

**Some Notes and Reflections on**  
**The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church**  
**Comparing and Contrasting with**  
**The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016)**

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In preparing for the formation of the Global Methodist Church (GMC), the GMC Transitional Leadership Council has developed and distributed *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines*, describes the polity being proposed for the Global Methodist Church.

While it is transitional and not the final version, it is important to carefully examine this book and to highlight provisions that could impact those who are thinking about joining the GMC.

We believe there are many theological and logistical details that have the potential to create significant hardships to churches, clergy, or laity leaving The United Methodist Church (UMC) and uniting with the GMC. To that end, we have prepared the notes and reflections in this document.

This document includes two distinct pieces of work. The first is a chart that briefly explains the key doctrinal and disciplinary differences between the GMC and The UMC. The second is a more detailed explanation. The original source documents are *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church*<sup>1</sup> and *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Book of Discipline*, 2016 edition<sup>2</sup>

Our hope and prayer is that regardless of one's theological perspectives regarding human sexuality, those considering joining the GMC would understand the polity differences between The UMC and the GMC.

Humbly submitted to the whole church by,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://peopleneedjesus.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/82948-englishtransitionalbookofdoctrinesanddiscipline\\_.pdf](https://peopleneedjesus.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/82948-englishtransitionalbookofdoctrinesanddiscipline_.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Part 1: Doctrine</b>		
<b>Doctrine, Paragraphs 105-109</b>	Presented without interpretation as classical documents, Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Definition Chalcedon, Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith of the EUB Church, Wesley's sermons, and Wesley's Notes on the New Testament.	The UMC interprets these documents within the Wesleyan Quadrilateral and includes them in Our Doctrinal History, Doctrinal Heritage, Doctrinal Standards and General Rules, and Our Theological Task.
<b>Part 2: Social Witness</b>		
<b>Social Witness, Paragraph 202</b>	14 topics in brief sentences, many reflecting United States (U.S.) Traditionalist values	The UMC Social Principles fill 40 pages in the 2016 Book of Discipline covering a wide variety of topics impacting all of creation and not limited to U.S. Traditionalist values.
<b>Abortion, Paragraph 202.3</b>	Only allowed when life is in danger.	This GMC provision does not consider the complex considerations included in the UMC Book of Discipline paragraph 161K
<b>Marriage, Paragraph 202.7</b>	One man and one woman	This GMC perspective discriminates against, marginalizes, and harms couples and individuals who are engaged in healthy relationships which are not the traditional male-female norm the GMC expects. While this topic is deemed to be one of the core issues leading to a potential split in The UMC, it is only given limited attention in this GMC official document.

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Part 3: The Community of God's People</b>		
<b>Inclusiveness, Paragraph 306</b>	Gender defined by biological traits as identified at or before birth, thereby rejecting transgender people and those born as intersex children	As science continues to learn more about DNA and human sexuality, it challenges us to move beyond this very narrow perspective. The church needs to recognize the harm done to those who do not fit the male-female binary norm the GMC expects.
<b>Inclusiveness, Paragraph 306</b>	Leaves out age thereby making age discrimination permissible.	By omitting age, the GMC allows the marginalization of older adults and younger people and stifles voices that may have much to offer us.
<b>Baptismal Vows, Paragraph 314</b>	Only parents or legal guardians may sponsor children	This provision could limit the work of God who may call aunts, uncles, nieces nephews, or others as sponsors in a person's faith journey.
<b>Professing Members, Paragraph 316</b>	Membership deferred by pastor can be appealed to Pastor-Parish Relations Committee.	This approach could result in a network that overrides a pastor whenever they disagree.
<b>Membership Vows, Paragraph 317</b>	Changes that remove "Do you renounce spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression..."	Can a person still be a GMC member without repenting of one's sin, as long as one's transgressions are not associated with one's sexuality?

