

Constitutional Memorials

*Requires ratification by 2/3 aggregate vote of District Conferences

52 Amendment Regarding Gifts of the Spirit (with amendments)

- 265:10 would now read as follows...

(10) To promote love, the common good, and orderliness in Christ's church with reference to the use of the spiritual gift of tongues. The Wesleyan Church believes in the gifts of the miraculous use of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Speaking, praying or singing in tongues, whether done privately or publicly, is the divinely enabled ability some believers experience to communicate to God words of thanksgiving, praise, and adoration in a language not previously learned. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes that the gift of tongues is given to some believers, there is no single gift that is given to all as evidence of the Spirit's infilling. The greatest expression of this work is a heart purified by the Holy Spirit and an empowered life of love and service to God and people. If speaking in tongues occurs publicly in a church gathering, Scripture requires one person to speak at a time and an interpretation to be provided by another so all in attendance, especially unbelievers, may understand and be edified. Pastors and leaders are to exercise discretion in light of these instructions to ensure our gatherings bear the fruit of unity and order in a manner helpful and intelligible to those hearing the Gospel.

Memorial 52 is a change to The Constitution of the North American General Conference. Gifts of the Spirit are included in ***The Essentials of The Wesleyan Church*** – a series of doctrines and practices that all members of The Wesleyan Church (North American, Caribbean and Philippine General Conferences) must agree and adhere to (*The Discipline*, paragraph 6725:3c). In order to defend and honor the essential documents, the following requirements must be met before the changes adopted by the North American General Conference to 265:10 can be adopted as the law of the Church:

- * Change to ***The Constitution of the North American General Conference*** requires ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the North American General Conference delegates and a two-thirds aggregate vote of the delegates to the North American district conferences. This requirement has been met with an aggregate vote of 3,294 Yea, 824 / Nea (80% in favor).
- * However, because this change impacts ***The Essentials***, Memorial 52 is not approved until the two other General Conferences of the International Church have taken action regarding the Gifts of the Spirit. The Caribbean General Conference is scheduled for 2023, and the Philippine General Conference is scheduled for spring 2026.
- * To reiterate, action by both General Conferences must occur to fulfill the requirements set forth in *The Discipline*. Until the final conference votes in 2026, no action related to Gifts of the Spirit, as specified in Memorial 52, is in effect in the North American General Conference.

55 Membership Commitments (with amendments)

- Brought paragraph 268 in alignment with the membership changes adopted at the 2016 General Conference, specifically aligning 268 with paragraphs 297 and 557.

Statutory Memorials

- 101 Developing Church Status Criteria
 - New 518:7(d) reclassification of a church from established to developing status may be considered if a church has consistently declined in attendance over the past seven years
- 102 Advisory Council Vice-Chair (with amendments)
 - 510:3 A vice-chair may now be appointed, from among the members of a local advisory council in a developing church. As with the advisory council members, the vice-chair is appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the pastor.
- 105 Urban Missional Church
- 110 Offices Requiring Leadership Standards
 - 552:3 Was edited (“are” was replaced with “include”) so that the list of the local church leadership positions which require a person to be a member with leadership qualifications not be limited to those listed. In other words, a church may choose to require such qualifications for additional leadership positions.
- **115 Membership Reaffirmation (with amendments)**
 - **593 Membership reaffirmation is now optional. A local church conference may choose to employ a reaffirmation process, which would then be managed by the church board.**
- **125 Governance Simplification-Local and District (with amendments) **overview pages 4-6***
- 126 Governance Simplification-General (with amendments)
- 204 Remove Provisional District Classification
- 310 General Superintendent-Election Process for an Incumbent
- 312 Consent Agenda
- 314 Transfer process for Ministers from Other Denominations (with amendments)
- 316 Role of Networks
- 317 Executive Cabinet Composition
- 337 Residence of General Officers
- 344 General Superintendent Emeritus Nomination
- 349 General Church Financial Plan (with amendments)
- 350 Implementation of General Church Financial Plan (with amendments)
- 392 Educational Representative Areas
- **506 Licensed Minister Status to a Possible Terminal Status (with amendments)**
 - **Historically, licensed minister status has been a temporary status for ministerial students while on the path toward the goal of ordination status. Licensed minister status can now be a terminal or permanent status (Twelve total courses required, with five of them electives)**
- 524 Ministerial Orders and Regulations-Reinstatement of Ministers
- 847 Property Proceed Limits
- 1000 Study Committee on Health Disability Insurance

