¶ 701ff]

¶ 701. *General Provisions for Administrative Order*— 1. The connectional covenant (¶ 124-125) refers to the specific way The United Methodist Church lives in community and continuous interconnection. It is the embodiment of Biblical metaphors such as the Church as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12), and the vine and the branches (John 15). In this connectional relationship, each and every part of the body has particular and specific responsibilities.

2. Often, within the church, the term *agency* is limited in usage, referring to an organizational structure of the general church. However, the word *agency* refers to the God-given ability and authority to act. Thus, individuals, congregations, and conferences all exercise agency. Furthermore, all agency is grace induced, which means that all agency is an expression of human activity participating in God’s work of grace in all creation. Such empowerment happens best in a spirit of partnership.

3. This ability to participate in God’s grace-filled work requires authority and freedom. At its best, agency means communal participation, offered and enacted with humility (Phil 2:3-8). As agents in a worldwide ecclesiological framework, United Methodists (as individuals, congregations, or designated connectional units) are called to mirror vital aspects of redeemed humanity as a whole: reconciled diversity, intercultural sensitivity, and commitment to peace and justice.

GBOD ¶ 701 = New

¶ 702. *Provisions for General Agencies*— Based on this understanding of agency, the administrative units known as *general agencies* are called into being and authorized by the General Conference and given particular and distinctive responsibilities. They uniquely serve between the global and the local. They seek to collaborate with other agencies within The United Methodist Church, the worldwide Methodist relationships, and ecumenical partnerships in fulfilling its vocation of spreading scriptural holiness across the land and around the globe. All agency ministries are grounded in God’s word and grace, seek to be accountable, transparent, and leave room for contextual application.

GBOD ¶ 702 = New

Section II. Programmatic Ministries I – General Board of Church and Society

[BOD ¶¶ 1001-1011 → GBOD ¶¶ 711ff]

¶ 711. *Provision*— 1. There shall be a General Board of Church and Society in The United Methodist Church.

2. The work and ministry of the general board is shaped by Christ’s command to love neighbor as oneself (Mark 12:31), and the admonition from the prophets for justice, righteousness and mercy (Micah 6:8, Amos 5:24). The prophets and Jesus consistently warned leaders who would oppress and deny justice to others.

3. Wesley worked tirelessly for justice in all domains. From John Wesley's charge to "*reform the nation and, in particular, the Church; to spread scriptural holiness over the land*", Methodism is rooted in a call to transform the world through personal and social holiness.

GBOD ¶ 711 = 1001+new

¶ 712. *Purpose*— The purpose of the general board shall be to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the members of the Church and to the persons and structures of the communities, nations and world in which they live. It shall seek ways to bring the whole of human life - activities, possessions, use of resources and community and world relationships - into conformity with the will of God. It shall witness to the members of both Church and the society that the reconciliation that God effected through Christ involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

GBOD ¶ 712 = 1002

¶ 713. *Goals*— The following goals enable the general board in achieving its purpose:

1. Analyze local and global issues that confront persons, communities, nations, and world.
2. Encourage Christian lines of action that assist humankind to move toward a world in which peace and justice are achieved.
3. Assist district and annual conferences in the US, and Central Conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe with needed and requested resources in areas of such concern.
4. Develop plans and programs that challenge members of the UMC to work through their local churches, ecumenical channels and community efforts toward personal, social and civic righteousness.
5. Seek the implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on social concerns for Christians.

GBOD ¶ 713 = 1003 (partly new)

¶ 714. *Scope and strategies*— 1. The scope of the general board's work includes those outlined in the Social Principles. These include civil and human rights, economic justice, environmental justice, health and wholeness and well-being of women and children in the social community. The general board shall be an advocate for justice and peace, integrating personal responsibility with social policy, and spiritual transformation with institutional change.

2. The following strategies shall help the general board to fulfill the goals:
 - a) Implementation and promotion of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns throughout the global church;
 - b) Witness and action on issues of human well-being, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation;
 - c) Analysis of long-range social trends, the underlying ethical values, and exploration of strategies for alternative futures, speaking its convictions and concerns to the Church and world;
 - d) Development of faith-based coalitions and networks (local, ecumenical, regional, national and international) in which multiple agencies exchange ideas, strategies, and advocacy for a more just and caring world.
 - e) Development and distribution of contextually relevant resources and programs that inform, motivate, train and build networks for action toward social justice;
 - f) Educating, equipping and connecting advocates of United Methodists in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America to form a global network for justice in every nation;

g) Facilitate and coordinate the legislative advocacy activities in the United States Congress of other general agencies of The United Methodist Church that receive General Church funds. (This is currently a separate item in ¶ 1004)

h) Offering opportunities for learning and engagement for youth, young clergy, and emerging leadership in the U.S and Central Conferences to awaken a desire for justice and peace in the world.
GBOD ¶ 714 = 1004 (partly new)

¶ 715. *Amenability and Accountability*—The general board shall have a Board of Directors which establishes its Bylaws, which shall not violate any provision of the *Discipline*. The board shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, it shall be accountable to the Connectional Table for its work, its report, and its evaluation, based on its purpose, goals, and other legislated responsibilities.

