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ROLE OF NETWORKS

Whereas, New forms of gathering together and resourcing local churches have emerged in The Wesleyan Church and these are often called or referred to as Networks;

Whereas, These networks provide an essential way of accelerating the mission of The Wesleyan Church through discipleship, multiplication, and ongoing support of churches, and there is no desire to slow these down or unnecessarily burden them administratively;

Whereas, These networks serve functions that at times blur the lines between their role, that of any other local church, districts, and the general church ministries;

Whereas, These blurred lines can complicate matters with legal implications, governance, physical boundaries outlined in *The Discipline*, and unanticipated financial impact through assessment adjustments;

Whereas, Network leaders themselves have asked for more clarity on their function within the denominational structure;

Whereas, *The Discipline* already clarifies the function, responsibilities, and authority of districts (*Disc.* 1000-1496); however

Whereas, There is enough change occurring in the church in regard to networks that some flexibility to adapt to their function is desired;

Resolved, That paragraph 1655:47 be added to the F. Duties and Powers of the General Board as follows with a new subheading:

Related to Networks

(47) To set and enact policy related to the governance of networks only in regard to legal, financial, and boundary implications. This policy may include the approval of networks, their relationship to districts, their financial impact, and their implications related to North American District, Global Partners and International Wesleyan Church boundaries.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS
Janelle Vernon, Secretary

Committee on Memorials

☒ Recommended ☐ Not Recommended

General Conference

☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted