

DRAFT

An addition to the Rules of General Conference of The United Methodist Church, 2024:

Rationale: An annual conference unwilling to accept the discernment of General Conference should experience reduced representation at General Conference.

Add:

A process for reducing the delegation of an annual conference found to be in non-compliance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*:

1. The Secretary of General Conference shall announce a period of 48 hours during the first week of General Conference in which any group of 100 or more delegates may submit a report recommending the delegation of an annual conference be reduced to the minimum of one lay and one clergy delegate. The reason for the reduction must relate to a lack of compliance in the annual conference to the ministry standards of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, except as allowed in central conferences. A summary statement and any supporting documentation shall be submitted to the Secretary of the General Conference.
2. These reports and any supporting documentation shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate within 24 hours of their receipt.
3. The delegation of any annual conference named in such a report shall have 48 hours following the printing of the above-named report to submit a reply and any supporting documentation to the Secretary of the General Conference. The reply and any supporting documentation shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate no later than 24 hours after their receipt.
4. The Commission on General Conference shall allot space and time on the plenary agenda for General Conference to act upon the recommendation to reduce the delegation size of an annual conference. This agenda item shall be scheduled for a time at least 24 hours but no more than 48 hours following the printing of the above-mentioned response in the Daily Christian Advocate.
5. After floor debate, a majority plenary vote in support of the recommendation shall reduce the delegation size of the annual conference in question to the minimum of one lay and one clergy delegate. The remaining delegates from that conference shall serve as reserves in order of their election.
6. The commission on General Conference shall distribute a corresponding number of delegates to remaining delegations using a formula based solely on annual conference membership. These additional delegates shall be awarded in pairs with one lay and one clergy delegate being added to each delegation receiving additional delegates. Any delegation with insufficient duly elected reserves may refuse the offer of additional delegates. In this instance the additional delegates shall be offered to the next delegation deemed eligible using the formula established above.
7. Under no circumstances shall any annual conference delegation be eligible to receive more than two additional delegates. If more than one annual conference experiences a

reduction in delegation size, these delegates shall be awarded to the next eligible delegation based on annual conference membership.

8. The Commission on General Conference shall assign delegates added by this rule to legislative committees.