

# US



# Regional



# Conference



**Connectional Table**

The United Methodist Church

[connectionaltable.umc.org](http://connectionaltable.umc.org)

The purpose of the Connectional Table is to discern and articulate the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops.

## **What is a regional conference?**

The U.S. Regional Conference will comprise the current U.S. jurisdictional conferences and the geographical boundaries congruent with the territory of U.S. annual conferences. It will not change the role and authority of U.S. jurisdictional conferences, including the election of bishops.

## **What's the goal?**

The goal is to ease the burden of U.S. legislation on General Conference and give U.S. churches parity with those in central conferences.

## **Why the name "regional conference"?**

Naming this new structure for U.S. governance a "regional conference" rather than a "central conference" acknowledges the painful, racist history and still existing wound associated with the former Central Jurisdiction in the U.S.

## **Where did this proposal come from?**

The Connectional Table has been working with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters since 2013 to find a way for U.S. churches to do the adaptable work proposed by a *General Book of Discipline*.

## **What makes this proposal different?**

Our work on this legislation pre-dates the 2019 Special Session and is a response to needs expressed by the global church. We spent the last quadrennium thoroughly vetting the proposal by engaging in conversations with individuals and groups from central conferences and the U.S., Wespath, directors of connectional ministry, legal counsel, the Council of Bishops, the Commission on the General Conference and others.

## **How will the regional conference be created?**

- Stage I forms a committee of the General Conference, with legislative function, to deal with U.S. region – adaptable disciplinary provisions, U.S.-related resolutions, and non-disciplinary petitions concerning U.S. matters.
- Stage II forms the U.S. Regional Conference, after which the Stage I committee will end its work.