



African Methodist Episcopal Church

CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

CONVO XVII

Westin Atlanta Airport, Atlanta GA

December 3-5, 2015



Packet of Proposed Legislation

**In Preparation for the
50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference
of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

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BILL NO.	CLO PL 01
TITLE	Chief Financial Officer (Treasurer) of the AME Church
REFERENCE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Part VI, Section III, Page 131
INTENT	To specify the Qualifications for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
RATIONALE	Add a new section (a). The CFO (treasurer) of the AME Church is responsible for directing the budget, overseeing investments of funds, managing and limiting risks, and supervising cash management. The person serving in this position must be equipped with proper educational qualification and professional expertise.



1 CURRENT TEXT: None

2

3 AMENDED TEXT: Add new paragraph 2.a. Qualifications. (pg. 131)

4 *Any candidate seeking the office of Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church shall*
5 *have the following credentials:*

6 *1. Be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with a current license or have a Masters*
7 *in Business Administration (MBA) degree from an institution accredited by the*
8 *Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB);*

9 *2. Have a proven track record of applicable work experience and professional*
10 *expertise*

11 *3. Be a Lay Person in good and regular standing*

12 *This legislation shall take effect in 2020.*

13 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**

14 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 03
TITLE	Transparency of Assessments Determination at all levels of the AME Church
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part VII, Section II,A. Page 205; Part IX, Section 1.D., Page 233
INTENT	To inform the AME Church membership, in a clear and succinct manner, of the methodologies and/or algorithms used to determine the financial assessments of each episcopal district toward the General Budget, and the financial assessments of each annual conference and local church toward the General Budget and episcopal district budget..
RATIONALE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church specifies budget allocations (financial assessments) to episcopal district budgets, giving only a cursory overview of factors considered in developing the General Budget (of the Connection), such as, projections made to reflect economic conditions in both the nation and church, and the median income of families in each episcopal district. However, there is no clear statement explaining how the percentage allocations are calculated. Absence of a clearly defined, objective methodology makes the assessments seem arbitrary, subjective and subject to negative criticism. In addition, The Doctrine and Discipline also states that allocated amounts also represent assessments to annual conferences and local churches. And similarly, there is no methodology offered to help the local church understand how the size of its assessment is derived from the General or Episcopal District Budgets. The calculus or method(s) used to derive financial assessments to the episcopal district, annual conference and local church need to be shared with all members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT:
- 2 No language on method or algorithm.
- 3
- 4 AMENDED TEXT: Add a new paragraph to Section I.D. (Page 233)

5 *By the first meeting of the General Board after the 2016 General Conference, the*
6 *Commission on Statistics and Finance shall submit to the General Board*
7 *documentation of the method(s), system(s)and/or algorithm(s) used to determine*
8 *episcopal district budget assessments for 2016 – 2020. The documents shall consist of*
9 *clearly stated procedure(s) and/or algorithm(s), and shall include details on annual*
10 *conference and local church assessments determination, as applicable. The General*
11 *Board shall carefully review the submitted material for accuracy and consistency with*
12 *the approved General Budget and proposed Episcopal District Budgets. Members of the*
13 *General Board shall return a copy of the assessments determination documents to each*
14 *annual conference within the respective episcopal district that they represent.*

15

16 *Thereafter, the Commission on Statistics and Finance shall provide the current*
17 *methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine episcopal district assessments*
18 *to the General Budget along with the proposed General Budget presented at each*
19 *General Conference.*

20

21 CURRENT TEXT:

22 Part IX, Section II.3., page 236 and Part VIII, Section II.A.10 (3rd paragraph); Page 207

23 The Episcopal District Budget with special projects, if any, must be submitted to the

24 General Board at its first annual meeting following the General Conference for approval.

25 The Episcopal District Budget submitted for approval must include sources and amount

26 of anticipated income and expected amount of expenditure in each of the listed account

27 categories. A printed, audited report of Income and Expenditure itemized will be
28 presented to each annual conference which contributes to the fund.

29

30 AMENDED TEXT:

31 Part IX, Section II.3., page 236 and Part VIII, Section II.A.10 (3rd paragraph); Page 207

32 The Episcopal District Budget with special projects, if any, must be submitted to the

33 General Board at its first annual meeting following the General Conference for approval.

34 The Episcopal District Budget submitted for approval must include sources and amount

35 of anticipated income and expected amount of expenditure in each of the listed account

36 categories. *The Episcopal District Budget must also include a clear statement*

37 *explaining the methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine assessments of*

38 *annual conferences and local churches within the episcopal district.* A printed audited

39 report of income and expenditures itemized, *along with a clear explanation of the*

40 *methodology, system and/or algorithm used to determine annual conference and local*

41 *church budget assessments shall be presented to the members of each annual*

42 *conference at the first annual conference after the General Conference.*

43

44

45 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**

46

47 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 04
TITLE	Reporting Liabilities/Accounts Payable and Indebtedness at the Quarterly Conference
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, PART VIII, SECTION IV, C. PROCEDURE, QUESTION 30; Page 217</i>
INTENT	Restate and expand on information requested in question #30 in on indebtedness
RATIONALE	Merely stating a mortgage balance or an auto loan balance as indebtedness does not give a comprehensive report of a church's total indebtedness. More details are warranted in order to evaluate and fiscally analyze a local church's present financial position. A local church can benefit greatly when all stake holders (clergy and laity) are regularly informed of the church's full financial status.



1 CURRENT TEXT: Section IV C., Question 30; Page 217

2 30. What is the present indebtedness? a. Steward b. Trustees c. Stewardship
3 Commission

4

5 AMENDED TEXT: Section IV C., Question 30; Page 217

6 30. ***Liabilities/Accounts Payable***

7 a. What is the present indebtedness? (***Debt secured by church physical assets.***)

8 ***Itemize the amount of debt/liens currently held by the church, such as mortgages, that***
9 ***are secured by properties and assets owned by the church.***)

10 *(b. Other debt (State the total of all debt/liens currently held by the church that is not*
11 *secured by church property assets, such as credit cards, lines of credits, and lease-to-*
12 *purchase agreements).*

13 *c. Total Debt (The sum of lines a. and b. should equal the total debt currently held by*
14 *the church.)*

15 *d. Are there any accounts receivables/liabilities/ or any other debts for goods or*
16 *services that are past due 60 days?, 90 days?, 120 days? or more?*

17 *f. Are there any unpaid obligations against the approved local church annual budget.*

18

19 FUNDING – There is no cost associated with this legislation

20

21 *Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization*

BILL NO.	CLO PL 05
TITLE	Quarterly Conference Consistency
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012. 49th ed. Nashville, Tennessee. The AMEC Sunday School Union, , 2013. Part IV, Section IX, Subsection A.1.a., The Role of the Presiding Elder - Administrative Function, page 104; & Part VII, Section IV.B, The Quarterly Conference - sessions, Page 215.</i>
INTENT	To state the purpose of the Quarterly Conference, and to make clear the intent of the currently stated schedule and format for Quarterly Conferences as stipulated in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and to emphasize the importance of said schedule and format.
RATIONALE	The presiding elder is required to hold a Quarterly Conference in every station and circuit every three months. However, some presiding elders have implemented a variety of meeting formats and schedules which have been increasingly causing undue hardship for the members and officers of the local churches, resulting in significant reduction in attendance. In order to fulfill the duty of determining the efficiency of the pastor and the effectiveness of the ministry of the church (Section IX, Subsection A1.a) it is imperative that the presiding elder meet and interact with a substantive representation of the local church, and in such a place and manner as to ensure the local church's privacy.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Section IV, Opening Paragraph (before subsection A)
- 2 No Language
- 3

4 AMENDED TEXT: Section IV, ADD Opening Paragraph (before subsection A)
5 *The presiding elder holds Quarterly Conferences to determine the effectiveness of the*
6 *ministry of each church in his/her respective district, to evaluate the efficiency of each*
7 *pastor and give proper direction to all the affairs of the churches in said district.*

8
9 CURRENT TEXT: Section IVB. Sessions; pg. 215 (first paragraph)
10 The sessions of the Quarterly Conference shall be held every three (3) months, or four
11 times a year, in every circuit and in every station. The time and place of meetings shall be
12 selected by the presiding elder after consultation with the pastor. If there is no presiding
13 elder, the time and place shall be selected by the pastor. Where there is no pastor, the
14 presiding elder shall select the time and place of the meeting.

