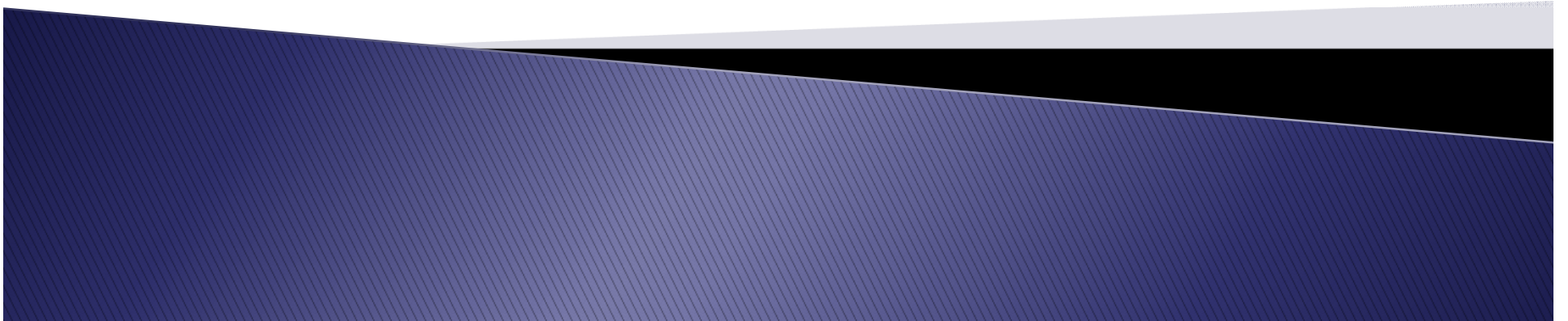


The 2008 Book of Discipline

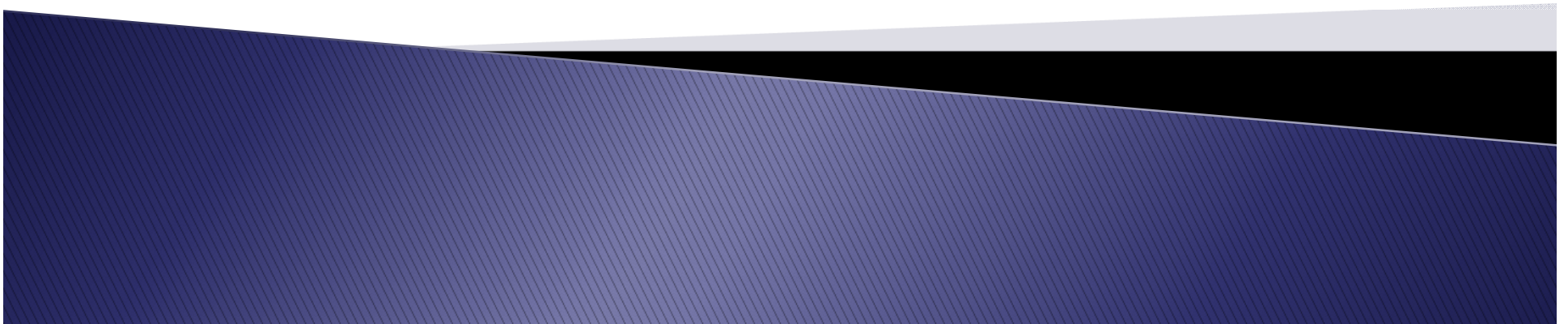
**WHAT HAPPENED AT THE
2008 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

By Patricia H. Wright



QUICK REVIEW.....

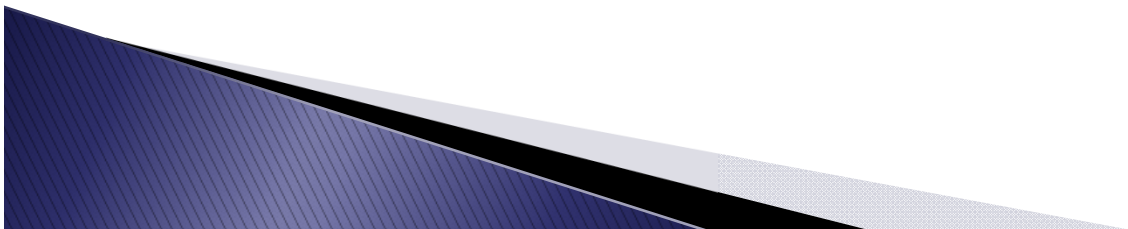
SUBMITTING A BILL



SUBMITTING A BILL

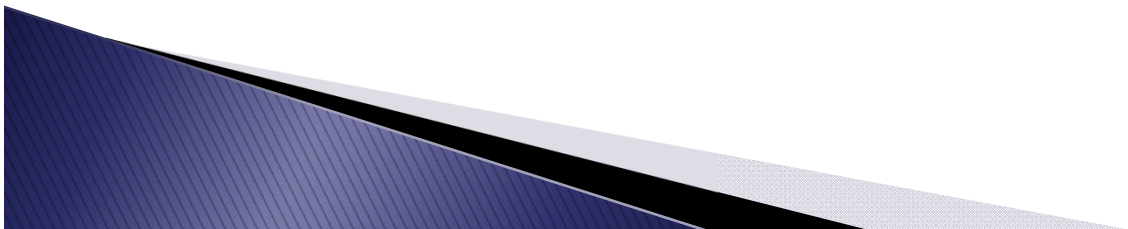
There are five (5) parts to Bills that are submitted for consideration as legislation.

- ▶ 1. The Bill should have a **title** that identifies the subject matter
- ▶ 2. The Bill should include **references** in the **CURRENT DISCIPLINE** that the Bill impacts.



