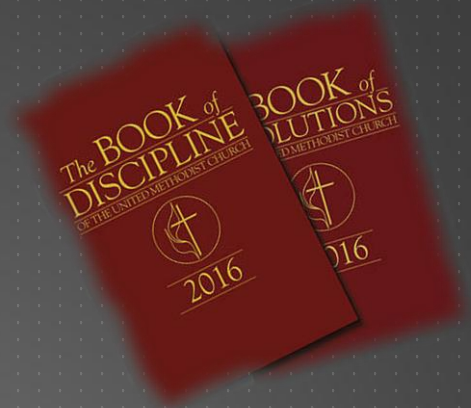


WI Annual Conference
Petitions Committee Process
for
General Conference 2020 Petitions



What Are Petitions?

- ▶ The United Methodist Church is a representative system
- ▶ UM members may petition General Conference to revise general church polity or policy, or positions on social issues, to better reflect the mission of The UMC
- ▶ ¶507 in the *Book of Discipline* governs the process for petition submission



WIAC Petitions Committee Process

- ▶ Gather petitions for review by committee
- ▶ Petitions submitted via e-mail or in hard copy
- ▶ Due date: March 29, 2019
- ▶ Receipt acknowledged within 48 hours



Review and Revise

- ▶ Prepare petitions for inclusion in pre-conference packets
- ▶ Committee members, acting as petitions process advocates, work with petitioner to review and revise petitions for alignment with submission guidelines



Format and Submit

- ▶ Format final versions of petitions and submit to Conference Secretary, Susan Haller, for inclusion in pre-conference materials
- ▶ Due date: April 10, 2019



Pre-Conference Briefing

- ▶ Share process with participants in preparation for Annual Conference
- ▶ Focus on process, not on petition content



Annual Conference Process

- ▶ Approved petitions presented at Annual Conference
- ▶ Invite two 90-second speeches in favor of concurrence and two 90-second speeches opposed to concurrence.
- ▶ Language of petitions is not open to debate or change



Annual Conference Process

- ▶ Delegates vote on concurrence or non-concurrence for each petition.
- ▶ Concurrence means sending the petition “as is,” with the Wisconsin Annual Conference name.
- ▶ If you do not think a petition is helpful in its current state, vote for non-concurrence.



Next Steps

- ▶ Petitions with which AC concurs are submitted to General Conference from the Wisconsin Annual Conference (by September 18, 2019).
- ▶ Petitions with which AC does not concur may be submitted to General Conference, but will not carry the Wisconsin Annual Conference name.



Next Steps

- ▶ UM individuals or organizations may submit petitions to General Conference up to September 18, 2019.
- ▶ Find instructions in PDF format at <http://www.umc.org>.



Thank You

- ▶ Please offer your thanks to the members of the Petitions Committee.

Barbara Dick, chair

Kory Douglass

Cherie Forret

Ethan Larson

Jodi Parins

Laura Pfeffer

Steve Scott

Susan Haller and Kevin Rice Myers, ex-officio

- ▶ Some committee members are available to coach petitioners on formatting and editing (contact Barbara Dick; barbara.a.dick@gmail.com).

