



North Georgia Conference Committee, Boards, Commissions, etc.

Highly qualified disciples of Jesus from across the connection are nominated for service on boards and committees which are critical to the success of the North Georgia Conference. We are grateful for the collective efforts of individuals and groups that helped generate an abundance of high-quality disciples from which to choose leaders.

In this document, you'll find a description of all of the committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions, and agencies of the annual conference. We pray that you will nominate yourself or someone you respect for service this year.

General Rules for Serving

There are some Standing Rules that govern all of the boards and committees and the individuals that serve on them, unless otherwise stated:

- There should be equal numbers of clergy and laity: *"All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of the annual conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and lay unless The Book of Discipline provides otherwise."*
- You can serve for 16 years total - 8 years at a time - on the same committee: *"No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same board, council, team, commission or committee or agency for more than eight (8) consecutive years and after serving eight (8) years may not be later elected to the same board, commission, team, council, committee or agency for more than eight (8) years except as allowed by The Book of Discipline, for a lifetime total of sixteen (16) years maximum on the same board, council, team, commission, committee or agency."*
- District Superintendents serve as ex-officio members of many committees, but not as voting members: *"No district superintendent may be nominated as an elective member of any program agency or team of the conference."*
- Service is voluntary: *"Persons nominated shall have agreed in advance to serve if elected."*
- Your attendance is important and expected: *"Elected members are expected to attend all called meetings of the committee or board on which they are serving. Missing three (3) consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or missing four (4) consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with good excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance. C. 3. b. 2) Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt a letter of notification from the conference nominations executive committee, releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact subsequent nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations executive committee can immediately fill the vacated position."*

- You should receive on-boarding when you join a committee: *“When quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees are elected, they shall receive training, information and support for their responsibilities within sixty (60) days following the annual conference session, except in a year of episcopal transition when the window will be one hundred twenty (120) days.”*
- We seek to be diverse and inclusive as a true reflection of the Kingdom of God: *“All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees shall include members which ensure balance, continuity, expertise and inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of The Book of Discipline, ¶ 140.”* As we look at the current makeup of our conference boards and committees, we still have areas where we can be more representative of who we are as a conference. Some of those areas are with young adults, members of the Latino/a community, the Asian community, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Conference Boards and Committees That Accept Nominations

Committee on Standing Rules

It’s common for organizations to have a set of “standing rules” that outline definitions, procedures and various details related to how business and other work should be conducted and accomplished.

Per our standing rules, our NGC Committee on Standing Rules is charged with the task of *“addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the standing rules of the annual conference in the following ways: to receive requests for amendments, assure rules maintain internal consistency, make editorial changes as needed, present changes to the conference and review revised standing rules for publication in the conference journal.”* Some of this work, led by the committee’s current chair, Byron Thomas, is done via email, prior to Annual Conference. In addition to this annual responsibility, the committee is also charged with, *“the quadrennial task of examining the rules of the annual conference for consistency with the new Book of Discipline and to recommend any editorial changes to bring about that consistency.”* Also per our standing rules, this committee has 10 members.

Committee on Registration and Assistance

The amount of work that goes into planning and conducting our NGC Annual Conference is almost mind boggling. One of the groups key to ensuring our Annual Conferences are run smoothly and in a way that is hospitable to all delegates and guests is the Committee on Registration and Assistance.

Per our standing rules, the responsibilities of this committee are, *“to conduct registration, along with the host committee; certify delegates; and to issue badges accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee helps retired pastors receive financial assistance, and during the week of annual conference, the committee maintains a table to assist visitors with name tags and other needs.”* Members of the Committee on Registration and Assistance also assist with the recruitment and coordination of the many volunteers who help make Annual Conference a time of both accomplishing important business and enjoying the richness of fellowship with other NGC friends and colleagues. Also per our standing rules, this committee has 10 members.

Committee on Daily Proceedings

Have you ever had the experience of talking with a colleague following an important meeting, a meeting during which valuable updates were reported, and important decisions were considered and made, only to realize you each had different perceptions about exactly what was said during the meeting, what decisions were made, and just as importantly, who was responsible for which “next steps?” I’m guessing we’ve all had that experience at one time or another. Effective organizations have structures and processes in place to mitigate the possibility of this happening. Our NGC Committee on Daily Proceedings is a key component of our structure and processes for ensuring the clarity, transparency and documentation of Annual Conference activities, business and decisions made.

