

New Part VII

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Chapter Three

THE SUPERINTENDENCY

¶ new Part VII, chap. 3 Finalized draft; renumbered	¶ new Part VII, chap. 3 With tracking changes to BOD 2016: additions <u>underlined</u> and deletions struck through. With references to BOD 2016 Part VI, e.g. [2703]	Comments
¶405.001 In forming districts according to ¶ 405.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. Any district may be designated to be a mission district, and the district superintendent of that district, or his or her designee, shall be the agent in charge of the mission status, nature, and goals of the district. If there is a district missionary organization, or if funds for the district are anticipated from a conference organization, those bodies shall also be asked to approve the method of organization for a mission district. 2. A mission district may be designated when any of the following conditions exist: a) Membership opportunities and resources are limited and not likely to result in regular status for an extended period of time. b) A strategic demographic, cultural, or language opportunity for serving a limited population is present. c) It is expected that long-term sustaining funding from sources outside the district will be necessary to enable the district to exist. d) The district is geographically located in a remote location from other districts of the annual conference.	[415.4] ¶405.001 <u>In forming districts according to ¶ 405.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> <u>1.</u> Any district may be designated to be a mission district, and the district superintendent of that district, or his or her designee, shall be the agent in charge of the mission status, nature, and goals of the district. If there is a district missionary organization, or if funds for the district are anticipated from a conference organization, those bodies shall also be asked to approve the method of organization for a mission district. <u>2.</u> A mission district may be designated when any of the following conditions exist: <u>a)1)</u> Membership opportunities and resources are limited and not likely to result in regular status for an extended period of time. <u>b)2)</u> A strategic demographic, cultural, or language opportunity for serving a limited population is present. <u>c)3)</u> It is expected that long-term sustaining funding from sources outside the district will be necessary to enable the district to exist. <u>d)4)</u> The district is geographically located in a remote location from other districts of the annual conference.	

When any of these conditions exist, the bishop, in consultation with the congregational development area of the annual conference, may designate any district a mission district. The mission district may be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any district. GBOD ¶405.001 = 415.4	When any of these conditions exist, the bishop, in consultation with the congregational development area of the annual conference, may designate any district a mission district. The mission district may be organized in the same manner and have the same rights and powers as any district.	
¶406.001 In the appointment making process according to ¶ 406.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. To appoint associate members, provisional members, or full members to attend any school, college, or theological seminary listed by the University Senate, or to participate in a program of clinical pastoral education in a setting accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or another accrediting agency approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Such appointments are not to be considered as extension ministry appointments. 2. To keep and maintain appropriate supervisory records on all district superintendents and other records on ministerial personnel as determined by the bishop or required by the <i>Discipline</i> or action of the annual conference. When a district superintendent is no longer appointed to the cabinet, the bishop shall give that person's supervisory file to the superintendent of record. Supervisory records shall be kept under guidelines approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration. The supervisory records maintained by the bishop are not the personnel records of the annual conference. 3. In transfers, the bishop shall send immediately to the secretaries of both conferences involved, to the conference boards of ordained ministry, and to the clearing house of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, written notices of the transfer of members and of their standing in the Course of Study if they are undergraduates.¹	¶406.001 <u>In the appointment making process according to ¶ 406.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [416.6] <u>1.6.</u> To appoint associate members, provisional members, or full members to attend any school, college, or theological seminary listed by the University Senate, or to participate in a program of clinical pastoral education in a setting accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or another accrediting agency approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Such appointments are not to be considered as extension ministry appointments. [416.7] <u>2.7.</u> To keep and maintain appropriate supervisory records on all district superintendents and other records on ministerial personnel as determined by the bishop or required by the <i>Discipline</i> or action of the annual conference. When a district superintendent is no longer appointed to the cabinet, the bishop shall give that person's supervisory file to the superintendent of record. Supervisory records shall be kept under guidelines approved by the General Council on Finance and Administration. The supervisory records maintained by the bishop are not the personnel records of the annual conference. [416.5] <u>3.</u> In transfers, the bishop shall; and to send immediately to the secretaries of both conferences involved, to the conference boards of ordained ministry, and to the clearing house of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, written notices of the transfer of members and of their standing in the Course of Study if they are	

GBOD ¶406.001 = 416.5-7 ¹ Judicial Council Decisions 114, 254, 554	undergraduates.¹ ¹ Judicial Council Decisions 114, 254, 554	
¶406.002 In the consultation process according to ¶ 406.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. Appointment-making across conference lines shall be encouraged as a way of creating mobility and open itineracy. The jurisdictional committee on ordained ministry will cooperate with bishops and cabinets in providing information on supply and demand within the jurisdiction. 2. <i>Consultation and Appointment-Making-</i> Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory. Consultation is both a continuing process and a more intense involvement during the period of change in appointment.² 3. The Council of Bishops shall inquire annually of their colleagues about the implementation of the process of consultation in appointment-making in their respective areas.³ 4. <i>Criteria-</i>Appointments shall take into account the unique needs of a charge, the community context, and also the gifts and evidence of God’s grace of a particular pastor. To assist bishops, cabinets, pastors, and congregations to achieve an effective match of charges and pastors, criteria must be developed and analyzed in each instance and then shared with pastors and congregations. a) <i>Congregations-</i>The district superintendent shall develop with the pastor and the committees on pastor-parish relations of all churches profiles that reflect the needs, characteristics, and opportunities for mission of the charge consistent with the Church’s statement of purpose. These profiles shall be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1) The general situation in which a congregation finds itself in a particular setting: size, financial condition, quality of	¶406.002 <u>In the consultation process according to ¶ 406.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [425.2] 1. Appointment-making across conference lines shall be encouraged as a way of creating mobility and open itineracy. The jurisdictional committee on ordained ministry will cooperate with bishops and cabinets in providing information on supply and demand within the jurisdiction. 2. Annual conferences shall prepare clergy and congregations for cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments. [426Intro, .1+.2] 2. <i>Consultation and Appointment-Making-</i> Consultation is not merely notification. Consultation is not committee selection or call of a pastor. The role of the committee on pastor-parish relations is advisory. Consultation is both a continuing process and a more intense involvement during the period of change in appointment.² a)1. The process of consultation shall be mandatory in every annual conference. 3.2. The Council of Bishops shall inquire annually of their colleagues about the implementation of the process of consultation in appointment-making in their respective areas.³ [427Intro, .1a-d] 4. <i>Criteria-</i>Appointments shall take into account the unique needs of a charge, the community context, and also the gifts and evidence of God’s grace of a particular pastor. To assist bishops, cabinets, pastors, and congregations to achieve an effective match of charges and pastors, criteria must be developed and analyzed in each instance and then shared with pastors and congregations. a)1. Congregations-The district superintendent shall develop with the pastor and the committees on pastor-parish relations of all churches profiles that reflect the needs, characteristics, and opportunities for mission of the charge consistent with the Church’s statement of purpose. These profiles shall be	Kept in non-adaptable Kept in non-adaptable