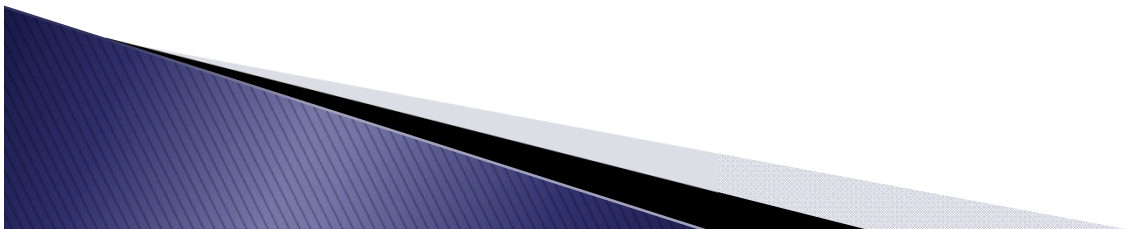
SUBMITTING A BILL

- ▶ 3. The intent of the Bill should be **clearly stated** – *What purpose is the Bill intended to accomplish?*
- ▶ 4. The Bill should include the rationale behind the submission.
- ▶ 5. The text of the Bill should be written double spaced, with each line numbered.



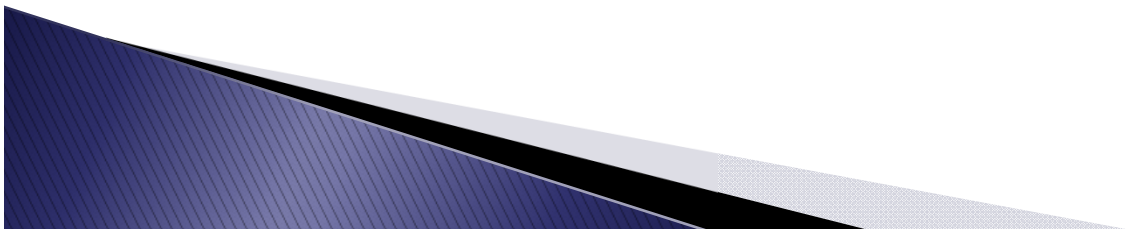
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2008

- ▶ **40** Bills were **passed**; **119 Bills presented** by Revisions Committee
- ▶ **31** Bills were **passed**; **118 Bills presented** by Revisions Committee **(2004)**
- ▶ Annual Conference Boundary changes in the 5th, 8th, 14th, 16th, and 20th, Districts



GENERAL CONFERENCE 2008

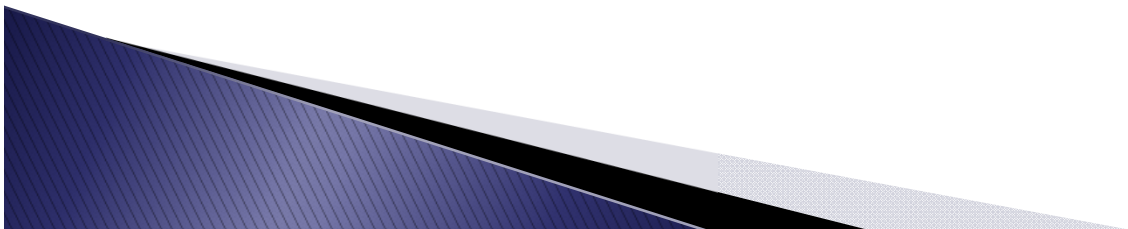
- ▶ Renaming the AMEC Finance Building in honor of Dr. Joseph C. McKinney
- ▶ Designation of the Reverdy C. Ransom Library at Wilberforce as the future site of an AMEC Archives
- ▶ Authorization to bid for the Rosa Parks Memorabilia collection.



Book of Discipline Revisions

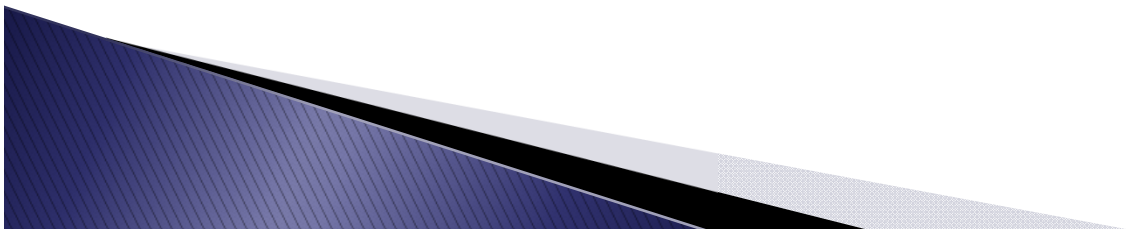
▶ THE COMPILATION COMMITTEE

- “to collect and assemble all adopted legislation of the General Conference, present the same in the exact manner and form as adopted to the duly authorized printer...” (p. 222)



Book of Discipline Revisions

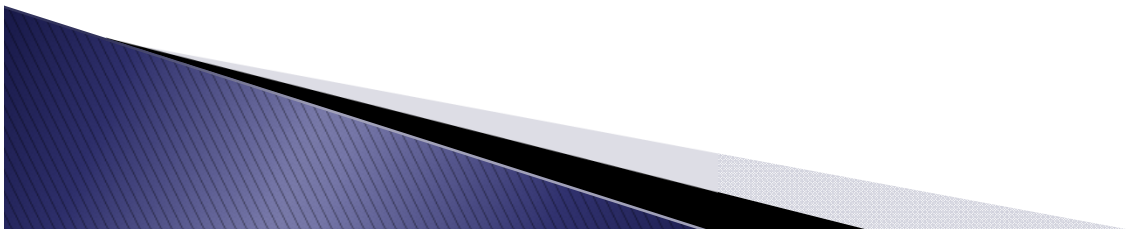
- ▶ THE MEMBERSHIP (Compilation Committee)
 - 4 Bishops elected from the Council of Bishops
 - Chairperson and Secretaries of the Revisions Committee (NO more than 10)
 - Revisions Subcommittee Chairs
 - One Lay from the Even Districts
 - One Clergy from the Odd Districts
 - The General Secretary
 - The Treasurer of the AME Church
 - 2008 Chair: Bishop C. Garnett Henning
 - Total Membership = 41 persons (including 8 Bishops and the General Council of the AMEC)



