TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

SUGGESTED TITLE: Status of Retired Bishops

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶¶* ¶47 & 48, 409

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: Potential savings of meeting attendance expenses for retired bishops no longer attending Council of Bishops meetings

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

AMEND ¶47 as follows:

¶47. Article III.—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of The United Methodist Church serving in the effective relationship. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

AMEND ¶48 as follows:

¶48. Article IV.—The bishops of each jurisdictional and central conference serving in the effective relationship shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

Enabling legislation

Amend ¶409 as follows:

¶409. *Status of Retired Bishops*—A retired bishop is a bishop of the Church ~~in every respect and continues to function as a member of the Council of Bishops in accordance with the Constitution and other provisions of the~~ *~~Discipline~~*~~.~~

1. Retired bishops may participate in the Council of Bishops and its committees, ~~but~~ with~~out~~ vote, when elected, assigned or appointed by the Council under ¶¶ 406.3 or 409.2-3 for a period expected to exceed three months, for the duration of that election, assignment or appointment.

2. Retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops may serve as the executive secretary and the ecumenical officer of the Council and shall be considered in the effective relationship as long as they hold that role.

3. ~~They~~ Retired bishops may preside over sessions of an annual conference, provisional annual conference, or mission if requested to do so by the bishop assigned to that conference, or in the event of that bishop’s incapacity, by the president of the College of Bishops to which the conference is related. ~~Retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops may serve as the executive secretary and the ecumenical officer of the Council.~~ In emergency situations, where the resident bishop is unable to preside, the College of Bishops shall assign an effective or retired bishop to preside over the sessions of the annual conference (¶48). They may not make appointments or preside at the jurisdiction or central conference. However, when a retired bishop is appointed by the Council of Bishops to a vacant episcopal area or parts of an area under the provisions of ¶¶ 409.~~3~~5, 410.1, or 410.3, that bishop may function as a bishop in the effective relationship.

Renumber sections 2-4 as 4-6

So that the amended paragraph would read as follows:

¶409. *Status of Retired Bishops*—A retired bishop is a bishop of the Church. 1. Retired bishops may participate in the Council of Bishops and its committees, with vote, when elected, assigned or appointed by the Council under ¶¶ 406.3 or 409.2-3 for a period expected to exceed three months, for the duration of that election, assignment or appointment.

2. Retired bishops elected by the Council of Bishops may serve as the executive secretary and the ecumenical officer of the Council and shall be considered in the effective relationship as long as they hold that role.

3. Retired bishops may preside over sessions of an annual conference, provisional annual conference, or mission if requested to do so by the bishop assigned to that conference, or in the event of that bishop’s incapacity, by the president of the College of Bishops to which the conference is related. In emergency situations, where the resident bishop is unable to preside, the College of Bishops shall assign an effective or retired bishop to preside over the sessions of the annual conference (¶48). They may not make appointments or preside at the jurisdiction or central conference. However, when a retired bishop is appointed by the Council of Bishops to a vacant episcopal area or parts of an area under the provisions of ¶¶ 409.5, 410.1, or 410.3, that bishop may function as a bishop in the effective relationship.

Renumber sections 2-4 as 4-6

Rationale: The growing number of retired bishops is exercising a disproportionate influence on the deliberations of the Council of Bishops, while also increasing costs at a time when the Church needs to cut expenses. The enabling legislation makes provision for bishops on special assignment by the Council to participate in its deliberations.