lay leadership, special needs for pastoral ministry, and history. (2) The convictional stance of the congregation: theology; prejudices, if any; spiritual life. (3) The ministry of the congregation among its people for the sake of the community: service programs, basis for adding new members, reasons for losing members, mission to community and world, forms of witness. (4) The qualities and functions of pastoral ministry needed to fulfill the mission, goals, and special needs of the congregation. b) <i>Pastors</i>-The district superintendent annually shall develop with the pastor profiles reflecting the pastor's gifts, evidence of God's grace, professional experience and expectations, and also the needs and concerns of the pastor's spouse and family. These profiles shall be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1) <i>Spiritual and personal sensibility</i>: personal faith, call and commitment to ordained ministry, work through the institutional church, integration of vocation with personal and family well-being, lifestyle. (2) <i>Academic and career background</i>: nature of theological stance, experience in continuing education, professional experience, record of performance. (3) <i>Skills and abilities</i>: in church administration, leadership development, worship and liturgy, preaching and evangelism, teaching and nurturing, interpreting and promoting the connectional giving system, counseling and group work, ability to work in cooperation, ability in self-evaluation, and other relational skills. (4) <i>Community context</i>: the ability of the pastor to relate effectively to his or her community setting, such as rural, town, urban, suburban, and so forth. (5) <i>Family situation</i>. c) <i>Community Context</i>-The district superintendent may develop community profiles with the pastor and the committee on pastor-parish relations. Sources of information	reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1)a The general situation in which a congregation finds itself in a particular setting: size, financial condition, quality of lay leadership, special needs for pastoral ministry, and history. (2)b The convictional stance of the congregation: theology; prejudices, if any; spiritual life. (3)c The ministry of the congregation among its people for the sake of the community: service programs, basis for adding new members, reasons for losing members, mission to community and world, forms of witness. (4)d The qualities and functions of pastoral ministry needed to fulfill the mission, goals, and special needs of the congregation. [427.2] b)2: <i>Pastors</i>-The district superintendent annually shall develop with the pastor profiles reflecting the pastor's gifts, evidence of God's grace, professional experience and expectations, and also the needs and concerns of the pastor's spouse and family. These profiles shall be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1)a <i>Spiritual and personal sensibility</i>: personal faith, call and commitment to ordained ministry, work through the institutional church, integration of vocation with personal and family well-being, lifestyle. (2)b <i>Academic and career background</i>: nature of theological stance, experience in continuing education, professional experience, record of performance. (3)c <i>Skills and abilities</i>: in church administration, leadership development, worship and liturgy, preaching and evangelism, teaching and nurturing, interpreting and promoting the connectional giving system, counseling and group work, ability to work in cooperation, ability in self-evaluation, and other relational skills. (4)d <i>Community context</i>: the ability of the pastor to relate effectively to his or her community setting, such as rural, town, urban, suburban, and so forth.	
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for these profiles could include: neighborhood surveys; local, state, and national census data; information from annual conference committees on parish and community development; and research data from the Connectional Table and other Church agencies. Profiles may be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1) General demographic data and trends including age, sex, and racial-ethnic composition of the community. (2) Economic trends, including the incidence of poverty. (3) Projected community changes. (4) Other sociological, economic, political, historical, and ecumenical aspects of the community surrounding the church. 5. <i>Process of Appointment-Making</i>-The process used in appointment-making shall include:⁴ a) The bishop and the cabinet shall consider all requests for change of appointment in light of the profile developed for each charge and the gifts and evidence of God's grace, professional experience, and family needs of the pastor. b) When a change in appointment has been determined, the district superintendent should meet together or separately with the pastor and the committee on pastor-parish relations where the pastor is serving, for the purpose of sharing the basis for the change and the process used in making the new appointment. c) All appointments shall receive consideration by the bishop, the district superintendent(s), and the cabinet as a whole until a tentative decision is made. d) The process used in making the new appointment shall include: (1) The district superintendent shall confer with the pastor about a specific possible appointment (charge) and its congruence with gifts, evidence of God's grace, professional experience and expectations, and the family needs of the pastor, identified in consultation with the pastor.	(5)e) <i>Family situation.</i> [427.3] c)3. <i>Community Context</i>-The district superintendent may develop community profiles with the pastor and the committee on pastor-parish relations. Sources of information for these profiles could include: neighborhood surveys; local, state, and national census data; information from annual conference committees on parish and community development; and research data from the Connectional Table and other Church agencies. Profiles may be reviewed annually and updated when appropriate to include: (1)a) General demographic data and trends including age, sex, and racial-ethnic composition of the community. (2)b) Economic trends, including the incidence of poverty. (3)e) Projected community changes. (4)d) Other sociological, economic, political, historical, and ecumenical aspects of the community surrounding the church. [428] <u>5.</u> <i>Process of Appointment-Making</i>-The process used in appointment-making shall include:⁴ a)1. A change in appointment of pastors may be initiated by a pastor, a committee on pastor-parish relations, a district superintendent, or a bishop. a)2. The bishop and the cabinet shall consider all requests for change of appointment in light of the profile developed for each charge and the gifts and evidence of God's grace, professional experience, and family needs of the pastor. b)3. When a change in appointment has been determined, the district superintendent should meet together or separately with the pastor and the committee on pastor-parish relations where the pastor is serving, for the purpose of sharing the basis for the change and the process used in making the new appointment. c)4. All appointments shall receive consideration by the bishop, the district superintendent(s), and the cabinet as a whole until a tentative decision is made.	[kept in non-adaptable]
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(2) If the appointment is to a cooperative parish ministry or to a charge that is part of a cooperative parish ministry, the following shall be included in the consultation process: (a) The prospective appointee shall be informed prior to the appointment that the charge under consideration is part of a cooperative parish ministry.⁵ (b) The coordinator or director of the cooperative ministry, or, if there is no coordinator or director, a representative of the staff of the cooperative ministry, shall be conferred with concerning the prospective appointment and shall have the opportunity to meet with the prospective appointee prior to the appointment being made.⁶ (c) The prospective appointee shall have demonstrated skills in cooperative Christian mission or show potential for the same to ensure that the cooperative venture is strengthened during the time of the appointee's leadership. (3) If the appointment is to a position other than pastor in charge, the following shall be included in the consultation process: (a) The prospective appointee shall be informed prior to the appointment that the position under consideration is part of a multiple-staff ministry and shall be furnished an initial written job description approved by the committee on pastor-parish relations. (b) The pastor in charge shall be conferred with concerning the prospective appointee. (c) The prospective appointee and pastor in charge shall meet for discussion of the job description and mutual expectations. e) The district superintendent shall confer with the receiving committee on pastor-parish relations about pastoral leadership f) When appointments are being made to less than full-time ministry, the district superintendent shall consult with the clergy person to be appointed and the committee on	d)⁵. The process used in making the new appointment shall include: (1)a) The district superintendent shall confer with the pastor about a specific possible appointment (charge) and its congruence with gifts, evidence of God's grace, professional experience and expectations, and the family needs of the pastor, identified in consultation with the pastor (§ old 427.2). (2)b) If the appointment is to a cooperative parish ministry or to a charge that is part of a cooperative parish ministry, the following shall be included in the consultation process: (a)(1) The prospective appointee shall be informed prior to the appointment that the charge under consideration is part of a cooperative parish ministry.⁵ (b)(2) The coordinator or director of the cooperative ministry, or, if there is no coordinator or director, a representative of the staff of the cooperative ministry, shall be conferred with concerning the prospective appointment and shall have the opportunity to meet with the prospective appointee prior to the appointment being made.⁶ (c)(3) The prospective appointee shall have demonstrated skills in cooperative Christian mission or show potential for the same to ensure that the cooperative venture is strengthened during the time of the appointee's leadership. (3)e) If the appointment is to a position other than pastor in charge, the following shall be included in the consultation process: (a)(1) The prospective appointee shall be informed prior to the appointment that the position under consideration is part of a multiple-staff ministry and shall be furnished an initial written job description approved by the committee on pastor-parish relations. (b)(2) The pastor in charge shall be conferred with concerning the prospective appointee. (c)(3) The prospective appointee and pastor in charge shall meet for discussion of the job description and	
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pastor-parish relations regarding proportional time, salary, and pension credit and benefit coverage. g) If during this consultative process it is determined by the bishop and cabinet that this decision should not be carried out, the process is to be repeated until the bishop, basing his or her decision on the information and advice derived from consultation, makes and fixes the appointment. h) A similar process of consultation shall be available to persons in appointments beyond the local church. i) When the steps in the process have been followed and completed, the announcement of that decision shall be made to all parties directly involved in the consultative process, that is, the appointment cabinet, the pastor, and the committee on pastor-parish relations, before a public announcement is made. 6. <i>Frequency</i>-While the bishop shall report all pastoral appointments to each regular session of an annual conference, appointments to charges may be made at any time deemed advisable by the bishop and cabinet. Appointments are made with the expectation that the length of pastorates shall respond to the long-term pastoral needs of charges, communities, and pastors. 7. <i>Appointment of Deacons in Full Connection</i>-The deacons shall be appointed by the bishop in the annual conference where they are members in full connection. Appointments of the deacons are to be made in consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace of the deacon, needs of the community, and the gifts of the congregation and institutions. They shall reflect a faithful response of the mission of the church meeting the emerging needs in the world. GBOD¶406.002 = 425.2, 427, 428, 429, 430 ² Judicial Council Decisions 101, 501, 1174 ³ Judicial Council Decision 701	mutual expectations. e)6- The district superintendent shall confer with the receiving committee on pastor-parish relations about pastoral leadership f)7- When appointments are being made to less than full-time ministry, the district superintendent shall consult with the clergy person to be appointed and the committee on pastor-parish relations regarding proportional time, salary, and pension credit and benefit coverage. g)8- If during this consultative process it is determined by the bishop and cabinet that this decision should not be carried out, the process is to be repeated until the bishop, basing his or her decision on the information and advice derived from consultation, makes and fixes the appointment. h)9- A similar process of consultation shall be available to persons in appointments beyond the local church. i)10- When the steps in the process have been followed and completed, the announcement of that decision shall be made to all parties directly involved in the consultative process, that is, the appointment cabinet, the pastor, and the committee on pastor-parish relations, before a public announcement is made. [429] <u>6. Frequency</u>-While the bishop shall report all pastoral appointments to each regular session of an annual conference, appointments to charges may be made at any time deemed advisable by the bishop and cabinet. Appointments are made with the expectation that the length of pastorates shall respond to the long-term pastoral needs of charges, communities, and pastors. [430] <u>7. Appointment of Deacons in Full Connection</u>-The deacons shall be appointed by the bishop in the annual conference where they are members in full connection. Appointments of the deacons are to be made in consideration of the gifts and evidence of God's grace of the deacon, needs of the community, and the gifts of the congregation and institutions. They shall reflect a faithful response of the	
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⁴ Judicial Council Decision 701 ⁵ Judicial Council Decision 556 ⁶ Judicial Council Decision 556	mission of the church meeting the emerging needs in the world. ² Judicial Council Decisions 101, 501, 1174 ³ Judicial Council Decision 701 ⁴ Judicial Council Decision 701 ⁵ Judicial Council Decision 556 ⁶ Judicial Council Decision 556	
¶408.001 In election of bishops according to ¶ 408.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. <i>Nomination</i>-An annual conference, in the session immediately prior to the next regular session of the jurisdictional conference, may name one or more nominees for episcopal election. Each jurisdictional conference shall develop appropriate procedures for furnishing information about nominees from annual conferences. This shall be done at least two weeks prior to the first day of the jurisdictional conference. Similar procedures shall be developed for persons nominated by ballot who receive ten votes, or 5 percent of the valid votes cast, and the information shall be made available to the delegates at the site of the conference. 2. <i>Consecration</i>-Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the conference at which election occurs or at a place and time designated by the conference. The consecration service may include bishops from other jurisdictional and central conferences. GBOD¶408.001 = 405.1 and 405.2	¶408.001 <u>In election of bishops according to ¶ 408.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [405.1]1. <i>Nomination</i>-An annual conference, in the session immediately prior to the next regular session of the jurisdictional conference, may name one or more nominees for episcopal election. <u>Each jurisdictional conference</u> shall develop appropriate procedures for furnishing information about nominees from annual conferences. This shall be done at least two weeks prior to the first day of the jurisdictional conference. Similar procedures shall be developed for persons nominated by ballot who receive ten votes, or 5 percent of the valid votes cast, and the information shall be made available to the delegates at the site of the conference. [405.2] 2. <u><i>Consecration- Process-e)</i></u> Consecration of bishops may take place at the session of the conference at which election occurs or at a place and time designated by the conference. The consecration service may include bishops from other jurisdictional and central conferences.	
¶409.001 In the assignment process according to ¶ 409.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: The jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, after consultation with the College of Bishops, shall recommend the assignment	¶409.001 <u>In the assignment process according to ¶ 409.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [406.1] The jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, after consultation with the College of Bishops, shall recommend the	

