

SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

I. Rules of Order and Procedure

A. Applicability of these Conference Rules

1. These special standing rules for the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church shall apply to the 2020 annual conference events as scheduled by the bishop.
2. These special standing rules shall become effective immediately upon majority approval by the annual conference members by a manner determined by the conference secretary.
3. The Agenda of the Annual Conference shall be one that is published in the Conference Workbook, and which will be online at the annual conference website, and that may be changed from time to time, as needed by the presiding officer.
4. The bar of annual conference shall be those members of the annual conference (as defined by the *Book of Discipline*) who are present and voting by electronic means or submitting a ballot by mail.

B. Business and Reports

1. The business of the Annual Conference shall include what is expressly required by the *Book of Discipline* for the ongoing function of the Annual Conference and such business as may be deemed essential by the chair.
2. Required reports requested by the conference secretary coming from boards, agencies and committees shall be sent to the conference secretary, in a format acceptable to the conference secretary, on or before the deadline set by the secretary.

C. Voting

1. All votes shall be cast in a format approved by the conference secretary.
2. All votes in an electronic meeting of the entire annual conference will be up-or-down votes with no amendments or debate.
3. Electronic voting will be held over the Internet and shall begin by the order of the chair during the electronic meeting session and shall close within a timeline defined by the chair.
4. The conference secretary shall make available a conference workbook on the Internet.
5. The conference secretary shall make available by request a paper copy of the conference workbook for those who do not have Internet access. Requests for the paper workbook must be received no later than June 1, 2020.

6. The paper workbook shall have a return-by-mail ballot which must be returned by mail to the conference secretary postmarked no later than seven (7) business days after the conclusion of the annual conference session.
7. The results of all voting will be certified and announced by the chair after the votes by mail have been received and counted.

II. Districts

- A. Number of Districts—the number of districts shall be eight (8). A motion to change the number of districts must be presented in writing, and must be considered no sooner than the day following its introduction. Any change in the number of districts shall be approved at one annual conference, and will not take effect for at least one year.
- B. The Annual Conference shall elect the District Lay Leaders for a four-year term at the first annual conference after the General Conference of The United Methodist Church upon nomination by each District Superintendent and the Annual Conference Lay Leader. After election, if a District Lay Leader position becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the same procedure, with the nominee serving as District Lay Leader until a District Lay Leader is elected at the next annual conference to complete the four-year term.

III. Conference Structure

- A. The membership of the Annual Conference is to be as outlined in the complete Lay/Clergy Equalization Plan presented for adoption at the 2012 Annual Conference. A complete report is in the 2012 Journal.
- B. Tenure for membership for all persons on boards, agencies, commissions, committees, and ministry groups shall be four years with possibility of reelection for a second four-year term, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry on which (in accordance with the Book of Discipline) members can serve for three consecutive four-year terms.
- C. Committees and Boards
 1. The Annual Conference Board of Trustees shall meet at least twice a year at times and places designated by the board. The annual meeting shall be held either at the annual conference or within thirty (30) days prior thereto.
 2. There shall be a Program and Planning Committee for the annual conference consisting of the Bishop; Assistant to the Bishop; the Conference Secretary; Conference Treasurer; the host District Superintendent; the Annual Conference Lay Leader; the Annual Conference Presidents of The United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Youth Fellowship; the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries, and other persons selected by the Bishop. The committee shall determine the compensation and expense for invited speakers, who shall be paid from the

annual conference expense fund. The committee will receive invitations and may also make recommendations for the site of the annual conference.

