

The Book of Discipline 2008 - Part V - Organization and Administration - Chapter Four - The Conferences - Section IX. The Annual Conference - Other Conference Agencies

¶ 634. Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry—1. There shall be in each annual conference a board of higher education and campus ministry or other structure to provide for these functions and maintain the connectional relationships. The number of members shall be determined by the annual conference, including representation from appropriate constituencies.

2. The annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure shall provide for the connectional relationship between the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the conference, district, and local church and shall provide for a ministry in higher education related to the objectives and scope of work of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Division of Higher Education. A person serving as a member of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from that annual conference shall, by virtue of his or her office, be a member of the conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure (see ¶¶ 610.6 and 710.5).

3. The annual conference chairperson of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure shall be a member of the annual conference council on ministries.

4. The responsibilities of an annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure include:

a) General Responsibilities—(1) To interpret and promote the United Methodist ministries in higher education that are supported by the general Church and those specifically related to the annual conference.

(2) To recommend the policies guiding the annual conference in its program of ministry in higher education.

(3) To train and provide resources for district committees and local church ministry areas of higher education and campus ministry.

(4) To apprise United Methodists of their historic commitment to and present mission in higher education.

(5) To work with the annual conference council on ministries and with districts and local churches to interpret and promote higher education ministries supported by special Sundays and funds: Africa University Fund, Black College Fund; Hispanic, Asian, and Native Americans (HANA) Educational Ministries; Ministerial Education Fund, Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodist Student Day; World Communion Sunday; and other funds and special days related to higher education ordered by the General Conference or annual conference.

(6) To promote use of the United Methodist Loan Fund and to designate appropriate persons to represent the United Methodist Loan Fund on campuses, such persons normally being Wesley Foundation directors or ecumenical campus ministers supported by the annual conference; to provide the Office of Loans and Scholarships with the names and addresses of those persons; and to apprise students of alternative ways to apply for loans in the event there is no campus minister.

(7) To evaluate schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries related to the annual conference, with concern for the quality of their performance, the integrity of their mission, and their response to the missional goals of the general Church and the annual conference.

(8) To promote the education award programs provided by The United Methodist Church, including the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's award programs.

(9) To confer at once with representatives of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to determine what resources and aid the board may be able to provide and to enable the Division of Higher Education to carry out its responsibilities in the event that any educational institution, Wesley Foundation, or other campus ministry moves to sever or modify its connection with the Church or violates the rules adopted by the division in accordance with ¶ 1413.3.

(10) To provide that two or more annual conferences may, on recommendation of their boards of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structures, join in constituting an area or regional committee or commission on higher education and campus ministry, the membership, scope, and functions of which shall be determined by the cooperating conferences in consultation with their bishop or bishops. The area committee or commission shall include a majority of its members from the participating annual conference boards of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure with appropriate representation of college presidents, campus ministers, students, and ethnic persons.

b) Fiscal Responsibilities—In addition to its general responsibilities, the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry shall carry out the following fiscal duties:

(1) To present to the council on ministries and then to the council on finance and administration of the annual conference the financial needs for adequate support of the schools, colleges, universities, theological schools, campus Christian movements, Wesley Foundations,⁷⁷ and other campus ministries related to the annual conference for apportionment to the churches within the conference.

(2) To determine the distribution of the funds received from undesignated gifts, returns from special days, annual conference and district Advance Specials for higher education and scholarships of the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.

(3) To establish, where appropriate, foundations or other means to ensure the ongoing support of the annual conference program of ministry in higher education.

(4) To counsel United Methodist schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries related to the annual conference with regard to their charters and constitutions, reversionary clauses, and liability.

(5) To counsel United Methodist institutions about property and endowments entrusted to the institutions and to maintain and enforce trust and reversionary clauses in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Higher Education under ¶ 1413.3c.

(6) To monitor fiduciary and legal relationships with United Methodist schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries and to assist annual conferences in their responsibilities in these matters.

