

INITIAL REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

2017 Pacific Northwest Annual Conference

June 15-17, 2017

Note: in all rule change proposals below, deleted text is ~~struck out~~; new text is **bold and underlined**.

Part 1: Report concerning Petitions and Recommendations in the Pre-Conference Handbook for vote:

1. PCH Page Section C – 10 Petition 14, Rule VII, Sec. 3 (d) (2016 Journal, p. N-23), as follows:

~~New churches without a previous history from which a grade point can be arrived at shall be given a minimum grade point of .00025 for a period of two years, except that a new church of unusual initial strength and promise shall have a higher grade point to be determined by the Council and the District Superintendent.~~ **The minimum apportionment for a newly chartered church be set by formula by BOCD using the models they have developed that reflect both the current context and emerging new ministry models.**

Rationale: The evolving context in the PNW and our desire to adapt by experimenting with new ministry models make a single, rigid formula cumbersome and restrictive. The BOCD is ideally situated to make and keep our formula current and adaptive to changing environmental shifts.

Part 2: Rules Changes considered by the committee upon request, and submitted directly to the Conference for vote:

1. At the request of the Connectional Table and Council on Finance and Administration, the Committee moves that Rule XI, Sec 2 (b.) (2016 Journal, p. N-28) be amended as follows:

The Annual Conference shall pay the one-time moving expenses, up to an amount set by the Annual Conference on recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration, of the following persons: a ~~retired minister~~ **a minister retiring under appointment from a local church**, a minister on ~~Disability~~ **Medical** Leave, the surviving spouse of an active minister under appointment to a local church, the surviving spouse of a District Superintendent, and the surviving spouse of a minister appointed to the Conference staff.

Rationale: The current practice is to pay moving expenses of retired pastors under appointment to local church but not retired pastors who are not serving a local church. The Table and Council felt that the rule needed to reflect current practice.

Disability Leave is a term no longer used by The Book of Discipline. The correct term is Medical Leave.

2. At the request of the Connectional Table and Council on Finance and Administration, the Committee moves that Rule XI, Sec 2 (c) (2016 Journal, p. N-26) be amended as follows:

~~Seminary students, Candidates for ministry or ministerial members~~ **clergy being appointed from beyond the conference boundaries** (including ¶337.1) ~~who are transferring in and being appointed as pastor shall~~ **may** be reimbursed for moving costs according to a schedule of allowable amounts recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration and approved by the Annual Conference.

Rationale: The rule is being rewritten to line up with current practice.

3. The Rules Committee moves that Rule V, Sec. 3(a)(2) (2016 Journal, p. N-10) be amended as follows:

Recommendation Assignment: The Conference **Office of Connectional Ministries, in consultation with the writer(s) of the legislation**, is empowered to assign recommendations to the appropriate Focus Session and to withdraw and reassign said recommendations at any time before a report on said recommendations is brought in. The Conference may decide the appropriate number of Focus Sessions needed based on the resolutions, recommendations, petitions and proposals for Conference action submitted by April 15th.

Rationale: The term “Conference” is vague and does not specify who makes the assignments of petitions to focus sessions. This rule change gives that ability to a defined group.

4. The Rules Committee moves that Rule V, Sec. 1(a) (2016 Journal, p. N-8) be amended as follows:

The Annual Conference Sessions Planning Committee shall be composed of the following: the Bishop of the Area, who shall be the chairperson; the Host District Superintendent, the Conference Lay Leader, the Dean or Secretary of the Cabinet; the Conference Secretary; one Youth appointed by the Bishop; one Young Adult appointed by the Bishop; the chairperson or a representative of the Board of Ordained Ministry; the chairperson of the Orders of the Day; the Conference United Methodist Women President; Conference United Methodist Men President; **the** chairperson or representative of **the** Committee on Persons Living with Disabilities; **the chairperson or representative of the Annual Conference Worship Team** and, without vote, the Director of the Conference Office of Connectional Ministries and the Conference Treasurer. The Bishop shall convene the Committee no later than October 1, preceding the Annual Conference.