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Inactive Members, Paragraph 320</b>	“Negligent members may be placed on an inactive roll”	Negligence to membership vows is not defined and there does not appear to be an appeal process. Since “negligence” isn’t defined, the absence of specificity could permit negative actions against people who believe, think, or act differently.
<b>Charge Conference, Paragraph 336</b>	District Superintendent fixes time and location. Notice must have at least three notices of different types (i.e. pulpit, bulletin, email, mail, other local church publication).	The UMC Book of Discipline allows the charge conference to set the location. This takes away some the local church’s autonomy.
<b>Board of Trustees, Paragraph 344.5b</b>	Trustees have sole authority in what outside groups can use the building	The trustees could then override the pastor or other groups in deciding who can and who can’t use the facility, thereby creating culture of insider / outsider regarding control of the church building(s).
<b>Congregational Fidelity, Paragraph 351</b>	Allows for a church or pastor to be involuntarily removed from denomination.	This provision could be used against a church or pastor holding perspectives which disagree with the GMC’s doctrines or practices. It is one way the GMC intends to force churches and clergy to strictly adhere to the GMC polity.
<b>Joining the GMC, paragraph 352</b>	If a UMC annual conference votes to join the GMC, it automatically brings with it all the churches of the annual conference with no vote required by the local churches.	If the annual conference votes to join the GMC, those churches which do not want to join the GMC may vote to join another denomination.

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Part 4: The Ministry of the Called</b>		
<b>Orders of Ministry, Paragraph 403</b>	Two orders, Deacon and Elder	This returns to twofold ordination and provides for a permanent Deacon eligible for full membership in the conference.
<b>Qualifications of the Ordained, Paragraph 405</b>	If married, must be married to a Christian	This dismisses the call of those whose spouses are Jewish, Buddhist, or atheist, anything other than Christian.
<b>Ordination as Elder, Paragraph 409.b</b>	Multiple ways into ordination many not requiring seminary training.	This provision lowers the education level of pastors, taking into account the educational opportunities available in other countries. Some may see this as a devaluing of the profession.
<b>Episcopal Approval of Ordinands, Paragraph 408, 409 and 414</b>	Bishop can veto any candidate for Deacon or Elder. For any reason or no reason.	With this veto power, a bishop could single-handedly override a decision of the clergy session of an annual conference, could deny God's call to ministry on a person's life, and could abuse the power of the bishop's office.
<b>Senior Status, Paragraph 416</b>	No mandatory age for retirement.	By making this change pastors can circumvent itinerancy and stay voluntarily in their appointment.
<b>Retirement, Paragraph 416</b>	Pastors in senior status who do not meet the criteria in this paragraph will not have a vote at annual conference after 7 years	7 years does not end the retired pastor's usefulness to God's work in the Annual Conference.

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Transitional Provisions for Clergy, Paragraph 417</b>	If an annual conference votes to join the GMC, all clergy within that annual conference MUST affirm the doctrines and Social Witness of the GMC.	Those that do not affirm the doctrines and Social Witness will need to align with another expression of Methodism. This removes the autonomy of the clergy.
<b>Part 5: The Superintendency</b>		
<b>Bishop's Role, Paragraph 501</b>	The role of bishop is not for life, after election.	This GMC provision is consistent with the practices of some Wesleyan traditions around the world.
<b>Episcopal Role, Paragraph 502</b>	Bishops must be unwavering in upholding GMC doctrines and polity.	This provision can be weaponized to eliminate diverse thoughts or fresh ideas.
<b>Compensation, Paragraph 505.3</b>	Annual conferences in the United States will financially support the episcopal office costs of an entire conference in another part of the world.	This financial burden may hurt some annual conferences, may take away the autonomy of both conferences, and has colonialist implications of the “rich Americans coming to rescue the poor in other nations.”
<b>Clergy Effectiveness, Paragraph 512</b>	There is no guarantee of appointments. Clergy without appointments have no voting rights, as they are immediately considered “inactive.”	By removing guaranteed appointments, the GMC will remove protections for minority, female, and prophetic voices.
<b>Council of Bishops, Paragraph 521.3</b>	Only active bishops are considered members of the Council of Bishops.	As with retired clergy, once a bishop reaches a certain age the GMC seems to think they have limited value.