Per our standing rules, this committee *“is responsible for certifying the written record of the annual conference and reporting to the annual conference on the committee’s review of the material. The committee on daily proceedings works with the editor of the conference journal/ conference secretary as needed to ensure compliance with Disciplinary standards in ¶ 606.3 and for clarification of the written record of the annual conference session.”* Also per our standing rules, this committee has 10 members.

Committee on Resolutions

The richness of our NGC is our diversity: diversity of culture and ethnicity; diversity of experiences; diversity of expertise, education and training; diversity of theological and ecclesiological experiences; diversity of perspectives. The strength of our NGC is our connectional structure which not only supports but encourages that diversity to be brought into expression. One of the ways our diversity is invited into expression is through the process of submitting and presenting Resolutions to our Annual Conference. Resolutions, defined by our Book of Discipline as the “official expressions of the United Methodist Church,” that are affirmed by the Annual Conference are then forwarded to our General Conference as petitions for consideration and vote.

Per our standing rules, the Committee on Resolutions is the group responsible for processing *“all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. This committee makes sure that, with occasional exceptions, resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of the Annual Conference year are included in the handbook. The resolutions committee is responsible for reviewing each resolution to determine if it can properly come before the annual conference, making revisions as needed in consultation with the submitter of the resolution, ensuring consistency with The Book of Discipline and North Georgia Standing Rules/Guidelines, submitting to the conference secretary by the deadline for the conference handbook, and presenting resolutions to the conference.”* Also per our standing rules, this committee has 10 members.

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Many of you have worked in organizations where every few years the Human Resources department conducts a benchmarking survey to ensure the organization is maintaining fair and competitive structures and policies related to job classes and salary ranges and compensation for its employees. Our NGC Commission on Equitable Compensation serves a similar function.

Our Book of Discipline describes its role and function: *“It is the purpose of the commission on equitable compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: (a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; (b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and (c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations; and (d) submitting an arrearage policy to be adopted by the annual conference.”*

Per our Book of Discipline, membership *“shall be composed of an equal number of lay and clergy persons, including at least one layperson and one clergy person from churches of fewer than two hundred members, who are nominated by the conference nominating committee and elected by and amenable to the annual conference. It is recommended that in selecting commission members, consideration shall be given to inclusiveness. In addition, one district superintendent named by the cabinet shall be a member.”*

Per our standing rules, this committee will have 20 members *“with one representative from each district. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.”*

Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

As its name implies, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is the Conference agency tasked with administering the Conference-sponsored benefits plans, including recommending funding for those plans. This board ensures the structures, processes and funds are available, per our Book of Discipline, to support and attend to, *“the interests and work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the institutions, organizations, and agencies within that annual conference of The United Methodist Church, except as otherwise provided for by the general board.”*

Our Book of Discipline outlines the following regarding membership on this board: *“ It is recommended that the board be composed of not less than twelve members not indebted to pension and benefit funds, plans, and programs; one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy; and in accordance with ¶ 605.3 elected for a term of eight years and arranged in classes as determined by the annual conference; and in addition thereto, any clergy member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Active and retired participants in pension and benefit funds, plans, and programs, whether or not currently receiving benefits, and not indebted as provided above, are eligible to serve on the board. All lay members shall be professing members of local churches. A vacancy in the membership of the board may be filled by the board for the remainder of the conference year in which the vacancy occurs, subject to the same qualifications before provided; and at its next session the conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.”*

Per our standing rules, this board will have 24 members *“arranged in classes and serving a term of eight (8) years to include representatives of both lay and clergy, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.”*

Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference

Like many organizations, the NGC holds and is responsible to steward a variety of property assets aimed at supporting its mission, which in our case is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our Board of Trustees is charged with the responsibility, and is vested with the authority, to steward property assets held in trust by our Annual Conference, on behalf of our Annual Conference. In addition to receiving, collecting and holding in trust such assets, another critically important dimension of this Board's responsibility, as outlined in our Book of Discipline, permits our Board of Trustees to *"intervene and take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the annual conference anywhere and in all matters relating to property and rights to property whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust or established for the benefit of the annual conference or its membership."*