of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference; it shall not reach any conclusion concerning residential assignments until all elections of bishops for that session are completed and all bishops have been consulted. A bishop may be recommended for assignment to the same residence for a third quadrennium. The date of assignment for all bishops is September 1 following the jurisdictional conference.⁷ A newly elected bishop shall be assigned to administer an area other than that within which his or her membership was most recently held, unless by a two-thirds vote the jurisdictional committee shall recommend that this restriction be ignored and by majority vote the jurisdictional conference shall concur.⁸ GBOD ¶409.001 = 406.1 ⁷ Judicial Council Decision 781 ⁸ Judicial Council Decisions 48, 57, 416, 538	assignment of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the jurisdictional conference; it shall not reach any conclusion concerning residential assignments until all elections of bishops for that session are completed and all bishops have been consulted. A bishop may be recommended for assignment to the same residence for a third quadrennium. The date of assignment for all bishops is September 1 following the jurisdictional conference.⁷ A newly elected bishop shall be assigned to administer an area other than that within which his or her membership was most recently held, unless by a two-thirds vote the jurisdictional committee shall recommend that this restriction be ignored and by majority vote the jurisdictional conference shall concur.⁸ ⁷ Judicial Council Decision 781 ⁸ Judicial Council Decisions 48, 57, 416, 538	
¶410.001 In review and evaluation of bishops according to ¶ 410, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: Persons affected by his or her superintendency may include such persons as members of cabinets, lay leaders, directors of agencies served}. Such processes shall include the participation of the Conference or Area Committee on Episcopacy. It shall be the duty of each jurisdiction's College of Bishops, under the leadership of its president, to consult with and to cooperate with the committee in order to schedule and facilitate such reviews and evaluations as well as to address issues that may arise in the course of that work. GBOD ¶410.001 = 412	<u>¶410.001</u> <u>In review and evaluation of bishops according to ¶ 410, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: Persons affected by his or her superintendency may include such persons as members of [412] cabinets, lay leaders, directors of agencies served}. Such processes shall include the participation of the Conference or Area Committee on Episcopacy. It shall be the duty of each jurisdiction's College of Bishops, under the leadership of its president, to consult with and to cooperate with the committee in order to schedule and facilitate such reviews and evaluations as well as to address issues that may arise in the course of that work.</u>	
¶412.001 In involuntary retirement according to ¶ 412.6, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:	<u>¶412.001</u> <u>In involuntary retirement according to ¶ 412.6, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u>	