Book of Discipline Revisions

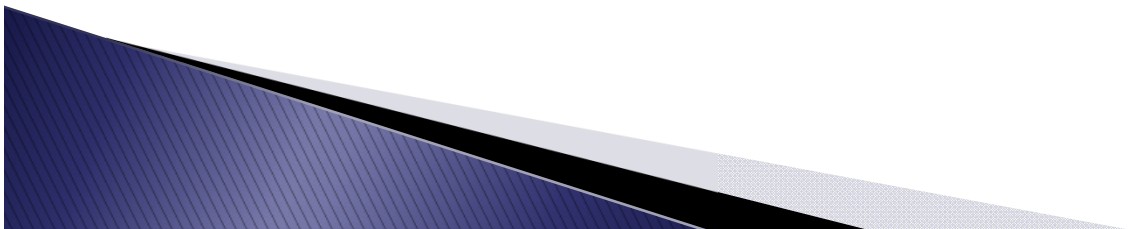
▶ THE CORRECTING AND EDITING COMMITTEE

- Called by the Compilation Committee and charged with:
 - 1) Correcting and editing Sexist Language, Contradictions, duplications, and archaic language
 - 2) Consolidating related programs
 - 3) Revising the Overall format for easier identification



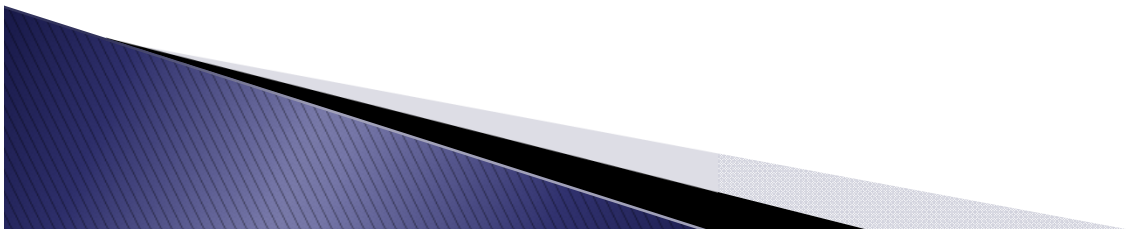
Book of Discipline Revisions

- ▶ **THE MEMBERSHIP** (Correcting & Editing Committee)
 - Chairperson and Secretary of the Revisions Committee
 - An English Professor
 - A Computer Technician with Service in the Local Connectional Church
 - A “Senior” Church person versed in Methodist Polity
 - Two Other Persons
 - The Senior Bishop
 - The President of the Council of Bishops
 - The General Secretary
 - The Treasurer
 - The Publisher
 - The AMEC General Council
 - Total Membership: 11 plus ex-officio (4 additional people added)



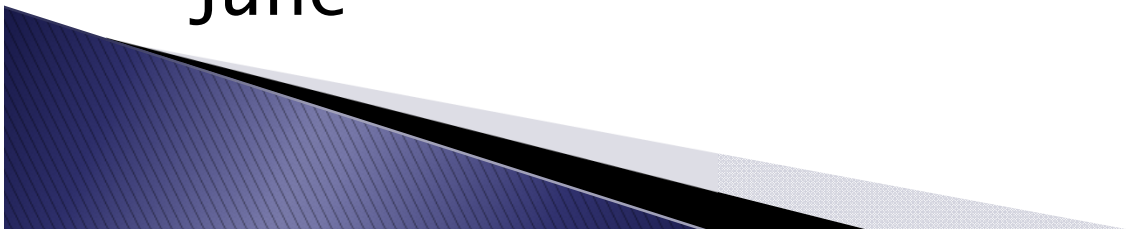
Timetable for Revisions

- ▶ WHAT DISCIPLINE SAYS...
- ▶ Manuscript must be turned over forty-five days after the General Conference to the Publisher
- ▶ New Discipline must be ready 365 days after receiving the material from the Compilation Committee



Timetable for Revisions

- ▶ WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?
- ▶ Compilation Committee meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in January 2009
- ▶ Final proofing was done by General Secretary's Staff
- ▶ Discipline was published in late May/early June

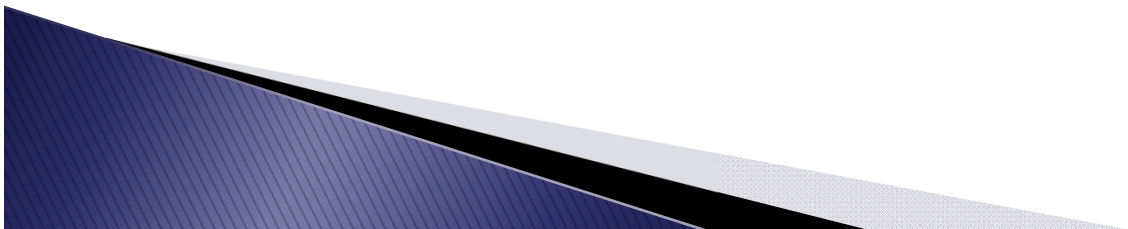


Book of Discipline Revisions

► Church And Membership

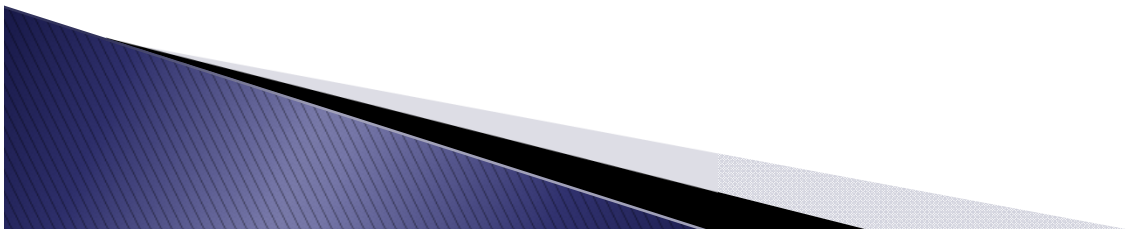
◦ **THREE BILLS**

- CM-01 HEALTH COMMISSION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
- CM-03 DUTIES OF STEWARDESSES
- CM-05 LAY LEADERSHIP PREPARATION



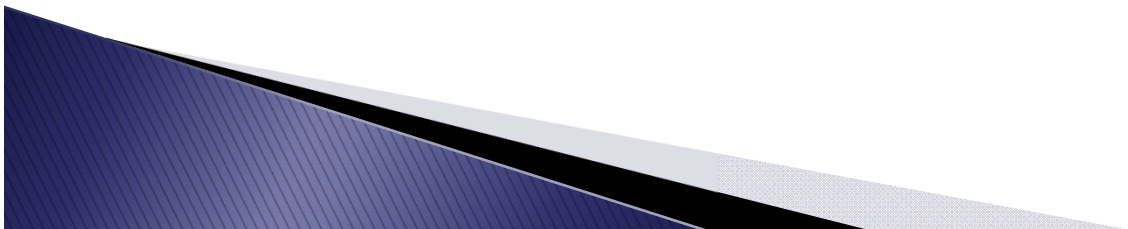
HEALTH COMMISSION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- ▶ **INTENT:** To include a description of the duties of the Commission on Health
- ▶ Text added on page 81 under new section #7



