

GCFA LEGAL MANUAL

This Manual is a byproduct of GCFA's responsibility to protect the legal interests of the denomination. Its purpose is to provide basic information about legal issues that are common to organizations throughout The United Methodist Church.

We welcome your input regarding how this Manual can be improved. The United Methodist Church is made up of a large number of smaller entities, each with their own specific structures, needs, and challenges. We recognize we cannot conceive of all the issues these entities might face. Therefore, if there is an important area you believe this Manual has omitted, please let us know.

At the same time, we cannot possibly provide in-depth analysis of every issue United Methodist organizations face. Many legal issues will turn on intricacies of applicable local law that are beyond the scope of this Manual. **Thus, it should not be used as a substitute for experienced legal, accounting, or other professional advice.** Only an experienced local attorney, or other professional, can provide appropriate guidance in such instances.

Legal issues may change at any time. Every effort will be made to update this Manual whenever such changes occur. The most current edition will always be available on our website.

Unless otherwise noted, all paragraph references contained herein are to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2016*.

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