This action may or may not be taken because of the performance of the bishop. Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the jurisdictional/central conference administrative review committee (§539.002). GBOD§412.001 = 408.3	[408.3] This action may or may not be taken because of the performance of the bishop. Written notice also should be given to the chairperson of the jurisdictional/central conference administrative review committee (§ 539.002 636).	
¶413.001 In complaints against bishops according to ¶ 413, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. After receiving a complaint as provided in ¶ old 413.2, the president and the secretary of the College of Bishops, or the secretary and another member of the college if the complaint concerns the president (or the president and another member of the college if the complaint concerns the secretary), shall, within 10 days, consult the chair of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy who shall appoint from the committee one professing member and one clergy member who are not from the same episcopal area; who are not from the episcopal area that the bishop under complaint was elected from or has been assigned to; and who are not of the same gender. a) When deemed appropriate to protect the well-being of the complainant, the Church and/or bishop, the College of Bishops, in consultation with the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, may suspend the bishop from all episcopal responsibilities for a period not to exceed sixty days. During the suspension, salary, housing and benefits will continue. b) The supervisory response is pastoral and administrative and shall be directed toward a just resolution. It is not a part of any judicial process. The supervisory response should be carried out in a confidential manner and should be completed within 120 days. There may be an extension of 120 days if the supervising bishop and the two jurisdictional or central conference episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process shall determine that an extension will be productive. There may be a second extension of 120	¶413.001 <u>In complaints against bishops according to ¶ 413, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [413.3] <u>1.3-</u> After receiving a complaint as provided in ¶ old 413.2, the president and the secretary of the College of Bishops, or the secretary and another member of the college if the complaint concerns the president (or the president and another member of the college if the complaint concerns the secretary), shall, within 10 days, consult the chair of the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy who shall appoint from the committee one professing member and one clergy member who are not from the same episcopal area; who are not from the episcopal area that the bishop under complaint was elected from or has been assigned to; and who are not of the same gender. a) When deemed appropriate to protect the well-being of the complainant, the Church and/or bishop, the College of Bishops, in consultation with the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy, may suspend the bishop from all episcopal responsibilities for a period not to exceed sixty days. During the suspension, salary, housing and benefits will continue. b) The supervisory response is pastoral and administrative and shall be directed toward a just resolution. It is not a part of any judicial process. The supervisory response should be carried out in a confidential manner and should be completed within 120 days. There may be an extension of 120 days if the supervising bishop and the two jurisdictional or central conference episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process shall determine that an extension will be productive. There may be a second extension of 120	

