

Indiana Annual Conference Equalization Member FAQ

INFORMATION

The Indiana Annual Conference has implemented the Equalization Members Willingness to Serve process, which aligns with our other practices within the Indiana Conference to gather names of those who are willing to serve the Annual Conference (please reference General and Jurisdictional Willingness to Serve, and Conference Nominations' Volunteer Form).

The Equalization Members Willingness to Serve process provides for an equitable means of communicating this opportunity broadly throughout the Indiana Annual Conference to provide a catalogue of names for the District Operational Teams to provide a slate of persons who will be available for election to represent the districts as delegates to the Annual Conference Session.

The Equalization Members Willingness to Serve process does not guarantee anyone the opportunity to serve (even if you have served in this capacity in prior years). The process provides an opportunity for the District Operational Teams to make a well-informed decision regarding those who will serve to represent the diversity of the districts.

THE PROCESS

The election process, followed in each district, for providing Equalizing Members to Annual Conference, will be the following (according to the 2021 Indiana Conference Rules and Structure):

1. Each District's Operational Team will vet the names of those from the district who have submitted a Willingness to Serve form.
2. The District Operational Team will then create a slate to be elected, composed of the requested number of names. The slate of names for election is to be compiled giving great care for diversity, i.e., diversity in age, gender, urban/rural, race, education, income, church, and church size, etc.
3. A District Conference is to be called in each district, sometime between March 1 and March 15.
4. At the District Conference, there will be a vote taken to affirm or reject the slate of Equalizing Members established by the District Operational Team.
5. The resulting elected slate of Equalizing Members will be submitted to the Indiana Conference by mid-March each year. If the slate is rejected, the Conference Superintendent will preside over a vote to elect the number of members needed to fill the district's equalizing total.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE DATES

Central District – March 12, 10am ET
East District – March 13, 2pm ET
North District – March 8, 7pm ET
North Central District – March 6, 3pm ET
Northeast District – March 13, 7pm ET
Northwest District – March 6, 4pm ET
South District – March 6, 3pm ET
Southeast District – March 6, 6pm ET
Southwest District – March 13, 3pm ET
West District – March 6, 3pm ET

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Q: During the District Conference who is eligible to vote for the Equalization Members' slate?

A: The District Lay Leader and any Associate District Lay Leaders; All clergy appointed in the district; all retired clergy in the district where their charge conference relationship resides; One person elected by the district as a Secretary; All local church Lay Leaders duly elected at their church charge conference;

All local church Annual Conference representatives duly elected at their church charge conference; Persons chairing or leading ministry and missional work as organized by the district (§661); Any lay members who meet the conference/denominational membership requirements who are currently assigned by a Conference Superintendent or Resident Bishop are eligible to vote at the District Conference where they are assigned to serve; Laypersons serving as General or Jurisdictional Conference delegates (including alternates) during the current quadrennium who are professing members of a congregation in the district; Additionally, the Conference Superintendent is permitted to invite as voting at-large members of the District Conference up to six (6) other persons who will assure the inclusion of diversity; such as, but not limited to: youth, young adults, older adults, people with disabilities; and persons of racial, ethnic or gender groupings.

Q: If I do not complete a Willingness to Serve form, can I be considered as an Equalization Member during the District Conference?

A: No. Only those persons who have completed a Willingness to Serve Form by February 2, 2022, will be considered for vote at the District Conference.

Q: What if I served as a lay delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference?

A: Due to changes in our Conference Rules, approved at the 2021 Annual Conference Session, neither past or current General or Jurisdictional Conference delegates are automatically considered an Equalization member. If they are interested in serving as such, they must submit a Willingness to Serve form and be elected at their district conference.

Q: What if I serve as a lay delegate to Annual Conference from my local congregation?

A: If you have already been elected by your Charge Conference as a lay delegate to Annual Conference, you do not need to complete a Willingness to Serve Form