Memorial 125 - Local Church Revisions

Memorial 125 provides for governance simplification at the local and district levels. An outline of the changes is provided below, along with some explanatory bullet points to help with understanding and implementation. The **bold print** sections represent some of the most impactful changes for the local church, please make special note of them.

The Discipline paragraph references are from the 2016 Discipline to make it possible to see what has been edited and/or removed. Due to the simplification, significant renumbering was required for the 2022 Discipline, however it is not difficult to track the changes when comparing the 2016 and 2022 versions.

- Discipline Chapter 3 - Local Church Conference (LCC)
 - 630-1 Reduces local church conference (LCC) announcement and report requirements
 - * *Minimum of two weeks' notice still required, but only needs to be announced from the pulpit*
 - 630-2 Removes reference to quarterly local church conferences
 - * *Quarterly conferences previously optional, now removed*
 - 633-1 Removes officer election exclusion and bulletin notice requirement
 - 633-2 Removed reception of members as an item for special session
 - * *Reception of members must be handled in a regular session of LCC or delegated to the LBA (See 655:1).*
 - 633-3 Reduces pastoral vote announcement requirements
 - * *Two weeks' notice still required, but requirement for the announcement to be made from the pulpit and bulletin has been removed*
 - 635 Replaces DS with pastor as LCC chair except in pastoral securing/retainment
 - 650-2 Reduces the number of reports
 - * *The LCC is able to determine what ministry reports, beyond that of the pastor, will be received*
 - 650-8 Removes trustee election. (LBA serves as trustees.)
 - * ***Refer to 850 - The LBA now serves as the church trustees, by virtue of their election as local church board members***
 - 655-3 Removed nominating committee authorization; leaves in the hands of the LBA
 - * ***Refer to 820 - the LBA now elects all nominating committee members***
 - 655-11 Removed authorization of employee staff size
 - 655-12 Shifts annual budget authority to Local Board of Administration (LBA)
 - * ***The LBA now develops and adopts the church's financial plan and presents to the LCC as a point of information***
- Discipline Chapter 4 - Pastors
 - 690 Removes reference to circuit advisory council
 - 705-1-2 Changes initial pastor vote to extended call vote
 - * ***All pastoral calls going forward will be extended calls***
 - 718 Removed renewal regulations for one-, two- and four-year calls. All pastoral calls are extended
 - * ***All pastoral current pastoral calls are now automatically extended calls***
 - 722:2 Requires district approval for a favorable vote that is less than two-thirds majority
 - 723 Adds district supplemental insurance programs reference
 - * *Specifically, for those serving in Canada*

