



Annual Conference 101

(Almost) Everything You Need to Know
About The 2010 Annual Conference
Session!

“Conference” – A Good United Methodist Word!

- Local Church/Charge Conference (360)
- District Conference (8)
- Annual Conference
 - (63 in U.S., 59 outside U.S.)
- Jurisdictional Conference in U.S. (5)
 - Central Conference outside the U.S. (7)
- General Conference (1)
 - UM 101 – found at www.umc.org

Purpose of The Annual Conference

“The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

What is “The Annual Conference”?

- **Conference** = a meeting of people that "confer" about a topic.
- **Annual** – once a year
- **“Annual Conference”** – a yearly gathering of United Methodists in a particular area to talk and make decisions about things that are important to the work of The UMC in that area and the world

What is “The Annual Conference”?

- **Conference** (sports) = a grouping of geographically-related teams
- **“Annual Conference”** – an organization (grouping) of geographically related United Methodist “ministry teams” who work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...

“Who” is the Annual Conference?

- Clergy Members
 - Elders, Deacons, Provisional (Probationary) Members, Associate Members, Local Pastors (§602.1)
- Lay Members (not Lay Delegates)
 - Some Elected by Pastoral Charges, others by virtue of holding a particular office/position (§602.4)
 - Elected for the “Quadrennium”(4 Year Term)

“Who” is the Annual Conference?

- Equal Numbers of Lay and Clergy
 - (§602.4, Conf. Rule 2.1.0)
- Wisconsin:
 - @ 1350 members; @ 1100 actually attend

“Who” is the Annual Conference?

- Lay and Clergy Volunteers
- The Bishop
- District Superintendents
- Lay and Clergy Staff Members
- Boards and Committees
- Agencies and Ministries

What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- We Worship
- We Ordain, Commission, & License Clergypersons, who are Appointed to churches/ministries by the Bishop
- We Elect People to Fulfill Various Responsibilities

What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- We “Conference”
 - Receiving reports about the work of Boards, Agencies & Ministries
 - Discussing Issues important to the UMC in Wisconsin and the World
- We Celebrate Ministries

What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- We Make Decisions about UM Ministries
- We Care for Administrative Details to Enable Ministries to Happen
- We “re-connect” with friends and colleagues

What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- This year (2010)
 - In-depth discussion about the issue of homosexuality in relationship to the church

What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- 2011
 - Election of Delegates to the 2012
General & Jurisdictional Conferences
 - Vote on Petitions to General
Conference

How does Annual Conference Work?

- Sunday
 - Laity Session
 - Details in your Registration Packet
 - Clergy Session:
 - Matters of ordination, character & conference relations of clergy
 - Ordination Service

How does Annual Conference Work?

- Monday Morning
 - Organization of the Annual Conference
 - Setting the Bar of the Conference
 - Granting Permissions
 - Electing Tellers/Assistant Secretaries
 - Other Facilitating Items

How does Annual Conference Work?

- Times of Informal Discussion
- Times of Formal Discussion, Debate & Voting
 - “Plenary Sessions”
 - Roberts Rules of Order
 - Parliamentary Procedure Guide

What do we consider at the Annual Conference Session?

- “Action Items” – proposals/motions that require action/voting by the Annual Conference Session
 - May be discussed AND changed
- These are included in the Pre-Conference Workbook, mailed out to AC Members Week of May 10.

Special Circumstances

- Implications Committee
 - Any proposal that would change the budget by more than \$10,000 must be referred to this committee before Annual Conference may act (Rule 3.3.3)
- Rules Changes
 - Proposed Changes made from the Floor must be presented at least 24 hours before a vote can be taken (Rule 1.1.3)

How To Speak To Issues during Formal Debate

1. Raise Your Orange Card to request permission to speak
2. Wait until Bishop Lee recognizes you
3. Go to Nearest Microphone

How To Speak To Issues during Formal Debate

4. State Your Name, Lay or Clergy, Church or Appointment
5. Make your speech
 - All speeches limited to 3 minutes
 - Alternate speakers for/against issue

