

GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS ONLY FROM
CONFERENCES, CHURCHES, AND MEMBERS.

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ACTION: The Northern Illinois Conference shall request the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table, through the General Conference organizing committee, to limit all resolutions presented to the General Conference to come only from Annual Conferences, Churches, and individual UMC members.

RATIONALE; It has been observed that in 1960 the Book of Discipline contained only six resolutions; in 2008 352 passed, requiring a separate book of 1009 pages. Does anyone read them, much less pay them any attention? Yet they absorb an enormous amount of the General Conference time, energy and expense, to the detriment of serious spiritual and structural legislative matters.

Significantly, it has been pointed out that some 80% of the resolutions passed were from six Boards, Divisions, and Commissions of the UMC; only some 7% of the resolutions came from Conferences and individuals (and only one from a local church). In other words, our bureaucracy is spending our church funds to lobby our UMC legislature to pass its own bureaucratic agenda. Of course, the bureaucracy could always find someone to submit the resolutions for them, but a prohibition on board and agency lobbying would help bring the General Conference back to its original spiritual purpose.