

1 ***Amend the second paragraph of ¶ 50. Article VI as follows:***

2           The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of  
3 The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the  
4 jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church **before 2016** shall have life tenure. **Beginning**  
5 **with Jurisdictional Conferences in 2016, bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The**  
6 **United Methodist Church shall have a tenure of two quadrenniums. If a bishop is elected**  
7 **to complete the term of a bishop who vacated his or her office, this shall not count toward**  
8 **the limit of two quadrenniums. Those holding the office of bishop shall retain**  
9 **membership in their home annual conferences while serving as bishop, and may return**  
10 **to serve as an elder in their home annual conferences after completing their term as an**  
11 **active bishop.** Each bishop elected by a central conference shall have such tenure as the central  
12 conference electing him shall have determined.

13 **Rationale**

14 Term episcopacy will foster collegiality. Returning bishops bring to their annual conference  
15 leadership gifts, as well as, an understanding of the general church. Additionally, this process  
16 improves equity, frees general church funds, and encourages the election of younger bishops.

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Bishops Limited Tenure  
Constitution ¶ 50  
General Church Budget Implications: Yes  
Global Implications: Yes

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