15
16 AMENDED TEXT: Section IVB. Sessions; pg. 215 (first paragraph)
17 *A Quarterly Conference shall be held every three (3) months, a total of four times for*
18 *the fiscal year, in each station, circuit or mission. The time of the conference shall be*
19 *set by the presiding elder after consultation with the pastor. Where there is no pastor,*
20 *the presiding elder shall select the time of the conference. The place of the conference*
21 *shall be the location of the station or mission, or in the case of a circuit, a location*
22 *most convenient to the majority of the members of the Quarterly Conference.*

23
24 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**

25
26 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 06
TITLE	The Official Board Purpose and Duties Clarified
REFERENCE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Page 73, PART IV, SECTION II. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION, Subsection B.
INTENT	To include a summary of the purpose and role of the Official Board as B.1, and renumber subsequent subsections consecutively. To also include a clarification of duties under newly numbered B.4. Business
RATIONALE	The Official Board, by virtue of its composition, is the premier leadership and decision-making body of the local church. Its critical purpose and role should be expressly laid out in the Discipline, citing, without ambiguity, its responsibilities and authority.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Part IV, Section II, Subsection B; Page. 72
- 2 1. Composition
- 3 a. The Official Board shall be composed of the class leaders, exhorters, deaconesses,
- 4 stewards, trustees, stewardesses and presidents of all organizations of a station, circuit, or
- 5 mission, including the president of the Lay Organization. The officers, both junior and
- 6 adult, of the Junior Church shall also be members of the Official Board and shall
- 7 contribute to the funds collected for the church, pastor, presiding elder, the poor, and
- 8 general funds.

- 9 b. The pastor shall be a member of the Board and its chairperson ex-officio.
- 10 c. Local preachers shall be regarded as honorary members of the Board and shall be
- 11 required to visit it at its regular sessions.
- 12 d. The Board shall elect annually a secretary and a treasurer. A steward should be elected
- 13 secretary, if there is one competent to hold this office.

14 2. Sessions

- 15 a. The Official Board of every mission, circuit or station shall meet at least once every
- 16 month.
- 17 b. Additional meetings of the board shall be called by the pastor whenever necessary, and
- 18 the members shall be required to attend these meetings also.
- 19 c. All meetings of the board shall be opened with devotions.

20 3. Business

- 21 a. The secretary shall keep a strict record of the proceedings.
- 22 b. The treasurer shall be responsible for all the monies received under the auspices of the
- 23 stewards and disburse the same on order of the board.
- 24 c. The board, at its sessions, shall require the class leaders to give to the stewards the
- 25 money they have collected for the church, pastor, presiding elder, and programs for the
- 26 church.
- 27 d. It shall see, at its sessions, that the pastor receives his or her support, and it shall devise
- 28 ways and means to pay him or her and the presiding elder all that is due them. It shall
- 29 receive all the class leaders' reports on the following subjects:
- 30 1) Those who walk disorderly and will not ne reproved.
- 31 2) Those who are sick and need the attention of the pastor.

- 32 3) Those who are deceased.
- 33 4) Those who willfully and persistently neglect their class and other religious duties.
- 34 5) Those who have left the church with certificate.
- 35 6) Those who have left the church without certificate.

36 The board shall have the power to send out committees for the purpose of making
37 investigations concerning rumors affecting the spiritual or moral standing of any member
38 and shall, moreover, have members to appear before it so that they may explain such
39 rumors.

40 **ADDED and AMENDED TEXT** Part IV, Section II, Subsection B; Page 72

41 *1. The Official Board is the administrative body of the local church. It plans and*
42 *directs the total program of the local church, under the leadership of the pastor, thus*
43 *directing the church's day-to-day work in every detail.*

44 2. Composition

45 a. The Official Board shall be composed of all the class leaders, exhorters, deaconesses,
46 stewards, trustees, stewardesses and presidents of all organizations of a station, circuit, or
47 mission, including the president of the Lay Organization. The officers, both junior and
48 adult, of the Junior Church shall also be members of the Official Board and shall
49 contribute to the funds collected for the church, pastor, presiding elder, the poor, and
50 general funds.

51 b. The pastor shall be a member of the Board and its chairperson ex-officio.

52 c. Local preachers shall be regarded as honorary members of the Board and shall be
53 required to visit it at its regular sessions.

54 d. The Board shall elect annually a secretary and a treasurer. A steward should be elected
55 secretary, if there is one competent to hold this office.

56 3. Sessions

57 a. The Official Board of every mission, circuit or station shall meet at least once every
58 month.

59 b. Additional meetings of the board shall be called by the pastor whenever necessary, and
60 the members shall be required to attend these meetings also.

61 c. All meetings of the board shall be opened with devotions.

62 4. Business

63 a. *The Official Board, prior to the end of the first quarter, shall see that it receives the*
64 *proposed annual budget of the local church for its determination and action. The*
65 *proposed annual budget of the local church shall be inclusive of the approved total*
66 *program of the church to include the ministries and programs of the organizations of*
67 *the local church, the proposed pastor's salary and support as recommended by the*
68 *Steward Board , the church's operational expenses, the AME Church budgets, and the*
69 *benevolent missions of the congregation. The proposed annual budget, upon its*
70 *approval, shall be presented to the church conference.*

71 b. The secretary shall keep a strict record of the proceedings.

72 c. *The treasurer shall be ex-officio member of the Stewardship and Finance*
73 *Commission and shall work with that commission in the accounting of all income and*
74 *disbursements related to the support of the station, mission, or circuit on order of the*
75 *Official Board. The Official Board shall receive the finance commission's monthly*

76 *financial report of all receipts and disbursements and unpaid obligations against the*
77 *budget.*

78 d. It shall see, at its sessions, that the pastor receives his or her support, and it shall
79 devise ways and means to pay him or her and the presiding elder all that is due them.

80 e. *It shall direct all class leaders to turn over to the Stewardship and Finance*
81 *Commission all money they have collected for the church, pastor, presiding elder and*
82 *programs of the church and shall receive all class leaders' reports* on the following
83 subjects:

84 1) Those who walk disorderly and will not be reprov'd.

85 2) Those who are sick and need the attention of the pastor.

86 3) Those who are deceased.

87 4) Those who willfully and persistently neglect their class and other religious duties.

88 5) Those who have left the church with certificate.

89 6) Those who have left the church without certificate.

90 The board shall have the power to send out committees for the purpose of making
91 investigations concerning rumors affecting the spiritual or moral standing of any member
92 and shall, moreover, have members to appear before it so that they may explain such
93 rumors.

94 5. Restrictions

95 a. The Official Board shall not have power to try and expel members of the church.

96 b. Such a course would make the chairperson liable to the charge of maladministration.

97 c. The Official Board cannot overrule the pastor or reverse his or her decision, or change
98 his or her plans for the government of the charge except by a two-thirds vote of its
99 members.

100

101 FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation

102 *Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization*



BILL NO.	CLO PL 08
TITLE	The Steward Board _Clarified
REFERENCE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Part IV, Section II. Subsection A.,1., a.; Pages 61 - 63
INTENT	To delineate and clearly state the unique responsibilities of the stewards by amending paragraphs a), b), c) d) of Subsection A.1.a.2) and reordering entire Subsection A.1.a for better readability.
RATIONALE	The stewards have traditionally been recognized as the body that assists the pastor with the spiritual and administrative needs of the local church, as in the capacity of a cabinet. Essentially they are expected to have a full understanding of the operations of the church and be able to conduct certain affairs on the pastor’s behalf in her/his absence. This role needs to be expressly stated and fluently laid out in the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church

1 CURRENT TEXT: Section II A.1. a.1.); Page 61

2 a.) The pastor appointed by the presiding bishop shall ... **(a thru g inclusive, of**
 3 **current text)**

4

5 CURRENT TEXT: Section II A.1. a.2.), Page 62

6 a) They shall make an exact account of all money or other provisions collected for the
 7 support of the pastor of the mission, circuit, or station.

