

I

Deconstructing the General Conference

PRESENTED BY: DR. FELECIA
COMMODORE, SEDLO DOLA
SEDLO LEARNING LAB
OCTOBER 23, 2023





*Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak
knowledge are a rare jewel.*

Proverbs 20:15 NIV



What is the General Conference?



What is the Purpose of the General Conference?



●○○ The General Conference as a Body

The General Conference is the supreme body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is composed of the bishops, who serve ex officio as presidents, according to the rank of election, and an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by each of the Annual Conferences and the Lay Electoral Colleges of the Annual Conferences. (See Part XIV, Section I-A: General Conference Composition).

Other official members are the General Officers, College Presidents, Deans/Presidents of Theological Seminaries, Judicial Council and other persons listed in Part XIV, Section I-A: General Conference Composition. The General Conference meets quadrennially, but may have an extra session in certain emergencies. (See Part XIV, Section I-L: Extra Session.)

(Part X, Sec. II., AME Doctrine & Discipline , p.257)



General Divisions of the General Conference

- I. Council of Bishops
- II. Board of Incorporators/Trustees
- III. The General Board
- IV. Judicial Council
- V. General Conference Commission
- VI. General Conference Committee

●○○ Connectional Divisions of the General Conference

- I. Conferences of the Church
 - A. General Conference
 - B. Annual Conference
 - C. District Conference
 - D. Church Conference

