

Revised September 26, 2018

2020 GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES ELECTION PROCESS DEFINED

The Alabama – West Florida Conference will elect its delegation to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences during the 2019 Annual Conference Session in Montgomery on June 2-5.

The General Conference is the global gathering of the United Methodist Church where mission and ministry priorities are established and *The Book of Discipline* is reviewed for possible revisions. The General Conference is the policy setting body of United Methodism. The 2020 General Conference will be held on May 5-15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The purpose of the Jurisdictional Conference is to coordinate the connected ministry and mission of this region and to elect and assign Bishops for leadership in the Church. The 2020 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will meet on July 15-18 at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina.

The AWF Conference is allowed four (4) clergy and four (4) lay delegates to General Conference. An additional four (4) clergy and four (4) lay delegates will be chosen to complete the Jurisdictional Conference delegation. Two (2) alternate clergy delegates and two (2) alternate lay delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference will also be elected. The *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* defines who is eligible to serve as a delegate and who is eligible to vote for delegates (see *Frequently Asked Questions*, p. 2-4 of this document). Conference Standing Rule 13A specifies that *the Alabama-West Florida Conference shall pay the expenses* (the same per diem and travel expenses that the General Church pays for delegates) ***of only one more alternate delegate, lay and clergy, to the general and jurisdictional conferences.***

Each delegate is expected to attend the 2020 General and/or Jurisdictional conferences, attend 4 to 6 meetings of the delegation prior to General Conference for intensive preparation, commit the time necessary to read extensively and study the issues, and pray for God's guidance in decision making.

Those AWF United Methodists who wish to be nominated as a lay delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference may be nominated by self-nomination by filling out the Delegate Nomination Form found on awfumc.org/ministries/layleadership/boardoflaity. Voting will take place by electronic devices. A number will be assigned to each self-nominated person, and their name and corresponding number will be listed in the 2019 *Book of Reports*. Completed profile sheets will be published online at awfumc.org.

Completed nomination forms must be received no later than March 1, 2019, in order to be published in the *2019 Brochure of Reports*.

Those who do not meet the March 1, 2019, publication deadline but desire to be considered as a lay delegate must (1) contact Beverly Maddox, Conference Lay Leader, (2) complete the standard (single page) profile sheet and return it to the Conference Lay Leader no later than one hour prior to the laity business session on Monday morning, June 3, and (3) bring sufficient copies of the profile sheet to distribute to the lay members of annual conference at this session.

This procedure does not preclude any lay member from voting for any eligible person he or she chooses as ballots are cast during the 2019 annual conference session. Once balloting begins, write-in candidates receiving ten (10) votes or more, who have not turned in a profile sheet, shall be required to do so within two hours, with sufficient copies to hand out to the lay members of annual conference, and will then be assigned a number on the ballot by the Conference Secretary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**(Paragraph and page references are to
The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church)**

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Who constitutes the membership of the General Conference?

The General Conference is composed of not less than 600 nor more than 1,000 delegates, one half of whom shall be clergy and one half lay members, to be elected by the annual conferences. (§ 13. Article I, p. 28)

2. Who constitutes the membership of the SE Jurisdictional Conference?

The General Conference shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences; provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conference. (§ 25. Article III, p. 32)

The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for the AWF Conference representation in the General Conference shall also be members of the SE Jurisdictional Conference. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for the AWF Conference representation in the SE Jurisdictional conference. (§ 34. Article III, p. 36)

3. Who serves as reserve delegates to the General Conference and the SE Jurisdictional Conference?

Additional delegates to the SE Jurisdictional Conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable. (§ 34. Article III, p. 36)

QUESTIONS REGARDING ELECTION OF CLERGY DELEGATES

1. **Who can be elected to serve as a clergy delegate to General and SE Jurisdictional Conferences?** (§ 35. Article IV – **as amended**; Judicial Council Decision 1181)
 - Full clergy members of the annual conference may be elected as clergy delegates. Eligibility to be elected is conferred by full conference membership without regard to ordination or to years of service. (Judicial Council Decision 1181)
 - Retired full clergy members may be elected. (Judicial Council Decision #531.)
 - Full clergy members on voluntary (personal leave, family leave, transitional leave) leave of absence may be elected. (§ 354.7, p. 300)
 - Full clergy members on sabbatical or disability leave may be elected. (Judicial Council Decision #473)
 - Full clergy members on paternity/maternity leave may be elected. (§ 356.2, p. 302, 303)
 - Full clergy members on involuntary leave shall **not** be elected. (§ 355.7, p. 302)
 - Full clergy members under suspension from pastoral duties may **not** be elected. (Judicial Council Decision #534)
 - Full clergy on honorable location are no longer members of the annual conference (§ 359.2, p. 309, 310) and therefore **cannot** be elected.

2. **Who is eligible to vote in the election of clergy members of General and Jurisdictional Conferences?** (§ 35. Article IV – **as amended**; Judicial Council Decision 1181)
 - Full clergy members of annual conference who are eligible for election as delegates. (See Item #1.)
 - Associate members of the annual conference
 - Provisional members who have been judged by the annual conference to have completed the educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership.
 - Local pastors who have met two criteria: they have, by either of two options as determined by the annual conference, completed the constitutionally specified level of education; **and** they have been appointed by the bishop and served for two consecutive years, immediately preceding the election, during which time no withdrawal of the appointed status has occurred.

QUESTIONS REGARDING ELECTION OF LAY DELEGATES

1. Who is eligible to serve as a lay delegate?

A lay delegate, without regard to age, shall have been (1) a professing member of the UMC for at least the last two years and (2) an active participant in the UMC for at least the past four years, and shall be (3) a professing, active member of a church within the bounds of the AWF Conference. (§ 36. Article V, p. 37)

2. Who is eligible to vote in the election of lay delegates?

All lay members of annual conference may vote (§ 36. Article V, p. 37). This includes lay members elected by their charge (one per appointed clergy), the conference secretary, the conference lay leader, the director of conference lay speaking ministries, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference president of United Methodist Women, a member of the Conference United Methodist Youth, the conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the Conference Young Adult Organization, active deaconesses and home missionaries under Episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, district lay leaders, diaconal ministers, district youth members, district young adult members, district presidents of United Methodist Women, district presidents of United Methodist Men, full-time lay workers on the staff of the Conference Resource Center, lay members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, lay members of the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations, lay persons who are chairpersons of CORE Team boards, commissions, and councils; lay persons who are at-large members of the CORE Team, lay members of the Council on Finance and Administration, lay directors of Wesley Foundations, and district at-large lay members (Conference Standing Rule 14).

Persons with additional questions may contact Ashley Davis, Conference Secretary, at ashleyd@awfumc.org.