8 b) The salary of a full time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward
 9 board. The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of

10 living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The
11 following benefits apply to those ministers who are full-time servants of the church. They
12 shall be adhered to per the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
13 Church and open to negotiation in all cases. The benefits include, but are not limited to:
14 pension or retirement insurance(s): health, disability, professional liability, key person
15 life insurance*; self employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance; continuing
16 education; travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish and all other
17 related to official duties. If a housing allowance is given, it is the stewards' duty to
18 negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

19

20 c) They shall seek the needy and distressed in order to relieve and comfort them

21

22 d) They shall make accurate reports of every expenditure of money, whether to the
23 pastor, church, sick or poor.

24

25 e) They shall attend the Quarterly Conference of their circuit or station to give advice, if
26 asked, in planning for the circuit or station. They shall attend committee meetings for the
27 disbursing of money to churches and give counsel in matters of arbitration.

28

29 AMENDED TEXT

30 Section II A. 1. a. 1) *Purpose*

31 *The stewards shall assist as the pastor's cabinet in encouraging, fostering, and*
32 *improving the general interest of the church. They shall give an account, when*

33 *requested, in matters of the fitness of the membership, give advice in reference to*
34 *overall program planning, and give counsel in matters of arbitration as outlined under*
35 *Section XI of Judicial Administration.*

36

37 Section II A. 1.a.2.) Composition [Same as current Section II A.1.a.1.)]

- 38 a) The pastor appointed by the presiding bishop to the local church shall be the
39 chairperson of the Board of Stewards. The pastor may appoint a chairperson pro
40 tem to act in his or her absence. All business conducted in his or her absence
41 shall be subject to veto by the pastor.
- 42 b) The number of stewards for each church shall be not fewer than (3) nor more than
43 nineteen (19).
- 44 c) The pastor in charge shall nominate the number of stewards needed for the
45 mission, circuit, or station and shall submit them to the Quarterly Conference,
46 which shall confirm them or, if it sees fit, reject them.
- 47 d) The stewards so nominated and confirmed shall serve for a term of one year. The
48 same person(s) may be nominated annually.
- 49 e) To be qualified for this office, one must be of solid piety, know and love the
50 Word of God, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He or she must be
51 fruitful and of good natural or acquired ability to transact the spiritual and
52 temporal business of the church. Each person shall have been a member of the
53 African Methodist Episcopal Church for at least two (2) years, except in case of
54 the establishment of a new congregation.

- 55 f) There shall be appointed a Junior Board of Steward that shall function under the
56 direction of the pastor and Senior Board of Stewards.
- 57 g) There shall be a training course for prospective stewards under the supervision of
58 the pastor and senior stewards.

59 Section II A. 1.a.3.) The Duties ***and Responsibilities*** of the Stewards

60 a) ***They shall seek the needy, infirmed and distressed in order to relieve and comfort***
61 ***them. They shall see or devise a ministry(s)/system(s) to actively address these concerns***
62 ***on behalf of the local church.***

63 b) They shall provide the implements and elements for the Holy Communion.

64 c) ***After consulting with the Stewardship and Finance Commission, the stewards and***
65 ***the pastor, on behalf of the local church, shall negotiate said pastor's salary and***
66 ***benefit package. The stewards shall submit the proposed negotiated salary and benefit***
67 ***package to the Stewardship and Finance Commission for inclusion in the proposed***
68 ***local church annual budget. The proposed budget shall then be presented to the***
69 ***Official Board for its action and approval.***

70 The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of
71 living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The
72 following benefits apply to those ministers who are full-time servants of the church. They
73 shall be adhered to per the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
74 Church and open to negotiation in all cases. The benefits include, but are not limited to:
75 pension or retirement insurance(s): health, disability, professional liability, key person
76 life insurance*; self-employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance; continuing
77 education; travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish and all other

78 related to official duties. If a housing allowance is given, it is the stewards' duty to
79 negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.
80

81 d) They shall register all baptisms, marriages and deaths within the congregation
82 e) *The Steward Board shall have an appropriately labeled church record book which*
83 *shall contain the registration of all baptisms, marriages, births, deaths, new members*
84 *and full time members.*

85 f.) The stewards shall write circular letters to societies of a circuit when occasion
86 requires, to let them know the state of the temporal concern at the last quarterly meeting
87 and to urge them to be more liberal in their contributions.

88 g) The Steward Board of each local church in the third quarter of each conference year
89 shall conduct a survey of the membership of the church with the purpose of determining
90 to what extent each member of the church financially, attended the regular means of
91 grace, and supported the various benevolent enterprises of the church. The survey shall
92 contain date, name and address, dates of birth, active, inactive, new member, student, left
93 with certificate, left without certificate, deceases and class number.

94 h) The Steward Board shall investigate all members of the church roll and submit its
95 findings to the Official Board for approval. The Certified Membership Roll shall be
96 forwarded to the fourth quarterly conference for submittal to the annual conference. Each
97 Annual Conference shall forward all Certified Membership Rolls to the General Church
98 Secretary.

99 i) *They shall see to the proper maintenance of all records/documentations of church*
100 *activities and transactions and shall oversee an archive of this information.*

101 j) The minister in charge of the circuit or station shall see that all these provisions are
102 enforced.

103 k) The Steward Board shall be subject to the bishops, elders, deacons, and traveling
104 ministers of their circuit or station.

105 Section 11,A 1.a.4 Amenability of the Stewards

106 a) The stewards shall be accountable to the Quarterly Conference of their circuit or
107 station, which shall have the power to remove them when they fail or refuse to do their
108 duties.

109 b) In the interim of the Quarterly Conference, the minister in charge shall have power to
110 suspend a steward to refuses, neglects or fails to discharge his or her duty, and to fill the
111 vacancy until the next meeting of the Quarterly Conference, which shall dispose of the
112 case.

113

114 FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation

115

116 *Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization*

BILL NO.	CLO PL 09
TITLE	Terms of Service for Members of the Board of Stewards
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part IV, Section II.A.1. a. 1) paragraphs c) and d); Pg. 61.
INTENT	To establish consecutive terms of service for members of the Board of Stewards that will best benefit the local church.
RATIONALE	In order for the local church to operate effectively it needs to engage the contributions and cooperation of all members in all areas of service and ministries. It is important that positions of leadership such as members of the Board of Stewards have an appropriate turnover that would ensure that resources are updated for effective church administration so that leadership will remain relevant to the changing times. Church members who meet the qualifications of this position will have a better opportunity to serve in this capacity if the consecutive term of service is in place. The years of service prior to the effective date will not be factored in (i.e. everyone will start from zero years). There is also opportunity for a member to be nominated again one year after serving the necessary consecutive years (i.e. there shall be a one year lapse after serving eight consecutive years before a member can be nominated again).



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Section II.A.1. a.1(c); Page 61
- 2 The pastor in charge shall nominate the number of stewards needed for the mission,
- 3 circuit, or station and shall submit them to the Quarterly Conference, which shall confirm
- 4 them or, if it sees fit, reject them.
- 5
- 6 AMENDED TEXT: Section II.A.1. a.1(c); Page 61:
- 7 The pastor in charge shall nominate **annually** the number of stewards needed for the

8 mission, circuit, or station and shall submit them to the first Quarterly Conference, which
9 shall confirm them or, if it sees fit, reject them. *There shall be not less than a one year
10 lapse after serving eight consecutive years before a member can be nominated again.*

11

12 CURRENT TEXT Section II.A.1. a.1 (d); Page 61

13 The stewards so nominated and confirmed shall serve for a term of one year. The same
14 person(s) may be nominated annually.