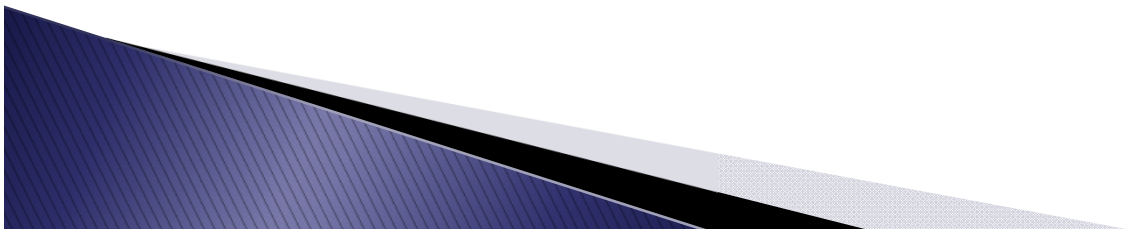
DUTIES OF STEWARDESSES

- ▶ RATIONALE: To amend the section of the Discipline related to duties of stewardesses in assisting ministers in the administration of the Holy Communion, specifically regarding the practice of the hand washing of ministers and Stewardess to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- ▶ TEXT added on page 70 under “Duties of Stewardesses”



LAY LEADERSHIP PREPARATION

- ▶ INTENT: To develop a model training program for leadership in lay ministry at the local church level and implement the same via two AME sponsored seminaries. To amend appropriate portions of Section XI to reflect the value of training for effective leadership and evangelism.
- ▶ Text added on page 130; mixed in with “Lay Speaker”

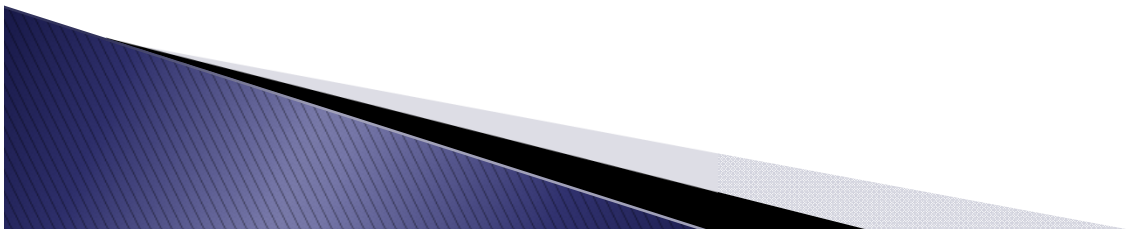


Book of Discipline Revisions

► Conferences and Conventions

► TEN BILLS

- CC-01 Young Adult Delegate to Annual Conference
- CC-02 Itinerant Ministers in the Composition of the Presiding Elder District Conference & Church School Convention
- CC-03 Election of Delegates to the Annual Conference
- CC-04 General Conference Roster & Committee Assignments
- CC-05 General Conference Candidate Certification

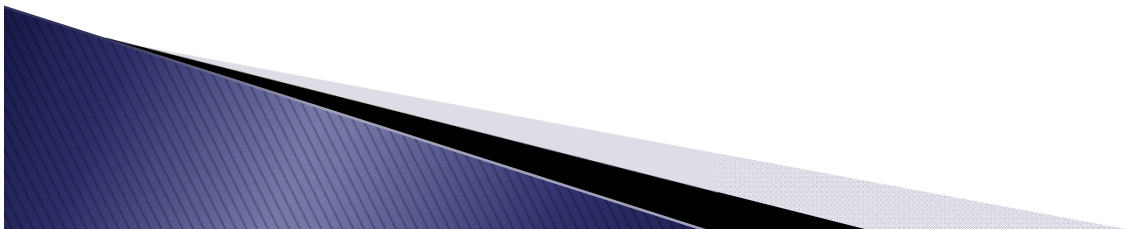


Book of Discipline Revisions

▶ Conferences and Conventions

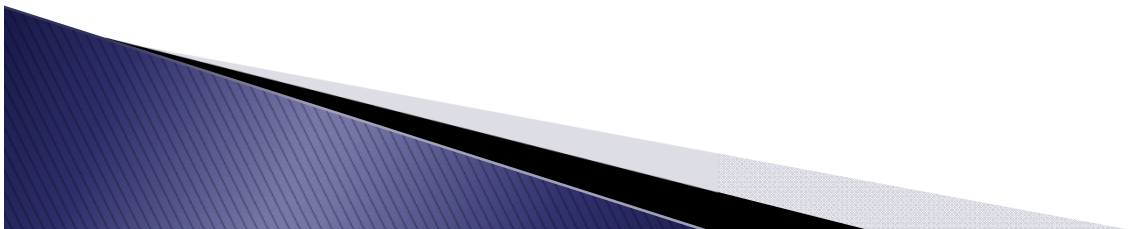
▶ TEN BILLS

- ▶ CC-06 General Conference Committees
- ▶ CC-07 Revision of General Conference Commission Selection of Site Time
- ▶ CC-09 Uniform Election Process
- ▶ CC-12 CONN-M-SWAWO+PKs Constitution & By Laws
- ▶ CC-13 Right-Sizing the General Conference Delegation



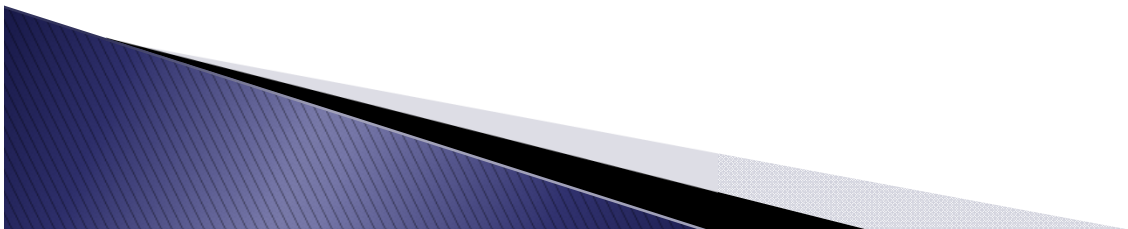
Young Adult Delegate to the Annual Conference

- ▶ INTENT: To create an avenue for young adult participation in the Annual Conference. Specific young adult delegates are elected to serve at the Presiding Elder District and General Conference (The Discipline, page 206, section 1, A and page 188, Section 3, A). The absence of specific young adult representation at the Annual Conference is inconsistent with specified requirements for other conferences.
- ▶ Text Added on Page 226



Itinerant Ministers in Composition of the PE District Conference and the Church School Convention

- ▶ RATIONALE: To include the itinerant ministers in the composition of the Presiding Elder's District Conference and Church School Convention
- ▶ Text added on pages 123 and 192



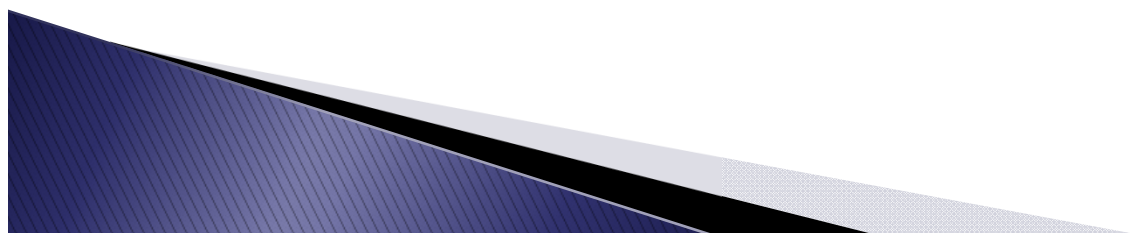
Election Delegates to the Annual Conference

- ▶ INTENT: To establish consistency in the election of the delegates to the Annual Conference. Just as delegates to the Presiding Elder District Conference are elected by ballots (Section III (A), page 228 of the Discipline) and Delegates to the General Conference via the electoral college are elected by ballots (Section 1 C), Page 208 of the Discipline). Delegates to the Annual Conference should also be elected by ballots
- ▶ TEXT added on page 222



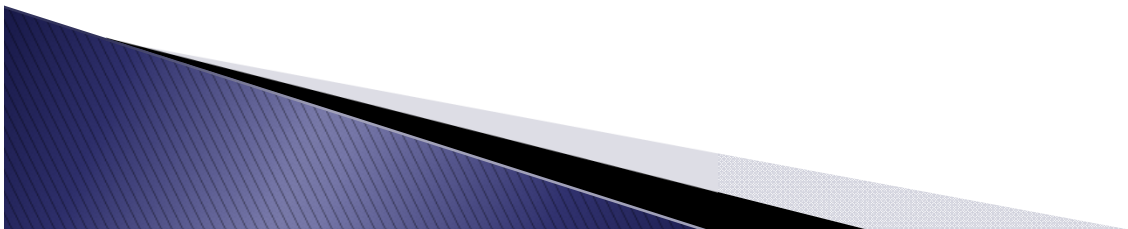
General Conference Candidate Certification

- ▶ INTENT: To change the minimum time for application to elected offices at the General Conference --Bishop, General Officers, Judicial Council -- from 30 days to one hundred and eighty days.
- ▶ Text added on pages 135 and 143



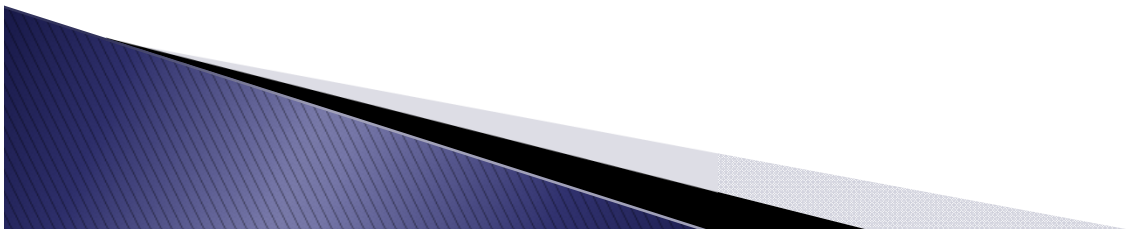
General Conference Committees

- ▶ INTENT: To include the Committee on Woman In Ministry in the list of General Conference Committees.
- ▶ Text added on page 219
- ▶ **Note:** Error committed with preexisting “u. General Conference Commission”



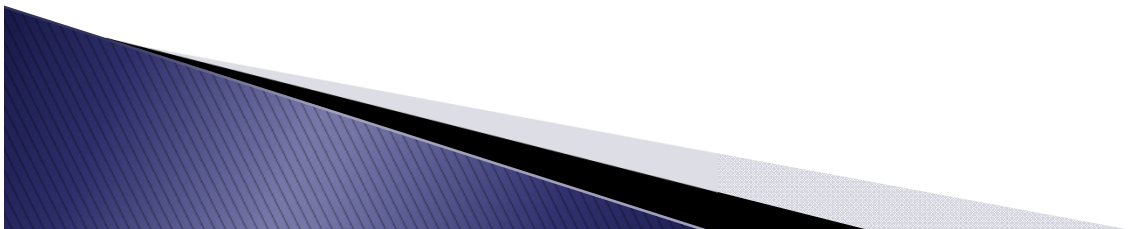
General Conference Site Time Revision

- ▶ INTENT: To change language to reflect and additional four years in advance (at least 12 years in advance)
- ▶ Text added on page 221



