



LIVE THE FRUIT  
OF THE SPIRIT

# SOWING THE SEED



wisconsin conference  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Annual Conference 101

Almost everything you need  
to know about “Navigating  
Annual Conference”



# “Conference”

## A Good United Methodist Word!

- Local Church/Charge Conference (360)
- District Conference (8)
- Annual Conference (63 in U.S., 66 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](http://www.umc.org)





General Conference

Jurisdiction / Central Conference

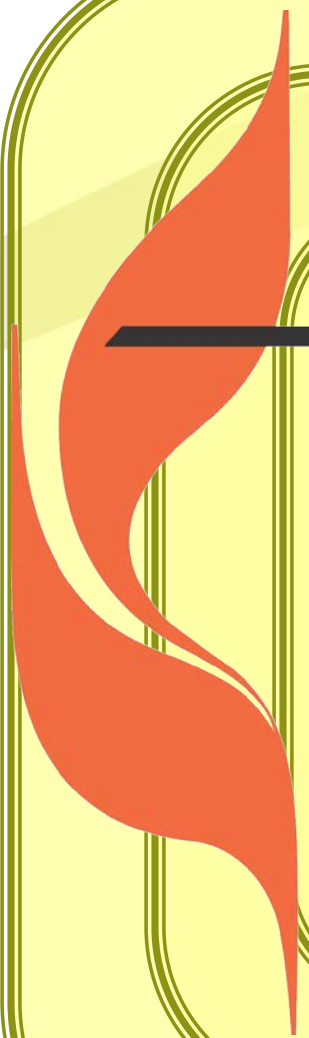
Annual Conference/Episcopal Area

District

Circuit

Congregation  
/Charge

General Boards, Agencies, Commissions; Seminaries



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# 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.”

*¶601, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2008*



# “What” Is the Annual Conference?

- **Annual** = Once a year
- **Conference** = A meeting of people who "confer" about a topic
- **Annual Conference** = *A yearly gathering of United Methodists from a geographic region to discuss and make decisions about things that are important to the work of The UMC in that area and in the world*



# “What” Is the Annual Conference?

- Conference
  - A group 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 . . .*



# The 2013-2016 Quadrennium

## Theme: Live the Fruit of the Spirit

2013 – *Preparing the Soil*

**2014 – *Sowing the Seed***

2015 – *Nurture & Cultivation*

2016 - *Harvest Sharing*





# “Who” Is the Annual Conference?

- **Clergy Members**
  - Elders, Deacons, Provisional Members, Licensed 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, Conference Rule 2.1.0)
- Wisconsin
  - 1344 members; about 1000 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



# Responsibilities of a Member of Annual Conference

## While at Conference....

- **Attend** laity or clergy session
- **Participate** in all sessions: business, legislation, reports, and budget
- **Listen** during proceedings
- **Attend** worship experiences
- **Attend** plenary and Bible study sessions
- **Explore** resource displays
- **Engage** with other attendees



# Responsibilities of a Member of Annual Conference

## After Conference....

- **Share** information with your congregation and circuit
- **Celebrate** opportunities and accomplishments



# What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- **We worship**
- **We ordain, commission, and 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”**
  - Receive reports about the work of boards, agencies and ministries
  - Discuss Issues important to the UMC in Wisconsin and in the world
  - Celebrate ministries



# What Happens at the Annual Conference Session?

- Times of Informal Discussion
- Times of Formal Discussion, Debate, and Voting
  - Plenary Sessions
  - Robert's Rules of Order
  - Parliamentary Procedure Guide





# 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
  - See ¶¶ 601–672 in *The Book of Discipline*, 2012)





*Also This Year:*

# Voting for General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegates

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- **Three Lay/Clergy** for both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences
- **Four lay/clergy** reserve delegates



# What Do We Confer About?

- **Action Items**

- Proposals and motions that require action or 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 about 4 weeks before Annual Conference.



# Items to be Considered This Year (2014):

- 30“Action Items” in Workbook
- Proposed revisions of conference rules and policies



# 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 Debate

1. **Raise your Orange Card** to request permission to speak
2. **Wait** until Bishop Jung recognizes you
3. **Go** to nearest microphone



# How to Speak to Issues During Debate

4. **State** your name, whether you are lay or clergy, your church or appointment
5. **Make** your speech
  - All speeches are limited to 3 minutes
6. **Alternate** speakers for/against issue



# How to Make a Motion

- **Two kinds of motions**
  - Substantive
  - Procedural
- **Parliamentary Procedure Guide**
  - Inside the “Back Cover” of the Pre-Conference Workbook





# How to Make a Motion

- 1. Write** out your motion on a Motion Form
- 2. Follow** the same instructions for obtaining recognition to speak from Bishop Jung
- 3. Submit** your written motion to the Conference Secretary



# How to Make a Motion

4. **Give** your name, lay/clergy, and church or appointment,
5. **Say:** “I move that . . . .”
6. **Make** your motion **before** speaking to the motion

NOTE: If you make your speech first, then your motion will be ruled “out of order.”



# How to Propose Changes to a Motion or Action Item

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



# How to Propose Changes to a Motion or Action Item

4. **Say:** “I move to amend by (adding/deleting)”
5. **Make** your motion before speaking to it
  - If you make your speech first, then your motion will be ruled “out of order”
  - If possible, refer to the Action Item Number, Workbook Page, and Line Number
6. **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
  - Standing
  - Standing Count Vote
  - Written Ballot



# How We Vote

- Most votes require a simple majority
- Some votes require a two-thirds majority
- See Parliamentary Procedure Guide
- If a vote must be counted, it will usually be a “standing count vote”
- The count will be made by a group of “Tellers”



# Alphabet Soup

- United Methodists speak a unique language!
  - We make up words —like *quadrennium*—that aren't used anywhere else in the English language
  - We use lots of acronyms—abbreviations for distinctly UM terms, names of boards, committees, and agencies
  - You will find a guide to “**Methodist Speak**” on Pages 36-37 in your Pre-Conference Workbook



# Highlights of This Year's Schedule

~ Friday ~

- Begin with **Worship** at 2:30
- Opening **Plenary** at 3:30
  - Organization of the Annual Conference
  - Setting the Bar of the Conference
  - Granting Permissions
  - Electing Tellers/Assistant Secretaries
  - First Ballot for General/Jurisdictional Elections
  - Other Facilitating Items





# Highlights of This Year's Schedule

## ~ Friday Evening~

- **Laity Session** 7:30 pm – Worship Area
- **Clergy Session** 8:00 pm - Ballroom  
--Matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy
- **Youth Session** 8:30 pm – Greenway Room



# Highlights of This Year's Schedule

## ~ Saturday ~

- **Special Music and Bible Study to start the day!**
- **Honoring Retirees at 1:30 p.m.**
- **Memorial Service at 2:40 p.m.**
- **Mission Celebration/Awards Banquet**  
(Ticket Purchase)

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# Highlights of This Year's Schedule

## ~ Sunday ~

- **Continued Balloting for Delegates**
- **State of the Church Address – Bishop Jung**
- **Presentation by Jim Griffith**
- **Commissioning & Ordination Service**
- **Celebration Dinner at 6:45 p.m.**  
(Ticketed Dinner)



# Highlights of This Year's Schedule

~ **Monday: Day of Learning** ~

## Morning Workshops:

Christian Unity, Jim Griffith, Mission & Evangelism

## Afternoon Workshops:

Community Organizing, Jim Griffith, Leadership Lab, Spiritual Formation, Worship in the World



# Looking Forward to 2015.....

The date of the  
**2015 Annual Conference**  
will be announced at the end of this  
year's Session.





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