15

16 AMENDED TEXT: Section II.A.1. a.1 (d); Page. 61

17 The stewards so nominated and confirmed shall serve a term of one year. The same
18 person (s) may be nominated annually *but shall not serve for more than eight (8) years
19 consecutively. Exception may be made with approval at the first Quarterly
20 Conference of a local church, station or circuit consisting of less than fifty (50) adult
21 members. The years of service prior to the effective date of this legislation will not be
22 factored into its execution. This legislation will take effect at the close of the 2016
23 General Conference.*

24

25 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation.**

26

27 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

28

BILL NO.	CLO PL 10
TITLE	Terms of Service for Members of the Board of Trustees
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part IV, Section II.A.1. paragraph A1b(2) and A1b(3b); Pg. 64.
INTENT	To establish consecutive terms of service for members of the Board of Trustees that will best benefit the local church.
RATIONALE	In order for the local church to operate effectively it needs to engage the contributions and cooperation of all members in all areas of service and ministries. It is important that positions of leadership such as members of the Board of Trustees have an appropriate turnover that would ensure that resources are updated for effective church administration so that leadership will remain relevant to the changing times. Church members who meet the qualifications of this position will have a better opportunity to serve in this capacity if the consecutive term of service is in place. The years of service prior to the effective date will not be factored in (i.e. everyone will start from zero years). There is also opportunity for a member to be nominated again one year after serving the necessary consecutive years (i.e. there shall be a one year lapse after serving eight consecutive years before a member can be nominated again).



1 CURRENT TEXT: Section II.A1.b. 2); Page 63

2 Qualifications

3 Each person to be elected a trustee shall be eighteen (18) years of age or over and shall be

4 instructed in the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees of the local church. The

5 training shall be completed within sixty (60) days after the election, or prior to the appropriate

6 Quarterly Conference, whichever comes first. All trustees must attend at least three training

7 sessions. A Certificate of Confirmation shall be given to each successful student, to be presented

8 at the appropriate Quarterly Conference, signed by the instructor appointed by the pastor. The

9 nominee shall have been a member of the local church at least six (6) months and a member of

10 the African Methodist Episcopal Church for not less than two (2) years, except in case of mission

11 or new work. No person who is not a member is good and regular standing in our church shall be
12 eligible to be elected a trustee.

13

14 AMENDED TEXT: Section II. A.1.b. 2); Page 64; Add the following to the current text.

15 *There shall be not less than a one year lapse after serving eight consecutive years before a*
16 *member is eligible to be nominated again, except in a case of debt for which said member is*
17 *joint security. In such a case, the member shall retain eligibility per requirements of Section*
18 *II.A.1.b.8 of this Part.*

19

20 CURRENT TEXT: Section II.A1.b. 3)b); Page 64

21 When the civil law does not intervene, the trustees shall be elected annually by the
22 members of the church.

23

24 AMENDED TEXT: Section II.A1.b. 3)b); Page 64

25 When the civil law does not intervene, the trustees shall be elected annually by the
26 members of the church *for each one year of service and they shall not serve for more than*
27 *eight (8) years consecutively, unless in cases of debt obligations per Section II.A.1.b.8 of this*
28 *Part. A local church, station or circuit consisting of less than fifty (50) adult members may opt*
29 *out of the eight-year rule with the approval of its Church Conference. The years of service*
30 *prior to the effective date of this legislation will not be factored into its execution.*
31 *This legislation will take effect at the close of the 2016 General Conference.*

32

33 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**

34 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 11
TITLE	Member in Good and Regular Standing
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012 Part IV Section I (pg. 58 and 59)</i>
INTENT	To address the expectations of a member in a local church, circuit or station, or any component or organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
RATIONALE	Membership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church begins in the local church, circuit, or station. The health and wellness of the local church is directly attributable to the contributions and participation of its membership. The degree to which these actions are performed helps to define a member’s status. The terminology “full, good and regular standing” is used specifically as well as generally as a qualification or eligibility for holding an office in the AME Church. A definition of this terminology is in the glossary of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, however, qualification of this status should be included in the “Membership” section. This new text provides a relationship as well as a rule of governance for identifying a member’s status in any and all affiliate components of the AME Church from the local to the connectional levels including what it means and the parameters of what it implies.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: No Language
- 2 AMENDMENT: Add a new Part IV, Section 1, G; Page 59
- 3 (Current subsection G, Affiliated Membership, will be changed to Section H, and all
- 4 subsequent sections will be renumbered sequentially).

5

6 **The Expectations of Membership:**

7 *A member of a local church is expected to be governed by the Doctrine and Discipline*

8 *of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, actively participate in the programs of the*

9 *local church and regularly contribute to these programs and other needs, to the best of*

10 *the member’s abilities. Members who meet these criteria are deemed “in good and*
11 *regular standing”. The local church Official Board shall determine each member’s*
12 *status.*

13

14 *This status means that the member must regularly attend worship, and the other means*
15 *of grace; regularly attend component, organization, or ministry meetings; regularly*
16 *contribute to the support of the gospel, the church, its benevolent enterprises and the*
17 *poor; and lends his/her time and talents to the various ministries of the local church,*
18 *circuit or station, or its affiliate bodies throughout the African Methodist Episcopal*
19 *Church. Assessment of a ‘member in good and regular standing’ shall be applicable*
20 *throughout the conference year.*

21

22 *In the case of a member who is enrolled as an affiliated member as specified in Section*
23 *I.G. of this Part, the home church shall consider participation and contributions of*
24 *said member at the affiliated local church in determining the member’s status. In the*
25 *case of members who are no longer able to meet the above stated criteria due to adverse*
26 *deterioration in physical and/or mental capabilities, but who had met these criteria up*
27 *to the time of their incapacities, said members shall be considered to be continually in*
28 *good and regular standing up to their recovery, or to the end of their natural lives,*
29 *whichever comes first.*

30

31 FUNDING – There is no cost associated with this legislation

32 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 13
TITLE	Adjustment of Degree Requirements for Ordination Candidates and Candidates for Bishop
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part V, Section II page 84; Part VI, Section II; page 116
INTENT	To harmonize accreditation standards for itinerant elders and bishops
RATIONALE	The academic qualifications for becoming an ordained itinerant elder and a candidate for bishop differ with regards to accepted degrees. With the proliferation of diploma mills, it is important to clearly state what academic credentials qualify as acceptable for itinerant and episcopal candidacy.



1 CURRENT TEXT:

2 Part V, Section II; Page 85.

3 F. A Candidate for ordination as itinerant elder must be a graduate of a Seminary
4 accredited by Association of Theological Schools (ATS) or similar accrediting agency.
5 Exception to these requirements is at the discretion of annual conference Board of
6 Examiners with the approval of the presiding bishop.

7

8 Part VI, Section II.A.; Page 116.

9 4. They must register their credentials with the General Secretary/CIO of the church
10 at least 180 days prior to the opening day of the General Conference. Candidates for the
11 office of bishop must possess an earned seminary degree from an Association of
12 Theological Schools (ATS) accredited seminary or, if outside of the United States, an
13 accredited seminary as determined by the country in which he or she is educated.