(7) To administer the scholarship funds rebated to the annual conference by the Office of Loans and Scholarships in accordance with the guidelines of that office.

(8) To encourage the establishment of loan and scholarship funds in the annual conference and local churches and to administer the loan and scholarship funds of the annual conference.

c) Responsibilities with Schools, Colleges, and Universities—In addition to its general responsibilities, the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or

equivalent structure shall carry out the following duties with regard to United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities:

(1) To make known to the district, subdistricts, and all local churches the names and location of all United Methodist educational institutions and, wherever possible, provide resources interpreting their work and special missions.

(2) To assist institutions related specifically to the annual conference in their efforts to raise funds, scholarships, recruit students, and extend services to the annual conference.

(3) To assume responsibility, after consultation with the annual conference committee on nominations and the nominating committee of the institution's board of trustees, for the nomination of those trustees who are to be nominated and elected by the annual conference to the boards of trustees of United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities. In the event that the annual conference confirms or elects trustees nominated by trustee-nominating committees, to consult with those committees, having special concern for the selection of persons who will appropriately address the financial, missional, and educational progress of the institution.

(4) To provide for interpretation of the programs of United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities throughout the educational program of the annual conference, especially in cooperation with those committees and persons responsible for youth and young adult ministries.

(5) To interpret systematically to the districts, subdistricts, and local churches the conference program with United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities, encouraging their support and participation.

(6) To represent the annual conference in its relationship to United Methodist schools, colleges, and universities, especially those related to the annual conference.

d) Responsibilities with Campus Ministries—In addition to the general responsibilities listed above, the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure shall have the following responsibilities with regard to campus ministry:

(1) To have available the names and addresses of all campus ministries supported by The United Methodist Church and to supply the names and addresses of campus ministries supported by the annual conference to all districts and local churches.

(2) To ensure that each Wesley Foundation or campus ministry shall have a Board of Directors or a local church committee which provides for planning and implementing a program of mission and ministry to the campus. It will also be the responsibility of the Board of Directors or local church committee:

(a) to establish a budget to present to the board of higher education and campus ministry, and to be responsible for the fund raising needs of the Wesley Foundation or campus ministry;

(b) to have a personnel committee to confer with and counsel the campus minister and staff, to evaluate for effective ministry, to develop and approve written job descriptions for all staff, to interview campus minister candidates and to recommend candidates for appointment or hiring to the board of higher education and campus ministry, the district superintendent and the bishop, to establish all personnel policies, to examine and recommend candidates for ordained or licensed ministry to the district committee on ordained ministry, faithfully adhering to the provisions of ¶ 311.2.b);

(c) when determined that a Wesley Foundation board may hold property, to review the adequacy of the property, liability, and crime insurance coverage, to establish policies on the use of property by outside organizations, to receive and administer all bequests made to the

Wesley Foundation or campus ministry according to standards established by the board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure and the annual conference, and the relevant civil governmental authorities and to provide for the upkeep of all properties;

(d) to be encouraged to establish a Wesley Foundation, or campus ministry, permanent endowment fund in accord with the policies established by the board of higher education and campus ministry and the annual conference;

(e) to have fiscal oversight of all income and expenditures of the campus ministry, to develop sound accounting practices, and to ensure proper record keeping and reporting according to the policies set by the board of higher education and campus ministry;

(f) to review and recommend covenants and agreements with ecumenical campus ministries and university organizational policies.

(3) To ensure representation of the annual conference board or equivalent structure on the boards of all campus ministries supported by the annual conference.

(4) To interpret systematically to the districts, subdistricts, and local churches the conference program of campus ministry as a ministry to the whole campus (students, faculty, staff, and administration), encouraging their support and urging United Methodist students of all ages to participate.

(5) To support the development of the United Methodist Student Movement (UMSM) within the annual conference, including the organization of a UMSM student council and the appointment of a UMSM adviser, and to encourage student participation in the UMSM and other related student Christian organizations, both nationally and globally.