In addition, there shall be a Sessions Local Arrangements Committee amenable to the Sessions Planning Committee, composed of the following: the Host District Superintendent, who shall be the chairperson; a clergy person from the host church, institution or district; a lay person from the host church, institution or district; a local pastor named by the Host District Superintendent; the District Lay Leader of the Host District; the United Methodist Women President of the Host District; **the** United Methodist Men President of the Host District; **the** chairperson or **a** representative of Committee on Persons Living with Disabilities; one **Youth** or **Young Adult** appointed by the Host District Superintendent; **the Childcare Coordinator**, and such other additional persons as the Sessions Local Arrangements Committee may enlist.

Rationale: Past practice has been for the chairperson of the Annual Conference Worship Team to participate on the Sessions Planning Committee. This change aligns the Rules with practice. Childcare is an important part of our Annual Conference sessions. Naming a Childcare Coordinator to serve on the Sessions Local Arrangements Committee affirms the importance of this role for the Conference.

5. The Rules Committee moves that Rule V, Sec. 3(b)(2) (2016 Journal, p. N-11) be amended as follows:

Tenure: Assignment shall be annual, and the restrictions specified in Rule VI, Sec. 2(c) shall not apply in the Focus Sessions. ~~Membership on the Focus Sessions shall be limited to four consecutive years, provided that~~ Chairpersons of conference boards and agencies reporting to a Focus Session may serve on that ~~committee~~ **Focus Session** during their tenure in office and provided further that Conference Executive Staff and the Conference Treasurer may serve on the Focus Session appropriate to their responsibilities.

Rationale: The term limit has not been enforced in the past. Having term limits for focus sessions limits the peoples’ passions and interests. Outside of clergy members, many members of conference do not serve for more than four years.

6. At the request of the cabinet, the Committee moves that Rule VI, Sec 1 (c)(2)€ (2016 Journal, p. N-16) be amended as follows:

Board of Congregational Development: Chairperson and Secretary of the Board, 7 at-large Board of Congregational Development members (at least one of whom must be between the ages of 18-35), **up to** 3 cabinet members, 4 Office of Connectional Ministries staff members (including the Director of New Faith Communities, the Director of Connectional Ministries, and the Director of Leadership Development for an Inclusive Church, and the Hispanic Coordinator), the Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Commission on Equitable Compensation and Mission Aid, and the Connectional Table Chairperson for Congregational Development for the Annual Conference. The Bishop will serve ~~an~~**as** an ex officio member.

Rationale: Currently there are eight (8) cabinet members of the Board. The cabinet would like to have flexibility to have less cabinet members required.

Part 3: Corrections to Rules considered by the committee that make grammatical changes and changes to reflect previous rules, and Book of Discipline. These are submitted directly to the Conference without vote:

1. The Rules Committee changes Rule V, Sec. 3(d)(6) (2016 Journal, p. N-12) as follows:

Sub-Committees: Each ~~committee~~ **Focus Session** may elect sub-committees by whatever method it chooses.

Rationale: Since 2014 our language has been Focus Sessions not committees.

2. The Rules Committee moves that Rule VI, Sec. 3(e) (2016 Journal, p. N-21) be amended as follows:

The Conference Lay Leader shall be elected for a quadrennial term. The Associate Conference Lay Leader shall be elected for a four year term, beginning at mid-quadrennium.

Rationale: This is a grammatical change.

3. The Rules Committee moves that Rule XI, Sec. 3(b) (2016 Journal, p. N-19) be amended as follows:

Parsonages shall meet housing standards established by the Annual Conference and available on the Conference website and in the ~~District offices~~ District Service Center.

Rationale: We do not have District Offices but use a centralized District Service Center.

Please contact Shane Moore with corrections to this report as soon as possible.