Our book of Discipline also provides guidance to our Board of Trustees related to the investment of these assets: *"The conference board of trustees is encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals of the Social Principles of our Church. The board of trustees shall act as a socially responsible investor and report annually to the annual conference regarding its carrying out of this responsibility. Among the tools the board may use are shareholder advocacy, selective divestment, advocacy of corporate disinvestment from certain countries or fields of business, and affirmative investments (as in affordable housing, care of the environment, minority business and banks, and so forth), as well as other appropriate strategies."*

Our Book of Discipline further states, *"Funds committed to this board may be invested by it only in collateral that is amply secured and after such investments have been approved by the said board or its agency or committee charged with such investment, unless otherwise directed by the annual conference"* and instructs the Board of Trustees to, *"make to each session of the annual conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, monies, securities, and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and disbursements during the conference year. The beneficiary of a fund held in trust by the board shall also be entitled to a report at least annually on the condition of such fund and on the transactions affecting it."*

Our Book of Discipline outlines the following regarding membership on this board: *"the board shall consist of twelve persons, and it is recommended that one-third be clergy, one third laywomen, and one-third laymen, in accordance with the provisions of ¶ 610.5.4 Said persons must be of legal age as determined by law, and lay members shall be members in good standing of local churches within the bounds of the conference. Such persons shall be the directors of the corporation. They shall be elected by the conference for staggered terms of four years, except for the first board, one-fourth of whom shall be elected for a term of one year, one-fourth for a term of two years, one-fourth for a term of three years, and one-fourth for a term of four years, and shall serve until their successors have been elected; provided, however, that existing incorporated trustees of any annual conference may continue unaffected while the charter or articles of incorporation are amended to bring them into conformity with this paragraph."*

Per our standing rules, this board will be *"composed of twelve (12) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, serving in four (4) year terms... It is recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, and one-third (1/3) lay men."*

Council on Finance and Administration

Many of us who work in, or have worked in more secular settings have probably heard CEOs or CFOs say something like, “no money, no mission.” The spirit of that axiom is, of course, no less true in church settings than it is in secular ones. Thank goodness for those of you, laity and clergy, who have expertise and experience in the various aspects of financial and budgetary management and leadership. Our NGC Council on Finance and Administration, roughly analogous to a local church Finance Committee, is charged with some very straightforward, and yet incredibly complex and nuanced responsibilities. Similar to local church Finance Committees, responsibilities of the Council include oversight of the financial staff, responsibility for auditing the financial statements, ensuring adherence to the budget based on revenue collections, and providing assistance in raising the funds to support the budget.

Our Book of Discipline states it succinctly: *“The purpose of the council shall be to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference.”* Among the other (but by no means all), specific responsibilities of the our Council on Finance and Administration outlined in our Book of Discipline are: *“ To receive, consider, report, and make recommendations to the annual conference regarding the following prior to final decision by the annual conference: (a) any proposal to raise capital funds for any purpose; (b) funding considerations related to any proposal that may come before the conference; (c) any requests to conduct a special conference-wide financial appeal, whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise in the local churches of the conference...To recommend to the annual conference for its action and decision the methods or formulas by which apportionments to churches, charges, or districts for duly authorized General, jurisdictional, conference, and district funds shall be determined...To recommend to the annual conference procedures for funding local churches, including the theology of financial giving...to advise local churches about making their church buildings, facilities, and programs accessible...To recommend to the annual conference for its action procedures for dealing responsibly with situations in which budgeted funds, as approved by the annual conference, are inadequate to meet emerging missional needs or unforeseen circumstances...To have authority and supervision over the conference treasurer/director of administrative services subject to ¶ 619; to establish policies governing the treasurer/director’s work...To establish uniform and equitable policies and practices in the employment and compensation of personnel, in consultation and cooperation with other conference agencies that employ staff, unless the annual conference has designated another agency to carry this responsibility.”* Our Book of Discipline also stipulates *“The council shall be amenable and report directly to the annual conference.”*

Our Book of Discipline outlines the following regarding membership on this board:

“ a) Each annual conference shall elect, at its session next succeeding the General Conference or jurisdictional conference, a conference council on finance and administration or other structure to provide for the functions of this ministry. It is recommended that it be composed of not less than five nor more than twenty-one members; it is recommended that there be at least one layperson more than clergy included on the voting membership of the council. Persons shall be nominated for membership in a manner determined by the conference in accordance with ¶ 610.5. It is recommended that churches of less than two hundred members be represented on the conference council on finance and administration. The term of office shall begin with the adjournment of the annual conference session at which they are elected and shall be for a period of four years and until their successors are elected. b) No member or employee of any conference agency and no employee, trustee, or director of any agency

or institution participating in the funds of any conference budget shall be eligible for voting membership on the council. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the council until the next conference session, at which time the annual conference shall fill the vacancy. c) The following shall be ex officio members of the council in addition to the number set by the annual conference under ¶ 612.2a : (1) the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, without vote; (2) any members of the General Council on Finance and Administration who reside within the bounds of the conference, with vote unless voting membership is in conflict with another provision of the Book of Discipline , in which case their membership shall be without vote; in either case, they shall not be eligible to serve on an agency receiving funding; (3) the presiding bishop, without vote; (4) a district superintendent chosen by the cabinet, without vote; and (5) the director of connectional ministries or equivalent, or another representative of the conference council on ministries, without vote. d) The executive director of the conference or area United Methodist foundation may be included in the membership, without vote.”

Per our standing rules, this council will be “composed of five to twenty-one (5-21) persons, with one (1) lay person more than clergy included on the council. The council shall designate an audit committee comprised of one lay CFA member, one clergy CFA member and a CPA who is not a member of CFA. The council shall designate a personnel committee, whose responsibilities will include those defined in ¶ 613.13. The personnel committee shall be comprised of two (2) clergy CFA members, one lay CFA member, two lay human resources professionals who are not members of CFA, and the conference lay leader. Members with voice and no vote are the conference treasurer and the cabinet representative. Members shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.”

Georgia UM Pastors’ School Board of Managers

All United Methodist clergy are expected to continue their process of professional development and learning throughout their ministry. In fact, the Discipline requires that an assessment of professional development and learning be a component of annual clergy evaluations. Through the planning and work of the Georgia UM Pastors’ School Board of Managers, pastors from the North Georgia Conference and South Georgia Conference are offered the opportunity to join together for a time of professional development and continuing education each year at Pastors’ School.

Our standing rules outline the role and membership of this board: *“There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Pastors’ School board of managers, composed of persons by virtue of office and at-large members named by the annual conference committee on nominations. The purpose of the Georgia United Methodist Pastors’ School shall be to provide an annual school for continuing education for United Methodist clergy of the North and South Georgia annual conferences, while modeling and promoting a spirit of cooperation and goodwill between the two annual conferences and members thereof.*

The Georgia Pastors’ School shall be governed by a board of managers composed of 30 clergy from both annual conferences. The members shall be named to the board of managers according to nominating guidelines established by each annual conference. The officers are nominated and elected from the board of managers. The chairperson and dean of the pastors’ school shall rotate between the two annual conferences from quadrennial to quadrennial.”

North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council

So many members of the communities we serve are facing a crisis as a result of poverty and homelessness. As their website (nghhc.org) outlines, our North Georgia United Methodist Housing and Homeless Council “is an agency of the North Georgia Conference and was created to help churches and other non-profit organizations minister to people experiencing poverty and homelessness... While the Housing and Homeless Council does not provide direct services,” they provide grants “to organizations across north Georgia... Funding for the grants comes from the Homeless Offering, usually received in United Methodist Churches the fourth Sunday in February as designated by the North Georgia Conference. Congregations are welcome to receive the offering on any Sunday that works for their particular calendar. Any other donations given to the Housing and Homeless Council, including proceeds from the pin sales, also go to support the grant funding.”

Per our standing rules: *“There shall be a North Georgia United Methodist housing and homeless council which shall be composed of no more than 36 persons nominated by the conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Each district shall be represented by no fewer than two members, one of whom shall be a clergy member in that district and one of whom shall be a lay person who shall be a member of one of the churches in the district that they represent. In addition, the following other persons shall be members: a district superintendent designated by the cabinet; a member of the congregational excellence staff designated by the director of connectional ministries or designated person; the director of the council, who shall be a non-voting member; and representatives of Persons Living in Poverty and Refugee resettlement.”*

Connectional Ministries Team

Newly formed in 2022 by merging the Board of Discipleship and Advocacy, and Board of Congregational Development, “The work and ministry of this board is aimed at strengthening the local church and the annual conference through discipleship and support of the North Georgia Conference churches, laity and clergy, and through the prophetic voice of advocacy that calls us all to be better; to lead and assist congregations, districts and the conference in efforts to communicate and celebrate the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ to persons of every age, ethnic background, and social condition; to invite persons to commit their lives to Christ and to Christ’s church; and to enable persons to live as Christian disciples in the world.”

