

Suggested title: Committee on Older Adult Ministries
of The United Methodist Church

Discipline: Par. 1121

Financial Implications: Yes, included in the Budget of GBOD

Sponsoring Agency: General Board of Discipleship

Rationale: Unprecedented growth in the senior population challenges The United Methodist Church to meet the needs of this population segment. The 1992 legislation calling for the Committee on Older Adult Ministry has not been revised to reflect the changing needs of both the church and the UMC organizational structure.

Amend ¶ 1121 as follows:

2. *Purpose*—The committee will provide.... The committee shall serve...The United Methodist Church **and its affiliated agencies** and in the larger society.

3. *Responsibilities*—The responsibilities of the committee shall include the following:

c) **Encourage and S**upport the development of resources **and programs** that will undergird local church ministries by, with, and for older adults.

d)

e) Educate and keep before the Church the lifelong process of aging, with emphasis on the quality of life, intergenerational understanding **and interaction**, and faith development.

f) Encourage **and support** the development of resources and programs...annual conferences, jurisdictions, **central conferences**, and the denomination at large....

g)

h) Encourage coordination **and networking opportunities**....

i) Support and advocate the provisions contained in *The Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church related to aging.

j) Support and encourage resource development for the celebration of an annual Older Adult Recognition Day.

k) Develop and administer a program of financial grants for older adult ministries throughout The United Methodist Church.

4. *Membership*—The committee shall be composed of one board member and one staff member from each of the following agencies: the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and **the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits** ~~the Connectional Table~~; one member (board or staff) from **each of the following**: the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, ~~one from the~~ General Commission on Religion and Race, ~~and one from the~~ General Commission on United Methodist Men, **the Connectional Table, the General Board of United Methodist Publishing, the General Commission on Communication, the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries**; one **active or** retired bishop representing the Council of Bishops, **and** one central conference representative; five older adults, one to be selected by each jurisdictional College of Bishops; and no more than ~~five~~ **three** members to be selected ~~by the committee~~ for expertise, **and/or** professional qualifications, **and no more than three additional members** to be selected by the committee for inclusiveness (racial/ethnic, disability, age, gender, laity, clergy, or geographic distribution). Staff **and/or board** members will provide appropriate liaison

and reports to their respective agencies. ~~They will have voice but not vote.~~ **Board members and central conference and jurisdiction representatives shall serve no more than two consecutive terms (one term equals four years). Each board and agency will be responsible for travel, lodging, and other expenses incurred by representatives attending meetings of the Committee on Older Adult Ministries.**

5. *Meetings*—The committee....