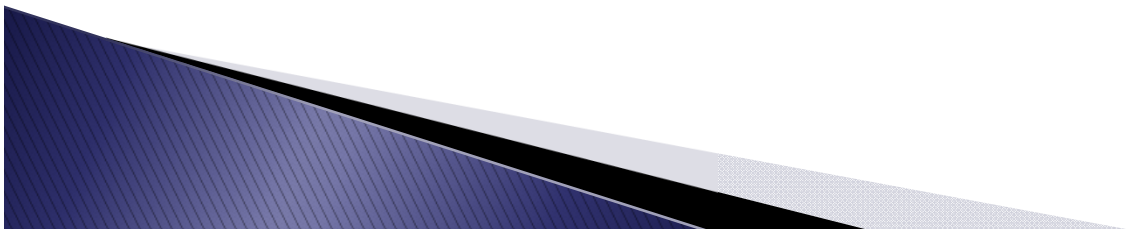
Uniform Election Process

- ▶ INTENT: To mandate uniformity in all ballot elections at all levels in the church, i.e., The local church, District Conference, Annual Conference, Episcopal District, and in the General Conference.
- ▶ Text added on pages 67, 161, and 216



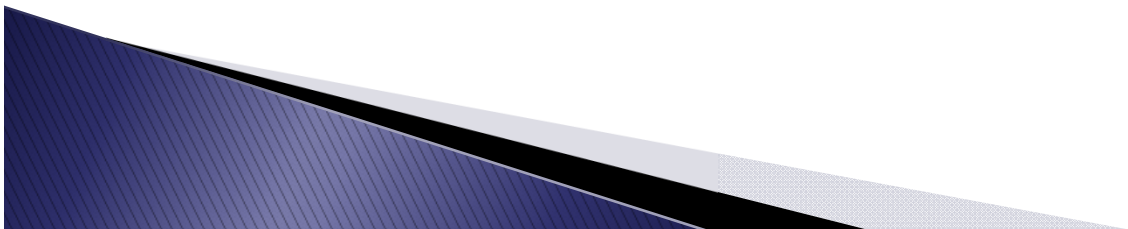
Right-Sizing the General Conference

- ▶ INTENT: To repeal the law enacted at the 47th General Conference which had the immediate effect of reducing the General Conference delegation size by 35%, and to establish a Connection-wide ad hoc committee to develop or consider formulas that will provide for a more scientific and effective means of establishing the size of General Conference Delegation
- ▶ Text added on pages 209 and 210



Component and Dept. Bylaws

- ▶ CDB – 04 CLO Constitution and By laws
 - Two Major Changes
 - Addition of Young Adult Representative
 - Term Limit change for office holders
 - Text Added on 402 and 403

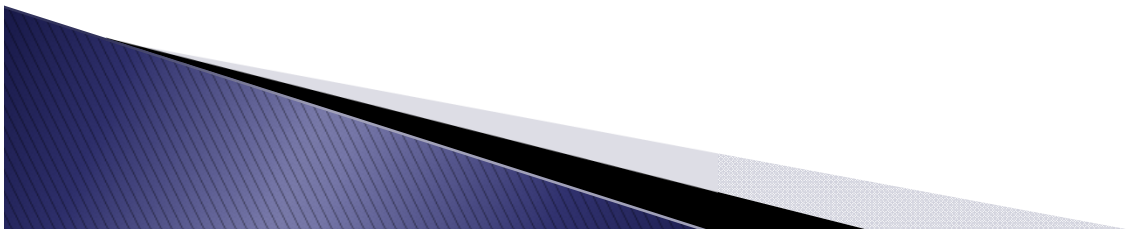


Book of Discipline Revisions

▶ Doctrines and Beliefs

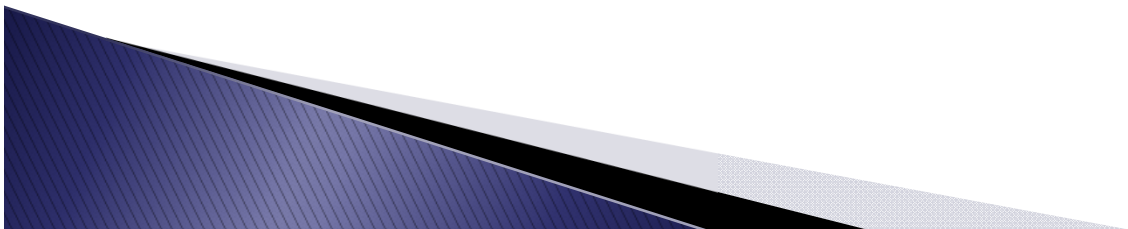
▶ FIV E BILLS

- ▶ DB-01 AME Theme Song
- ▶ DB-02 Historical Preamble to the vision of the AME Church
- ▶ DB-03 The mission, objectives and purpose of the AME Church
- ▶ DB-04 The Motto of the AME Church
- ▶ DB-05 The mission, vision and purpose of the AME Church



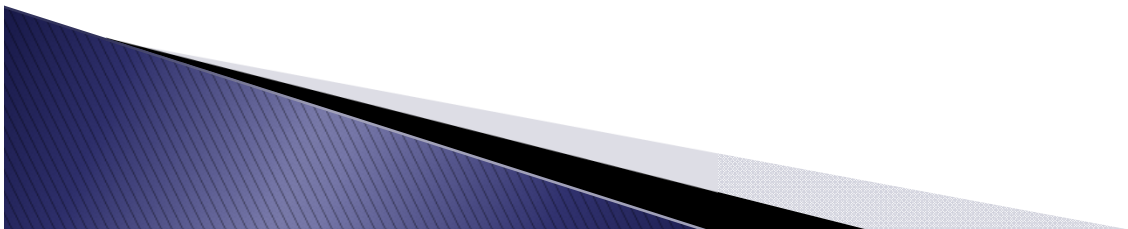
AME Theme Song

- ▶ INTENT: To designate Reverend Hardeman's "God our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man our Brother" as AME Theme Song
- ▶ Added in Hymnal Special Hymns Section
- ▶ Did **NOT** have designation as AME Theme Song or Historical Footnote



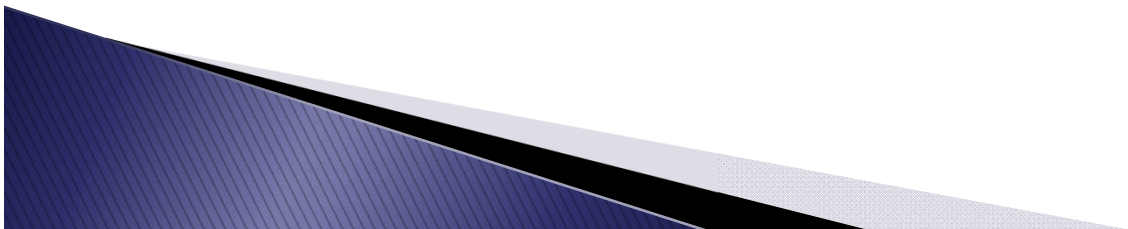
Historical Preamble to Vision of the AME Church