The Standing Rules list the roles of the CMT: *“In carrying out this work and ministry, the Connectional Ministries Team shall be responsible for leading the North Georgia Conference ministries stipulated in ¶1630 of The Book of Discipline, including as central to its role and ministries:*

- *shall have authority to form committees as The Book of Discipline may require or for carrying out its responsibilities;*
- *working in collaboration with the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team and the District Strategic Growth Teams to ensure ongoing congregational development through promoting, nurturing, supporting, and guiding existing and new faith communities as they implement innovative ministries with and in the communities they serve*
- *working in collaboration with the North Georgia Conference staff to ensure focused, strategic, and effective training, consultation, leadership development, and other, human resources-driven support are provided to the North Georgia Conference churches, laity, and clergy for both new and existing*

ministries

- *working in collaboration with all the North Georgia Conference churches, laity, clergy, and other groups to ensure our call to Christian advocacy is heard and responded to in effective and meaningful ways across our North Georgia Conference, and as stipulated in The Book of Discipline*
- *working collaboratively, as one board, to ensure the board's ministries of church development, human resources-driven support, and conference-wide advocacy are carried out in a transparent, clear, and coordinated way that advances our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*

Membership shall include:

- *co-chairs, one who shall be a lay-person designated by the conference lay leader and one who shall be a clergyperson nominated by the director of the center for congregational excellence*
- *secretary*
- *four at-large lay-persons*
- *four at-large clergy persons*
- *chairpersons of the committees on*
 - *Latino congregational development*
 - *Pan Asian congregational development*
 - *Black congregational development*
- *North Georgia Conference lead persons for the discipleship and advocacy areas of:*

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| • <i>Children's Ministries / Safe Sanctuaries</i> | • <i>Creation and Care</i> |
| • <i>Small Membership Church</i> | • <i>Criminal Justice and Mercy</i> |
| • <i>Older Adult Ministries</i> | • <i>Disability Concerns</i> |
| • <i>Young Adult Ministries</i> | • <i>Disaster Response</i> |
| • <i>Youth Ministries</i> | • <i>Ethnic Local Church Concerns</i> |
| • <i>Spiritual Formation</i> | • <i>Global Ministries</i> |
| • <i>Higher Education & Campus Ministries</i> | • <i>Health, Welfare & Wellness</i> |
| • <i>Adult & Family Ministries</i> | • <i>Missions</i> |
| • <i>Camp & Retreat Ministries</i> | • <i>Native American Ministries</i> |
| • <i>Evangelism</i> | • <i>Peace with Justice</i> |
| • <i>Christian Unity & Inter-religious Relationships</i> | • <i>Persons in Poverty</i> |
| • <i>Church and Society</i> | • <i>Refugee Resettlement</i> |
| • <i>Status and Role of Women</i> | • <i>Multi-Cultural Advocate</i> |
| • <i>Religion and Race</i> | |

Ex-Officio members of the board shall include:

- *Cabinet representative selected by the Cabinet appointed by the bishop*
- *Conference Lay Leader*
- *Associate Conference Lay Leaders*
- *Conference United Women in Faith President*
- *Conference United Methodist Men President*
- *Conference Youth President*
- *Conference Youth Secretary*
- *General Commission on Religion and Race Representative*

- *Council of Finance and Administration Representative selected by the Chair of the Council of Finance and Administration*
- *Conference Board of Trustee representative*

Staffing and supporting the board shall be the responsibility of the Director, Connectional Ministries, Director of Inclusion and Advocacy, Director, Center for Congregational Excellence, Conference Treasurer, Associate Directors of Congregational Excellence, and other Conference staff as needed/assigned.

The Connectional Ministries Team shall have authority to form committees as The Book of Discipline may require or as deemed necessary by the board in carrying out its responsibilities. The Connectional Ministries Team may enlist additional persons to assist in its work and may also form time-limited task forces to address particular issues or emphases.