14

15 AMENDED TEXT:

16 Part V, Section II; Page 85.

17 *F. A Candidate for ordination as itinerant elder must be a graduate of a seminary*
18 *accredited at the time of graduation by either 1) the Association of Theological Schools*
19 *(ATS); 2) an accrediting authority recognized by the United States Department of*
20 *Education; 3) an agency equivalent to the above options if obtained from outside of the*
21 *United States. Degrees from schools not meeting the accreditation criteria, however,*
22 *cannot be accepted.*

23

24 Part VI, Section II.A.; Page 116.

25 4. They must register their credentials with the General Secretary/CIO of the Church
26 at least 180 days prior to the opening day of the General Conference. Candidates for the
27 office of bishop must possess an earned seminary degree from an institution accredited *at*
28 *the time of graduation by either: 1) the Association of Theological Schools; 2) an*
29 *accrediting authority recognized by the United States Department of Education; 3) an*
30 *agency equivalent to the above options if obtained from outside of the United States.*

31

32 FUNDING – There is no cost associated with this legislation

33

34 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 14
TITLE	Itinerant Ministers' Reporting at the Annual Conference
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> ; Part VII, Section II, Subsection .A; Page 206
INTENT	To provide an avenue for itinerant ministers who do not pastor to give an account of their stewardship during the conference year
RATIONALE	The structure of the Annual Conference does not provide an opportunity for non-pastoral clergy who are not chaplains to give account of their stewardship beyond the roll call. At the very least, all itinerant ministers should be afforded a forum for sharing their yearly accomplishments with the Annual Conference and be recognized for their service to the church and community. This will give the annual conference a means to evaluate their capabilities and validate their ministries.



1 CURRENT TEXT: Section II.A.; Page 206

2 No language

3

4 AMENDMENT: Reassign Current, Section II.A.10; Page 206 as new Section II.A.11

5 Add new Section II.A.10; Page 206

6 ***10. All itinerant elder and, itinerant deacons ~~and licentiates~~ on the roll of the***
7 ***annual conference but not assigned as pastor in charge for the closing conference year***
8 ***must render a written report to the Annual Conference detailing their ministerial***
9 ***service and labors for said conference year. The report shall include but not be limited***

10 *to: 1) Number of Sermons preached, 2) Number of Baptisms performed, 3) Number of*
11 *Weddings performed, 4) Number of Funerals officiated, 5) Local Church membership,*
12 *6) Other professional responsibilities (~~Administrative Minister~~ example Administrator*
13 *of finance department , Grief Counselor, etc.). These reports shall be submitted to the*
14 *presiding prelate of the Annual Conference through the presiding elders prior to the*
15 *start of the Annual Conference. Any additional opportunities to address or recognize*
16 *the reports during the Annual Conference are at the discretion of the presiding prelate*
17 *~~President~~ of the Annual Conference.*

18

19

20 FUNDING – There is no cost associated with this legislation

21

22 **Submitted by the *Connectional Lay Organization***

BILL NO.	CLO PL 15
TITLE	Ministerial Training Board Composition and The Course of Instruction
REFERENCE	The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012., Part V, Section III, Subsection B -Ministerial Training Board (Committee on Instruction); Pages 86 and 87.
INTENT	To amend the composition of the Ministerial Training Board to include lay instructors, and to amend to augment the Course of Instruction by including study of the Doctrine and Discipline of the A. M. E. Church, and training in Fiscal and Personnel Management.
RATIONALE	Under the current composition listed in the Doctrine and Discipline, there is no requirement that the members of the Training Board be only ordained persons as is the case with the Board of Examiners. The Course of Instruction includes classes that credentialed members of laity are highly qualified to teach. The AME church should take full advantage of its resources in an effort to get the best results in all its endeavors, for the benefit of our Zion. Therefore, lay persons who are certified and qualified to teach classes in the Course of Instruction should be retained for the purpose, thus promoting clergy and laity collaborating in the training of our ordained servants. Further, The Course of Instruction should provide comprehensive training, addressing all areas for effective ministerial service that will enhance the local churches. Study of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and training in fiscal and personnel management are essential areas of ministerial preparation for effectual leadership at every level of our Zion. These classes need to be specifically listed



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Part V, Sec. III. B.; Page 86 (1st para.)
- 2 The presiding bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the conference.
- 3 The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which shall confirmed by the
- 4 Annual Conference. The Ministerial Training Board

5

6 CURRENT TEXT: Part V, Sec. III. C.; Page 87

7 The Course of Instruction

8 A. Admissions

9 Bible Church Tradition

10 B. First Year Studies

11 Bible Church Tradition

12 Preaching, Theology

13 Church Administration

14

15 C. Third Year Studies

16 Bible Church History

17 Ministerial Ethics Preaching

18 Theology

19 Church Administration.

20

21 AMENDED TEXT: Part V, Sec. III. B.; Page 86 (1st para.)

22 The presiding bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the conference.

23 The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which will consist of **highly**

24 **qualified and/or certified** clergy **and laity** which shall be confirmed by the Annual

25 Conference. The Ministerial Training Board

26

27 AMENDED TEXT: Part V, Sec. III. C.; Page 87

28

29 The Course of Instruction

30 A. Admissions

31 Bible Church Tradition

32 *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*

33 *(current ed.)*

34 B. First Year Studies

35 Bible Church Tradition

36 Preaching, Theology

37 Church Administration

38 *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*

39 *(current ed.)*

40

41 C. Third Year Studies

42 Bible Church History

43 Ministerial Ethics Preaching

44 Theology Church Administration.

45 *Management – Financial and Personnel*

46

47

48 **FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation.**

49

50 **Submitted by *the Connectional Lay Organization***



BILL NO.	CLO PL 16
TITLE	Connectional Record Keeping of Certification Documents on Sexual Misconduct Policy Education and Training
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012; Part XI, Section XIV, Subsection C, Page 275.</i>
INTENT	To provide a central connectional repository for certification documents of sexual misconduct policy education and training of all clergy, laity and volunteers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for provision to liability insurance companies when needed.
RATIONALE	<p>Proof of education and training of all clergy, laity and volunteers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on the church's policy on sexual misconduct is mandatory requirement as outlined in Part XI, Section XIVC, of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2012. Each person trained is required to sign a statement certifying completion of training.</p> <p>It is believed that episcopal districts maintain records of the training classes in the respective episcopal district office, but in addition, these records need to also be retained on the connectional level, since they are vital in cases of sexual misconduct being handled at that level. The growing number of cases involving sexual misconduct charges call for ready access to all relevant documents to facilitate effective and efficient trial process. We must have ready means of verifying that every episcopal district is offering consistent training on avoidance of sexual misconduct by clergy and laity.</p>

- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Section XIV, C; Page. 275
- 2 Record Keeping
- 3 The AME Church and all of its individual connectional conferences will include in every
- 4 employee's personnel file, including clergy, the application for employment, any

5 employment questionnaires, reference responses, and other documents related to this
6 Policy, including a copy of the documents referenced in Part IV, A, herein

7

8 AMENDED TEXT: Section XIV, C; Page. 275

9 Record Keeping

10 ***Registration and attendance documentation for every training class on this Policy must***
11 ***be retained by the annual conference in which the class is held and copies of these***
12 ***documents forwarded to the office of the episcopal district in which said annual***
13 ***conference is located. The local church to which each training class attendee is***
14 ***affiliated shall obtain a copy of the certified statement of training for respective***
15 ***attendees.***

16

17 ***Each episcopal district shall forward a copy of their roll sheet for each training class***
18 ***on the AME policy on sexual misconduct, along with copies of the signed statement of***
19 ***training of each attendee, to the office of the chief information officer (CIO) within***
20 ***thirty days (30) after completion of the class. The CIO's office will be the central***
21 ***repository for documentation on education and training on this Policy, and the CIO***
22 ***will be responsible for verifying the training for all clergy, members, employees and***
23 ***volunteers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church when needed.***

24

25 The AME Church and all of its individual connectional conferences will include in every
26 employee's personnel file, including clergy, the application for employment, any

27 employment questionnaires, reference responses, and other documents related to this
28 Policy, including a copy of the documents referenced in *this Part*.

