TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 8

SUGGESTED TITLE: Amending Mission Statement

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶* 120, 121, 256.1, 330.4, 335, 401, 403.1, 601, 608.3, 702.4, 807.10, 905.4, 1117, 1422, 2002

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: None

In 15 places in the *Book of Discipline*, the church’s mission statement is referenced. We petition to add in each case the phrase “for the eternal salvation of persons,” as follows:

AMEND ¶120 by adding the following phrase in the first sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶120 would read:

**¶ 120.** *The Mission*—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

AMEND ¶121 by adding the following phrase in the first sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 121 would read:

**¶ 121.** *Rationale for Our Mission*—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor …

AMEND ¶ 256.1 by adding the following phrase in the first sentence, “the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 256.1 would read:

*1. The Church School and Small-Group Ministries*—In each local church there shall be a variety of small-group ministries, including the church school, for supporting the formation of Christian disciples focused on the eternal salvation of persons and the transformation of the world.

AMEND ¶ 330.4 by adding the following phrase in point 4, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 330.4 would read:

4. They shall have responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination administered by the Board of Ordained Ministry. The candidate shall have (1) demonstrated … (2) satisfied … (3) prepared and preached … (4) presented … (5) presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Eternal Salvation of Persons and for the Transformation of the World.” …

AMEND ¶ 335 by adding the following phrase in point 7 of the second paragraph, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 335 would read:

¶ **335.** *Requirements for Admission to Full Connection and Ordination as Elder*—Provisional members who are candidates for full connection and ordination as elders … They shall have: (1) served full-time under episcopal appointment …

Such equivalence is to be determined … (2) been previously elected as provisional members; (3) met the following educational requirements: … (4) satisfied the board regarding physical, mental, and emotional health; (5) prepared and preached at least one written sermon … (6) presented a detailed plan and outline for teaching a Bible study; (7) presented a project that demonstrates fruitfulness in carrying out the church’s mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Eternal Salvation of Persons and for the Transformation of the World”; (8) responded to a written or oral doctrinal examination …

AMEND ¶ 401 by adding the following phrase in the second sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 401 would read:

¶ **401.** *Task*—The task of superintending in The United Methodist Church resides in the office of bishop and extends to the district superintendent, with each possessing distinct and collegial responsibilities. The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world (see Part IV, Section I). From apostolic times …

AMEND ¶ 403.1 by adding the following phrase in the third sentence and in sub-section (c), “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 403.1 would read:

¶ **403.** *The Role of Bishops and District Superintendents*—Bishops and superintendents are elders in full connection.

1. Bishops are elected from the elders and set apart for a ministry of servant leadership, general oversight and supervision (¶ 401). As followers of Jesus Christ, bishops are authorized to guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the Church. The role and calling forth of the bishop is to exercise oversight and support of the Church in its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world. The basis of such discipleship …

*a)* A vital and renewing spirit…

*b)* An enquiring mind and a commitment to the teaching office …

*c)* A vision for the Church. The role of bishop is to lead the whole Church in claiming its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world. The bishop leads …

AMEND ¶ 601 by adding the following phrase in the first sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 601 would read:

¶ **601.** *Purpose*—The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.

AMEND ¶ 608.3 by adding the following phrase, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 608.3 would read:

¶ **608.** *Connectional Ministries*—Each annual conference is responsible to focus and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within its boundaries by:

3. providing encouragement, coordination, and support for the ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness in districts and congregations for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world;

AMEND ¶ 702.4 by adding the following phrase, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 702.4 would read:

¶ **702.** *Amenability and Program Accountability*—

4. The Connectional Table shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of the general program-related agencies and connectional structures of the church as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world.

AMEND ¶ 807.10 by adding the following phrase in the fourth sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 807.10 would read:

¶ **807.** *Other Fiscal Responsibilities*—The council shall have the following additional fiscal responsibilities:

10. To supervise the use of the official United Methodist insignia and preserve the integrity of its design, in cooperation with the General Commission on Communication. It shall maintain appropriate registration to protect the insignia on behalf of the denomination. The insignia may be used by any official United Methodist agency, including local churches, to identify United Methodist work, programs, and materials. The use indicates the identity of The United Methodist Church, with the cross proclaiming Jesus Christ as its foundation, and the two flames descending to one point celebrating its origin when two denominations became one, and affirming its readiness to go forth to the ends of the earth to all people to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world, as the anointing of the Holy Spirit with “individual flames of fire” sent forth the apostles speaking …

AMEND ¶ 905.4 by adding the following phrase in the fourth sentence, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 905.4 would read:

¶ **905.** *Objectives*—The essential functions of the Connectional Table are:

4. To review and evaluate the missional effectiveness of general program-related agencies and connectional structures of the church as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world.

AMEND ¶ 1117 by adding the following phrase, “the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 1117 would read:

¶ **1117.** *Christian Discipleship Formation Responsibilities*—The board shall interpret and promote group ministries in local congregations in order to support the formation of Christian disciples focused on the eternal salvation of persons and the transformation of the world.

AMEND ¶ 1422.1 by adding the following phrase, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 1422.1 would read:

¶ **1422.** *Goals*—1. United Methodist schools of theology share a common mission of preparing persons for leadership in the ministry of The United Methodist Church; of leading in the ongoing reflection on Wesleyan theology; and of assisting the church in fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world.

AMEND ¶ 2002 by adding the following phrase, “for the eternal salvation of persons and”

So that the amended ¶ 2002 would read:

¶ **2002.** *Purpose*—The primary purpose of the General Commission on Religion and Race shall be to challenge and equip the general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures of The United Methodist Church to a full and equal participation of the racial and ethnic constituency in the total life and mission of the Church through teaching, advocacy and by reviewing and monitoring the practices of the entire church so as to further ensure racial inclusiveness as we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the eternal salvation of persons and for the transformation of the world.

RATIONALE:

The transformation of the world ought not come to the exclusion of people giving their lives to Jesus Christ for personal salvation. The message of salvation and personal holiness has always been the primary mission of the Methodist movement, since John Wesley emphasized, “You have nothing to do but to save souls.  Therefore spend and be spent in this work” (Jackson, VIII, p. 310). Adding this phrase to the mission statement clarifies the equal priority we give to both personal salvation and social holiness.