

Why Oppose the Five Regional Church Amendments with Distinctive Substance?

- They are sure to add expense to our apportionments (e.g., another Council of Bishops and Judicial Council at the Regional Level).
- We are making a decision before the Task Force formed to study and make recommendations on the structure makes its report.
- Judicial Council Decision 1100 (in regard to constitutional Amendment IV) said, "Further study is needed. . ." and that nothing is done to "harmonize its content with remaining provisions of the *Discipline*."
- Another level of administration is added between the General Conference and the local church.
- The five amendments move us away from connectionalism to become more like the Anglican Communion.
- The more issues in which we can have differing stances in the denomination the less connectional we are.
- We are urged to alter the constitution prior to full disclosure of changes.
- The process of adopting these amendments is a breach of the protections which make a change in a constitution more difficult (i.e., a 2/3 vote not 50% + 1).
- After full disclosure in 2012, warranted changes should be able to prevail at the 2/3 level and thereby follow due process.