GBOD ¶ 715 = 1006+1011+new

Section III. Programmatic Ministries II – General Board of Discipleship

[BOD ¶¶ 1101-1126 → GBOD ¶¶ 721ff]

¶ 721. *Provision*— 1. There shall be a General Board of Discipleship, also known as Discipleship Ministries, in The United Methodist Church.

2. The work and ministry of the general board is grounded by the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything Christ commanded (Matthew 28:19); and to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ to attain unity of faith (Ephesians 4:12-13).

3. Wesley envisioned various ways to equip the saints and grow in Christlikeness including the Oxford Holy Club, and later Band and Class meetings in the Methodist Societies.

GBOD ¶ 721 = 1101+new

¶ 722. *Purpose*—The purpose of the general board shall be to support the nurturing, and caring ministries of all congregations in The United Methodist Church. The general board shall seek ways assist annual and central conferences, districts, and local churches of all membership sizes to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Further, it shall provide leadership and resources that persons may grow in faith as children of God and members of the global Christian community to fulfill their common discipleship in the world.

GBOD ¶ 722 = 1101+new

¶ 723. *Goals*—The following goals shall enable the general board to achieve its purposes:

1. Provide publications directed for local church nurture, outreach and witness, within the framework of cultural differences across the global faith community;

2. Manage the publications of The Upper Room and other resources in multiple languages to help people grow in their relationship with God;

3. Facilitate areas that expand knowledge and strategic conversation for contextualized ministries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America;

4. Provide leadership and resources for local churches for the areas of Christian education, worship, music, evangelism, new church development, stewardship, lay leadership development, all age-level and

family ministries, small group ministries, and spiritual formation, as appropriate within the ethnic, cultural and contextual frameworks in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America;

5. Develop contextual ministries for the laity that nurture faith, and build a global Christian community;

6. Provide research and innovation for the global faith community for creation of new effective programs, resources, and methods of faith formation and intentional discipleship;

7. Equip and empower Ministries with Young People.

GBOD ¶ 723 = 1102+new

¶ 724. *Amenability and Accountability*—The general board shall have a Board of Directors which establishes its Bylaws, which shall not violate any provision of the *Discipline*. The Board is amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, it shall be accountable to the Connectional Table for its work, its report, and its evaluation, based on its purpose, goals, and other legislated responsibilities.

GBOD ¶ 724 = 1103, 1104, 1105

Section IV. Programmatic Ministries III – General Board of Global Ministries

[BOD ¶¶ 1301-1315 → GBOD ¶¶ 731ff]

¶ 731. *Provision*— 1. There shall be a General Board of Global Ministries in The United Methodist Church.

2. Missional mandates are throughout scripture, constantly calling the church to care for people beyond the gathered community: “Go, make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28); “as you have done it to one of the least of these...you did it to me” (Matthew 25) and “bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind...let the oppressed go free.” (Isaiah /Luke 4).

3. Wesley’s vision was social and sacramental, with the world being the parish. The United Methodist mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (¶120). The transforming power belongs to God. Global Ministries is in mission to learn and witness to what God has done and is doing in every land where disciples gather in the name of Jesus Christ. God’s mission is theologically perceived from creation to completion (¶124).

GBOD ¶ 731 = 1301+new

¶ 732. *Purpose*— 1. The purpose of the general board shall be to discern those places where the gospel has not been heard or heeded and to witness to its meaning throughout the world, inviting all persons to newness of life in Jesus Christ and to express the mission of the Church by sending and connecting the global Church in mission through a variety of programs and partnerships.

2. The general board shall engage in global mission by alleviating human suffering and seeking justice, freedom and peace. This engagement in mission shall be a sign of God’s continuing presence in the world. The general board shall include the United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR, providing nonsectarian disaster response and sustainable development worldwide.

