TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

SUGGESTED TITLE: Mandatory Penalty For Violation of ¶ 2702.1(b)

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶* 2711.3

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

AMEND ¶2711 by addition as follows:

**¶ 2711.** *Power of the Trial Court*

3. *Penalties - If the Trial Results in Conviction.* Further testimony may be heard and arguments by counsel presented regarding what the penalty should be. The trial court shall determine the penalty, which shall require a vote of at least seven members. The trial court shall have the power to remove the respondent from professing membership, terminate the conference membership and/or revoke the credentials of conference membership and/or ordination or consecration of the respondent, suspend the respondent from the exercise of the functions of office, or to fix a lesser penalty. Except the trial court does not have the power to and may not fix a penalty for violations of ¶ 2702.1(b) less than the following:

*a)* First (1st) offense – One (1) year’s suspension without pay.

1. Second (2nd) offense - Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of licensing, ordination, or consecration.

The penalty fixed by the trial court shall take effect immediately unless otherwise indicated by the trial court.

**Rationale:** Assigning a penalty of less than a suspension for a first offense or less than termination of conference membership and/or revocation of conference membership and ordination or consecration in such circumstances encourages open defiance of the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church.