days by the mutual written consent of the supervisory bishop, members of the jurisdictional or central conference episcopacy committee appointed to the supervisory process, the complainant and the bishop under complaint.

The supervising bishop shall regularly advise all parties of the status of the process and shall notify all parties within 7 days after a determination is made that the supervisory response will not lead to a resolution of the matter.

No verbatim record shall be made and legal counsel shall not be present, although the bishop against whom the complaint was made and the complainant both may choose another person to accompany him or her, with the right to voice. At the determination of the president (secretary), persons with qualifications and experience in assessment, intervention, or healing may be selected to assist in the supervisory responses. Others may be consulted as well.

c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 353.3 and 353.002) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement.

d) (i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (¶413.001) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of

days by the mutual written consent of the supervisory bishop, members of the jurisdictional or central conference episcopacy committee appointed to the supervisory process, the complainant and the bishop under complaint.

The supervising bishop shall regularly advise all parties of the status of the process and shall notify all parties within 7 days after a determination is made that the supervisory response will not lead to a resolution of the matter.

No verbatim record shall be made and legal counsel shall not be present, although the bishop against whom the complaint was made and the complainant both may choose another person to accompany him or her, with the right to voice. At the determination of the president (secretary), persons with qualifications and experience in assessment, intervention, or healing may be selected to assist in the supervisory responses. Others may be consulted as well.

c) The supervisory response may include a process seeking a just resolution in which the parties are assisted by a trained, impartial third party facilitator(s) or mediator(s) in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties. (See ¶ 353.3 and 353.002 ~~362.1b, c.~~) The appropriate persons, including the president of the College of Bishops, or the secretary if the complaint concerns the president, should enter into a written agreement outlining such process, including an agreement as to confidentiality. If resolution is achieved, a written statement of resolution, including terms and conditions, shall be signed by the parties and the parties shall agree on any matters to be disclosed to third parties. Such written statement of resolution shall be given to the person in charge of that stage of the process for further action consistent with the agreement.

d) (i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (¶413.001 ~~413.3~~) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the

the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the bishop's file, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to ¶ 413.001, or refer the matter to counsel for the Church pursuant to ¶ old 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.(ii) If within 180 days of the receipt of the complaint by the president or secretary of the College of Bishops (as specified in ¶ 413.2), the supervisory response does not result in the resolution of the matter, and the president or secretary of the College of Bishops has not referred the matter as either an administrative or judicial complaint, then the matter will move to:

- (1) In the case of a bishop from one of the central conferences, a panel of three bishops, one from each continent, as selected by the Council of Bishops, or
- (2) In the case of a bishop from one of the jurisdictional conferences, a panel of five bishops, one from each jurisdictional conference, as selected by the Council of Bishops,

who shall then continue the supervisory response process and, within 180 days, either dismiss or refer the complaint, as required above.

(iii) All costs associated with actions taken pursuant to paragraph (ii), above, will be paid by the Episcopal Fund.

(iv) The Council of Bishops may, at any time in the process, after a complaint is filed, including after a just resolution, remove the complaint from the College of Bishops to the Council of Bishops with a 2/3 vote by the Council.

e) Administrative Complaint-If the complaint is based on allegations of incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform episcopal duties, the president and secretary of the College of Bishops (or the two members of the college who are handling the complaint) shall refer the complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference

president or secretary of the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the bishop's file, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to ¶ ~~413.001~~ ~~413.3e~~, or refer the matter to counsel for the Church pursuant to ¶ old 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.(ii) If within 180 days of the receipt of the complaint by the president or secretary of the College of Bishops (as specified in ¶ 413.2), the supervisory response does not result in the resolution of the matter, and the president or secretary of the College of Bishops has not referred the matter as either an administrative or judicial complaint, then the matter will move to:

- (1) In the case of a bishop from one of the central conferences, a panel of three bishops, one from each continent, as selected by the Council of Bishops, or
- (2) In the case of a bishop from one of the jurisdictional conferences, a panel of five bishops, one from each jurisdictional conference, as selected by the Council of Bishops,

who shall then continue the supervisory response process and, within 180 days, either dismiss or refer the complaint, as required above.

(iii) All costs associated with actions taken pursuant to paragraph (ii), above, will be paid by the Episcopal Fund.

(iv) The Council of Bishops may, at any time in the process, after a complaint is filed, including after a just resolution, remove the complaint from the College of Bishops to the Council of Bishops with a 2/3 vote by the Council.

e) Administrative Complaint-If the complaint is based on allegations of incompetence, ineffectiveness, or unwillingness or inability to perform episcopal duties, the president and secretary of the College of Bishops (or the two members of the college who are handling the complaint) shall

committee on episcopacy.⁹ The committee may recommend involuntary retirement (§412.6), disability leave (§411.3), remedial measures ,other appropriate action, or it may dismiss the complaint. When the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy deems the matter serious enough and when one or more offenses listed in ¶ 2702 are involved, the committee may refer the complaint back to the president and secretary of the College of Bishops (or the two members of the college who are handling the complaint) for referral as a judicial complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on investigation. The provisions of ¶ 352.2 for fair process in administrative hearings shall apply to this administrative process.

2. Any actions of the jurisdictional or central conference committee taken on a complaint shall be reported to the next session of the jurisdictional or central conference.

3. Each jurisdiction shall develop a protocol for the caring of lay, clergy and staff determined to be affected by the processing of the complaint.

4. Immunity from Prosecution – In order to preserve the integrity of the Church’s complaint process and ensure full participation in it at all times, the college of bishops, the supervisory response team, the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, witnesses, advocates, and all others who participate in the complaint process regarding a bishop shall have immunity from prosecution of complaints brought against them related to their role in a particular complaint process, unless they have committed a chargeable offense in conscious and knowing bad faith. The complainant/plaintiff in any proceeding against any such person relating to their role in a particular complaint process shall have the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that such person’s actions constituted a chargeable offense committed knowingly in bad faith. The immunity set forth in this provision shall extend to civil court proceedings, to the fullest extent permissible by the civil laws.

refer the complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy.⁹ The committee may recommend involuntary retirement (~~¶408.3~~ 412.6), disability leave (~~¶ old 411.3 410.4~~), remedial measures ,other appropriate action, or it may dismiss the complaint. When the jurisdictional or central conference committee on episcopacy deems the matter serious enough and when one or more offenses listed in ¶ 2702 are involved, the committee may refer the complaint back to the president and secretary of the College of Bishops (or the two members of the college who are handling the complaint) for referral as a judicial complaint to the jurisdictional or central conference committee on investigation. The provisions of ¶ 352.2 ~~361.2~~ for fair process in administrative hearings shall apply to this administrative process.

[413.4] 2.4. Any actions of the jurisdictional or central conference committee taken on a complaint shall be reported to the next session of the jurisdictional or central conference.

[413.5] 3.5. Each jurisdiction shall develop a protocol for the caring of lay, clergy and staff determined to be affected by the processing of the complaint.

[413.6] 4.6. Immunity from Prosecution – In order to preserve the integrity of the Church’s complaint process and ensure full participation in it at all times, the college of bishops, the supervisory response team, the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, witnesses, advocates, and all others who participate in the complaint process regarding a bishop shall have immunity from prosecution of complaints brought against them related to their role in a particular complaint process, unless they have committed a chargeable offense in conscious and knowing bad faith. The complainant/plaintiff in any proceeding against any such person relating to their role in a particular complaint process shall have the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that such person’s actions constituted a chargeable offense committed knowingly in bad faith. The immunity set forth in this provision shall extend to

GBOD¶413.001 = 413.3, 413.4, 413.5, 413.6 ⁹ Judicial Council Decision 784	civil court proceedings, to the fullest extent permissible by the civil laws.	
¶414.001 In vacancies according to ¶414, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: For filling a vacancy, consultation shall include the cabinet(s). If the vacancy should occur within twenty-four months of the episcopal assumption of presidential supervision of that area, the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction or central conference concerned may call a special session of the jurisdictional or central conference as provided in ¶ 508.004.5b. When a bishop is elected under the provisions of this paragraph, the years remaining in the quadrennium within which the election occurs shall count as a full quadrennium for purposes of assignment. It is recommended that the previous bishop serving the vacant episcopal area not be appointed to serve in the interim. GBOD¶414.001= 407	¶414.001 <u>In vacancies according to ¶414, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> <u>For filling a vacancy, consultation shall include [407]the cabinet(s).</u> If the vacancy should occur within twenty-four months of the episcopal assumption of presidential supervision of that area, the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction or central conference concerned may call a special session of the jurisdictional or central conference as provided in ¶ <u>508.004.5b</u> 521.2. When a bishop is elected under the provisions of this paragraph, the years remaining in the quadrennium within which the election occurs shall count as a full quadrennium for purposes of assignment. It is recommended that the previous bishop serving the vacant episcopal area not be appointed to serve in the interim.	
¶415.001 In the relationship between bishops and district superintendents according to ¶ 415.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for cabinets: The offices of bishop and district superintendent are linked with each other in ways described elsewhere (¶ 401.2). The interdependence of the offices calls for a collegial style of leadership. However, both the office of bishop and that of district superintendent are embedded in their own contexts. GBOD¶415.001 = 421	¶415.001 <u>In the relationship between bishops and district superintendents according to ¶ 415.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for cabinets:</u> [421] The offices of bishop and district superintendent are linked with each other in ways described elsewhere (¶ <u>401.2</u> 402). The interdependence of the offices calls for a collegial style of leadership. However, both the office of bishop and that of district superintendent are embedded in their own contexts.	
¶415.002 In regards to ¶ 415.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for cabinets: 1. The cabinet is to consult and plan with the district committee and conference Board of Ordained Ministry in order to make a thorough analysis of the needs of the district for clergy, implementing this planning with a positive and	¶415.002 <u>In regards to ¶ 415.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for cabinets:</u> [424.5] <u>1.5.</u> The cabinet is to consult and plan with the district committee and conference Board of Ordained Ministry in order to make a thorough analysis of the needs of the district for clergy, implementing this planning with a positive and	