The co-chairs of the Connectional Ministries Team shall on an annual basis, no later than January 31st of each year, and in consultation with board members:

- *determine the boards and the board's standing committee's personnel/membership needs for the coming conference year*
- *submit their request for personnel/membership nominations to the Administrative Assistant, Center of Congregational Excellence/Connectional Ministries. The request shall include: the number of persons needed, number of lay persons, number of clergypersons, specific board or committee role for each person needed, the board's perspective on the gifts and graces needed for each opening, an estimate of the time-commitment associated with each opening.*

The budget for the Connectional Ministries Team and all of its associated committees, shall be included in the budget for the Center for Congregational Excellence/Connectional Ministries,

There shall be an executive committee of the board Connectional Ministries Team, composed of the co-chairs, secretary, conference lay leader, cabinet representative, and other members as determined and elected by the full board. The full board shall meet at least semi-annually; but may meet more often as needed or determined by the board's executive committee."

Black Church Development, Hispanic/Latino Church Development, and Pan-Asian Church Development Committees

These three standing committees of the Connectional Ministries Team are also a part of the Conference nominations process. They play an important role in developing and strengthening Latino, Black, and Asian congregations and ministries.

The standing rules state: *"Standing committees of the board shall include committees on:*

- *Latino congregational development*
- *Pan Asian congregational development*
- *Black congregational development*

Working in collaboration with the Commission on Religion and Race, the District Strategic Growth teams, and other North Georgia Conference boards and committees as needed, these standing

committees shall make recommendations to the board and other appropriate North Georgia Conference groups with regard to supporting the development of Latino, Pan Asian and Black congregations and strengthening existing Latino, Pan Asian and Black congregations. They shall also be responsible for the development and deployment of training they deem important from a cultural perspective in planting new, and supporting existing, Latino, Pan Asian, and Black churches. Each committee shall request funds necessary for this training be included in the board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational Connectional Ministries Team development budget. These committees shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the request of the director of inclusion and advocacy, director or congregational excellence or the co-chairs of the Connectional Ministry Team. Each committee shall elect a vice-chair and secretary. Ex-officio members of each committee shall include a Cabinet Representative assigned by the Cabinet, and a Conference staff representative, assigned by the Director, Center for Congregational Excellence.”

Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team (BEAT)

In August of 2020, the North Georgia Annual Conference approved a new committee with an important task: to distribute funds from the sale of closed church property in an equitable, accountable manner to fund ministry initiatives across all eight districts. Today that committee has a robust process in place for granting funds.

Per our standing rules: *“There shall be a Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team that oversees and administers ministry grants made from the Barnes Fund. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall establish a spending plan to protect the corpus of the Barnes Fund and endeavor to increase the funds potential for ministry grants in perpetuity. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall partner with District Superintendents and District Strategic Growth Teams to ensure that all eight districts are given equitable opportunities to apply for and employ grant funding for their district-specific, missional needs. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall partner with Annual Conference Standing Boards and Agencies to ensure that conference priorities for ministry are given equitable opportunity to apply for and employ grant funding for the greater good of the conference.*

Members of the Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall be nominated by the committee on nominations, elected by the Annual Conference, and serve per guidelines stipulated in Standing Rule C.3. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall consist of 20-30 members and shall include, but not be limited to:

- *co-chairs, one who shall be a lay-person and one who shall be a clergy-person*
- *four to eight at-large lay-persons*
- *four to eight at-large clergy-persons*
- *Executive Assistant to the Bishop*
- *two Cabinet representatives selected by the Cabinet*
- *Council of Finance and Administration Representative selected by the Chair of the Council of Finance and Administration*
- *Board of Trustees Representative selected by the Chair of Board of Trustees*
- *Conference Lay Leader*
- *chair(s) of the Consolidated Board*

- Director, Connectional Ministries
- Director, Center for Congregational Excellence
- Conference Treasurer

Additional Conference Boards and Committees That Do Not Accept Nominations

In addition to the above Board and Committees that accept nominations, there are many boards and committees vital to the work of our Conference that are appointed: *“Boards and Committees whose membership is determined, per our Book of Discipline or per our Standing rules, by virtue of holding positions on other groups, or by nomination from the particular group where member openings exist, or by nomination of our Bishop and/or our Nominations Committee in consultation with leadership already serving on specified groups in our NGC structure.”* You can find out more about these in your Conference Handbook (ngumc.org/handbook-2022).

