United Methodists: A Connected Church

DISTRICT

May bring churches in a region together in shared mission or ministry. District superintendent provides leadership, and assists with pastoral appointments.

LOCAL **CHURCH**

"The most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs" (The Book of Discipline > Where laity hold 2016, paragraph 201). "Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (helps) people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live out their daily lives in light of their relationship with God" (Book of Discipline, 2016, paragraph 201).

membership

Flects at least one member to annual conference

EPISCOPAL **AREA**

which a bishop is assigned. Bishops

JURISDICTIONAL (U.S.) OR CENTRAL (non-U.S.) **CONFERENCE**

- Elects and assigns bishops
- Determines boundaries of annual conferences and episcopal areas in its region
- > Supports regional ministries and institutions
- > Elects members of general agencies

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- Sets ministry priorities and budget for
- Approves those to be ordained and supports local churches
- Where clergy hold membership
- Elects delegates to General Conference and jurisdictional or central conferences
- Votes on constitutional amendments

THE CONNECTIONAL TABLE AND GENERAL **AGENCIES**

- Equip local churches and annual conferences
- Provide for ministry throughout the world
- Established by General Conference

GENERAL CONFERENCE

- ▶ Only body that speaks as The United Methodist Church
- ► Has 600–1,000 members, equally divided among laity and clergy
- ➤ Meets every four years, or for special called sessions, and defines church membership
- Defines powers and duties of all clergy, deaconesses and home missioners; annual, central, district and charge conferences; and congregational meetings
- ▶ Provides a fair process for judicial proceedings
- tional Giving priorities
- Establishes boards and commissions for the general work of the church

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

- ▶ Nine members elected by General Conference
- Determines the constitutionality of **General Conference actions**
- Reviews all bishops' decisions of law
- > Is the final court of appeal in the church's judicial system

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

- Includes all active and retired United Methodist bishops
- ► Provides oversight and vision for the whole church
- ► May call a special session of **General Conference**