29

30 **FUNDING: The cost associated with this proposed legislation is nominal, consisting**
31 **mainly of labor to set up an electronic filing system and periodically updating it.**

32

33 **Submitted by *the Connectional Lay Organization***

BILL NO.	CLO PL 17
TITLE	Development of Human Resources Policy for the AME Church
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Part VIII, Section I, G.4; Page 203</i>
INTENT	To authorize an ad hoc committee to establish consistent standards of operation that are adequately defensible in any civil court
RATIONALE	<p>Over the years, the AME Church has had to defend against copious lawsuits. In recent years, for example, charges of sexual harassment have increased at an alarming rate, and the AME Church is increasingly being sued regarding pastoral assignments. As a denomination, we are constantly spending funds on legal representation. Many times, these legal problems occur because the laws and rules in the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (The Doctrine and Discipline) are not adhered to, leaving the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The courts rely on what is printed in The Doctrine and Discipline. But there are too many sections in The Doctrine and Discipline that are contradictory and/or do not support practiced procedures.</p> <p>The entire Doctrine and Discipline needs to be reframed to meets the needs of the AME Church of today, using a 21st Century corporate approach to operations. The development of a set of Human Resources Policies would provide much needed standard rules and guidelines.</p>



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Part VIII, Section I.G.4. Page 203
- 2 No Language
- 3

4 ADDED TEXT: Part VIII, Section I.G.4. Page 203

5 *Ad Hoc Human Resources Development Committee*

6 *An Ad Hoc Committee of six (6) clergy and five (5) lay persons shall be selected by the*
7 *General Board to work on the development of a set of human resources policies for the*
8 *AME Church, applying corporate principles. At least one member of the committee*
9 *shall be a young adult, age 18-35. Each member of the committee shall possess at least*
10 *one of the following: 1.)a legal background; or 2.)a human resources background; or*
11 *3.) management experience. A first draft of the set of human resources policies shall*
12 *be presented to the General Board by 2018, and a final draft presented at the 2019*
13 *CONVO, preceding the 2020 General Conference.*

14

15 *The set of human resources policies shall cover the administrative functioning of all*
16 *components and all levels of the AME Church, fundamentally revamping the structure*
17 *and content of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

18

19 **FUNDING:** The cost associated with this proposed legislation constitute, at most,
20 once per year travel for members to attend meetings in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and
21 research time. Electronic communication (conference calls and Skype) shall be the
22 primary means of convening which shall greatly mitigate costs.

23

24 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 18
TITLE	Public Relations Professional
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part VI Section III. E.1., Page 128 and Part VII Section II. A. 11, Page 158
INTENT	To reassign the Public Relations Representative position to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and broaden the position’s scope
RATIONALE	The African Methodist Episcopal Church’s story is a captivating epic of great historic and societal significance, If told correctly, our story would draw more people to our Zion. Other religious organizations strategically use public relations to promote a positive image. They have developed a brand that attracts new members. The AME Church must develop and promote a powerful and positive image that effectively tells our story, thus creating a strong brand for carrying out the Great Commission. A Public Relations Professional empowered to conduct a strategic public relations program across the connection will be pivotal to the development and promotion of the AME brand.



1 CURRENT TEXT: Part VI Section III. E. 1,(pages 128-131)

2 No Language

3

4 AMENDED TEXT: Add New Section III.E. 1.u. (pages 131)

5 *The Chief Information Officer (CIO) shall hire a specialist in public relations to*

6 *manage a comprehensive public relations program for the African Methodist*

7 *Episcopal (AME) Church. This position, Public Relations Professional, shall be*

8 *responsible for publicity, public relations and corporate relations for the AME Church*

9 *The scope of the program shall be as follows:-*

- 10 *1) Generate positive publicity for the African Methodist Episcopal Church and*
11 *enhance its brand, expressed in clear and concise narrative, that defines the*
12 *values and principles of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*
- 13 *2) Direct all outside media communication for the Connectional AME Church,*
14 *with a direct impact on developing a means to promote the AME Church brand*
15 *to the public for Connectional Church events and activities..*
- 16 *3) Cultivate and maintain close and productive relationships with journalists,*
17 *bloggers and opinion leaders, to include creating and printing web-based*
18 *communication materials, such as story pitches, press releases, Q and A*
19 *interviews, presentations, video scripts and speeches – that are consistent with*
20 *the image and message (brand) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*
- 21 *4) Assist episcopal districts with web site design, graphics and imagery that*
22 *indicate the inter-relative character of the AME Church, while maintaining*
23 *regional uniqueness.*
- 24 *5) Provide semi-annual online public relations (PR) workshops (two times per*
25 *year) for episcopal district public relations representatives that will be*
26 *conducted via the Internet, and will provide access to specialist in the fields of*
27 *media, marketing, information technology and public relations. An additional*
28 *in-person PR workshop may be presented annually.*
- 29 *6) Act as an advisor in the preparation of representatives of the African Methodist*
30 *Episcopal Church for press conferences, media interviews and speeches.*

31 *Education and Experience requirements – The Public Relations Professional shall*
32 *possess a college degree and have training and over five years of experience working in*
33 *public relations. This position requires excellent writing skills, critical thinking ability*
34 *and creative capabilities. Special considerations shall be given to persons with the*
35 *requisite experience and a successful track record working in a similar capacity at*
36 *other levels of the AME Church*

37

38 *The Public Relations Professional shall receive general supervision from the CIO and*
39 *report to the chair of the General Board.*

40

41 CURRENT TEXT: Part VII Section II. A. 11,(page 158)

42

43 AMENDMENT: Delete Part VII Section 11, A.11, (page 158)

44

45 **FUNDING: The cost associated with this proposed legislation includes the salary of**
46 **the Public Relations Professional.**

47

48 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 19
TITLE	Mandatory Reconfiguration of Districts 14-20 by 2020
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, Part X, Section I, C.; page 247.</i>
INTENT	To establish a process for the reconfiguration of the AME Church work in Districts 14-20
RATIONALE	The current Episcopal District configurations include areas that were established to circumvent the apartheid regime of South Africa as well as to temporarily accommodate rapid growth in the Great Lakes region. This configuration needs to be updated to reflect current socio and geopolitical realities, and more equitably reallocate resources and personnel for effectual work in our Zion.



1 CURRENT TEXT: No Language

2

3 ADD NEW TEXT: Part X, Section I.C.; Page 247

4 *The Global Development Council, for the 2016-2020 quadrennium, shall set as its top*
5 *priority, a business item concerning the reconfigurations of the geographic boundaries*
6 *of Episcopal Districts 14-20 and their constituting annual conferences. Annual*
7 *progress reports shall be submitted to the General Board through its Commission on*
8 *Global Development. Final recommendations to the General Conference will be*
9 *determined at the 2019 GDC Biennial Session. This process shall take into account the*
10 *current geopolitical situations of these areas with the provision that the total number of*
11 *episcopal districts shall not increase.*

12

13 . FUNDING – There is no cost associated with this legislation

14 Submitted by the *Connectional Lay Organization*

BILL NO.	CLO PL 20
TITLE	Reduction of Travel Expenses for Retired Bishops and Retired General Officers
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part VI Section II F. 11(pg. 122) and Section III C. 3 (pg. 127), Pages 692 and 695
INTENT	To capture budgetary savings by phasing out travel expense reimbursements for retired bishops and retired general officers. The savings should be captured progressively following the close of the 2016 General Conference.
RATIONALE	Retired bishops and retired general officers are not full-time employees of the General Church. While their continued work for the development of the AME Church is commendable, current travel expense allocations in the Connectional Budget impose an unnecessary budgetary hardship. Further, current economic conditions in the African American community warrant that the African Methodist Episcopal Church makes comparable fiscal adjustments. A phase out of the budgeted amount for travel expenses for non-active bishops and general officers is clearly warranted.