3. On a rotating basis the Cabinet will designate a district each year as the host district for the annual conference. The host district will be responsible for ushers, flowers, and other similar items of hospitality related to the annual conference.
4. There shall be a Committee on Daily Minutes elected each year to examine and edit the daily minutes of the annual conference.
5. There shall be a Committee on Appeals appointed quadrennially by the Bishop, composed of five members, whose duties shall be to hear appeals from the decisions of the several District Boards of Church Location and Building, or any other questions that may properly come before it.
6. There shall be a Committee on Annual Conference Rules, which shall provide to the Annual Conference a document of standing rules and structure that the Annual Conference from time to time may adopt. This document shall be presented at the opening of the first session of each annual conference.
7. There shall be a Committee on Resolutions and Reference, which shall perform the duties assigned to it.
8. There shall be a North Carolina Annual Conference Board of Institutions, Inc. which shall have the responsibility, upon consultation with Methodist Home for Children, Inc.; United Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc., Cypress Glen Retirement Community, North Carolina United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.; Louisburg College, Inc.; Methodist University, Inc.; North Carolina Wesleyan College, Inc.; United Methodist Foundation, Inc., and any other related corporations which may be formed in the future, as appropriate, for nominating and electing forty (40) percent of all voting members of each of the boards of trustees of the affiliated institutions with the exception of the Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc. The North Carolina Annual Conference shall elect the trustees of the North Carolina Annual Conference Board of Institutions, Inc. in staggered four-year terms. (See 1992 Journal, page 320). No person may serve on more than one board of trustees of the institutions for which the Annual Conference elects trustees.
9. There shall be a Structure Review Team which will annually evaluate the conference structure for effectiveness and faithfulness to the vision and mission of the Annual Conference, working in concert with the Connectional Table to propose changes in structure as needed. Ten persons, one from each Team of Ministry plus the Bishop, Executive Director of Conference Connectional Ministries, the Conference Treasurer, and the Conference Lay Leader, plus two at-large members, will be elected by the conference.

10. North Carolina Annual Conference Connectional Table

a) Responsibilities of The Conference Connectional Table:

- (1) to provide a forum for the understanding, casting forth, and implementing of the vision of the conference;
- (2) to coordinate the mission, ministries, and resources of the Annual Conference;
- (3) to link the Teams of Ministry (Leadership Development, Racial Equity & Justice Ministries Team, Christian Formation Team, Outreach Ministry Team, and Operations & Administrative Resources Team) and the agency to which they report;
- (4) to provide for joint planning and the setting of priorities;
- (5) to report to, and be amenable to the Annual Conference;
- (6) to discern and articulate the vision of the conference;
- (7) to provide stewardship of the mission, ministry, and resources of the conference and provide fiscal responsibility and establish policies and procedures to carry out the mission;
- (8) to collaborate with the Council on Finance and Administration by:

- (a) communicating the vision and priorities of the conference in preparation of budgets for apportioned funds that come before the Annual Conference Session;
- (b) setting allocations of budget requests within totals as recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration to the Annual Conference Session;
- (c) working with the Council on Finance and Administration to achieve consensus concerning total funds allocated to program agencies;
- (d) enabling the flow of communication among the boards and agencies, districts and local churches through the Teams of Ministry. To help with the flow of communication one member of the Communications Committee will be assigned to each of the Teams of Ministry.

- ### b) Membership of the Conference Connectional Table shall consist of twelve (12) at-large voting members, in equal distribution of male and female, no fewer than twenty-five percent of whom (25%) shall be from racial/ethnic minorities, with at least one youth. Voting members are the twelve at-large members and Conference Lay Leader. Other members with voice but no vote are:

- (1) The Bishop;
 - (2) The following Extended Cabinet Members: Executive Director of Conference Connectional Ministries, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive Director of New Faith Communities, Conference Treasurer;
 - (3) Conference Team Directors,
 - (4) Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries.
- c) Four Teams of Ministry-The agencies, boards and commissions defined by the current edition of the Book of Discipline will organize themselves according to the requirements outlined therein and will connect through the Teams of Ministry. The Teams of Ministry, using task forces or standing groups to plan and implement ministry and mission, will organize any ministry areas not prescribed by the Book of Discipline. Teams of Ministry are accountable to the Connectional Table for holding up and living out the vision affirmed by the Annual Conference, and for faithfully presenting ministry needs to the Connectional Table. The four programming teams of Leadership Development, Racial Equity & Justice Ministries, Christian Formation, and Outreach Ministry are represented on the Connectional Table by three (3) at-large members with a chairperson and two rotating members. Rotating members are set in different classes and rotate on a two-year basis from Team to Team. At the end of each quadrennium, the chairpersons will rotate. The Operations and Administrative Resources Team, as a non-programmatic team, will be represented by the Conference Lay Leader and staff representation of the Conference Treasurer. The Teams are as follows:
- (1) Leadership Development Team: Serves to equip leaders who implement the vision.
 - (2) Racial Equity & Justice Ministries Team: Serves to direct and vision the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - (3) Christian Formation Team: Serves to form and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - (4) Outreach Ministry Team: Serves to carry forth the ministry that transforms the world.
 - (5) Operations and Administrative Team: Serves to empower, resource, and provide administrative oversight for ministry.
- d) Conference Connectional Table Meeting Schedule—The Conference Connectional Table shall meet at least quarterly.

11. There shall be other boards and committees as required by the Book of Discipline including, but not limited to, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Conference Board of Laity, the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, the Conference Board of Pension, the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, conference council on youth ministry, and others.

D. Annual Conference Officers

1. The Annual Conference Lay Leader shall be elected quadrennially. This nomination will be made in joint session of the Board of Laity and Cabinet. The nomination is to be made no later than October of the year prior to General Conference. Should a vacancy occur at any other time, it shall be filled by the same procedure, with the nominee serving as Lay Leader until a Conference Lay Leader is elected at the next annual conference. The Annual Conference Lay Leader shall serve as the chairperson of the Board of Laity.
2. There shall be a Director of Ministerial Relations/Assistant to the Bishop with such duties and responsibilities as determined by the Annual Conference or assigned by the presiding Bishop.
3. There shall be an Executive Director of Conference Connectional Ministries.
4. There shall be a Conference Treasurer/Business Manager.
5. There shall be an Annual Conference Secretary: The position of Annual Conference Secretary shall be continued on a part-time basis with those duties stipulated by the current edition of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church and the North Carolina Annual Conference, with adequate funding provided. The Conference Secretary shall be elected at the beginning of each quadrennium or at the last session preceding the General Conference. The responsibilities of the Conference Secretary shall be determined by the Book of Discipline, the annual conference, and the bishop.
6. The Annual Conference Statistician
 - a) The position of Annual Conference Statistician shall be continued on a part-time basis with those duties stipulated by the current edition of the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, with adequate funding provided.
 - b) The Conference Statistician shall be elected at the beginning of each quadrennium or at the last session preceding the General Conference.
7. Compensation- The Council on Finance and Administration shall determine, subject to the approval of the Annual Conference, the compensation given officers for their services, as well as the methods and amounts for meeting expenses of these officers. The Conference Treasurer shall pay these amounts.

IV. Financial Administration

- A. The Conference Treasurer and all others receiving and disbursing funds from the Annual Conference shall be required to make audited statements annually, which the Conference Secretary will make available.
- B. The Council on Finance and Administration shall present the budget for adoption at the annual conference.
- C. Tables I, II, and III shall be available in the Annual Conference Journal with individual church reports and charge totals as compiled by the Conference Statistician from each pastor's reports.

V. Annual Conference Journal

- A. The Annual Conference shall publish a Journal of The North Carolina Annual Conference each year.
- B. The Conference Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of editing and making contracts for the publication of the Annual Conference Journal, in keeping with regulations of the General Conference and of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The editor shall have full authority to condense reports, memoirs, and other papers when necessary.
- C. The Annual Conference Journal will be posted online, at The North Carolina Annual Conference website, making it accessible to everyone. Copies of the Journal will be provided to those who pre-order it, either in printed format, or computer compatible format, at a cost developed by the Conference Secretary. Order Forms will be available at the Annual Conference. The Conference Secretary shall have the discretionary authority to provide copies to other agencies of the General Church. Monies accruing from the pre-sale of copies will be credited to the Journal Account.