- ▶ MISSION, OBJECTIVES, AND VISION
- ▶ Text Added on Page 16



Motto of the AME Church

- ▶ INTENT: To make the AME Credal statement gender inclusive and theologically sound through including the entire Trinity
- ▶ New Motto: “God Our Father, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family”
- ▶ Text on page 1

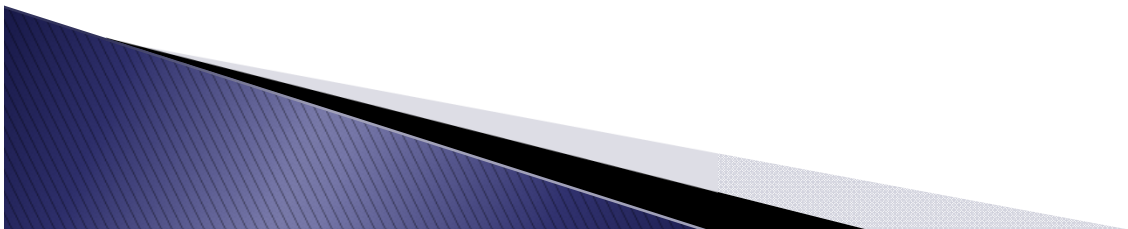


Book of Discipline Revisions

- ▶ General Governmental Boards

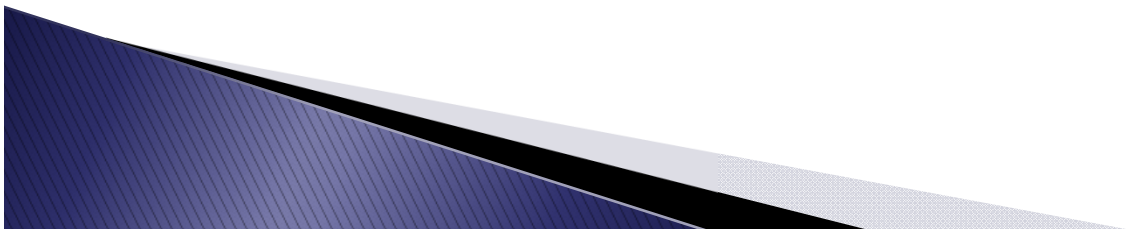
- ▶ **FOUR BILLS**

- ▶ MN-01 Ministerial Education Course of Study
- ▶ MN-05 Reestablishing Pastor's Responsibilities
- ▶ MN-07 Classification of Pastors and Charges
- ▶ MN-08 Clergy Family Information Center



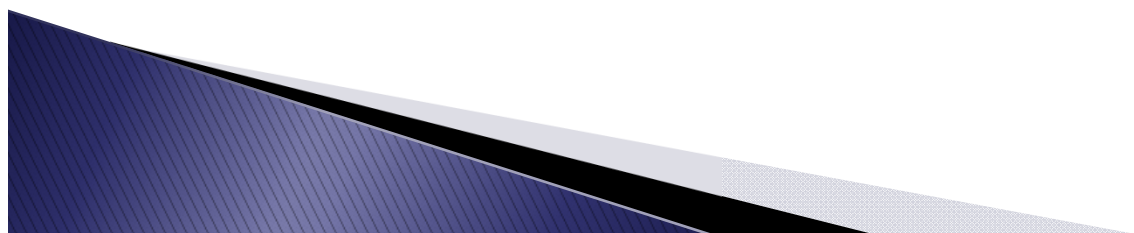
Ministerial Education Course of Study

- ▶ INTENT: To delete the current required readings for the course of study and introduce a restructured required readings for the Ministerial Course of Study
- ▶ Text added on pages 89–107



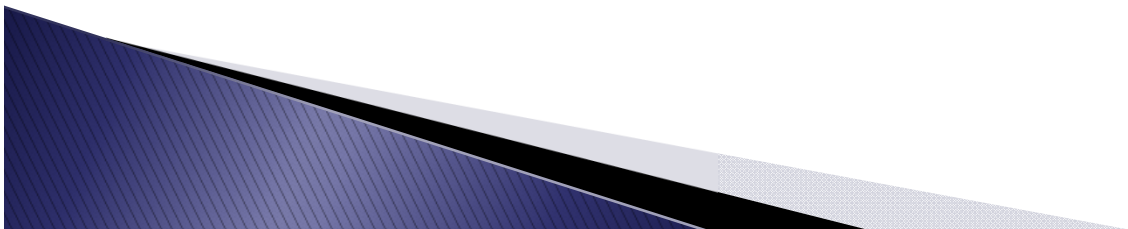
Reestablishing the Pastor's Responsibilities

- ▶ INTENT: To support the Constitution of the Connectional Lay Organization
- ▶ Text Added on page 113



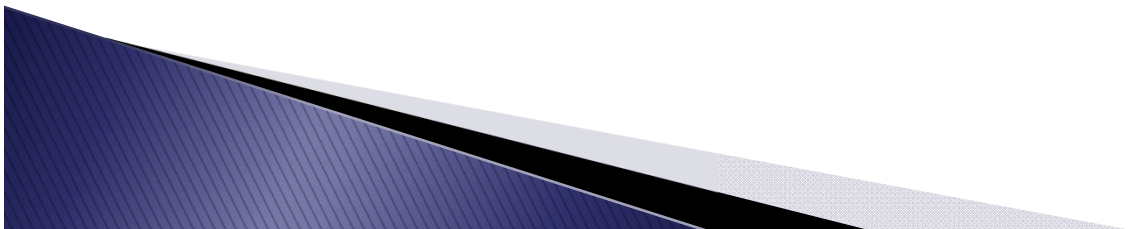
Classification of Pastors and Charges

- ▶ **INTENT:** To equip and empower pastors with the necessary legislative tools to receive appointments equitable to their academic training and preparation; equip and empower local churches with necessary legislative tools to receive pastoral appointments comparable to their needs and financial capabilities; and to update the Discipline's Language to reflect the absence of a Minimum Salary Department or minimum salary stated by the connectional church
- ▶ Text added & deleted on pages 122–123