- 1 CURRENT TEXT: Part VI Section II F. 11, Page. 122
- 2 A retired bishop shall also receive from the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church
- 3 reimbursement for actual travel and lodging expenses only when and if he or she attends
- 4 a session of the Council of Bishops and General Conference. Housing expenses of a
- 5 retired bishop, if there be any, shall not be the expense of the Connectional budget. This
- 6 legislation is to become effective at the close of the 1996 General Conference and include
- 7 bishops retiring at that session.
- 8

9 AMENDED TEXT: Part VI Section II F. 11; Page. 122

10 A retired bishop shall receive from the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church
11 reimbursements of the actual travel and lodging expenses *according to a tiered reduction*
12 *expense budget over the 2017 – 2020 quadrennium, only when and if he or she attends*
13 *a session of the Council of Bishops and the General Conference. Each fiscal year of*
14 *the quadrenium, the travel expense budget for retired bishops and retired general*
15 *officers shall be reduced by an additional twenty percent (20%) of the annual travel*
16 *expense budget of the 2013-2016 quadrennium. This process will effectively phase out*
17 *the travel expense budget by the end of 2020. This legislation is to become effective at*
18 *the close of the 2016 General Conference.*

19

20 CURRENT TEXT: Connectional Budget 2013 – 2016; Pages 692 and 695

21 Retired Bishops (Annual) Expenses	\$101,952.00
22 Retired General Officers (Annual) Travel	\$76,383.00

23

24 AMENDED TEXT: Connectional Budget 2017 – 2020

25	Yr 2017	Yr 2018	YR 2019	Yr 2020
26 Retired Bishops Expenses	\$81,561.60	\$61,171.20	\$40,780.80	\$20,390.40
27 Ret. General Officers Travel	\$61,106.40	\$45,829.80	\$30,553.20	\$15,276.6
28				
29 Net Budget Savings	\$356,670.00			

30

31 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 21
TITLE	Extension of Episcopal Committee Authority
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part VI, Section II., Subsections .F., G., pages 120 - 124; Part VIII, Section I. F., pages 194-6; Part XI, Section V page 261
INTENT	To authorize the Episcopal Committee to function in the interim of the General Conference
RATIONALE	The practice of the Council of Bishops making assignments when there is a vacancy conflicts with the authority delegated to the Episcopal Committee by the General Conference.. This bill serves to delineate roles and prevent conflicts of interest, thus helping to strengthen our Zion's administration.



1 CURRENT TEXT:

2 Part VI, Sect. II.F; Page 121:

3 7. The Episcopal Committee, or the Council of Bishops, shall not thereafter assign any
4 bishop who has reached the age of retirement to preside over or to supervise the work in
5 any Episcopal district.

6 Part VI, Sect. II.G; Page 123:

7 10. The Council of Bishops shall hear complaints and petitions against any one of its
8 members, and shall have the authority, by a two thirds vote of the Council of Bishops, to
9 remove or transfer a bishop from a district, or give such directions as judgment deems
10 best for the good of the church.

11

12 Part VI, Sect. II.G; Page 124:

13 23. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an Episcopal District by suspension,
14 resignation, death or otherwise, then the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign one of
15 its number to the said district.

16 No assignment shall be made, however, until the members of the said Episcopal district
17 shall have the opportunity to make a request to the Council of Bishops, regarding the
18 assignment.

19 25. The Council of Bishops shall not change the Episcopal Committee's assignments of
20 bishops, except as herein provided in *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African*
21 *Methodist Episcopal Church*

22

23 Part VIII, Sect. I.F.1.; Page 195:

24 c. Organization

25 From the total number of certified ministerial delegates, a chairperson shall be elected by
26 the General Conference, using voting machines whenever there is more than one
27 candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one of its elected
28 members. The Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and proceed to elect by ballot
29 the following officers: Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and one person
30 from each Episcopal District for the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee
31 shall elect by individual ballot, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and other
32 officers as needed.

33 f. The Episcopal Committee shall make the assignments of bishops subject to the
34 approval of the General Conference. A bishop may be assigned to succeed himself once,

35 but in no case shall a bishop be assigned to any District for more than two consecutive
36 quadrenniums.

37

38 Part XI, Sect. V; Page 261:

39 2. Removal from the said episcopal district and reassignment by the Council of Bishops.

40

41 AMENDED TEXT:

42 Part VI, Sect. II.F; Page 121:

43 7. The Episcopal Committee shall not thereafter assign any bishop who has reached the
44 age of retirement to preside over or to supervise the work in any Episcopal district. ***For***
45 ***the purposes of assignment, the Office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs is considered***
46 ***an Episcopal District.***

47 Part VI, Sect. II.G; Page 123:

48 10. The Council of Bishops shall hear complaints and petitions against any one of its
49 members. ***By a two-thirds vote of the Council of Bishops shall recommend to the***
50 ***Episcopal Committee removal or transfer of a bishop from an Episcopal District. The***
51 ***Episcopal Committee is authorized to assign a bishop to said Episcopal District within***
52 ***thirty (30) calendar days of notification from the Council of Bishops.***

53 Part VI, Sect. II.G; Page 124

54 23. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an Episcopal District by suspension,
55 resignation, death or otherwise, then the ***Episcopal Committee is authorized to***
56 ***reconvene to assign a Bishop to the Episcopal District affected and make necessary***

57 *reassignments of Bishops for the good of the AME Church within ninety (90) calendar*
58 *days of notification of said vacancy by the Council of Bishops.*

59 24. *No assignment shall be made, however, until the members of the affected*
60 *Episcopal District shall have the opportunity to make a request to the Episcopal*
61 *Committee regarding the assignment.*

62 *In no case shall an existing episcopal district be divided geographically, or in its*
63 *episcopal supervision.*

64 25. *The Council of Bishops shall not change the Episcopal Committee's assignments*
65 *of Bishops.*

66

67 Part VIII, Sect. I.F.1.; Page 195

68 c. Organization

69 From the total number of certified ministerial delegates, a chairperson shall be elected by
70 the General Conference, using voting machines whenever there is more than one
71 candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one of its elected
72 members. The Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and proceed to elect by ballot
73 the following officers: Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and one person
74 from each Episcopal District for the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee
75 shall elect by individual ballot, a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and other
76 officers as needed. *The Episcopal Committee is empowered to create a manual of*
77 *procedure to be filed with the General Secretary/CIO of the AME Church. All minutes*
78 *of the Episcopal Committee shall be turned over to the General Secretary/CIO of the*
79 *AME Church within thirty (30) calendar days of meeting.*

80

81 f. The Episcopal Committee shall make the assignments of bishops subject to the
82 approval of the General Conference. A bishop may be assigned to succeed her/himself
83 once, but in no case shall a bishop be assigned to any episcopal district for more than two
84 consecutive quadrenniums. *A bishop assigned to complete the unexpired assignment of*
85 *another bishop may only succeed her/himself once in the same episcopal district.*

86 *In the interim of the General Conferences the members of the Episcopal Committee*
87 *shall constitute a continuing committee charged with the responsibilities of making*
88 *episcopal assignments should an active bishop(s) become incapacitated or expire,*
89 *and/or, should an active bishop, previously released from duty due to impaired health*
90 *become adequately recovered and desire to resume full duties. The Episcopal*
91 *Committee shall not meet within twelve months of the next General Conference.*
92 *Meetings of the Episcopal Committee in the interim of the General Conference shall be*
93 *conducted by teleconference or by other suitable technological media, provided that all*
94 *members have equal access to said media. Logistical expenses, if any, shall be*
95 *apportioned from the General Budget Fund by the Chief Financial Officer.*

96

97 Part XI, Sect. V; Page 261:

98 Removal from the said affected episcopal district and reassignment by the *Episcopal*
99 *Committee.*

100

101 FUNDING: Potential financial impact occurs if there are logistical expenses.

102 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**

BILL NO.	CLO PL 22
TITLE	Young Adult Age Redefinition
REFERENCE	<i>The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012</i> , Part VIII, and glossary; Pages 213,216, and 680
INTENT	To change the young adult age range from 18-30 to 18-35
RATIONALE	<p>The original “youth” delegate positions were codified in the 1972 <i>Discipline</i> to provide voice for a group with limited representation within the AME Church. But the Church, since then, has recognized and acknowledged that a wider demographic group (ages 18-40) has not only been under-represented in church administration, but its membership had steadily declined over subsequent decades. This 18-40 age group constitutes a missing link in our churches.</p> <p>In recognition of this fact, the Connectional Lay Organization has elected to amend its constitution and bylaws to increase its young adult age definition to ages 18-35. Our organization further proposes that the age limit of young adult at all levels of church administration, including delegates to conferences, be raised to 35 in order to encourage participation and facilitate proportionate representation of the “missing link” age group.</p>



- 1 CURRENT TEXT:
- 2 Part VII, Section 1.A.; Page 145
- 3 The General Board shall also be composed of five (5) representatives from each
- 4 Episcopal district. Even numbered districts shall be represented by (2) ministers and
- 5 three (3) lay. Odd-numbered districts shall be represented by three (3) ministers, and two
- 6 (2) lay of during the quadrennium of 2012-2016. At least one member of every

7 Episcopal District delegation shall be a young adult between the ages of 18-30. The
8 clergy/laity order of district representation is to rotate quadrennially.