(6) To hold the Wesley Foundation board of directors responsible for the direction and administration of the foundation in accordance with the policies and objectives of the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure and the standards of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

(7) To ensure that the Wesley Foundation board is related functionally and cooperatively to the United Methodist local church or churches in the immediate vicinity of the college or university and to the council on ministries or other organization of the district in which it is located.

(8) To determine whether or not Wesley Foundation boards, when incorporated, may hold property and to ensure such property is held and administered according to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the laws of the state in which the foundation is located.

(9) To determine the policies for nomination and election by the annual conference of Wesley Foundation boards of directors.

(10) To determine, in consultation with local boards, the personnel needs of Wesley Foundations; to institute standards for professional staff in accordance with the policies, standards and goals of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

(11) To encourage the development of a permanent endowment fund for Wesley Foundations and campus ministries; and to set policies and investment standards, in consultation with the conference foundation, for permanent endowment funds for Wesley Foundations and campus ministries.

(12) To establish procedures for selection and termination of professional staff in Wesley Foundations; to determine a procedure for a national search; and to consult with the bishop and cabinet when securing the appointment of ministerial staff members.

(13) To cooperate with the district superintendents in the gathering of names and addresses of college students from charge conferences in the districts to send to Wesley Foundations, United Methodist-related campus ministries, and United Methodist chaplaincies at the schools where the students are attending.

(14) To develop policies and procedures for the planning, financing and construction of any Wesley Foundation or campus ministry building, in consultation with the appropriate boards and agencies of the annual conference and in accordance with the policies, and standards of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

(15) To oversee the management and financial support of the annual conference program of campus ministry in Wesley Foundations, local churches, and ecumenical campus ministries, in accordance with the policies, standards and goals of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

(16) To determine where new campus ministries are needed after the completion of extensive study by an appointed task force to assess the potential of campus ministry on a university or college campus in accordance with the policies, standards and goals of the Division of Higher Education of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Such study shall include but not be limited to: the unique missional opportunities and needs of the campus, student demographics of the university or college, number and size of other denominational campus ministries, student life plan of the university or college, long-range development plan of the campus, fiscal and facilities needs, support and cooperation of nearby United Methodist churches and district, and other items that may impact the campus ministry's ability to fulfill the mission of the church on campus.

(17) Prior to the discontinuation of a Wesley Foundation or campus ministry the board of higher education and campus ministry shall conduct an assessment of its potential as outlined in ¶ 634.4.d) and ¶ 1413.3.c). A recommendation to the annual conference for discontinuation shall include proposals for the future use of any property of the Wesley Foundation or campus ministry and for the disposition of any real, personal, tangible and intangible property. Any proceeds from the sale of Wesley Foundation or campus ministry property shall be reserved for other campus ministry needs in the annual conference.

(18) To establish and review covenants and agreements for ecumenical campus ministry and to ensure that they are in harmony with the policies, standards, and goals of the Division of Higher Education and the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure.

(19) To oversee the management of the annual conference program of campus ministry in Wesley Foundations, local churches, and ecumenical campus ministries; to determine where new campus ministries are needed, and to plan for their establishment and financial support.

(20) To provide resources for local churches and districts with programs of ministry with students or to campuses and, where those programs receive financial support from or are designated as ministries on behalf of the annual conference, to ensure that the policies, standards, and goals of the conference board of higher education and campus ministry or equivalent structure are observed.

(21) To establish the procedures for the nomination and election of United Methodist college students as lay members to annual conference.

(22) To work closely in cooperation with local church and annual conference young adult councils and programs to offer a cohesive approach to ministry with young adults.

e) Public Policy—In addition to its general responsibilities, the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry shall have the following duties with regard to public policy and relationships to the state:

(1) To provide counsel, guidance, and assistance to United Methodist schools, colleges, universities, and campus ministries within the annual conference regarding their relationships to the state.

(2) To interact with public higher education as it reflects on the wholeness of persons and the meaning of life.

(3) To identify and work with the annual conference, church-related colleges, and campus ministries on issues of public policy that bear on higher education, such as issues bearing on access, equity, academic freedom, peace, and justice.