TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

SUGGESTED TITLE: Added chargeable offense

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶¶* ¶ 2702

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: No

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Amend ¶ 2702 by adding a new chargeable offense as follows:

¶ **2702.** 1. A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶ 370), local pastor,14 clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶ 2702.4)\* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;\*\* (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings,15 including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;\*\* (c) crime; (d) disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; (e) interfering with the General Conference or another United Methodist body or agency’s ability to conduct business; (f) dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; (~~f~~g) relationships and/or behavior that undermines the ministry of another pastor;16 (~~g~~h) child abuse;\*\*\* (~~h~~i) sexual abuse;17 (~~i~~j) sexual misconduct\*\*\* or (~~j~~k) harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; or (~~k~~l) racial or gender discrimination.

. . .

3. A professing member of a local church may be charged with the following offenses, and, if so, may choose a trial: *(a)* immorality; *(b)* crime; *(c)*disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church; *(d)* interfering with the General Conference or another United Methodist body or agency’s ability to conduct business; *(e)* dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church; *(~~e~~f)* sexual abuse; *(~~f~~g)* sexual misconduct;\* *(~~g~~h)* child abuse; *(~~h~~i)* harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment; *(~~i~~j)* racial or gender discrimination; or *(~~j~~k)* relationships and/or behaviors that undermine the ministry of persons serving within an appointment.

Rationale: The persistent efforts by demonstrators to shut down the General Conference and the Connectional Table prevent the church’s work from getting done, waste valuable resources, and act as a bullying tactic to disrupt the democratic process of our conferencing. Such demonstrations cause fear in some delegates and observers and are the antithesis of a Christ-like process for addressing disagreements within the church.