

NC Conference Lay Equalization Plan

For implementation before annual conference 2023

The annual conference is “the basic body in the Church” (*The Book of Discipline* paragraph 33). It is composed of an equal number of clergy (active & retired) and lay members, who cast vision, prioritize ministry, and resource mission. In order to have balanced representation, each annual conference designs and implements an equalization plan. Below is the process for the nomination and election of At-Large Lay Members for the NC Annual Conference. This plan is intended to bring a diversity of laity to the decision making process. We acknowledge that lay members of the annual conference elected by their local church tend to be older and reflective of the dominant culture. Therefore the election of At-Large Members aims to include youth, young adults, people of color, and the marginalized.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

for determining any additional lay members to Annual Conference:

STEP 1: Determine clergy membership as required by *Book of Discipline*, 2016

- A. Deacons in full connection (para. 32, 329.2, 369, 602.1)
- B. Elders in full connection (para. 32, 333, 369, 602.1)
- C. Provisional members (para. 32, 327, 369, 602.1)
- D. Associate members (para. 32, 369, 602.1)
- E. Affiliate members, if received by $\frac{2}{3}$ of clergy session, voice but no vote (para. 344.4, 601.1)
- F. Local pastors under appointment (para. 32, 316.6, 369, 601.1)

Total required clergy membership (TRCM): _____

STEP 2: Determine lay membership as required by *Book of Discipline*, 2016

- A. Diaconal ministers (para. 32, 602.4)
- B. Active deaconesses (para. 32, 602.4)
- C. Home missionaries under episcopal appt (para. 32, 602.4)
- D. Conference president of UMW (para. 32, 602.4)
- E. Conference president of UMM (para. 32, 602.4)
- F. Conference lay leader (para. 32, 602.4)
- G. District lay leaders (para. 32, 602.4)
- H. Conference director of Lay Servant Ministries (para. 32)
- I. Conference secretary of Global Ministries (if any) (para. 32)
- J. President of conference young adult org (para. 32, 602.4)
- K. President of conference youth org (para. 32, 602.4)
- L. Chair of conference college student org (para. 32, 602.4)

- M. Youth age 12-17, one per district (para. 32, 602.4)
- N. Young person age 18-30, one per district (para. 32, 602.4)
- O. One professing lay member, elected by each charge. Charges with more than one appointed clergy receive one additional professing lay member for each additional appointed clergy (para. 32, 602.4).

Total required lay membership (TRLM): _____

STEP 3: Subtract TRLM from TRCM for number of Total additional lay members (TALM):

STEP 4: To approach the TALM, admit the following as lay members in this order:

- A. Lay chairpersons of conference boards and divisions (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- B. Conference treasurer (inserted per 1987 Journal, p. 147)
- C. Lay members of general boards (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- D. Lay members of the latest session of General Conference (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- E. Reserve lay members of the latest session of General Conference (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- F. Lay members of the latest session of Jurisdictional Conference (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- G. Reserve lay members of the latest session of Jurisdictional Conference (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- H. District presidents of UMW (1974 Journal, p. 261)
- I. Lay persons on program staff (est. 1987 Journal, p. 147)
- J. One college or university student from each UM-related campus ministry within bounds of conference (1988 Journal, p. 173)
- K. District presidents of UMM (established 1983, codified 1989 Journal, p. 329)
- L. Presidents of the UM-affiliated colleges within bounds of conference (if lay) (established 1976, codified 1989 Journal, p. 329)
- M. Administrative Assistants to the District Superintendents (2013 Journal, p. 79) and the Director of the District Office
- N. Conference youth vice president (2013 Journal, p. 79)
- O. Conference youth secretary (2013 Journal, p. 79)
- P. Conference youth treasurer (2013 Journal, p. 79)
- Q. Conference Youth Committee
- R. Lay members of the Committee on Finance and Administration
- S. Lay members of the Board of Pension
- T. Lay members of the Board of Trustees
- U. Conference Chancellor
- V. Any co- District Lay Leader
- W. District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries

STEP 5: The number of remaining TALM needed will be distributed to each district in proportion to the membership of the district. The Conference Secretary will notify each District Superintendent & District Lay Leader of the number of additional lay members needed from their district.

- A. The District Superintendent in partnership with the District Lay Leader will nominate professing members from congregations within the bounds of their District who meet the disciplinary requirements of being active in the United Methodist Church at least 4 years prior and a professing member in the United Methodist Church at least 2 years prior. Attention will be given to a diversity of ethnicity, age, and gender. The four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements for young persons under thirty years of age may be waived per Paragraph 602.4.a of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*.
- B. The nominations will be presented to the Conference Board of Laity for consideration and election.