



50TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

**Revisions Committee
Final Report**

JULY 2016



ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Acolyte Ministry

Resolution : GC50-R01

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the Home and Church committee that this resolution be referred to the Christian Education Department for further study.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 542, Sub Paragraph # 6 of the 2012 Book of Discipline should read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the ministry of Acolytes be acknowledged as an office within the jurisdictional authority of the Christian Education Department and that the Department of Christian Education develop a ministry description and process of implementation for the ministry.

Reparations Motion

Resolution : GC50-R08

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the Ecumenical Committee that this resolution be further studied by the Committee on Social Justice and Economic Development.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 627, Sub Paragraph #5 of the 2012 Book of Discipline should read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the Social Justice and Economic Development Committee evaluate the recommendation for an international call for reparations. The Committee on Social Justice and Economic Development will shape the parameters, policies and initiatives of the Pan African Commission on Reparations.

Men's Ministry

Resolution : GC50-R09, R-35

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the Family Life Committee and Home & Church Committee that the 50th General Conference directs the establishment of the Men of Zion Ministry-Men's Ministry of the A.M.E. Zion Church. The Men of Zion Ministry-Men's Ministry of the A.M.E. Zion Church will be under the authority of the Board of Christian Education.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 525, Sub Paragraph #6 of the 2012 Book of Discipline should read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church establish a Connectional Men's Ministry. This Men's Ministry shall be under the authority of the Board of Christian Education and shall be financially self-sustaining. The name of this ministry shall be Men of Zion - Men's Ministry of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Specialized Ministry in The A.M.E. Zion Church, Expansion of

Resolution : GC50-R12

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the Ecumenical Committee to move for adoption.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Modify Paragraph 258 of the 2012 Book of Discipline to read:

258 The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church expand its inclusions of and specifications for Clergy in Specialized Ministry. Clergy in Specialized Ministry are ordained Deacons and Elders who are active Members in Full Connection of an Annual Conference and approved by the Bishop for Special Assignment.

1. Each Annual Conference shall establish a Committee on Specialized Ministry that shall provide guidance and support for clergy in discerning a call, entering, and serving effectively in Specialized Ministry. When recommending a Traveling Minister for ordination who does not perceive a call to pastoral ministry, the Committee on Holy Orders shall also recommend that the minister be referred to the Committee on Specialized Ministry.

2. A Minister on Special Assignment serves in a ministry setting outside of A.M.E. Zion Church settings. This minister may serve "on loan" in another denomination. This minister may serve in an ecumenical or para-church organization. This minister may serve on the faculty or administration in a program or school of religious/theological education. This minister may serve as a chaplain in a healthcare facility, correctional facility, educational institution, corporate setting, branch of the Armed Forces or Veterans' Administration, community organization, or government agency. Clergy interested in serving on Special Assignment must attain the necessary academic credentials, professional training, and denominational endorsements. Responsibilities and duties of the Clergy in Specialized Ministry are derived from the authority given in ordination as well as responsibilities and duties outlined in the job description, policies and procedures of the organization, institution, or agency.

3. Entering Specialized Ministry

a. To serve outside of A.M.E. Zion settings as a Minister on Special Assignment, clergy are responsible for arranging ministry in coordination with the appropriate A.M.E. Zion leaders and officers. For example, clergy seeking to become chaplains in the Armed Forces or Veterans' Administration must receive denominational endorsements from the Armed Forces Ministry Office of the General Secretary-Auditor. (see Book of Discipline 2012, Part VII, Chap. 1, par. 375, #15-25).

b. In A.M.E. Zion settings, a Pastor of a local church, Presiding Elder of a district, or General Officer of a connectional department may express a need for Clergy in Specialized Ministry. Or, clergy who discern a call to Specialized Ministry may consult a Pastor, Presiding Elder, or General Officer to inquire about serving under that leader's supervision in their assigned ministry setting.

