



Decisions of GC2019 concerning the Traditional Plan

Green = accepted, but given to Judicial Council for declaring its constitutionality
Red = not constitutional as submitted and not revised at General Conference or not finalized in plenary

Definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual”

Pet 90032 – TP1 – Expand the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual”

The present definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” in the footnote of par. 304.3 (BOD) is expanded because of a decision of the Judicial Council (see additional words underlined):

“Self-avowed practicing homosexual” is understood to mean that a person openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual; or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.

Regulations on the composition of the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM)

Pet 90037 – TP6 –

par. 635.1.a (BOD) is expanded: Before persons can be nominated as members of the BOM, each person has to declare in writing that they “uphold, enforce and maintain the Book of Discipline in its entirety, including but not limited to all the qualifications for ordination”, without adding reservations. Additionally, Bishops have to declare in writing to the secretary of the annual conference that they have only nominated such persons who have given this written promise.

Pet 90039 – TP8 – and Pet90040 – TP9 – Episcopal confirmation and consequences of not following it Par. 806.9 and 613.19 (BOD) are expanded in two instances with the same wording: Each annual conference has to declare in writing that its bishop has only nominated persons who uphold the BOD according to TP6 (par. 635.1.a). If such confirmation is not given, the General Council on Finance and Administration shall withhold all financial support to such an annual conference and such conferences lose the right to use the symbol of cross and flame.

Regulations concerning the full examination of candidates by the Board of Ordained Ministry and their commissioning or ordination by bishops

Pet 90043 – TP12 – Qualifications for Ordained Ministry

par. 304.5 (BOD) is expanded: The Board of Ordained Ministry shall not recommend any person to pastoral ministry where it has not made a complete examination with a positive result (no contravention to homosexuality practice). The bishop is obliged to consider any motion in the closed session of clergy as null and void if confirmation of full examination is not given and the bishop may not appoint such persons.

Pet 90036 – TP5 – Commissioning, ordination and consecration by bishops

Par. 415.6 (BOD) is expanded: It is expressly forbidden to bishops to commission, ordain or consecrate persons who are practicing homosexuals, even when they have been duly elected for it in their respective conferences.

It is expressly forbidden to bishops to give licences for pastoral ministry to such persons even if their respective Board of Ordained Ministry has recommended them.



Pet 90038 – TP7 – Full examination of Candidates by Board of Ordained Ministry

Par. 536.2h (BOD) is expanded:

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall secure a full examination in order not to accept practicing homosexuals as candidates. This includes research in internet and social media. The BOM has to confirm that it made a complete search.

New committee for accountability of Bishops

Pet 90035 – TP4 – Creation of a new committee on Council Relationships

Par. 422 (new): The Council of Bishops shall create among its members a new “Council Relationship Committee” with at least three bishops. This committee has to bring motions of involuntary leaves of absence and/or involuntary retirement of bishops upon recommendation by the Council of Bishops or seven individual bishops. In addition to this committee, there shall be an “Administrative Review Committee” responsible for keeping fair process procedures.

Pet 90033 – TP2 – and Pet 90034 – TP3 – Power and responsibility of the Committee on Council Relationships

Par. 408.3 and 410: Upon recommendation of the Committee on Council Relationships, the Council of Bishops can – with simple majority and irrespective of the age of a bishop – decide on voluntary or involuntary retirement (Pet. 90033) or leave of absence ((Pet. 90034; leaves of absence need to be renewed every year; salary is paid for a maximum of six months).

Procedures in case of complaints

Pet 90044 – TP13 – Referral or Dismissal of Complaint

Par. 362.1e (BOD): It is expanded so that a dismissal is only possible if the complaint has “no basis in law or fact” and if the complainant receives a copy of the dismissal.

Pet 90045 – TP14 – Just Resolution procedures

Several articles related to Just Resolution procedures are expanded with the following sentence: “Just resolutions shall state all identified harms and how they shall be addressed by the Church and other parties to the complaint.”

Pet 90046 – TP15 – Just Resolution procedures

Several articles related to Just Resolution procedures are expanded as follows: “No matter where in the process a just resolution is achieved, the complainant(s) shall be a party to the resolution process and every effort shall be made to have the complainant(s) agree to the resolution before it may take effect.”

Church Appeals after a trial

Pet 90047 – TP16 – Church Appeal procedures

Par. 2715.10 (BOD) is expanded in several places on the rights for the Church to appeal to the committee on appeals. Furthermore, in all such procedures, there shall be a right to appeal to the central conference Judicial Court and/or the Judicial Council for remanding the case for a new trial (new right since GC2016).



Minimum penalties in trials:

Pet 90042 – TP11 – par. 2711.3 Minimum penalty

Par. 2711.3 (BOD) is expanded concerning penalties in a way that the trial court still shall determine the penalty, but with the following exception: "Except, where the conviction is for conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions, or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies under par. 2702.1(b) or (d), the trial court does not have the power to and may not fix a penalty less than the following:

- a) First (1st) offense – One (1) year's suspension without pay.
- b) Second (2nd) offense – Not less than termination of conference membership and revocation of credentials of licensing, ordination, or consecration."

Implementation Process for the Traditional Plan

Pet 90041 – TP10 – Planned implementation process, starting with the called session of GC2019

New par. 2801: The new paragraph outlines in 23 points over five pages, in which timeline and with what measures the Traditional Plan shall be implemented in the UMC. In brief, it includes:

February 2019	Decision of the called session of GC
Summer 2019	Report to all annual conferences
Fall 2019	Start of decision process in local churches, districts and annual conferences
Till March 2020	Decision by annual conferences on their staying within the UMC
March/April 2020	Decision of clergy and local churches which opt different than the annual conf.
May 2020	General Conference
May / June 2020	Each bishop has to declare in writing to uphold, maintain and enforce the standards of the UMC concerning marriage and practicing homosexuals.
January 2021	End of all financial support for those parts which have not fully endorsed the new BOD and which have to leave the UMC

Concordat Churches

Pet 90048 – TP17 – Possibility to create Concordat Churches in the USA for those who have left the UMC