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Suggested Title: Living into the Future

Include Connectional Table in the General Provisions

Discipline Paragraph: New Paragraph following ¶701

Financial Implications: Yes

Agency Name: The General Council on Ministries

Insert New ¶ following 701.

¶ Coordination and Accountability -- Effective January 1, 2007, the responsibilities assigned to the General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration shall be transferred to the Connectional Table or successor organization. (see ¶ after 900¶s). The agency will coordinate efforts to enable the Church to fulfill its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The agency will enable United Methodist agencies to discern and articulate a common vision and provide the financial resources to act in accordance with actions of General Conference and the counsel of the Council of Bishops. The agency will provide an opportunity for ministry and finances to be discussed together in response to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the world. The agency will be global in scope and holistic in understanding. It will be inclusive in nature and collaborative in style. As a careful steward of financial resources, decisions made by the agency will be open, accessible, and accountable to the General Conference.

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Rationale: This new paragraph would establish the Connectional Table as an agency where ministry and financial resources would be together. This agency would provide an opportunity for a holistic understanding of the needs of the world and appropriate response to those needs.