Clergy and Family Information Center

- ▶ INTENT: To add the Clergy Family Center and the duties of its Administrator to the Commission on Social Action; to add the Administrator as a Connectional Officer
- ▶ Text Added: 203–204

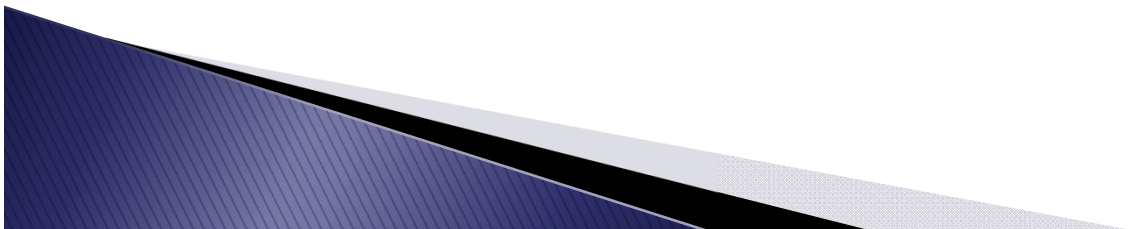


Book of Discipline Revisions

▶ **General Governmental Boards**

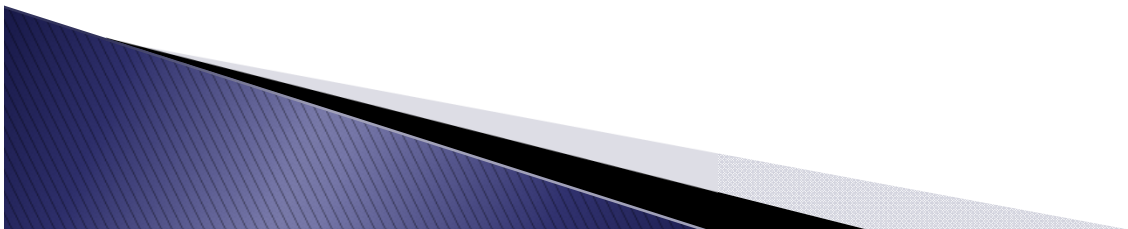
▶ **FIV E BILLS**

- ▶ GGB-01 Educational Requirements for Candidates for Bishop
- ▶ GGB-02 General Budget – Quarterly Payments
- ▶ GGB-03 Reserve Investment Fund
- ▶ GGB-06 Uniform designation of General Officer Titles
- ▶ GG-07 Duties of the General Board



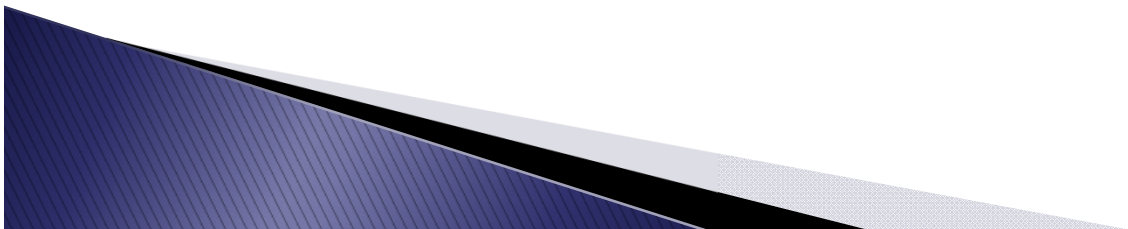
Educational Requirements for Bishop

- ▶ INTENT: To ensure that those who seek the highest office in the church meet the educational requirements for professional ministry
- ▶ Text added on page 135



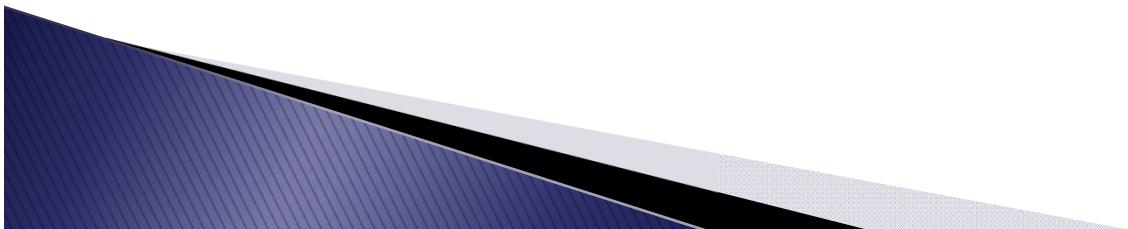
General Budget Quarterly Payment

- ▶ INTENT: To strengthen the fiduciary management capacity of the Treasurer/CFO by improving the Quarterly Cash Flow provisions of the General Budget as approved by the GC
- ▶ Text Added on page 138



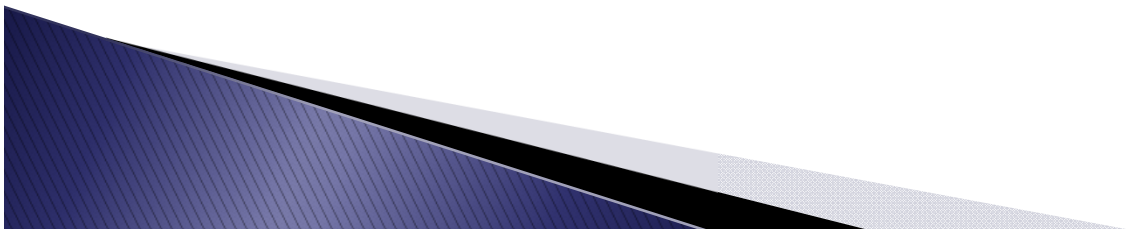
Reserve Investment Fund

- ▶ INTENT: To create a Reserve Investment fund to strengthen the Fiscal Position of the AME Church and to reduce increases in financial obligations when the income from the investment fund is available
- ▶ Text on Pages 260–261



Uniform Designation of GO Titles

- ▶ INTENT: The intent is to be consistent in the assignment of titles to the General Officers who are charged with the administration of the affairs of the Various Departments of the AME Church
- ▶ Text Added on pages 136, 137, 143, 144, 155



Think about 2012??

