TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

SUGGESTED TITLE: Retired Clergy Annual Conference Membership

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶¶* ¶ 32

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: Yes

AMEND ¶ 32, Article I as follows:

¶ **32. *Article I*.**—The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. Clergy members in the retired relation who are not serving under episcopal appointment or not elected to a conference office or membership on a conference board or agency shall be members with voice but without vote, shall not be counted for the purposes of equalization with lay members, and shall not be counted toward determining the number of General and Jurisdictional or Central Conference delegates the annual conference is entitled to (¶ 15). The lay membership shall consist of …

Implementing Legislation

Amend ¶ 602.1 as follows:

¶ **602.** *Composition and Character*—1. The clergy membership of an annual conference (¶ 370) shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection (¶ 333), provisional members (¶ 327), associate members, affiliate members (¶¶ 344.4,586.4), and local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge (¶ 317).27 (See also ¶ 32.) Clergy members in the retired relation who are not serving under episcopal appointment or not elected to a conference office or membership on a conference board or agency shall be members with voice but without vote and shall not be counted for the purposes of equalization with lay members (¶ 602.4).

Amend ¶ 502.2 as follows:

¶ **502.** *Composition*—1. The voting membership of the General Conference shall …

2. The number of delegates to which an annual conference is entitled shall be computed on a two-factor basis: the number of clergy members of the annual conference, and the number of members of local churches in the annual conference.1

The term *clergy members* as used in this paragraph shall refer to ~~both active and retired members of the annual conference (~~ those counted as clergy members of the annual conference under ¶ 32 and 602.1~~)~~.

Rationale: Retired clergy now outnumber active clergy in many annual conferences. Many retired clergy are not able to attend annual conference, yet they must be equalized with lay members, unnecessarily increasing the size and cost of annual conference. Counting retired clergy in the formula for General Conference delegates unfairly advantages those conferences that have a high population of retired clergy, yielding a delegation that is not representative of the number of professing members in each annual conference. Clergy who are actively involved in ministry or serving on an annual conference board or agency should be able to vote while serving in such capacities.