Upon the recommendation of their Presiding Elder, clergy may be appointed by the Presiding Bishop to area(s) of Specialized Ministry and shall receive a Certificate of Appointment specifying their ministry setting.

c. Clergy in Specialized Ministry shall report on their labors to the Annual Conference and to a Quarterly Conference within the bounds where that ministry is practiced.

d. Clergy in Specialized Ministry will be accountable to and report labors to the Annual Conference from which approval is received. Clergy in Specialized Ministry maintain

membership in and support a local church in the same Annual Conference where it is feasible to do so.

These clergy are approved by the Presiding Bishop to serve in one or more of the following areas of Specialized Ministry:

1. Chaplaincy

A Minister serving in Chaplaincy is an ordained Elder in full connection, active in the Annual Conference and appointed by the Bishop. Chaplaincy includes Military Chaplaincy, Healthcare Chaplaincy, Corporate Chaplaincy, Prison Chaplaincy, etc.), Teacher in Theological School, Employment in Ecumenical Church Bodies (eg. National Council of Churches, Council on Church Union, Local Council of Churches), and parachurch organizations and "On Loan" to other denominations with corresponding relationships.

2. Evangelism and Missions: A Minister of Evangelism and Missions spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and service. This minister proclaims God's Word in order to bring persons to saving faith in Jesus Christ and active involvement in the Church. This minister may establish new congregations or assist in facilitating growth in existing congregations. This minister may promote the gospel of Jesus Christ through service in suffering and oppressed communities locally, nationally, and/or globally. Ministers of Evangelism and Missions coordinate their efforts with the Department of Church Growth, and Development and the Department of Global Missions.

3. Christian Education and Discipleship: A Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship equips persons to grow into mature, productive, and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. This minister may teach and/or design educational materials in local congregations, districts, conferences, training institutes, and other denominational settings. This minister may focus on facilitating the spiritual formation of a specific age or cohort group such as children, youth, women, young-adults, men, college students, etc. Ministers of Christian Education and Discipleship coordinate their efforts with the Departments of Christian Education and the Director of Curriculum Development & Church School Literature.

4. Pastoral Care and Counseling: A Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling assists persons in achieving mental and emotional well being. This minister may provide pastoral care services to clergy and laity, while referring complex cases to licensed professional counselors. This minister may offer care and counseling services to premarital or married couples, the bereaved, the sick and shut-in, etc.

5. Worship and Arts: A Minister of Worship and Arts assists persons and groups in developing holistic and healthy lifestyles of worship. This minister may lead worship planning efforts in congregations, districts, conferences, and other denominational settings. This minister may assist clergy and laity in designing personal and family worship practices. This minister may employ music, drama, poetry, mime, dance, visual arts, digital technology, and other media to enhance the worship experience.

6. Administration: A Minister of Administration helps the Church function more efficiently and effectively. This minister assists Pastors, Presiding Elders, and other ministry leaders to ensure the organizational health of ministries. This minister may assist Pastors, Presiding Elders, and other ministry leaders in the training and development of staff and personnel. Ministers of

Administration coordinate their efforts with Budget Committees, Finance Committees, Trustees, Stewards, and other relevant groups and personnel.

7. Health and Wellness: A Minister of Health and Wellness empowers persons to achieve physical well-being. This minister may share information and resources to raise awareness about health issues and concerns. This minister may organize health activities and initiatives in congregations, districts, and conferences in coordination with community organizations and healthcare professionals.

8. Social Justice: A Minister of Social Justice advocates for the socioeconomic and political well-being of all persons. This minister may partner with religious, community, and governmental organizations in initiatives that seek justice, peace, and social holiness. This minister may raise awareness about local, national, and global situations of injustice, encouraging and equipping the Church for thoughtful and effective action. Ministers of Social Justice coordinate their efforts with Global Missions.

a. Specialized Ministry shall not be limited to the above areas or descriptions. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, areas and descriptions of Specialized Ministry may be adapted or developed for the edification of the Church and to the glory of God in Christ.

b. Clergy in Specialized Ministry shall perform their duties and responsibilities under the authority given in their ordinations and according to the policies and procedures of the setting in which they serve. Clergy may serve in multiple areas of Specialized Ministry. For instance, a Minister on Special Assignment as a chaplain in a hospital may also serve as a Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling in a local church.