GBOD ¶ 732.1 = 1302; 732.2 = 1315

¶ 733. *Goals*— The following goals shall enable the general board to achieve its purpose:

1. To engage in a range of missional efforts and persons of various professions, including pastors, educators, agriculturalists, health coordinators and doctors, congregation and leadership developers;

2. To respond to natural disasters through UMCOR and address issues of hunger, health, and immigration including uprooted people;
3. To develop Advance Special Projects that enable support mission projects and missionaries throughout the world;
4. To design and oversee short and long-term Volunteer-in-Mission opportunities;
5. To explore a new vision of partnership with churches and missionaries around the world, focusing on mutual relationships based on respect, service, support and prayer;
6. To create Mission Opportunities for Young People.

GBOD ¶ 733 = 1303

¶ 734. *Strategies*—The following strategies shall help the general board to fulfill the goals by:

1. Engaging annual conferences in North America and central conferences in Africa, Asia, and Europe to explore ways to support current work in mission;
2. Building relationships and capacities among global mission partners to assist each to establish, lead, and grow churches in their regions;
3. Emphasizing the importance of global missionaries, young adult missioners, and volunteer laity to serve by increasing recruitment and places of assignment;
4. Promoting health for all, especially children, establishing and expanding lifesaving and health promoting measures, with special attention to the economically vulnerable;
5. Increasing humanitarian assistance more fully and regularly by integrating immediate disaster response with long-range sustainable development;

GBOD ¶ 734 = 1303+new

¶ 735. *Amenability and Accountability*—The general board shall have a Board of Directors which establishes its Bylaws, which shall not violate any provision of the *Discipline*. The board shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, it shall be accountable to the Connectional Table for its work, its report, and its evaluation, based on its purpose, goals, and other legislated responsibilities

GBOD ¶ 735 = 1305+1311+new

Section V. Programmatic Ministries IV – General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

[BOD ¶¶ 1401-1423 → GBOD ¶¶ 741ff]

¶ 741. *Provision*— 1. There shall be a General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in The United Methodist Church.

2. The work and ministry of the general board is grounded in Scripture, including passages such as “...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with...and with all your mind...;” (Matthew 22:37-40) and “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:11-12). Jesus emphasized that these words are the root of all the commandments that are given to the disciples.

3. A distinctive Wesleyan emphasis is understanding that Christian faith is revealed in Scripture, illumined by Tradition, vivified in personal Experience and confirmed by Reason. The general board shall be an advocate for the intellectual opportunities of and for the Church and its leadership.

GBOD ¶ 741 = 1401+new

¶ 742. *Purpose*— 1. The purpose of the general board shall be to prepare leaders for a global church and ministry in and for the world. The general board shall provide general guidance and care for campus ministries and institutions of higher education, including schools, colleges, universities and theological schools, in the U.S. and, as appropriate in Central Conferences.

2. The general board shall recognize the call and the gifts of the whole church, and to affirm those who respond to God’s call by offering themselves in leadership as set-apart ministers. It shall provide training and resources as persons discover their call, claim it and flourish by fulfilling their ministry in Christ through the several special ministries, ordained and diaconal. Further, it will interpret the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world for the ordering of ministry to the global church. The distinctive functions of the orders are Service, Word, Sacrament, Order, Compassion and Justice, all of which can be both contextual and incarnational.

GBOD ¶ 742 = 1404+new

¶ 743. *Goals*—The following goals shall enable the general board to achieve its purpose:

1. To study, interpret, understand, communicate and promote the significance of higher education and ministry in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America;

2. To develop guidelines, standards, criteria, and procedures for certification in professional ministerial careers and for ordination into the ordained ministry;

3. To provide trainings, counsel, guidance, and assistance to annual conferences in North America, and central conferences in Asia, Africa, and Europe through their boards of ordained ministry and higher education and campus ministry;

4. To explore new types of ministries, to study and creatively develop relevant resources for ordained and diaconal ministries, in the both central conference and American contexts;

5. To educate and provide evaluation tools for clergy, their continuing education, professional growth, quality of performance and assessment of effectiveness for the mission of the church.

GBOD ¶ 743 = 1405

¶ 744. *Amenability and Accountability*— The general board shall have a Board of Directors which establishes its Bylaws, which shall not violate any provision of the *Discipline*. The board shall be amenable to the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Between sessions of the General Conference, it shall be accountable to the Connectional Table for its work, its report, and its evaluation, based on its purpose, goals, and other legislated responsibilities.

