

“Global Convocation: Making The United Methodist Church a Global Church”
Financial Implications: Yes

Section 2, paragraph 14, article 2 of the constitution read as:

“The General Conference shall meet in the month of April or May once in four years at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees. A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all the powers of General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference¹⁶ shall prefer to have new election it may do so.¹⁷ The purpose of such special session shall be stated in the call, and only such business shall be transacted as in harmony with the purpose stated in such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business may be transacted.¹⁸”

No more than two (2) consecutive general conferences shall be held in the United States. If two (2) consecutive general conferences have taken place in the United States, then the next general conference shall be held in a central conference.

Rationale: The United Methodist Church is a globally connected church and in the spirit of that connection we offer this amendment. The political and social climates of the world’s nations make it difficult for members of the central conferences to obtain appropriate documentation and thus be equitably represented. It is also logistically and financially difficult for members of the central conferences to travel to the United States. The significant growth of the central conferences serves as another important factor in the submission of this amendment.

Without further discussion, the legislative assembly

07:01:36 voted to adopt legislation item # 21 titled Global Convocation: Making the UMC a Global Church.

Votes: Y=72; N=2; A=3

The legislation passed.

¹⁶ Amended 1976.

¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 221, 226, 228, 238, 302.

¹⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 227.