●○○ Connectional Divisions of the General Conference

II. Departments of the Church

A. Department of Publications

B. Department of Global Witness and Ministry

C. Department of Church Growth and Development

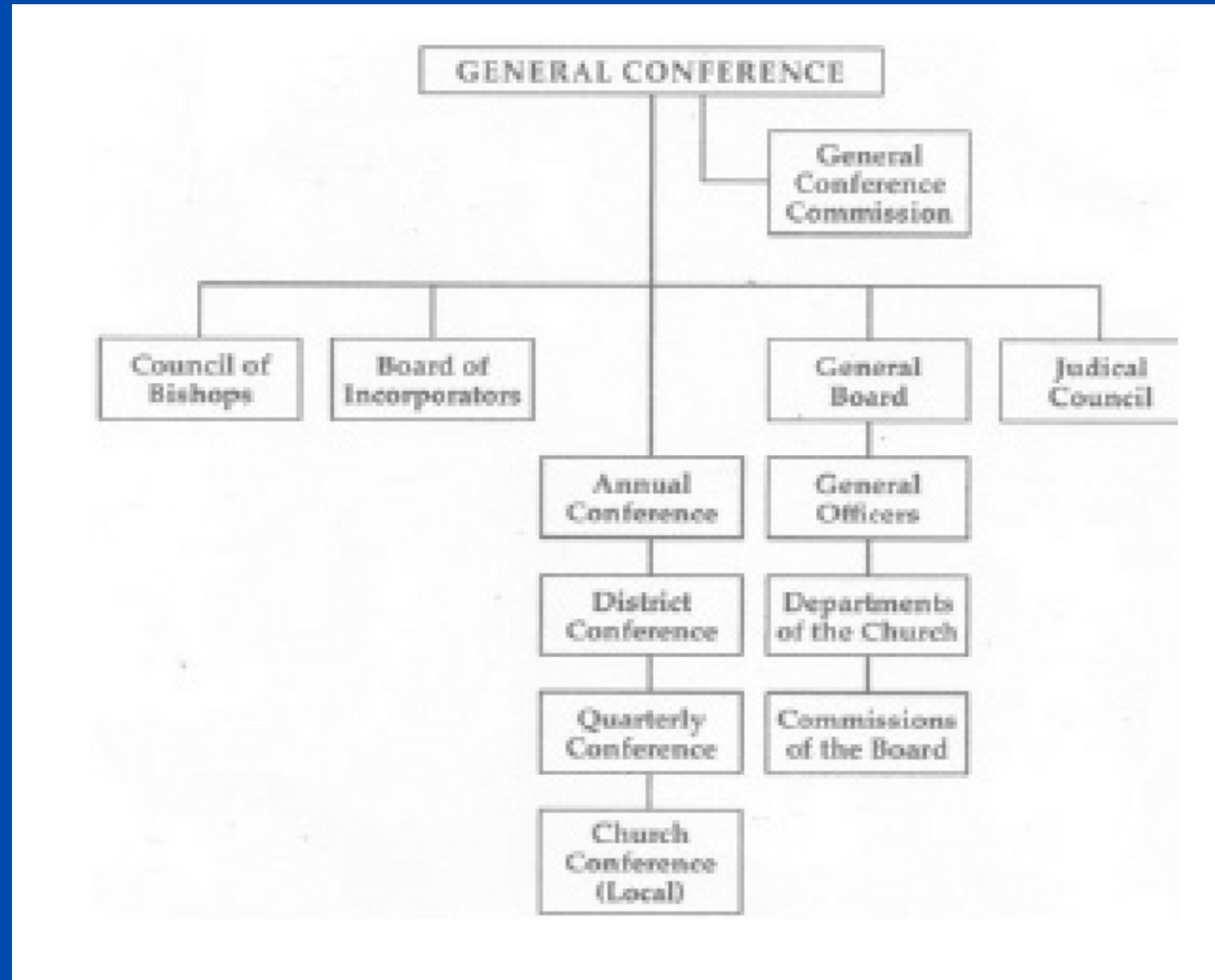
D. Department of Retirement Services

E. Department of Research and Scholarship

F. Department of Christian Education

G. Department of Finance and Statistics

... The General Conference as a Body



(Part X, Sec. I, AME Doctrine & Discipline 2021, p.257)

••• The General Conference as a Meeting



... The General Conference as a Meeting



The General Conference as a Meeting

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2021: FIFTY-FIRST EDITION

PART XIV

CONFERENCES

SECTION I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

A. Composition

The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops; the general officers elected by the

General Conference; the General Secretary/CIO of the General Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges; the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General Conference; the Judicial Council; the president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society; the editor of the Women's Missionary Magazine; the director of the Young People's and Children's Division; the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) and Lay Organization; Episcopal District Lay Presidents; the president of the Connectional Council; the Executive Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission; active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains who have been ordained for at least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the Armed Forces of the United States; former World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their annual conferences; the administrators

●○○ Composition of the General Conference

I. Ministerial Delegates

II. Lay Delegates

III. Lay Electoral College

IV. Sessions

V. General Conference Committees

VI. Order of the Committee Reports

VII. Delivery of Committee Reports to the Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer

VIII. Post-General Conference Committees/Commissions

IX. Restrictions

X. Extra Session

General Conference Agenda

51st Quadrennial Session
of the
GENERAL CONFERENCE
African Methodist Episcopal Church

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

*From Legacy to Mission:
A Call to Prophetic, Educational and Social Engagement*

Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
July 6-10, 2021

Bishop John F. White, General Conference Commission Chairperson
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Program Committee Chairperson
Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., Host Bishop

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., Senior Bishop
Bishop Anne Henning Byfield, President, Council of Bishops
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Cooper, General Secretary/Chief Information Officer

Celebrating the Bicentennial
1816-2016

**50th
Quadrennial
Session**

GENERAL CONFERENCE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICIAL AGENDA

JULY 6 – 13, 2016

PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER
1101 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

BISHOP JOHN R. BRYANT
SENIOR BISHOP

BISHOP JOHN F. WHITE, SR.
PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

BISHOP GREGORY G.M. INGRAM
HOST BISHOP

BISHOP SAMUEL L. GREEN, SR.
CHAIRPERSON, GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION

BISHOP MCKINLEY YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON, PROGRAM COMMITTEE

DR. RICHARD ALLEN LEWIS
TREASURER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

DR. JEFFERY B. COOPER
GENERAL SECRETARY AND CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

An Extraordinary History - An Incredible Future

General Conference Agenda

GENERAL CONFERENCE PRE-ACTIVITIES

Orlando EDT

June 30- July 5, 2021

8:00 am – 12 Noon EDT
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EDT
Revision Committee
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

July 3-5, 2021

8:00 am – 12 Noon EDT
2:00 pm – 12 Noon EDT
Credentials Committee
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

8:00 am – 12 Noon EDT
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EDT
Rules Committee
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

South African Time SAST

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm SAST
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm SAST

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm SAST
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm SAST

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm SAST
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm SAST

June 30, 2016

REVISIONS COMMITTEE

July 3 – 8, 2016

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CAMPOREE
MUSSEY SCOUT RESERVATION, PENNSBURG, PA

July 4, 2016

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
RULES COMMITTEE
HEALTH COMMISSION TRAINING

July 5, 2016

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION (11:00 am)
HEALTH COMMISSION TRAINING
ORIENTATION FOR DELEGATES (1:00 - 3:00 pm)

••• Key Reports/Sessions

I. Credentials Committee

II. Rules Committee

III. Election Committee/Election of Episcopal Committee
Chairperson

IV. Department of Annuity, Investments, & Insurance

V. Commission on Statistics and Finance

VI. Judicial Council & Appeals

VII. Revisions Committee

VIII. Episcopal Committee Report

IX. Election of Bishops and General Officers

Rules Committee

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2021: FIFTY-FIRST EDITION

in the General Conference, other than as set out in their recommendations regarding their findings on contested matters dealing with contested delegates properly presented to it for action.

