

WHY SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS COVENANT?

1. The Christmas Covenant emanates from a vision for God's Beloved Community:

"We envision a Church that connects globally, engages in mission together, respects contextual ministry settings, celebrates the diversity of God's creation in its many beautiful expressions, and values mutually empowering relationships in order to strengthen our core mission of evangelism, discipleship, and social witness for the transformation of the world."

2. The Christmas Covenant is rooted in values that focus on the unity of the Body of Christ in fulfilling its mission:

- Unity and connectional relationships rooted in mission
- Understanding and respect for contextual ministry settings
- Legislative equity for regional conferences of the church

3. The Christmas Covenant is a bold first step in decolonizing the polity of the church by bringing legislative parity between all regions and preventing any region from imposing its missional policies and practices on any other region.

4. The Christmas Covenant creates Regional Conferences (US as a region and current central conferences into regions) and provides them robust legislative powers to do mission work that is relevant and responsive to the needs of their respective contexts:

- Define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of church membership
- Define and fix the qualifications, powers, and duties of clergy and deaconesses/home missionaries
- Supplement the hymnal and ritual of the church and modes of worship subject to the limitations of relevant Restrictive Rules
- Allow annual conferences in their region to utilize structures unique to their mission
- Power to create or dissolve jurisdictional conferences in their region subject to the consent of annual conferences in existing jurisdictions
- Make changes in the chargeable offenses and/or their mandatory penalties
- Checks the power of General Conference to decide on the number and draw the boundaries of regional conferences by giving annual conferences within the affected regions the power of consent, by two-thirds vote, to agree to any such GC decision

5. Authorizes a study to perfect the new regional conferences structure that will be reported to the next General Conference after adoption and implementation of this legislation.