

D.2.d. Equalizing Lay and Clergy Membership

1. The process by which the Indiana Conference will equalize lay and clergy membership of the Annual Conference follows:

a. Following ¶132 Article 1 (and ¶1602.4) of The Book of Discipline The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members:

The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. [As well as affiliate members ¶1602.1].

The lay membership shall consist of . . .

- + professing lay members elected by each charge,
 - + diaconal ministers,
 - + active deaconesses,
 - + home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference,
 - + the conference president of United Methodist Women,
 - + the conference president of United Methodist Men,
 - + the conference lay leader,
 - + district lay leaders,
 - + the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries,
 - + the conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay),
 - + the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization,
 - + the chair of the annual conference college student organization,
 - + one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) from each district
 - + one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district . . .
- all of whom are to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

b. Given previous judicial rulings in other conferences no other persons, than those listed in ¶132 Article 1, are to be guaranteed automatic positions as equalizing lay members. Everyone else must be elected by the districts.

2. The Director of Connectional Ministries adds these names prescribed by the Book of Discipline in ¶132 Article 1. If the number of laity does not equal the number of clergy the Director of Connectional Ministries notifies the Conference Superintendent of each district of the number of additional persons needed from each district to equalize lay and clergy membership.

The number of additional persons needed from each district shall be proportional to the percentage of retired clergy members and clergy members appointed to extension ministries whose charge conference relationship lies within that district. Since all retired clergy are expected to declare a charge conference relationship, this same proportional distribution will apply to equalize any retired clergy who have not yet declared their charge conference relationship but who still have annual conference voting privileges (i.e. the distribution for all will be based on the distribution of declared charge conference relationships).