

Quick Guide to GCSRW Legislation for GC12

Disciplinary changes

[Amend Inclusiveness Protections to Include Gender](#) (*Petition 20133; Page 912*): Constitutionally affirms and protects the UMC's commitment to gender equity throughout our worldwide connection by adding the word "gender" (meaning male and female) to ¶ 4. Since Central Conferences may adapt and change other parts of the *Discipline*, it is vital to include this guarantee in the Constitution.

[Adding Sexual Ethics to GCSRW Mandates](#) (*Petition 20117; Page 1287*): Affirms GCSRW's historic and present role of leadership on the issue of sexual misconduct in the UMC by adding sexual ethics to this commission's mandate. The BOR 2008 includes numerous calls for GCSRW's work in sexual ethics, including convening the Inter-agency Sexual Ethics Task Force. This legislation makes explicit what is already the case in practice.

[New Social Principle: Pornography](#) (*Petition 20268; Page 261*): Affirms effort of GBCS to propose a new Social Principle but retains current definition of pornography from [BOR 2008, p. 149](#). As a chargeable offense (*BOR 2008, p. 155*), pornography use must be defined narrowly enough to be useful judicially, so that what is particularly harmful about pornography can be addressed effectively: the violence, abuse, coercion, domination, humiliation, and degradation. The new definition proposed by GBCS appears to find sexual arousal objectionable.

[Membership of GCSRW](#) (*Petition 20120; Page 1078*); [Additional Membership](#) (*Petition 20115; Page 1035*); [Nomination of Additional Board Members](#) (*Petition 20114; Page 1034*); [General Agency and Connectional Table Membership](#) (*Petition 20123 – GA; Page 1030 ¶ 705.b-G*): To increase the effectiveness and reduce the size of the GCSRW Board of Directors, these four petitions create a nineteen member board, allow organizational flexibility, seek to ensure diverse representation, clarify the relationship of liaison representatives, and specify board member responsibilities.

[GCSRW Staff Election](#) (*Petition 20116; Page 1287*): Amends ¶ 2108 to conform to existing ¶ 713: quadrennial election of general secretary.

Book of Resolutions changes/additions

[Amend Resolution 2044](#) (*Petition 20118; page 297*): Clarifies the definition of sexual misconduct within ministerial relationships to include a continuum of sexual or gender-directed behaviors.

[Care for Clergy Families](#) (*Petition 20121; Page 1490*): Updates and expands call for sustaining the emotional, spiritual, physical, and economic health of our clergy families, based on new survey data and research.

[Eradication of Sexism in the Church](#) (*Petition 20122; Page 330*): Re-affirms the ongoing commitment of General Conference to eradicating sexism in the church and to requiring Methodist-related institutions to have policies on sexual harassment and equal opportunity. This resolution will expire unless renewed in 2012.

[Introduction to Response Team Ministry](#) (*Petition 20119; Page 1339*): Recommends the use of a trained and prepared Response Team to facilitate congregational healing when there has been disruption by a complaint of sexual misconduct.

[Sexual Ethics as Integral Part of Formation for Ministerial Leadership](#) (*Petition 20276; Page 1467*): Affirms and expands prior General Conference calls for seminaries to provide training on the prevention of sexual misconduct. This is foundational to a larger effort to provide career-long sexual ethics training for clergy.