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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

What they mean (and when you'll see changes)

What was ratified?

At General Conference 2024, delegates approved constitutional amendments that were ratified by a majority of annual conference voters across the connection. The Council of Bishops announced the results on November 8, 2025.

These amendments address **Worldwide Regionalization**, **Inclusivity** (Article IV, paragraph 4), **Combating Racism** (Article V), and **Voting Eligibility** (§ 35).



Worldwide Regionalization

WHAT IT DOES: Renames the former Central Conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines as **Regional Conferences**, and creates a new **U.S. Regional Conference**.

WHAT IT MEANS: Regional Conferences will be able to adapt portions of the Book of Discipline for their ministry contexts while remaining part of one global church. For regionalization to take full effect, many decisions still need to be made.

Learn more at ResourceUMC.org/Regionalization.

Paragraph 4, Article IV – Inclusivity

WHAT CHANGED: Adds “**gender**” and “**ability**” to the list of categories protected from exclusion in The United Methodist Church.

WHAT IT MEANS: Pastors and congregations may not deny membership, worship participation, or access to programs because of a person’s gender or physical, mental, or intellectual ability, reaffirming that *all people are beloved children of God*.

Article V – Combating Racism

WHAT CHANGED: Updates the Constitution’s statement on racism to name specific forms, including **colonialism**, **white privilege**, and **white supremacy**.

WHAT IT MEANS: In addition to acknowledging past racism, every United Methodist is called to actively confront racism in all its forms and contexts.

Paragraph 35 – Clergy Voting Eligibility

WHAT CHANGED: Clarifies educational requirements for clergy who vote for delegates to **General**, **Jurisdictional**, and **Regional Conferences**.

WHAT IT MEANS: Clergy voters must hold an **M.Div. from a University Senate–approved seminary** or an equivalent approved by their regional conference. Licensed local pastors remain eligible once they complete the **Course of Study** or **M.Div.**, just as before. This brings consistency to clergy voting standards worldwide.

Visit ResourceUMC.org/Amendments to learn more!