

ORIENTING NEW LAY MEMBERS TO WISCONSIN'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLEASE KNOW THAT:

1. Your commitment on behalf of your local church is appreciated.
2. Your presence and voice are valued on the floor of the Annual Conference.
3. Your reporting back to your church following Annual Conference is a key part of our connection.
4. **You are not a 'delegate'**, elected to represent your congregation and its opinions. **You are a 'member'** of the Annual Conference, representing laity in general. As such, you vote your own conscience. You should, of course, be aware of your congregation's concerns, joys, etc.; and be prepared to share them at appropriate times.

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Local Church Pastor
Circuit Clergy and Lay delegates to Annual Conference
District Lay Leader
District Superintendent
Conference Office mailings
Conference Lay Leader: Dorthy Radley
Wisconsin Conference web site: www.wisconsinumc.org
Conference registrar: Ellen Thomford, 1.888.240.7328

PREPARING FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Secure the time frame for Annual Conference
Register for Annual Conference and make hotel/transportation arrangements
Read packet materials when they arrive
Reference the "What to Bring, What to Wear?" on the reverse side of this page
Talk to others who have attended Annual Conference
Pray for our Annual Conference

BEING AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Check into hotel
Check in at the Annual Conference Registration area
Use packet materials, schedule, room assignments etc. to get oriented
Attend Laity Session

CONFERENCE FLOOR PARTICULARS

Elected lay members, only, may sit at tables "within the bar" once it is set at the opening session.
Spouses, children and other guests may sit in the designated area for guests and observers.
Everyone may participate in worship and Bible study and guests may listen (not vote) during the business related items of the Annual Conference.
Business is conducted using Robert's Rules of Order: a guide is provided inside the front cover of your workbook
Acronyms glossary can be found inside the back cover of your workbook.
Please complete the Annual Conference evaluation and turn it in.
Consider preregistering for housing for next Annual Conference with the Marriott before you leave for home.

BACK AT HOME

Reflect on the experience of Annual Conference
Prepare a short written report for the church newsletter: things to include:
your impressions of the experience, a word of thanks for the opportunity, actions taken, special Sunday dates
(you will receive a final summary of the Annual Conference within three weeks of its' ending)
Ask the pastor to make time for you to speak about attending Annual Conference in worship the Sunday immediately following Annual Conference.
Rejoice in the link in our connectional system that you have faithfully represented.