



PROPOSED LEGISLATION FORM

Date: _____

Person submitting Bill: Bill Dickens

District: 5th Conference: Pacific Northwest

Address: _____

Ph. _____ E-mail: _____

1. Check the appropriate response. Prior Bill; Newly Proposed Legislation
2. Check all that apply. This bill has been reviewed, discussed and is supported at the following levels:

Local Church Lay Organization	District of the Annual Conference Lay Organization	Conference Lay Organization	Episcopal District Lay Organization
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3. Complete the following

BILL NO.	Leave Blank
TITLE	Transparency of Connectional Budget Church Assessments
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Part IX Church Finance, Section I. General Summary of the Budget (Page 233)</i>
INTENT	To provide a clear mathematical formula used to determine local church assessment to support the Connectional and Episcopal District Budget.

RATIONALE

The Discipline mandates Episcopal District assessments to support the financial objectives of the Connectional Budget. The mandates however are promulgated without any rule or properly defined algorithm/mathematical formula to help local churches understand how the size of their assessments is derived. Projections were made to reflect economic conditions in both the nation and church. Consideration has been given to actual expenditures in previous years, as well as the objectives and needs of each department. The median income of families in each Episcopal District was used to determine the budget-sharing of each District.

Absence of a clearly defined objective algorithm makes the assessment and collection practice arbitrary, subjective and subject to criticism. The purpose of this legislation is aimed at providing all members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church the basic information needed to clearly understand how Connectional assessments are derived.

- 4. Existing Legislation now reads: (Quote applicable portion of current legislation; Include rationale for the change.) If more space is needed, please continue on a separate page identified as “No. 4 continued”.**

Current Text:

None

- 5. Proposed NEW wording (by article, section, and subsection). If more space is needed, continue on a separate page identified as “No. 5 continued”.**

The projections for local church assessments to the Connectional Budget will be based on the following observable statistical metrics: number of currently active local church members, inflation-adjusted median family income in the relevant Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), unemployment rate in the SMSA and percent of families living below the poverty level in the SMSA. The Chief Financial Officer will chair a Special AME Finance Task Force consisting of one clergy and one lay member from each Episcopal District to design a transparent metric to establish local church assessments for the Connectional Budget. The Task Force will be comprised of economists, financial managers, mathematicians and certified public accountants. The Task Force will publish the rule for Connectional assessments in the section of the Discipline under Church Finance. The financial rule will be ready in time for the publication release of the 2016 Discipline and Doctrine.

Cost: FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This proposed legislation has a minimal financial impact on the General Church Budget. Meetings and discussions will take place via Skype or some alternative online meeting software to avoid travel and overnight lodging. The cost for hosting the online meetings will be the responsibility of the CFO.