Title and Paragraph number	GMC	Interpretation
<b>Part 6: Conferences</b>		
<b>Local Church Members, Paragraph 604.4</b>	Based upon this paragraph, membership in a church can be denied for the following reasons: age, education, marital status, family structure, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc...	Given the opportunity to do so, the GMC has not taken the steps to deal with discrimination for these reasons which already exists within many denominations.
<b>General Conference Paragraphs 604.14 and 604.15</b>	Requires 3/4th majority to issue statements on behalf of GMC	This high bar will make it very difficult to have a unified voice in the world.
<b>Part 7, Connectional organization</b>		
<b>GMC Transitional Leadership Council, Paragraph 703</b>	Given very broad powers with no timelines for relinquishing them.	Will they give up their power? How long is a traditional council needed?
<b>GMC Transitional Leadership, Paragraph 704</b>	All GMC employees must agree fully with GMC	Once again, this limits free thinking and diminishes their individuality.
<b>Part 9, Property</b>		
<b>Trust Clause, Paragraph 902</b>	There is no Trust Clause.	This may be a reaction to The UMC and yet, it may have a place in the new denomination.
<b>Audit and Bonding, Paragraph 910</b>	Church treasurers “need not be bonded” which could impact church insurance policies.	If treasurers are not bonded and a financial issue arises, the church may not be protected from a lawsuit and insurance may not cover the loss. What appears to be an attempt to make things simpler may cause issues later.

## High Level Themes

In reviewing the *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of The Global Methodist Church (TBODAD)* and comparing it to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 (UMC BOD)*, the following themes seem clear:

1 – *The TBODAD* reflects a Traditionalist Methodist theology and polity, as would be expected.

2 - *The TBODAD* includes provisions which will attempt to ensure strict adherence to the Traditionalist theology, policies, and practices as defined within the document.

- Multiple paragraphs stipulate that individuals and groups will be required to pledge their allegiance to provisions in *The TBODAD*.
- In cases where leadership senses that individuals or churches are straying from *The TBODAD*'s requirements, "negligent" church members may be placed on an inactive roll, clergy may be charged, churches may be involuntarily disaffiliated from the GMC, etc.

3 – *The TBODAD* conveys a narrow view of inclusion, beginning with its definition of inclusiveness in ¶ 306, "Inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or gender...".

- A more expansive view of inclusion would remove any policy or practice which excludes anyone from full participation in the life of the church, due to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, level of education, economic condition, marital status, immigration status, family structure, etc.
- Although *The TBODAD* does state, "All people may attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and, upon taking the vows of membership, become members in any local church in the connection" ¶ 310, *The TBODAD* does include limitations to full participation in the life of the GMC, with restrictions on the ordained and on members who neglect their membership vows.

## Part-by-Part Analysis

This preliminary analysis cites paragraphs (¶) from *The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline The Global Methodist Church (TBODAD)* and when appropriate compares those with paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 (UMC BOD)*. Readers are encouraged to read the entire text of *TBODAD* which is available on The Global Methodist Church (GMC) website, [www.globalmethodist.org/#organization](http://www.globalmethodist.org/#organization).

### Part I: Doctrine

¶105 – Three Foundational Documents: The Apostles Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Definition Chalcedon.

¶106 – Two Constitutive Standards: The Twenty-Five Articles of Religion and The Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Brethren.

¶107 – Normative Wesleyan Standards: The Standard Sermons (53) and The Explanatory Notes on the New Testament.

¶108 - The General Rules

¶ 109 –The Restrictive rule forbidding any revoking, altering, or changing The Articles of Religion or The Confession of Faith or establishing any new standards of doctrine.

#### **Commentary:**

- In *The UMC BOD*, these classic doctrines are set in the context of theological reflection within four sections: Our Doctrinal Heritage, Our Doctrinal History, Our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules (where these classical Wesleyan texts are located), and Our Theological Task.
- In *The UMC BOD* there is a distinction made between doctrine and theology (see *UMC BOD* ¶ 105).
- In *The TBODAD* there is no reference to the guidelines of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.
- There appears to be a heavy emphasis on doctrine in The Global Methodist Church (GMC). The problem is that simply listing classic texts does not avoid the need to interpret their meaning for each moment in the life of the Church.

## **Part II: Social Witness**

¶ 202 - Our Witness to the World - This paragraph has 14 distinct statements.