5. The Rules Committee

a. The Rules Committee shall be composed of one (1) clergy and one (1) lay delegate from each episcopal district. The Rules Committee of the General Conference shall be organized by the President of the Council of Bishops, or his/her appointee, two (2) days prior to the opening of the General Conference and at the site of the General Conference.

b. This committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the rules governing the previous General Conference and preparing the proposed rules for the governance of the present General Conference.

c. This committee, on the opening day, shall be prepared to provide each delegate to the General Conference a copy of the proposed rules governing the sessions of the General Conference.

d. This committee shall submit to the Compilation

Committee a correct copy of the rules to be placed in *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, replacing the previous set of rules.

6. The Revisions Committee

a. The Revisions Committee shall be composed of one (1) clergy and one (1) lay delegate elected from each episcopal district. The duly elected members of the Revisions Committee for each episcopal district shall assemble no more than ten (10) to fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the General Conference. They shall prepare a printed copy of all legislation for each delegate.

b. The packet of legislation shall be posted on the Official African Methodist Episcopal Church website (www.ame-church.com) and sent to the delegations at least thirty (30) days before the General Conference convenes.

c. All bills and proposed legislation must be in the hands of the General Secretary of the AME Church at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the General Conference.

Judicial Council

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2021: FIFTY-FIRST EDITION

be filed with the secretary of the Judicial Council no later than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the General Conference.

22. Upon receipt of said charges, appeals from subordinate bodies, or requests for declaratory rulings that may tend to affect the moral, religious or official standing of any individual or group involved, the secretary of the Judicial Council shall cause said complaint, charges, appeals or requests for declaratory rulings to be placed on the calendar of the Judicial Council, to be dealt with at the seat of the General Conference, and shall see that all parties involved are given exact copies of all charges and relevant materials, as well as notice of time and place of hearings, and such

other information that may be necessary to insure due process of law to all concerned.

23. At the seat of the General Conference the Judicial Council shall be, and is hereby empowered, to sit as a trial court for the purpose of hearing all such charges, requests or appeals against any bishop or general officer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall render judgment herewith, consistent with paragraph 12 of this section.

24. The Judicial Council shall have the authority to make rules and prescribe such forms governing each charge and trial, including appeals of any bishop, general officer, minister or member of the AME Church, as it requires.

Episcopal Committee

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2021: FIFTY-FIRST EDITION

Secretary, First Statistical Secretary, Second Statistical Secretary, Engrossing Clerk and Reading Clerk.

8. The bishops shall nominate two (2) Marshals from each episcopal district.

9. The bounds of the General Conference and the hours of meeting and adjourning shall be fixed by the Rules Committee of the General Conference.

10. The General Conference shall have power to fix its own rules of government.

11. The General Conference shall confirm the General Conference Committees.

G. General Conference Committees

1. The Episcopal Committee

a. Composition

The Episcopal Committee shall be composed of two (2) ministerial delegates and two (2) lay delegates, at least one of whom must be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) from each episcopal district.

b. Election

The members of the Episcopal Committee from each episcopal district shall be elected by ballot by the ministerial, lay and youth delegates of each episcopal district at a meeting called by the bishop of the district for that purpose, and upon written notice given to each delegate for the time and place of such election. No person related either by blood or marriage to any bishop to the third (3rd) degree shall be eligible for election. It shall be unlawful for a bishop to nominate or suggest any person to serve on the Episcopal Committee. Members of the Episcopal Committee shall be elected by secret ballot. Each ballot used must be identical, including the names of all eligible candidates who wish to be elected to the Episcopal Committee. It shall be unlawful for a bishop or any person conducting the election to allow the use of ballots that are different in colors, of different sizes or shapes, or that contain names that are not identical. It shall be the responsibility of the bishop or person conducting the election to provide clear instructions on the number of candidates to be elected, and how voters

Episcopal Committee

Each bishop shall appear in person, separately, before the Episcopal Committee for examination.

g. Assignment of Bishops

The Episcopal Committee shall make the assignments of bishops, subject to the approval of the General Conference. A bishop may be assigned to succeed himself or herself once, but in no case shall a bishop be assigned to any district for more than two consecutive quadrenniums.