conscious effort to fill these needs (§539.3a). 2. When the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director of connectional ministries, or equivalent, may determine, the director shall be present. The conference lay leader shall be invited to be present. 3. The cabinet shall assume leadership responsibility for ascertaining those places where ecumenical shared ministry would be an effective way of expressing the United Methodist presence in a community. GBOD§415.002 = 424.5, 424.6, 424.7	conscious effort to fill these needs (§539.3a 635.2a). [424.6] 2.6. When the cabinet considers matters relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and other matters as the cabinet and director of connectional ministries, or equivalent, may determine, the director shall be present. The conference lay leader shall be invited to be present. [424.7] 3.7. The cabinet shall assume leadership responsibility for ascertaining those places where ecumenical shared ministry would be an effective way of expressing the United Methodist presence in a community.	
§416.001 In the selection of district superintendents according to §416.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: Prior to each appointment, the bishop shall also consult with the committee on district superintendency of the district to which the new superintendent will be assigned (§ 406.002.2) for the purpose of determining leadership needs of the annual conference and the district (§ 401). GBOD§416.001 = 417	§416.001 <u>In the selection of district superintendents according to §416.1, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> <u>Prior to each appointment, the bishop shall also consult with [417] the committee on district superintendency of the district to which the new superintendent will be assigned (§406.002.2 426) for the purpose of determining leadership needs of the annual conference and the district (§ 401).</u>	
§416.002 In the term of service according to § 416.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to eight years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and the district committee on superintendency. 2. No superintendent shall serve for more than eight years in any consecutive eleven years. No elder shall serve as district superintendent more than fourteen years. In addition, consideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in § 401.¹⁰	§416.002 <u>In the term of service according to § 416.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [418] <u>1.</u> The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to eight years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and the district committee on superintendency. <u>2.</u> No superintendent shall serve for more than eight years in any consecutive eleven years. No elder shall serve as district superintendent more than fourteen years. In addition, consideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in § 401.¹⁰	

GBOD ¶416.002 = 418 ¹⁰Judicial Council Decisions 368, 512	¹⁰Judicial Council Decisions 368, 512	
¶417.001 In regards to ¶ 417.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. The superintendent, in consultation with the bishop and cabinet, shall work to develop the best strategic deployment of clergy possible in the district, including realignment of pastoral charges when needed and the exploration of larger parishes, cooperative parishes, multiple staff configurations, new faith communities, and ecumenical shared communities. 2. Through the use of charge conferences (¶ 228.3-4), congregational studies (¶226.007) and other gatherings, the superintendent shall seek to form creative and effective connections with the local congregations on his or her district. 3. The superintendent shall serve as an example of spiritual leadership by living a balanced and faithful life, and by encouraging both laity and clergy to continue to grow in spiritual formation through both personal and corporate worship and devotional practices, including participation in the sacraments. GBOD ¶417.001 = 419.9, 419.4, 419.5	¶417.001 <u>In regards to ¶ 417.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [419.9] <u>1.9:</u> The superintendent, in consultation with the bishop and cabinet, shall work to develop the best strategic deployment of clergy possible in the district, including realignment of pastoral charges when needed and the exploration of larger parishes, cooperative parishes, multiple staff configurations, new faith communities, and ecumenical shared communities. [419.4] <u>2.4:</u> Through the use of charge conferences (¶ <u>228.3-4 246.4-5</u>), congregational studies (¶<u>226.007 213</u>) and other gatherings, the superintendent shall seek to form creative and effective connections with the local congregations on his or her district. [419.5] <u>3.5:</u> The superintendent shall serve as an example of spiritual leadership by living a balanced and faithful life, and by encouraging both laity and clergy to continue to grow in spiritual formation through both personal and corporate worship and devotional practices, including participation in the sacraments.	.
¶417.002 In regards to ¶ 417.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. Superintendents shall work with the district committee on ordained ministry. 2. The superintendent shall cooperate with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry in its efforts to provide or arrange support and liaison for clergy in a time of a change in conference relationship or termination.	¶417.002 <u>In regards to ¶ 417.4, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [419.3] <u>1.</u> Superintendents shall work with the district committee on ordained ministry. [419.11] <u>2.11:</u> The superintendent shall cooperate with the conference Board of Ordained Ministry in its efforts to provide or arrange support and liaison for clergy in a time of a change in conference relationship or termination.	

GBOD ¶417.002 = 419.3 419.11		
¶417.003 In regards to ¶ 417.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. Further, the superintendents shall encourage the building of covenant groups and communities among both the clergy and clergy families, and the laity on the district. 2. The superintendent shall seek to be in regular contact with the clergy on the district for counsel and supervision, and shall receive written or electronic reports of the clergy's continuing education, spiritual practices, current ministry work, and goals for future ministry. GBOD ¶417.003 = 419.6 and 419.7	¶417.003 <u>In regards to ¶ 417.5, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [419.6] <u>1.6.</u> Further, the superintendents shall encourage the building of covenant groups and communities among both the clergy and clergy families, and the laity on the district. [419.7] <u>2.7.</u> The superintendent shall seek to be in regular contact with the clergy on the district for counsel and supervision, and shall receive written or electronic reports of the clergy's continuing education, spiritual practices, current ministry work, and goals for future ministry.	
¶417.004 In regards to ¶ 417.9, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: <i>Renewal and Study Leave</i>-A district superintendent may take up to three months' leave from his or her normal superintendent responsibilities for purposes of reflection, study, and self-renewal once during his or her term as superintendent. The bishop and cabinet, in consultation with the committee on district superintendency, shall coordinate details pertaining to such leaves. GBOD ¶417.004 = 420	¶417.004 <u>In regards to ¶ 417.9, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [420] <i>Renewal and Study Leave</i>-A district superintendent may take up to three months' leave from his or her normal superintendent responsibilities for purposes of reflection, study, and self-renewal once during his or her term as superintendent. The bishop and cabinet, in consultation with the committee on district superintendency, shall coordinate details pertaining to such leaves.	
¶420.001 In regards to ¶ 420.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Pan-Methodist Commission: The membership of the commission shall consist of nine persons from each member denomination, with each denomination naming three bishops, three clergypersons, and three lay persons to include at least one young adult. Each denomination will pay the expenses of its delegation to participate in the work of the commission.	¶420.001 <u>In regards to ¶ 420.2, the following additional regulations shall be implemented for the Pan-Methodist Commission:</u> [433.2] The membership of the commission shall consist of nine persons from each member denomination, with each denomination naming three bishops, three clergypersons, and three lay persons to include at least one young adult. Each denomination will pay the expenses of its delegation to participate in the work of the commission.	

