



The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Ever forward on our journey



Who are we?

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women challenges The United Methodist Church with the continuing commitment for full and equal participation of women in the total life of the Church. We're helping the Church **recognize every person – clergy and lay, women and men, adults and children** – as full and equal parts of God's human family. We believe that a fully engaged and empowered membership is vital to The United Methodist Church's mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

In 2022 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the creation of the agency. During these 50 years we applaud the work to advance the role of women in the Church, including:

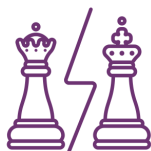
- ❖ **Increasing the percentage of active, female bishops** from zero in 1972 to 33.3% across the connection in 2023;
- ❖ **Expanding the percentage of clergywomen delegates** to General Conference from zero in 1972 to 36% in 2019; and
- ❖ **Narrowing the pay gap** between female and male clergy in the United States to an 11% disparity.



GENERAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATIVE CATEGORIES



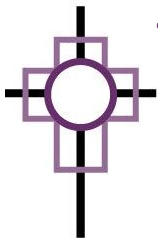
Leadership



Sexual Ethics



Complaint Process Equity



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General Conference Legislation in 2024

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LEADERSHIP



Amend Paragraph 4

Petition # 20240-GA-¶4-C-G – ADCA Vol. 2, Sec. 2, p. 636

Summary: Adds “gender” to the membership portion of the Constitution, allowing all people to attend worship and be a part of The UMC.

Rationale: Reinforces The UMC’s commitment to gender equality throughout our worldwide connection, which is consistent with the ratification of the current ¶166 ([added to the Constitution in 2019](#)); affirms that women and girls cannot be discriminated against in membership.

Eradication of Sexism in the Church

Petition # 20542-IC-R3443-G – ADCA Vol. 2, Sec. 2, p. 896

Summary: Highlights that female clergy make less money, experience more cases of being sexually harassed, and have disproportionate representation to men in leadership.

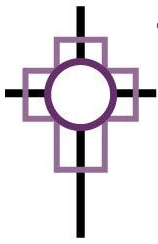
Rationale: To raise awareness of sexism so the Church can work toward ending disparities regarding pay inequality, sexual harassment, and the proportion of women in leadership.

Every Barrier Down: Toward Full Embrace of All Women in Church and Society

Petition # 20829-CB-R3342 – ADCA Vol. 3, p. 1226

Summary: Challenges the Church to equally affirm the dignity, value, and contributions of women in the Church and society.

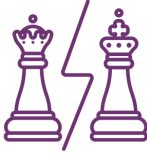
Rationale: The Gospel calls us to continue our work toward equal treatment of women in Church and society.



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SEXUAL ETHICS

Apology from General Conference to the Victims/Survivors of Sexual Misconduct in The UMC

Petition # 20593-IC-R9999-G – ADCA, Vol. 2, Sec. 2, p. 911

Summary: Requests The United Methodist Church to publicly acknowledge and apologize for the harm victims and survivors have faced due to sexual misconduct by leaders of The UMC.

Rationale: For there to be restorative justice, there must be an apology. As a part of the healing process for victims and survivors of sexual misconduct, the Church must acknowledge the harm it has allowed.

Sexual Misconduct Within Ministerial Relationships

Petition # 20541-IC-R2044-G – ADCA, Vol. 2, Sec. 2, p. 887

Summary: Mandates and further defines the role and membership of the Inter-Agency Sexual Ethics Task Force.

Rationale: Reinforces the responsibility of all levels of Church leadership for the prevention and response to sexual misconduct.

Eradication of Sexual Harassment in The UMC and Society

Petition # 20796-CB-R2045 – ADCA, Vol. 3, p. 1208

Summary: Provides consistent definitions of behaviors related to sexual misconduct.

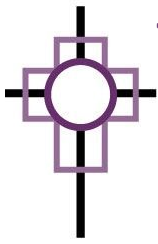
Rationale: Reaffirms the need for guidelines and definition of terms related to sexual misconduct while highlighting the “Do No More Harm” resource.

Prevention of the Use and Effects of Pornography Within the Church

Petition # 20594-IC-R9999-G – ADCA, Vol. 2, Sec. 2, p. 911

Summary: Highlights the increasing use of pornography in society and the Church and provides guidelines for the Church’s response in preventing its use.

Rationale: Pornography objectifies women and girls and hurts God’s creation, and The UMC needs to provide resources and training to prevent its use and effects.



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COMPLAINT PROCESS EQUITY

Complaint Procedures and Just Resolution

Petition # 20926-OM-¶362 – ADCA, Vol. 3, p. 1654

Summary: Outlines the Just Resolution process, while retaining all portions of the current complaint process.

Rationale: A Just Resolution process needs to seek healing, accountability, and ensure fair and equitable treatment of the complainant and respondent; this petition works in conjunction with the GCSRW petition below (# 21065-JA-¶636) and supports proposed changes to that paragraph.

Add Just Resolution Process Review to Administrative Review Committee Responsibilities

Petition # 21065-JA-¶636 – ADCA, Vol. 3, p. 1601

Summary: Provides checks and balances in a Just Resolution process; requires the Administrative Review Committee to review the process for fair and equitable treatment of the complainant and respondent; ensures Disciplinary procedures for a Just Resolution process are followed.

Rationale: This petition works in conjunction with the GCSRW petition above (# 20926-OM-¶362) and supports proposed changes to that paragraph.

Response Team Ministry for Sexual Misconduct

Petition # 20543-IC-R2043-G – ADCA, Vol.2, Sec. 2, p. 886

Summary: Encourages every annual conference to deploy a Bishop's Response Team when responding to situations involving sexual misconduct in The United Methodist Church.

Rationale: Justice, accountability, and reconciliation require the involvement of a trained team in distinct roles to facilitate healing and resolution.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



Questions? Email us at info@GCSRW.org