202.3 - Abortion – TBODAD statement is more restrictive than ¶161 K in *The UMC BOD*.

202.4 – Science and Technology statement – This sentence seems to reject creationism.

202.7 – Marriage - Marriage is defined as a relationship between one-man and one-woman.

### **Commentary:**

- The brevity of this paragraph in *The TBODAD* (2 pages) is immediately apparent, when compared to the Social Principles in *The UMC BOD* (40 pages).
- A provision in *The TBODAD* ¶1604.14 requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote by any future General Conference to alter this paragraph.
- Interestingly there is no statement in this section on the subject of divorce leaving one to wonder what, if any, is or will be the position of The GMC on this subject.

## **Part III: The Community of God's People**

¶ 301 – Mission of the Church “ –The mission of the Global Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly”.

### **Commentary:**

- Compare this Mission Statement in *UMC BOD* ¶ 120 “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.”

¶ 302 – A Global Church “ –From Britain, to the Americas, to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia ...”

### **Commentary:**

- Although some may view this as historical, others will see the inclusion of this sequence as a continuation of the colonialist attitudes so present within the church.

¶ 306 – Inclusiveness –

### **Commentary:**

- This statement on inclusiveness is very limited (Please refer to comment on Inclusion under General Themes on the first page of this document).
- By defining gender as “a person’s immutable biological traits identified by or before birth,” this paragraph rejects any affirmation of transgender persons.

¶ 314 – Baptism –

### **Commentary:**

- Are sponsors only to be parents or legal guardians. Was this just an oversight or is this intended to limit who can be a sponsor to only parents and/or legal guardians?

¶ 316 – Professing Members - If a pastor defers on granting membership to a potential member, that person can appeal to the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee or its equivalent. This appears to be new.

¶ 317 –Membership Vows - Vows are changed from *The UMC BOD* ¶217.

¶ 320 – The Inactive Roll - With the approval of 2/3s of the church council “negligent” members may be placed on an inactive roll. Persons on an inactive roll are suspended from serving on committees and voting on church matters. After two years they may be removed from membership by a 2/3s vote of the charge conference.

**Commentary:**

- There is currently no such provision in *The UMC BOD*.
- This raises a number of questions, such as: What specifically constitutes neglecting membership vows? Shouldn’t there be an appeal process? Shouldn’t there be a check on this authority?

¶ 335 – Governing Council Membership “ –Members of the church’s governing board or council shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church, are morally disciplined, are committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church, are loyal to ethical standards of the Global Methodist Church and are competent to administer its affairs.”

**Commentary:**

- The idea of being “committed to the mandate of inclusiveness in the life of the church” sounds good until the GMC’s narrow definition of inclusiveness in *TBODAD* ¶ 306 is understood.

¶ 336 - Charge Conference – In describing the Charge Conference, two changes have been made

**Commentary:**

- 336.3 - The District Superintendent (DS) fixes both the time and the place; in *The UMC BOD* ¶246.4, the DS fixes the time but the Charge Conference determines the place.
- 336.6 – The notice of a charge conference requires “three or more of the following...” ; while *The UMC BOD* ¶246.8 requires only “two or more of the following....”

¶ 337 – Charge Conference Duties “ –Every local church should intentionally nurture candidates for ordained ministry, providing for spiritual and financial support...” Providing financial support is a new provision.

¶ 344 – Board of Trustees – 344.5b “ –The use of a local congregation’s facilities or properties by an outside organization may be granted by the Board of Trustees after consideration of whether the purposes and programs of that organization are consistent with the values of the congregation and the GMC.”

**Commentary:**

- Where are the values of the GMC defined? Could the values of the congregation be discriminatory? Is this a means of discriminating against LGBTQIA2S+ and other groups?

¶ 351 - Congregational Fidelity –

**Commentary:**

- This whole paragraph is designed to provide a way by which pastors can be moved and congregations involuntarily disaffiliated if they do not adhere to the doctrines set forth in *The TBODAD*.
- There is nothing corresponding to this section in *The UMC BOD*.

