

# HYBRID EPISCOPACY MODEL

Submitted by the Florida Delegation to the  
General Conference



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

# Background



- Borrowed heavily from the draft Book of Doctrines and Discipline developed by the Wesleyan Covenant Association
- Adapted to meet current context and anticipated future needs
- Primary drafters: Jay Therrell, Tom Lambrecht & Chappell Temple

# Goals



- Minimal addition to institutional footprint (i.e. less bureaucracy)
- Permission-giving (not gate-keeping) for annual conferences to choose what works best for them
- Maximum flexibility with minimal cost

# Role of Bishop



- Temporal & spiritual leaders to denomination and annual conference
- Must have strong record of effectiveness in local church (evangelism, discipleship, etc.)
- Strong teaching emphasis, guardian of doctrine, set vision, appointment making, oversee clergy

# Election of Bishops



- Elections wouldn't take place until 2026 General Conference
- No interim bishops elected in 2024
- Each annual conference may nominate up to two candidates
- General Conference will elect nominees to an episcopal pool

# Election of Bishops



- Number of people elected to episcopal pool set by General Conference – must be at least the number of bishops needed
- Election to pool requires 60% of vote

# Selection of Bishops



- Annual Conference Committee on Episcopacy interviews elders in the episcopal pool and selects one (2/3 vote)
- Prospective bishop must consent
- Prospective bishop selection ratified by Global Episcopacy Committee & Assembly of Bishops (simple majority)

# Term of Office



- Maximum number of years: 12
- Can serve more than one AC with consent of Global Episcopacy Committee
- In emergencies Global Episcopacy Committee may extend term by 2 years (2/3 vote)
- After term over – return to local church or retire – use title Bishop *Emeritus/Emerita*



# Between 2024-2026



- Presidents *pro tempore* renamed conference superintendents
- Conference superintendents given all powers of a bishop except ordination & lead respective ACs
- Bishops Webb and Jones continue as general superintendents focusing on new provisional conferences & ordinations

# Between 2024-2026



- Bishops Webb and Jones (with their consent) automatically placed in episcopal pool in 2026
- Conference superintendents end their service when bishop is consecrated for their respective annual conference
- Bishops that transfer into GMC during '24-'26 serve as interim bishops & go into pool in 2026

# Accountability



- Global Episcopacy Committee oversees bishops
  - no bishops serve on committee
- Each AC has one clergy and one laity
- Global Episcopacy Committee processes all complaints against bishops
- No more foxes guarding henhouses

# Accountability



- Conference Episcopacy Committee evaluates bishop
- Conference Episcopacy Committee selects bishop for AC from episcopal pool
- If more than one AC shares a bishop –  
Conference Committees create shared funding and ministry plan for bishop

# Annual Conference



- Each conference can decide if it wants its own bishop or to share
- Global Episcopacy Committee sets salaries for bishops taking into account regional differences in cost of living
- Each conference pays for its bishop – no general church funding/episcopal fund – funding to supplement conference would be available