



United Methodist Churches  
of Indiana

**2020 Willingness to Serve**  
*General and Jurisdictional Conference*

## COMMITMENT OF A DELEGATE

Election as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference is both an honor and a responsibility that conveys the trust and respect of peers within the Annual Conference. You are answering a call to serve God, to serve The United Methodist Church, and to help the Church “make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” It is required and expected of those offering themselves for election to make the following commitments for their service:

- Be in prayer for guidance by the Holy Spirit; for the world, for the Church, for all the delegates at General and Jurisdictional conferences,
- Attend their respective conferences on a full-time basis (10 to 12 days for General and 3 days for Jurisdictional),
- Participate in all scheduled meetings of the delegation - prior to, during, and after the conferences,
- Demonstrate familiarity with parliamentary procedure to ensure full participation in the conferences’ legislative processes of General and Jurisdictional Conferences function,
- Be familiar with the polity of The United Methodist Church and with the challenges, opportunities, and matters ahead of our denomination,
- Read all the materials for the conferences thoroughly and study all proposed legislation,
- Accept responsibility for expenses beyond the per diem,
- Exemplify a visionary outlook, a team spirit, and a disposition to conferencing, and
- Adhere to the qualities set forth in the "Guidelines for Christian Conferencing " (adopted by the Annual Conference) throughout the entire time they are delegates. Refer to page 3.

*For those who are called to serve as a delegate it would be helpful for you to:*

- Be in a committed, vital and growing relationship with Jesus Christ,
- Be committed to be a prayerful and reflective participant in the delegation and the conference/s to which you have been elected,
- Demonstrate an ability to consider and seek discernment on a wide variety of issues and concerns,
- Show a willingness to understand and respect a variety of perspectives regarding issues and concerns, including those that differ from your own,
- Develop an understanding of the mission, polity, and Areas of Focus of The UMC,
- Be an active participant in local church, district, and have an awareness of Conference activities, as well mission, vision, goals, and core values; and
- Be committed to the connectional nature of The UMC,

## Resources

Please know there are resources available if you would like to learn more about the history of The United Methodist Church, General Conference, Parliamentary Procedure, Roberts Rules of Order, more. Information can be found at the following websites listed below.

1. The United Methodist Church website – [umc.org](http://umc.org)
2. United Methodist Church History - <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/history>
3. Parliamentary Procedure – [parlipro.org](http://parlipro.org)
4. Roberts Rules of Order – [robertsrules.com](http://robertsrules.com)

## CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING GUIDELINES

1. **RESPECT** others as Jesus would have done when he was here on earth.
2. **PRAY** for others as well as yourself especially those with whom you disagree.
3. **LISTEN** to others before thinking about what you want to say in response.
4. **UNDERSTAND** what others are saying so clearly that you could accurately state their view.
5. **SHARE** your own point of view with grace and humility as well as honesty and candor.
6. **FOCUS** your commitments on issues being discussed not on persons expressing them.
7. **COMMIT** yourself to the unity of the Spirit seeking consensus whenever possible.
8. **GIVE** the time needed to work through the process in which you are engaged.
9. **ACKNOWLEDGE** that you may be wrong even when you think you are right.
10. Allow the **Fruit of the Spirit** to permeate your way of interacting with others; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control

View an online version of the Christian Conferencing Guidelines at [inumc.org/ccg](http://inumc.org/ccg).

## ENDORSEMENT & ELECTION PROCESSES FOR 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

*(We shall elect 8 lay and 8 clergy for General Conference and 8 lay and 8 clergy for Jurisdictional Conference)*

INDIANA CONFERENCE 2018 RULES & STRUCTURE DOCUMENT  
Page 17 Line 6 thru page 18 Line 30

### GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES Eligibility for Election

**Lay delegates** to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the Annual Conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election, and are members thereof within the Annual Conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional Conference (§136). Lay delegates need not be voting members of the Annual Conference to be elected.

**Ordained delegates** to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected from the ordained ministerial members in full connection with the Annual Conference (§135). They shall be elected by ordained ministerial members in full connection, associate members, provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements, and local pastors who have completed the course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

#### Managing the Election

The Annual Conference Sessions Committee shall provide general oversight of the election process. In addition, the committee shall provide a *Willingness to Serve* form that shall include pertinent biographical information, recent photo, reasons for wanting to be a delegate, and a statement of three areas crucial to the United Methodist Church's mission, and three issues emerging from those areas.

**Commitment of a Delegate** – Election to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference conveys the trust and respect of peers within the Annual Conference. Those offering themselves for election need to make the following commitments: 1) attend their respective conferences on a full-time basis (10 to 12 days for General and 3 days for Jurisdictional); 2) participate in all scheduled meetings of the delegation – prior to, during, and after the conferences; 3) demonstrate familiarity with the ways in which the General and Jurisdictional Conferences function; 4) study proposed legislation; 5) accept responsibility for expenses beyond the per diem; 6) exemplify a visionary outlook, a team spirit, and a disposition to conferencing; and 7) adhere to the qualities set forth in the “Guidelines for Christian Conferencing” (adopted by the Annual Conference) throughout the entire time they are delegates.

