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Methodism

- A brief history

How are they organized/structured?

- **Constitutional**

- Book of Discipline
- Book of Resolutions

- **Episcopal**

- Bishops and superintendents
 - Handle appointments and itinerancy of elders
- Ordained Clergy
 - Elders (itinerate)
 - ❖ Graduate education required, generally moved around regularly, ordained by bishop

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Methodism

- Deacons (non-itinerate)
 - ❖ Service role
- Licensed Local Pastors/LLPs (appointment year-to-year)
 - Completes a church course of study, but is not required to have attended seminary and is not ordained
 - Perform functions of elder but only in their specific context
 - Appointment is renewed annually

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Methodism

- **Connectional** (Geographic Groupings)
 - General church
 - Jurisdictions
 - Annual conferences
 - Districts
 - Local churches
 - Members
- General Conference (“Legislative Branch”)
 - Meets every four years—only level of hierarchy that can determine policy and rule for the entire church
- Council of Bishops (“Executive Branch”)
 - Carry out the rulings and practice of the church

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Methodism

- Judicial Council (“Judicial Branch”)
 - Ensures that legislation past at every level is conformity with the Book of Discipline
- A version of this structure repeats at the jurisdictional, annual conference and district level