Resolutions, Book of

Resolution: GC50-R13

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the budget committee that the budget does not sustain this request. The General Conference voted to digitize this book at no cost to the Church.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 375, add #26 to read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that a Book of Resolutions be produced, codified according to subject matter and digitized for reference purposes and that it shall be updated following each General Conference. The General Secretary-Auditor's office shall be responsible for the development and implementation of this process as well as for the permanent record of the General Conference which shall include adopted resolutions. The Book of Resolutions shall include all adopted resolutions from the 2008 General Conference, forward. The General Secretary will ensure that resolutions adopted by the General Conference are effective until they are specifically rescinded, amended, revised, or superseded by action of subsequent session of the General Conference.

Connectional Lay Council Bylaws in the Book of Discipline

Resolution: GC50-R23

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee recommends that all Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Articles I through XVI, ratified at

the 49th General Conference with any amendments ratified by the 50th General Conference be placed in Chapter VIII, Board of Lay Activities in the 2016 edition of The Book of Discipline. Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 626 of the 2012 Book of Discipline shall include all bylaws of the Connectional Lay Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Articles 1 through XVI, ratified at the 49th General Conference with any amendments ratified by the 50th General Conference be placed in the 2016 edition of The Book of Discipline.

The Connectional Lay Council shall also present legislation to the 2017 Quadrennial Lay Council Convention to establish a separate Bylaws booklet to be submitted for ratification by the 2020 General Conference.

Administrative Boards, Equal Representation on

Resolution: GC50-25

Recommendation: Per the Restructuring Commission's Report, the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the adopted recommendations be included in the 2012 Book of Discipline as follows:

Par.140:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that The Connectional Council shall be composed of all the Bishops, General Officers, Administrative Boards and Committee members. The President of the Board of Bishops shall be the President of the Council and the General Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Council.

Par. 141:

4. The 50th quadrennial session of the General Conference directs that the Connectional Council consist of 8 Administrative Boards and 8 Committees all of which are amenable to the Connectional Council.

Administrative Boards

1. Christian Education Board
2. Church Growth
3. Communications (combination of former Public Relations and Publications Boards)
4. Connectional Budget Board
5. Connectional Trustees (combination of former Connectional Trustees and Zion Benefits Boards)
6. Global Mission Board
7. Lay Activities
8. Statistics, Records and Archives

Committees

1. Appeals
2. Commission on Discipline Codification
3. Compilation
4. Harriet Tubman Home
5. Restructuring Commission
6. Social Justice and Economics Development (combination of former

Temperance, Race Relations, International relations, and Family Life Committees)

7. Theological Seminary

8. Worship and Ritual

5. Each Administrative Board and Committee will consist of equal representation of clergy and lay members. There will be one clergy member and one lay member from each Episcopal District.

6. All Board and Committee members should have been elected as a General Conference delegate or an alternate delegate, in order to serve.

7. The position of a Third Vice Chair on each Board or Committee shall be a layperson elected from and by the members of that Board or Committee.

Restructuring Commission Adopted Recommendation #2

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that Paragraph 129 read: The election of Bishops, when there are any to be elected, and the General Officers may take place any time during the session after the report of the said officers shall have been made. There are three orders of election, by ballot:

A. Election by General Conference

1. Bishops

2. General Secretary-Auditor and Archives

3. Christian Education Officer

4. Global Missions Officer

5. Church Growth Officer

6. Convention Officer (will be a legacy position until 2024. The position will be eliminated as a General Officer in 2024 or before, if the Legacy Officer resigns/retires. The position will then be a staff position reporting to the General Secretary).

B. Nominated by Administrative Board and elected by the General Conference

1. Chief Financial Officer

2. Chief Communications Officer

3. Zion Benefits Officer

C. Nominated by Board of Bishops and elected by the General Conference

1. Chief Operating Officer

The adopted operational flowchart of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will be added to the 2016 Book of Discipline, in the Connectional Council section between current pages 46 and 47.