**Procedure for Endorsement of Delegates** – In order to involve leadership from many parts of the conference, the election of delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall begin in local congregations, continue in districts, and conclude at Annual Conference.

### ***Procedure for Lay Delegates***

Each local congregation may submit the name of a potential lay delegate to their district lay leader by a specified date, together with a *Willingness to Serve* form. The district lay leader shall bring all such names to the Fall District Conference meeting preceding the Annual Conference in which delegates shall be elected. At that meeting, three laypersons from the district may be endorsed (by a ballot overseen by the district superintendent). The district superintendent shall forward the names of these individuals (and their *Willingness to Serve* forms) to the chair of the Election Committee.

### ***Procedure for Clergy Delegates***

Potential clergy delegates may submit their names to their district superintendent by a specified date, together with a *Willingness to Serve* form. At the same meeting of the Fall District Conference, three clergy from the district may be endorsed (by a ballot overseen by the district lay leader). The district lay leader shall forward the names of these individuals (and their *Willingness to Serve* forms) to the chair of the Election Committee.

### ***Next Steps for Lay and Clergy***

The chair of the Election Committee shall forward the results of the district endorsements to the convener of the Conference Coordinating Council by January 15 of the year when elections shall be held. In order to monitor diversity, the Conference Coordinating Council shall review the results and shall have the opportunity to add up to ten additional individuals (five lay and five clergy) by February 15 to the list of endorsed nominees. The list of these additional nominees shall then be submitted to the Election Committee.

The finalized list of endorsed nominees – those coming from the districts and those added by the Conference Coordinating Council – shall be communicated as clergy in alphabetical order and as laity in alphabetical order. In a list to all members of the Annual Conference by April 1, with a notation that any additional individuals who are qualified and who have completed the *Willingness to Serve* form may add their names to the list of those who have been endorsed. Included with that announcement shall be copies of **all completed *Willingness to Serve* forms that have been received by the Sessions Committee by March 15 at 5 p.m. Eastern.**

### **Procedure for Election**

Lay and clergy delegates shall be elected at the Annual Conference in the calendar year preceding the General and Jurisdictional Conferences and shall serve for the quadrennium. The General Conference secretary shall provide the number of those to be elected (lay and clergy) to the Bishop and Annual Conference Secretary no later than December 2 prior to election. Persons elected to Jurisdictional Conference shall, in the order of election, be reserve delegates to General Conference.

The Sessions Committee shall provide opportunity, prior to the first ballot, for members of the Annual Conference to meet and talk with persons seeking election.

The Annual Conference Secretary shall call attention to the “Guidelines for Christian Conferencing” at the beginning of the election process, and shall arrange for a head teller and a sufficient number of tellers in each order to support the election process. Ballots counted at the close of any session shall be sealed and the results not known until reported at the next session. Voting shall be on official ballots, with the number of names voted for each ballot being exactly the number announced by the Bishop. If write-in ballots are permitted, only the names of those spelled correctly will be counted, and only those who receive 12 or more votes will be announced. A majority of valid ballots cast shall constitute an election. Balloting shall continue until the allotted number of delegates for General Conference is elected. Following their completion, balloting shall begin for Jurisdictional Conference delegates and shall continue until those

delegates have been elected. Reserve delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. There shall be 3 reserve delegates for clergy and 3 reserve delegates for laity. These reserve delegates may act as reserve delegates to General Conference when it is evident that not enough of the previously elected reserve delegates are in attendance at General Conference. (¶34)

## **SUBMISSION**

All 2020 Willingness to Serve Forms must be submitted online at [inumc.org/iamwilling](http://inumc.org/iamwilling) or may be emailed to [iamwilling2020@inumc.org](mailto:iamwilling2020@inumc.org) to the Office of Connectional Ministries no later than Friday, March 15, 2019 by 5:00 p.m. EDT. Please note that the Endorsement Process for Laity and Clergy has additional steps which are listed in this document for your review.

## TIMELINE

**August 20, 2018** – Information available and posted on conference Web page concerning process procedures and requirements.

**September – November 2018** – Local churches endorse candidates with Willingness to Serve Forms

**November 2018 – January 19, 2019** – District Conferences hold meet and greet opportunities and vote to identify and endorse up to 3 lay and 3 clergy

**January 25, 2019** – Names of persons endorsed by the district conference (lay and clergy) must be submitted to the Election Committee Chairperson

**January 31, 2019** – Coordinating Council must receive the list of district endorsed persons and their “Willingness to Serve” forms from Election Committee chair.

**February 8, 2019** – Coordinating Council meets to review list and may add up to 5 lay and 5 clergy

**March 15, 2019** – All “Willingness to Serve” forms must be submitted

**April 1, 2019** – Final list of endorsed and those “Willing to Serve” (lay and clergy) will be available online to conference members.

**June 13-15, 2019** – Annual Conference

## QUESTIONS

All general questions, may be sent to [iamwillingGC2020@inumc.org](mailto:iamwillingGC2020@inumc.org) or to the Rev. Mary Ann Moman, 2020 Elections Chairperson, at [momanmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:momanmaryann@gmail.com), at the Rev. Dr. Cindy Reynolds, Executive Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries at [cindy.reynolds@inumc.org](mailto:cindy.reynolds@inumc.org).

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