TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

SUGGESTED TITLE: Limiting Apportionments

*DISCIPLINE* PARAGRAPH: *Discipline ¶¶* ¶ 615

GENERAL CHURCH BUDGET IMPLICATION: Yes, an incentive to curb spending

GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS: No

AMEND ¶ 615 by adding a new sentence as follows:

¶ **615.** *Apportionments*—When a change to the apportionment formula or method is proposed, the council should provide for a study of the proposed change’s effects. After its study, which may include resources supplied by the General Council on Finance and Administration, the council shall recommend such formula or method to the annual conference for its action and determination which shall include the approved budgeted amounts for clergy support, administration, World Service, Conference Benevolences, and other apportioned causes (¶ 614.1-.4), the sum of which shall be apportioned to the districts, churches, or charges of the conference.61 The amount apportioned to each local church for general church and conference apportionments shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the previous year’s income for operations (including staff, program, and maintenance, but not missions or capital expenditures).

Rationale: The burden of high apportionments, often exceeding 15-20% of a local church’s budget, hampers the ability of the local church to make disciples and engage in effective local ministry. Having a cap on apportionments forces the prioritization of budgeting decisions. Such a cap would not preclude appeals to local churches to voluntarily support conference agencies, benevolences, and missions over and above the cap.