Restructuring Commission Adopted Recommendation #3:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that Page 252 of the 2012 Book of Discipline read:

Piedmont Episcopal District: Blue Ridge, West Central North Carolina, Western North Carolina, and Jamaica Conferences (all divisions):

Mid- Atlantic Episcopal District: Allegheny, East Tennessee-Virginia, Ohio, Philadelphia-Baltimore, Virginia, Barbados, Guyana-Suriname and St. Vincent:

North Eastern Episcopal District: New England, New York, New Jersey, Western New York, Bahamas, and London-Midland:

Eastern North Carolina: Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina and Virgin Islands:

South Atlantic Episcopal District: Georgia, Palmetto, Pee Dee and South Carolina:

Mid-West Episcopal District: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee and Trinidad-Tobago:

Alabama-Florida Episcopal District: Alabama, Cahaba, Central Alabama, Florida, North Alabama, South Alabama, South Florida and West Alabama:

Southwestern Delta Episcopal District: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Mississippi, Texas and West Tennessee-Mississippi:

Western Episcopal District: Alaska, California, Colorado, Oregon-Washington, and Southwest Rocky Mountain:

Western West Africa Episcopal District: North Ghana, West Ghana, Mid-Ghana, Liberia, East Ghana, Cote' D'Ivoire and Togo:

Eastern West Africa Episcopal District: Nigeria, Central Nigeria, Rivers Nigeria, Lagos

West Nigeria, Mainland Nigeria, Northern Nigeria, Cross River Nigeria, South Eastern Nigeria, Southern Nigeria, Akwa Nigeria and Port Harcourt Nigeria:

Central Southern Africa: East Angola, West Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe and India:

Continuing Education Units for Clergy

Resolution: GC50-R27, 39

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee recommends that this resolution be referred back to the Connectional Lay Council Executive Board to be developed.

Moved to Adoption.

Language:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that Paragraph 620 Sub Paragraph 3 of the 2012 Book of Discipline read:

A continuing education program for clergy shall be established for Pastors and Ministers that serve on the Local and District levels of the A.M.E. Zion Church. This program will consist of six annual continuing education units; three of the units can be acquired at the Episcopal educational gatherings with the remaining three to be acquired through other avenues offered for professional development that offer a certificate of completion. The Executive Board of the Connectional Lay Council shall provide the description and curricula for the program and this curricula, once completed, shall be added to the end of the section on Conference Studies in the A.M.E. Zion Book of Discipline.

Administrative Boards, Handbook of Duties and Functions

Resolution: GC50-R33

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the budget committee that the budget does not sustain this request. The General Conference referred this resolution to the General Secretary's office for development and implementation on the website.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that Paragraph 375, add Sub Paragraph #27 will read:

A Handbook of Duties and Functions of the Administrative Boards shall be developed by the office of the General Secretary-Auditor and placed on the official A.M.E. Zion website as a

reference document within twelve (12) months after the close of the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference.

Education, Continuing

Resolution: GC50-R39 - combined with Resolution 27 (duplicate resolutions)

Walls Advisory Board, Expansion of

Resolution: GC50-R40

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the Theological Seminary Committee recommendation to approve this request.

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

Paragraph 614, add Sub Paragraph IV. Historic Shrines and Landmarks, item 3. e. of the 2012 Book of Discipline shall read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that

Hood Theological Seminary shall be afforded an equal representation of seven members to be appointed by the seminary administration to the Walls Advisory Board with such recommendation and adoption coming with no additional cost.

Heritage Hall, Funding of the Budgetary Needs of

Resolution: GC50-R41

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the budget committee that the budget does not sustain this request. Resolution returned to budget committee for reconsideration.