Board of Ordained Ministries

From *“the enlistment and recruitment of ministerial leadership for our churches,”* to *“renewing a culture of call in the church,”* to examining *“all applicants as to their fitness for the ordained ministry and make full inquiry as to the fitness of the candidate for (1) annual election as local pastor; (2) election to associate membership; (3) election to provisional membership; and (4) election to full conference membership”* to providing *“a means of evaluating the effectiveness of ministerial leaders in the annual conference,”* the responsibilities of the Board of Ordained Ministries, as outlined in our Book of Discipline, are numerous.

Committee on Nominations

The committee charged with gathering and considering the list of potential candidates for membership on the various NGC committees, boards, etc., and then making recommendations to our Annual Conference regarding who will serve on them, is the Nominations Committee.

Our standing rules outline the role of this committee: *“There shall be an annual conference committee on nominations whose duty shall be to nominate all lay and clergy members of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies of the north Georgia conference.”* Further, *“The executive committee of the annual conference committee on nominations, composed of the bishop, the conference lay leader, the director of connectional ministries or designated person, three (3) other members of the annual conference committee on nominations named by the bishop, will coordinate the comprehensive nominations process of identification, recruitment, training, selection and evaluation for the annual conference. Where vacancies in essential elected positions occur between annual conference sessions, the executive committee may fill the positions until the next annual conference elects.”*

Our standing rules also outline the composition of this committee: *“The committee shall be composed of the bishop, who shall be the chairperson; the district superintendents and extended cabinet; the conference lay leader and associate conference lay leaders; the district lay leaders; the commission on religion and race representative; the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and of United Methodist Women; the chairpersons of the conference young adult organization and the council on*

youth ministry; and not more than five (5) members-at-large who shall be named by the bishop for inclusiveness.”

Conference Common Table (CCT)

The Common Table provides leadership and guidance in setting the vision and priorities of the annual conference and in conducting an on-going process of refining and revising that vision. It is called into session when the director of connectional ministries, in consultation with the bishop, deems it necessary for the benefit of the conference’s work.

Annual Conference Planning Committee

All of you who have attended a session of Annual Conference have a sense of how much planning and organization is required in order to accomplish this wonderful event. Our Annual Conference Planning Committee is the group who works tirelessly to do this.

Conference Board of Laity

The description of our NGC Committee on Resolutions noted that the richness of our NGC is diversity, and the strength of our NGC is our connectional structure. While this is, no doubt, true, it is the laity across our Conference who provide the leadership for our ministries, and whose energy, spirit and commitment make all of our ministries possible, as together we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Conference Board of Laity is key to the role of laity across our NGC.

Georgia UM Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry

Our mission as United Methodists is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local church ministries for children and youth begin to cultivate the formation of discipleship at an early age, and in a variety of ways. The Georgia UM Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry is charged with the task of ensuring the process of making disciples continues, is supported, and is effective for young adults attending the colleges and universities across our State of Georgia.

Consent Agenda Committee

Per our standing rules, “the consent agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the chairperson of the committee on standing rules, the director of connectional ministries or designated person, and the conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation with agencies or individuals presenting reports, recommendations or resolutions, may present in the conference handbook a written list of items which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent agenda shall be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of conference.”

Committee on Episcopacy

Similar to our churches’ Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Annual Conferences have a Committee on Episcopacy that supports, advises, and assists the Bishop.

Episcopal Residence Committee

Our Book of Discipline stipulates that we have a committee responsible for ensuring the provision of housing for our Bishop.

Committee(s) on Investigations

“...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We know, of course, that Paul’s words in Romans 3 are true. Our sin, and our need for redemption is one of the things that defines our community and the communities we serve. While unfortunate, there are times when the way we, as professing Christians, bring our sin into expression rises to a level calling for intervention and action. This is true of clergy; and this is true of laity. When this happens with clergy, our NGC Committee on Investigations becomes involved.

Administrative Review Committee

While rare, our conference is sometimes presented with circumstances requiring involuntary changes to the status of NGC pastors. To ensure procedures outlined in our Book of Discipline are followed when considering or taking such action, each annual conference has an Administrative Review Committee.