9

10 Part VII, Section 1.A.1. Nominating Committee; Page 146

11Four (4) members of the nominating committee shall be clergy and four (4) shall be
12 laypersons. At least one member shall be a young adult between ages 18 to 30.

13

14 3. Executive Committee

15 There shall be an Executive Committee of the General Board consisting of the officers of
16 the Board and one representative from each Episcopal district. At the rise of the 2000-
17 2004 quadrennial, even numbered districts shall furnish the ministerial representatives
18 and odd numbered districts shall furnish the lay representatives on the Executive
19 Committee. At least one member of the Executive Committee (Episcopal District or at
20 large) shall be a young adult ages 18-30.

21

22 Part VII., Section I. D. Episcopal District Budget; Page 151

23 The budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget
24 Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one layperson
25 alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must be a young adult
26 ages 18 to 30.

27

28 Part VIII, Section 1. C. 2. Lay Delegates; Page 191

29 c. Two members, one adult and one young adult between the ages of 18 and 30, in
30 good and regular standing, shall be elected to the Electoral College from each local
31 church. At least one member of each Annual Conference lay delegation shall be a young
32 adult between the ages of 18 and 30. The combined number of young adult and adult lay
33 delegates shall be equal to the number of elected ministerial delegates.

34 3. Lay Electoral College

35 a. The Electoral College shall be composed of one adult and one young adult
36 between the ages of 18 and 30, in good and regular standing, from each station,
37 circuit, and mission in the Annual Conference, whose expenses to said College
38 shall be paid by the station, circuit or mission represented.

39

40 b.After devotional service, the College shall effect a permanent organization,
41 electing a chairperson, secretary, two tellers and two clerks and then proceed to
42 elect from its members by ballot, delegates, one of whom must be a youth
43 between the ages of 18 and 30, and alternates, as provided by law under caption
44 of Composition of the General Conference...

45

46 Part VIII, Section 1. F. 1. The Episcopal Committee; Page 194

47 Composition: The Episcopal Committee shall be composed of two ministerial
48 delegates, two lay delegates, one of whom must be a youth between the ages of 18
49 and 30, from each Episcopal district.

50

51 G. 1. a. Post-General Conference Committees/Commissions; Page 199

52 The General Conference Commission shall consist of four (4) bishops nominated
53 by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference; two (2) representatives
54 (one lay and one ministerial) from each Episcopal district, to be nominated by ballot by
55 the district delegation and elected by the General Conference; six (6) at-large
56 representatives—three (3) lay and (3) ministerial— to be nominated by ballot at the
57 General Conference of whom at least one must be a young adult ages 18-30; the General
58 Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer of the Church.

59

60 Part VIII, Section II. A; Page 205

61 1. The Annual Conference shall be composed of and at least one elected lay
62 person between the ages of 18-30, when possible, from each charge within its
63 bounds.

64

65 10.The Budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget
66 Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one layperson
67 alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must be a young adult
68 ages 18 to 30.

69

70 Part IX., Section II. Episcopal District Budget: Page 235

71 1. ... The Budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget
72 Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one
73 layperson alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must
74 be a young adult ages 18 to 30.

75

76 Glossary; Page 710

77 Young Adult: - Generally when *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist*
78 *Episcopal Church* refers to Young Adults—i.e., election of delegates to the General
79 Conference—the age level is 18 to 30 years. With regards to specific auxiliaries, the
80 Richard Allen Youth Adult Council ranges from 21 to 39 years of age;; the Connectional
81 Young People’s and Children’s Division of the Connectional Women’s Missionary
82 Society Young Adult Division is 18 to 26 years of age; the Young Women’s Initiative of
83 the Women’s Missionary Society encompasses ages 18 to 40; the Young Adult age for
84 the Connectional Lay Organization is 18 to 30 years of age.

85

86 AMENDED TEXT:

87 Part VII, Section 1.A.; Page 145

88The General Board shall also be composed of five (5) representatives from each
89 Episcopal district. Even numbered districts shall be represented by *three (3) ministers*
90 *and two (2) lay*. Odd-numbered districts shall be represented by *two (2) ministers, and*
91 *three (3) lay* during the quadrennium *of 2016-2020*. At least one member of every
92 Episcopal District delegation shall be a young adult between the ages of 18-35. The
93 clergy/laity order of district representation is to rotate quadrennially.

94

95 Part VII, Section 1.A.1. Nominating Committee; Page 146

96 ...Four (4) members of the nominating committee shall be clergy and four (4) shall be
97 laypersons. At least one member shall be a young adult between ages 18 to 35.

98

99 3. Executive Committee

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101 the Board and one representative from each Episcopal district. At the rise of the 2000-
102 2004 quadrennial, even numbered districts shall furnish the ministerial representatives
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104 Committee. At least one member of the Executive Committee (Episcopal District or at
105 large) shall be a young adult ages 18-35.

106

107 Part VII., Section I. D. Episcopal District Budget: Page 151

108 The budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget
109 Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one
110 layperson alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must be a
111 young adult ages 18 to 35.....

112

113 Part VIII, Section 1. C. 2. Lay Delegates: Page 191

114 c. Two members, one adult and one between the ages of 18 and 35, in good and
115 regular standing, shall be elected to the Electoral College from each local church.
116 At least one member of each Annual Conference lay delegation shall be a youth
117 between the ages of 18 and 35. The combined number of youth and adult lay
118 delegates shall be equal to the number of elected ministerial delegates.

119 Lay Electoral College

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121 between the ages of 18 and 35, in good and regular standing, from each station,
122 circuit, and mission in the Annual Conference, whose expenses to said College
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124 b.After devotional service, the College shall effect a permanent organization,
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140 representatives—three (3) lay and (3) ministerial— to be nominated by ballot at the
141 General Conference of whom at least one must be a young adult ages 18-35; the General
142 Secretary and the Chief Financial Officer of the Church.

143

144 Part VIII, Section II.A.: Page 205

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146 person between the ages of 18-35, when possible, from each charge within its
147 bounds.

148

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150 Budget Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one
151 layperson alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must be a
152 young adult ages 18 to 35.

153

154 Part IX., Section II. Episcopal District Budget; Page 235

155 1..... The Budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget
156 Committee, which shall be made up of one minister and two ministers and one
157 layperson alternately from every Annual Conference. At least one member must be a
158 young adult ages 18 to 35.

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160 Young Adult - Generally when *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African*
161 *Methodist Episcopal Church* refers to Young Adults—*e.g.*, election of delegates
162 to the General Conference—the age level is 18 to 35 years. With regards to
163 specific auxiliaries, the Richard Allen Youth Adult Council ranges from 21 to 39
164 years of age; the Connectional Young People’s and Children’s Division of the
165 Connectional Women’s Missionary Society Young Adult Division is 18 to 26

166 years of age; the Young Women’s Initiative of the Women’s Missionary Society
167 encompasses ages 18 to 40; the Young Adult age for the Connectional Lay
168 Organization is 18 to 35 years of age.

169

170 FUNDING: There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation

171 **Submitted by the Connectional Lay Organization**