Moved for Adoption:

Language:

Paragraph 397, Sub Paragraph 3 shall read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the Budget Committee of the General Conference approved \$20,000.00 annually for the purpose of funding the initial budgetary needs of Heritage Hall. This funding shall provide for Archival Services to the A.M.E. Zion Church, Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary. The Connectional Budget Board shall also add as a line item "Heritage Hall Collaboration" under category IV Educational Institutions, Livingstone College, Restricted Funds for Heritage Hall in the 2016-2020 Connectional Budget Apportionments.

Pastor's Retirement Benefit

Resolution: GC50-R42

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with the budget committee that the budget does not sustain this request, and refers it to the Connectional Budget Board and Zion Benefits Services, Inc. for discussion.

Substitute Motion, moved for Adoption with two amendments.

Language:

Paragraph 477 add Sub Paragraph 1 of the 2012 Book of Discipline to read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that a draft document of the Pastor's Retirement Benefit be brought to 2017 Connectional Council for discussion and voting. Zion Benefit Services will do the work of developing the retirement plan. The amount of \$500,000.00 from the minimum salary fund shall be invested in a present funding instrument and

earmarked for the Pastor's Retirement Benefit. Retired Pastors who have reached the age of 65, (optional) and/or a mandatory age of 75, by 2028, would be the first to receive accelerated benefits as part of the revised plan.

[Pending the action of the 2017 Connectional Council, to take effect in 2028.]

Zion Benefits Service, Inc., Amend and Restate Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Resolution : GC50-R43

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee recommends that the General Conference adopt the amended and restated articles of incorporation of Zion Benefits Services, Incorporated.

Moved for Adoption.

Language: Paragraph 474, add Sub Paragraph 7 of the 2012 Book of Discipline to read:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws of Zion Benefit Services, Inc., in the form of Exhibits A and B, along with such changes as are approved by the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church are ratified and approved. The directors and officers of Zion Benefit Services, Inc are authorized, directed and empowered to file such Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws with the office of the North Carolina Secretary of State.

Resolutions: 44 – 51 – Adopted and included.

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee acknowledges the ratification of the following resolutions by the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference:

Ratified by the 2016 General Conference

Resolution # GC50-R44-2016: WHOM Society, Reclassify Position of Executive Secretary

Resolution # GC50-R45-2016: WHOMS, Remove Prices from Life Members Council Membership

Resolution # GC50-R46-2016: WHOMS, Change of Status of "Heart for Overseas Missions"

Resolution # GC50-R47-2016: WHOMS, Quorum

Resolution # GC50-R48-2016: WHOMS, Parliamentary Authority

Resolution # GC50-R49-2016: WHOMS, Duties of District Treasurer

Resolution # GC50-R50-2016: WHOMS, Naming of Award to District Chairman

Resolution # GC50-R51-2016; WHOMS, Life Members Council District Chairman's Award for Quadrennium

Moved for Adoption.

Language:

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that GC50 R44 - R51 Resolutions were ratified by the General Conference and shall be placed in the WHOM Constitution.

Revision of the Connectional Lay Council (CLC) Bylaws

Resolution : GC50-R55

Recommendation: The Revisions Committee concurs with ratifying the Connectional Lay Council Bylaws, 10th Quadrennial convention. 2012 AMEZ Church Book of Discipline, Page 245, paragraph 626, delete "and District", and replace with ", Presiding Elder District". In Article III, Membership, Section 1 Eligibility, after eligible add the wording "and encouraged".

Moved for Adoption.

Language: Paragraph 626,

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs that

The legislation ratified by the 10th Quadrennial Convention of the Connectional Lay Council be included in the 2016 edition of The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

In Paragraph 626, delete “and District”, and replace with “, Presiding Elder District”. In Article III, Membership, Section 1 Eligibility, after eligible add the wording “and encouraged”.

The 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference directs the following modification in the AMEZ Church Book of Discipline Page 246, Article III, Section 2 Categories, Subsection A. Dues. Add the following:

| Memberships | Connectional | Regional | Conference | District | Local |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Sustaining Life-\$10.00 | \$2.50 | \$1.00 | \$1.00 | \$0.50 | \$5.00 |