- 725-5 Simply states pastor has guidance over all services, not just ones named.
 - 725-13 Removed requirement to report members who have relocated to C&A executive director.
 - 725-18 Removed pastor's obligation to meet with committees.
 - 725-19 Removes district superintendent approval for non-Wesleyan evangelist or worker. (Changed to 725:17)
 - 725-21 Removed requirement for instructions regarding General Church and district financial plans
 - 725-23 Removed trustee election oversight
 - 725-26 Removes requirement to use TWC curriculum materials (Changed to 725:24)
 - 725-29 Removes potential associate pastor recommendation, and custodian nomination and supervision (Changed to 725:27)
 - 725-30 Simplifies record-keeping requirements. (Changed to 725:28)
 - 738-1-3 **Removed Associate Pastor category**
 - 744 **Removed Lay Assistant to Pastor category**
- Chapter 5 Local Board of Administration (LBA)
- 760 Changes LBA meeting schedule recommendation to quarterly
 - * ***Changes from monthly to at least quarterly. In other words, it is acceptable to meet on a quarterly basis.***
 - 763 Simplifies meeting notification requirements
 - 767 Changes evaluation session to annually
 - 782 Several edits, primarily reflecting updated terminology and practices
 - 782:10 Removed specific reference to student members. Included in 782:8 and 655:1
 - * *Student membership is still a possibility (564-565), this change simply removes the specific mention of student membership as it is covered under 782:8 and 655:1*
 - 782:30 Changes recommendation of financial plans and policies to the LCC to Review as necessary... (Changed to 782:27)
 - 782:35 Changes from seeking advice from the DBA on investment and fund distributions from undesignated estates gifts, property for sale or other out-of-pattern contributions with value... to Request approval from DBA on investment and fund distributions from undesignated estates gifts, property for sale or other out-of-pattern contributions with value... (Changed to 782:32)
 - 795 **Removed Pastor's Advisory Committee.**
- Chapter 6 Local Church Officers and Committees
- 800 Reduces local church officers, boards and committees list.
 - 810 Stipulates minimum established church organization requirements.
 - 815: 2-4 Simplifies church officers list and supervision requirements.
 - 820 LBA elects all Nominating Committee members.
 - * ***Two members are elected from the among the board members, and two or more church members that meet the leadership qualifications and are not on the board, are to be elected***
 - 833-837 **Removed Lay leader and Committee on Witness and Membership.**
 - 842 Simplifies Church Treasurer responsibilities.
 - * ***842:1, 4 Reduces requirements***
 - 850 **LBA serves as Board of Trustees (BOT).**
 - * ***The LBA can choose to elect from three to seven members to serve as board of trustees***
 - 856 Simplifies BOT duties and powers.

* *The LBA, in its role as the board of trustees, can provide for the day-to-day facility oversight and operation or may, for example, establish a facility team to do such.*

- 865-960 **Simplifies local church structure, removes various committees.**

Memorial 125 - District Revisions

- Chapter 1 District Organization
 - 1009 Shifts supervision of a developing district to General Board and General Superintendent
 - 1012, 1015 *Reflects changes to 1009
 - 1038 Increases established district requirements to 30 churches and 2,000 members
 - 1045 *Reflects changes to 1009, 1038
- Chapter 2 District Conference
 - 1090:9 Reduces nonvoting member list
 - 1150 Reduces resolution submission list
 - 1156 Clarifies process of resolutions and memorials
 - 1165-1168 Removes Conference Action Committee
 - 1172-1775 Requires District Nominating Committee and clarifies process
 - 1178: 2,4 Simplifies district journal process
 - 1180:12 to 30 Removes district auxiliaries and various committees.
 - 1180:31 Increases district superintendent initial election term to four years. (from two years) (changed to 1180:29)
 - 1180:32,33 Reduces positions requiring District Board of Administration election (changed to 1180:30-34)
- Chapter 3 District Board of Administration (DBA)
 - 1203:1-2 Standardizes DBA composition
 - 1206 Changes DBA member terms to one, two, or three years
 - 1233:19 Requires employment of an auditor (changed to 1233:18)
 - 1233:21,22,23,25 Removes various boards and committee requirements
 - 1233:30 **Raises minimum number of members for moving an established church to developing church from 20 to 30**
- Chapter 4 District Officers and Committees
 - 1250 Simplifies district structure, removes various committees
 - 1255 Clarifies district official election process
 - 1262 Stipulates district officials' term of office
 - * ***Officials, other than the district superintendent are elected to two-year terms***
 - 1275 Removed identification of district departmental officers
- Chapter 5 District Administration
 - 1303:1 District superintendent (DS) election requires General Church approval when less than 2/3 majority
 - 1303:8 DBA serves as committee on nominations
 - 1310 Reflects several changes streamlining DS responsibilities
 - 1320 Requires assistant district superintendent (ADS)

- 1323 Removes ADS requirement to serve on district board of ministerial development
 - 1345 **Removed district building committee**
 - 1350, 1352 **Removed district statistical committee and associated duties**
- Chapter 7 District Missions and Evangelism
- 1410-1496 **Removed district positions and committees.**