



Worldwide Regionalization Talking Points

SUMMARY

- » The **Worldwide Regionalization** legislation proposes the formation of eight Regional Conferences. Our current Central Conferences—Africa, Central and Southern Europe, Congo, Germany, Northern Europe, Philippines, and West Africa—are to be renamed Regional Conferences. A new Regional Conference will be created for the United States.
- » Each Regional Conference will have authority to maximize the effectiveness of their mission and ministry by adapting portions of *The Book of Discipline*.
- » Regions would not have the authority to adapt Parts I through V of *The Book of Discipline*, which contains tenets of our faith – our Constitution, Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task, Christian ministry, and Social Principles.

PURPOSE (WHY)

FOCUS ON MISSION AND MINISTRY

By allowing all regions of The UMC to adapt structures to facilitate our mission and ministries in the most effective ways for their context and culture(s), General Conference can focus more fully on the mission and ministry of our worldwide denomination.

STRENGTHENING OUR CONNECTION

United Methodists will continue to be deeply connected to one another as we live into the mission and ministries of The United Methodist Church as described in The General Book of Discipline (parts 1-5 of *The Book of Discipline*).

Worldwide regionalization will allow the gifts and resources of every region to be best employed in the work of The UMC, ensuring all regions know that they are an integral part of The UMC and essential to our global connection.

LOCAL AND EQUAL DECISION-MAKING

Regionalization will move The UMC into a more equitable era. Each Regional Conference will have equal duties and powers.

DE-CENTERING THE US

US-centric legislation, previously a significant focus of the General Conference, will now be addressed by the US Regional Conference.

WHO IS PROPOSING THIS CHANGE?

The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters collaborated with The Connectional Table and The Christmas Covenant team to submit one set of eight revised petitions which honors the key parts of both previously submitted pieces of legislation.

EXPANDING CURRENT POLITY

Worldwide regionalization extends to the entire connection authority currently held only by our Central Conferences. Since the founding of The United Methodist Church, Central Conferences have been empowered to adapt specific sections of *The Book of Discipline* to optimize The UMC's mission and ministries within their respective regions.

NOT EVERYTHING IS ADAPTABLE

REGIONAL CONFERENCES SHALL NOT ADAPT...

The proposed legislation **does not** allow Regional Conferences to adapt parts I through V of *The Book of Discipline*. This means our Constitution, Doctrinal Standards, Our Theological Task, The Ministry of All Christians, and The Social Principles will be upheld by all United Methodists in every Regional Conference.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES MAY ADAPT...

Regional conferences will have authority to adapt specific portions of Part VI of *The Book of Discipline*. This section of the Discipline deals with the organization and administration of the church—how we accomplish our mission and ministries and allows for the different legal systems across the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:



The Connectional Table
The United Methodist Church