¶ 352 – Local Congregations aligning with the GMC – 352.1 “ –Local congregations belonging to an annual conference that affiliates with the GMC (¶ 614) automatically are aligned with this denomination without the need to take a vote of the membership. By continuing to be a part of their annual conference the local church endorses the doctrinal standards and Social Witness (¶ 101 – ¶ 202) found in this *TBODAD* and agrees to function under its authority and provisions.”

**Commentary:**

- Local churches considering an affiliation with the GMC should read ¶ 351 and ¶ 352 very carefully.

## Part IV: The Ministry of the Called

### **Commentary:**

- This title raises some theological questions. Are not all Christians called? While ordination reflects a particular “call” should not there be some more clarity that a call to ordained ministry functions within the broader call that is given to all Christians?

¶ 403 – Orders of Ministry - This section restores the twofold ordination of Deacon and Elder while, at the same time, providing for a permanent Deacon who is eligible for full membership in the conference.

¶ 405 – Qualifications of the Ordained – 405.2 – Rejects same gender marriage or a non-Christian marriage.

¶ 409– Ordination as Elder – 409.b - This paragraph seems to provide a variety of ways into ordination with a seminary degree being only one of them.

¶¶ 408, 409, & 414 – Episcopal Approval - These paragraphs create what is, in effect, “an episcopal veto” over who can be ordained. This applies to both Deacons and Elders.

### **Commentary:**

- This “veto” does not exist in *The UMC BOD* where responsibility for all matters of character, conference relationship, and ordination rests with the clergy session of the annual conference.
- In The UMC the bishops have sole authority to ordain, but they do not determine who is ordained.

¶ 416 – Senior Status - Two changes should be noted in this paragraph

### **Commentary:**

- There is no mandatory age for retirement (i.e. Senior status).
- Persons in the Senior Status, unless they meet certain criteria set forth in this paragraph, have only voice, not vote, in the annual conference.
- This raises the question of why a retired UMC clergy would want to affiliate with the GMC.

¶ 417 – Transitional provisions for clergy – 417.1 “ – Clergy who are members of an annual conference that affiliates with the GMC remain members of that annual conference and thereby of the GMC unless they choose a different affiliation. Such clergy are expected to affirm the doctrines and Social Witness set forth in this *TBODAD* and they agree to abide by its discipline. Clergy not endorsing these statements should align with a different expression of Methodism that fits more closely with their doctrinal and/or ethical understanding.”

**Commentary:**

- Clergy who are thinking about aligning with the GMC should read ¶ 417 very carefully.

## **Part V: The Superintendency**

¶ 501 – Role of Bishop - The role of bishop is not a lifelong office.

**Commentary:**

- Currently, at least in the U.S., bishops are elected for life.

¶ 502 – Episcopal Role and Qualifications - “...and shall be unwaveringly committed to uphold the doctrines and polity of our church....”

**Commentary:**

- This clearly addresses the UMC Council of Bishops or at least some particular bishops who are deemed to be unfaithful by the GMC Transitional Leadership Council or other authors of the *TBODAD*.

¶ 503 – Episcopal Responsibilities – 503.3 “ –Defend, communicate, uphold and enforce the order, doctrines and disciplines of the church as provided for in this *TBODAD*.

¶ 505 – Episcopal Compensation and Salary –

**Commentary:**

- Within the GMC, bishops will be considered employees of their respective annual conferences.
- Conferences in the USA will be partnered with a conference outside the USA for purposes of episcopal support. The GMC Transitional Leadership Council will arrange this based on financial considerations.
- Since much is unspecified within this paragraph, it should be studied carefully. The criteria and considerations that will be used to establish pairings or to determine financial responsibilities are unclear.

- It also appears that within United States bishops could receive different salaries depending on the annual conferences where they might be employed.

¶ 506 – Presiding Elders (District Superintendents) - The term of office is unspecified.

¶ 509 - President *pro tempore* - This paragraph creates a new office with new powers.

¶ 510 – Consultation and Appointment-Making “ –Consultation is the process whereby the bishop and/or presiding elder confers with the pastor and pastor-parish relations committee... The committee must be given the opportunity to give input on the suitability of a proposed appointment and to raise concerns they might have...”

**Commentary:**

- Although a consultation process is used to varying degrees in many annual conferences of The UMC, it is not mandated.