GBOD ¶ 744 = 1409

Section VI. Focused Ministries I – Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters

[BOD ¶ 2201 → GBOD ¶¶ 801ff]

(or option to move to chapter 4, section I, General Conference, and add to ¶ 504 and GC-R ¶ 504)

¶ 801ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section VII. Focused Ministries II – Ministries with Young People

[BOD ¶¶ 1201-1212 → GBOD ¶¶ 811ff]

¶ 811ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section VIII. Focused Ministries III – United Methodist Women

[BOD ¶¶ 1901-1918 → GBOD ¶¶ 821ff]

¶ 821ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

¶ 821. Provision—1. There shall be an organization called United Methodist Women in The United Methodist Church.

2. The New Testament has many references to women in ministry. Luke refers to women who were healed and provided for Jesus' ministry out of their resources. (Luke 8:3) Lydia was a business woman in Thyatira (Acts 18) who, after she was baptized, offered hospitality to the Apostle Paul. Paul also had a commendation for Phoebe, a deacon in the early church (Romans 16). These ministries of women in the early church are extended, expanded and continued through United Methodist Women.

3. Women in each of the central conferences of The United Methodist Church, in the United States, and in each of the annual conferences of The United Methodist Church, shall have the right to organize for the purposes set forth below, to use the name United Methodist Women or another one deemed suitable, to organize at local, district, circuit levels and in other configurations that help women further the purpose, and to elect their own leaders through processes that they develop and manage. Annual Conference UMW organizations shall be directly related to their central conference structure outside the US and in their jurisdiction and national structure in the U.S.

GBOD ¶ 821 = 1901+new

Section IX. Focused Ministries IV – United Methodist Men

[BOD ¶¶ 2301-2303 → GBOD ¶¶ 831ff]

¶ 831ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section X. Focused Ministries V – General Commission on Religion and Race

[BOD ¶¶ 2001-2008 → GBOD ¶¶ 841ff]

¶ 841ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*

- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

¶ 841. *Provision*— 1. There shall be a General Commission on Religion and Race in The United Methodist Church.

2. The work and ministry of the commission is shaped by the Great Commandment of loving God and loving people. The early church realized the importance of caring for others: “If then there is any encouragement in Christ...Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:1-4). The Great Commission of going to all nations can also be understood as going into every ethnic community and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. The commission’s work is informed by the teachings of John Wesley, who embraced the diversity of God’s world as his parish. John Wesley and Charles Wesley established class meetings to address social issues such as class, race, and ethnicity in church and society. Given the undergirding of Scripture, the work of the commission expresses the core values: Love, Grace, Equity, Justice, Respect, and Mutual Accountability.

GBOD ¶ 841 = 2001+new

Section XI. Focused Ministries VI – General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

[BOD ¶¶ 2101-2109 → GBOD ¶¶ 851ff]

¶ 851ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

¶ 851. *Provision*—1. There shall be a General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church.

2. Faith communities are called to live fully into the biblical promise that “there is no longer male and female, for all are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). The Scripture offers clear and unequivocal commitment to the equality of women and their full inclusion in all faith communities as the Spirit falls indiscriminately upon all flesh, male and female (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17).

3. Susanna Wesley was known for spiritual development for her children through weekly one-on-one time for spiritual direction. John Wesley was a reformer regarding women in ministry as he encouraged women to preach in cells and society meetings. Leadership by men and women was a key component of the early Methodist movement.

GBOD ¶ 851 = 2101+new

Section XII. Focused Ministries VII – JustPeace

[BOD ¶¶ 2401 → GBOD ¶¶ 861ff]

¶ 861ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XIII. Organizational Ministries I – General Commission on Archives and History

[BOD ¶¶ 1701-1712 → GBOD ¶¶ 901ff]

¶ 901ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XIV. Organizational Ministries II – General Commission on Communication

[BOD ¶¶ 1801-1808 → GBOD ¶¶ 911ff]

¶ 911ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XV. Organizational Ministries III – General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Wespath)

[BOD ¶¶ 1501-1509 → GBOD ¶¶ 921ff]

¶ 921ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XVI. Organizational Ministries IV – The United Methodist Publishing House

[BOD ¶¶ 1601-1641 → GBOD ¶¶ 931ff]

¶ 931ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XVII. Organizational Ministries V – Connectional Table

[BOD ¶¶ 901-907 → GBOD ¶¶ 941ff]

¶ 941ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*

Section XVIII. Organizational Ministries VI – General Council on Finance and Administration

[BOD ¶¶ 801-824 → GBOD ¶¶ 951ff]

¶ 951ff.

- *Provision (Scriptural / theological grounding)*
- *Purpose*
- *Responsibilities / Goals*
- *Amenability and Accountability*