The commission shall work to define, determine, plan, and, in cooperation with established agencies of the several denominations, execute activities to foster meaningful cooperation among the six Methodist denominations, and to explore possible union and related issues. The commission may develop one or more Pan-Methodist coalitions to further meaningful cooperation on a particular activity or issue. Each quadrennium, the commission shall plan and convene a Consultation of Methodist Bishops. The commission shall report to each of its member denominations through their General Conferences. The commission may be expanded by the inclusion of other denominations of the Wesleyan tradition and the commission may establish guidelines to provide for such expansion. Before another Wesleyan or American Methodist denomination may become a part of the commission, it must have the approval of its general conference or equivalent. GBOD¶420.001 = 433.2	The commission shall work to define, determine, plan, and, in cooperation with established agencies of the several denominations, execute activities to foster meaningful cooperation among the six Methodist denominations, and to explore possible union and related issues. The commission may develop one or more Pan-Methodist coalitions to further meaningful cooperation on a particular activity or issue. Each quadrennium, the commission shall plan and convene a Consultation of Methodist Bishops. The commission shall report to each of its member denominations through their General Conferences. The commission may be expanded by the inclusion of other denominations of the Wesleyan tradition and the commission may establish guidelines to provide for such expansion. Before another Wesleyan or American Methodist denomination may become a part of the commission, it must have the approval of its general conference or equivalent.	
¶422.001 In regional ecumenical and interreligious organizations according to ¶ 422.3, the following additional regulations shall be implemented: 1. <i>Churches Uniting in Christ</i>-The United Methodist Church is a member of Churches Uniting in Christ, its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been involved in its very beginnings and in all its committees and plenary consultations. The United Methodist Church is in covenantal relationship with other churches in Churches Uniting in Christ. 2. <i>National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations-a)</i> <i>The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.</i>-The United Methodist Church is a member of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been charter members of such body.	¶422.001 <u>In regional ecumenical and interreligious organizations according to ¶ 422.3, the following additional regulations shall be implemented:</u> [434.1] 1. <i>Churches Uniting in Christ</i>-The United Methodist Church is a member of Churches Uniting in Christ, its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been involved in its very beginnings and in all its committees and plenary consultations. The United Methodist Church is in covenantal relationship with other churches in Churches Uniting in Christ. [434.2] 2. <i>National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations-a)</i> <i>The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.</i>-The United Methodist Church is a member of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., its predecessor Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches having been charter members of such	

b) <i>Other National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations</i>-The Council of Bishops, shall be in dialogue with United Methodists in whatever countries they may reside, and shall coordinate, explore, and advocate United Methodist participation in regional ecumenical and interreligious organizations and shall address the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund funding of financial needs and the advisability of support of these organizations. c) The United Methodist Church shall seek observer status in the National Association of Evangelicals. United Methodist observers to these bodies shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops. 3. <i>The American Bible Society</i>-To encourage the wider circulation and use of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world and to provide for the translation, printing, and distribution essential thereto, the American Bible Society shall be recognized as a means of mission outreach for The United Methodist Church, for which appropriate entities of The United Methodist Church shall offer means for seeking the financial support needed for this program. 4. <i>Full Communion with Other Churches</i> a) To fulfill the vision of full communion between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, there shall be a Joint Commission on ELCA/UMC Full Communion. The commission shall serve the following functions: b) Coordinate the implementation of action taken by the two churches to achieve full communion. c) Assist joint planning for mission. d) Facilitate consultation and common decision making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future. e) Report regularly and appropriately to each church. f) The United Methodist membership of this commission shall be the Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops and one lay and one clergy member of OCUIR elected	body. b) <i>Other National or Regional Ecumenical Organizations</i>-The Council of Bishops, shall be in dialogue with United Methodists in whatever countries they may reside, and shall coordinate, explore, and advocate United Methodist participation in regional ecumenical and interreligious organizations and shall address the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund funding of financial needs and the advisability of support of these organizations. c) The United Methodist Church shall seek observer status in the National Association of Evangelicals. United Methodist observers to these bodies shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops. [435] 3. <i>The American Bible Society</i>-To encourage the wider circulation and use of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world and to provide for the translation, printing, and distribution essential thereto, the American Bible Society shall be recognized as a means of mission outreach for The United Methodist Church, for which appropriate entities of The United Methodist Church shall offer means for seeking the financial support needed for this program. [442] 4. <i>Full Communion with Other Churches</i> a) To fulfill the vision of full communion between The United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, there shall be a Joint Commission on ELCA/UMC Full Communion. The commission shall serve the following functions: b) Coordinate the implementation of action taken by the two churches to achieve full communion. c) Assist joint planning for mission. d) Facilitate consultation and common decision making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future. e) Report regularly and appropriately to each church. f) The United Methodist membership of this commission shall be the Ecumenical Officer of the Council of	
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by OCUIR. GBOD 422.001 = 434.1, 434.2, 435. 442	Bishops and one lay and one clergy member of OCUIR elected by OCUIR.	
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