¶ 512 - Clergy Effectiveness and Appointment Assurance – There will be no guaranteed appointment in the GMC. Elders or Deacons without an appointment will be considered inactive and will not have voting rights in the annual conference.

**Commentary:**

- This is a major change from the current United Methodist Church where a clergy person has a guaranteed appointment, and where full membership in the conference is, to use words from The Judicial Council, “a status achieved” and can only be altered by some approved administrative or judicial action in which you are guaranteed fair process.
- Any active clergy considering going with the GMC would want to take careful note of this paragraph and the implications it has for one’s future in the church.

¶ 516 – Interim Bishops – 516.1 “ –*Transferring Bishops*. A bishop of The United Methodist Church or other autonomous Methodist church may join the Global Methodist Church by clergy transfer.

Application to transfer shall include an explicit written affirmation of the doctrines and Social Witness set forth in this *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline* (¶¶ 101-202) and an agreement to abide by its discipline. Transferring bishops shall also agree to uphold the *Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. The bishop’s transfer is subject to the approval of the Transitional Leadership Council....”

**Commentary:**

- Bishops planning to join the GMC will need to provide a written document that they affirm the doctrines and Social Witness in *The TBODAD*.

- They should read ¶ 516 - ¶ 520 very carefully.

¶ 521 – Council of Bishops – 521.3 “ –The Council of Bishops is composed of all active bishops and any senior elders who are assigned to serve as interim bishops for a minimum of three months.”

**Commentary:**

- Within The UMC, all bishops are members of the Council of Bishops.

## **Part VI: Conferences**

¶ 604 – Powers of the General Conference

¶ 604.4 “ – Establish the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of church membership, which shall be open to all who believe, irrespective of race, color, ethnic or tribal identity, gender, or disability”

**Commentary:**

- Shouldn't other considerations be included, such as age, level of education, economic condition, marital status, immigration status, family structure, etc. (Please refer to the listing labeled inclusion under General Themes on the first page of this document)

¶ 604.14 - This provision requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority to adapt or revise the Social Witness Statement

¶ 604.15 – This provision requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote to speak on behalf of the whole church

**Commentary:**

- A super majority (i.e. a high level of uniformity of perspective) is required for General Conference to change the *TBODAD* Social Witness or to issue a statement on behalf of the GMC.

¶ 609 – Regional Conferences – Regional conferences “may” be established. Until the convening General Conference meets, this decision rests with the GMC Transitional Leadership Council.

¶ 610 - The Organization of The Annual Conference - The voting members of Annual Conference shall be active Deacons, Elders and certain Senior Clergy who meet the requirements of ¶ 416, along with an equal number of laity.

**Commentary:**

- The requirement that clergy be in active status a significant change. (See *TBODAD* ¶ 512)

¶ 614 - Transitional Provisions – The GMC Transitional Leadership Council will be given broad, sweeping powers in this time of transition.**Part VII: Connectional Organization**

¶ 703 – TLC Responsibilities and Authority - The GMC Transitional Leadership Council will be given broad, sweeping powers in this time of transition.

¶ 704 – Transitional Connectional Commissions – All employees of GMC transitional commissions must subscribe to the doctrinal and moral standards of the GMC.

**Part VIII: Judicial Administration**

**Commentary:**

- In general this section follows the procedures set forth in *The UMC BOD* with some exceptions.

¶ 805 – Administrative Complaints Concerning Clergy - There seems to be a limit on who is able to file a complaint with a bishop.

¶ 807 – Judicial Complaints – The lists of Chargeable Offenses have been somewhat altered in wording but are similar in content to *The UMC BOD*.

¶ 820 - Connectional Council on Appeals – The Connectional Council on Appeals has replaced The Judicial Council.

**Part IX: Property**

¶ 902 – Trust Clause - While there is no trust clause, there do seems to be certain “trust like” obligations specified in this section which ought to be studied carefully by any local church considering affiliating with the GMC.

¶ 910 - Audit and Bonding of Church Officers - This paragraph specifically states “local church treasurers need not be bonded” which is different from the requirements of *The UMC BOD*, ¶ 258.4b.