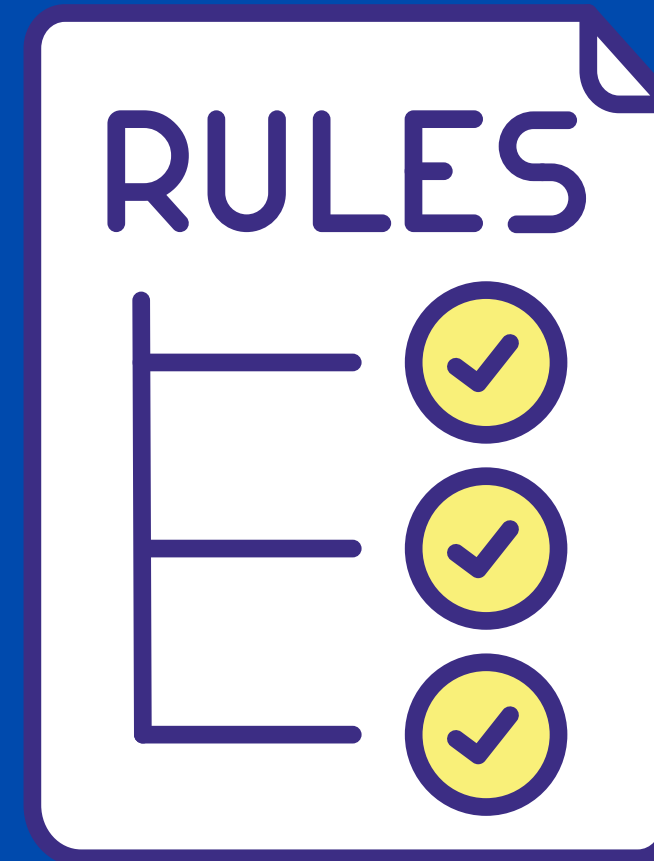
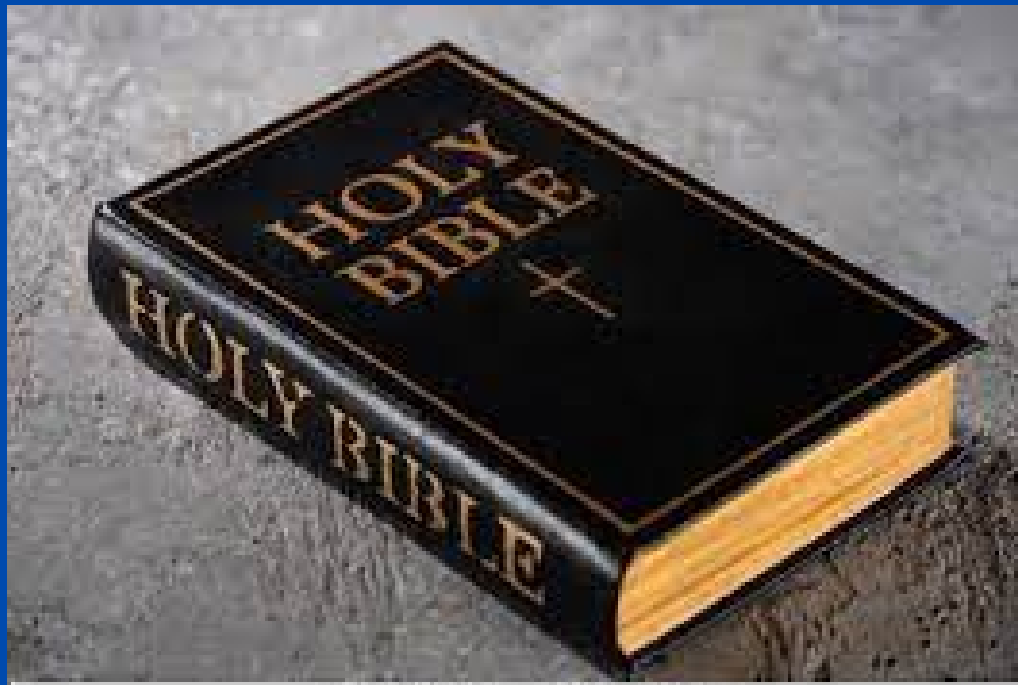
Revisions Committee



g. At least one (1) hour shall be devoted each session to the revision of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. It shall be considered Part by Part, and all amendments shall be offered while the Part is under consideration, and when an amendment is adopted it shall be engrossed and read to the General Conference, and then passed.



Tools





QUESTIONS