How To Make A Motion

- Two Kinds of Motions:
 - Substantive
 - Procedural
- Parliamentary Procedure Guide
 - Back Cover of the Pre-Conference Workbook

How To Make A Motion

1. Write out your motion on a Motion Form
2. Follow the instructions previously given for recognition by Bishop Lee
3. Submit Written Motion to Conference Secretary

How To Make A Motion

4. After giving your name, lay/clergy, and church or appointment, say: “I move that
5. Make your motion **BEFORE** speaking to the motion – **Don’t make your speech first** – because your motion would then be “out of order”

How To Propose Changes to A Motion or Action Item (Amendments)

1. Write out your amendment/change on a Motion Form
2. Follow the instructions for being recognized to speak by Bishop Lee
3. Submit Written Motion to Conference Secretary

How To Propose Changes to A Motion or Action Item (Amendments)

4. Start by saying “I move to amend by (adding/deleting)
5. Make your motion **BEFORE** speaking to the motion – **Don’t make your speech first** – because your motion would then be “out of order”
6. If possible, refer to Action Item Number, Workbook Page, and Line Number
7. Limit your speech to 3 minutes

How We Vote

5 Types of Voting on Conference Business

- Voice Vote – Say “Yes” or “No”
- Show of Hands (only one hand per person, please!)
- Standing
- Standing Count Vote
- Written Ballot

Standing Count Votes/Written Ballots
counted by “Tellers”

How We Vote

- Most votes require simple majority
- Some votes require two-thirds majority
- See Parliamentary Procedure Guide

Alphabet Soup

- United Methodists speak their own unique language!
- We make up words that aren't used anywhere else in the English Language – like “Quadrennium”
- We use lots of “acronyms” – abbreviations for Distinctly United Methodist Terms, Names of Boards and Committees and Organizations
- A Guide to “Methodist Speak” is included in the Pre-Conference Workbook”

What to Do Before You Come

- REGISTER ON-LINE FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE!
 - Registration Link at www.wisconsinumc.org
- Read the Action Items in the Pre-Conference Workbook

What to Do Before You Come

- Explore the “Pre-Conference Resource CD”
What’s included:
 - PDF Versions of
 - Pre-Conference Workbook – Action Items
 - Reports of Boards and Agencies
 - 2002 – 2009 Conference Journals
 - Resources from Many Conference Boards
 - Camp Promotional Materials
 - Information on Entering UM Ministry
 - Clergy Information Form
 - 2010 Journal CD Order Form

2010 Conference Journal & Directory

- Beginning in 2010 – only available in electronic Format
- Downloadable at no charge from www.wisconsinumc.org
- Available on CD-ROM for a \$10 fee
- Journal CD Order Form on Pre-Conference Resource Disk
- Can order CD at time of Registration

What to Bring to Conference

ESSENTIAL:

- Printed Pre-Conference Workbook: “Items Requiring Action or Consideration by the 2010 Annual Conference Session”
- “The Community in Conversation: Homosexuality” booklet

What to Bring to Conference

HELPFUL:

- 2008 Book of Discipline
- 2009 Wisconsin Conference Journal & Directory
- 3-Ring Binder
- Ingathering Offerings
- Cash/Checks for Offerings Taken During Worship

Things to Know about LaCrosse Center

- LaCrosse Center is handicap-accessible, but meals and meetings will be at various places throughout the conference center and the Radisson Hotel, and at restaurants in downtown La Crosse
- quite a bit of walking is required.

Things to Know about La Crosse Center

- Electrical Outlets for Laptop Computers & Other Electrical Devices are NOT available in the Plenary Area
- Wireless Internet Access is NOT available in the Plenary Area
- Wireless Internet Access may be available in the hotel – but may not be free!

We Are Looking Forward to Seeing You in La Crosse

For more information about The La Crosse Center visit:
<http://www.lacrossecenter.com/>



AC 101

(Almost) Everything You Need to Know About The
2010 Annual Conference Session!

This presentation and the
accompanying script have been
posted on the Annual Conference
Website at

www.wisconsinumc.org/secretary/

A version of this presentation is also
included on the Pre-Conference
Resource CD



wisconsin conference
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

