



# GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH Allegheny West

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE ELIGIBILITY

To clarify membership and representation at upcoming Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference gatherings, the Sessions and Events Committee has compiled the following list of standards for senior status clergy and lay delegates. The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (TBDD) specifically stipulates in paragraphs 416, 610.1 and 610.2 conference membership criteria. Basically, for every clergy member there is one laity member per charge (not congregation). Refer to paragraphs 416, 610.1 and 610.2 attached.

### **Senior Status Clergy**

- Senior Status Clergy who are currently serving as Presiding Elders or on the Conference Council have both voice and vote.
- Paragraph 416 of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline gives Senior Status Clergy who are within seven (7) years of the effective date of their alignment with the GMC to have voice and vote provided they notify the Conference Secretary 90 days prior to the annual conference session. A waiver to permit this notice to occur within 30 days (in lieu of the required 90 days) was recently obtained from the TLC of the GMC since numerous UMC clergy would not be eligible to retire until September 1<sup>st</sup> due to a variety of challenges involved in the disaffiliation process.
- By September 15, 2023: Send notification that you are a Senior Status clergy member attending the Annual Conference to Conference Secretary Janet Lord at [jflrd435@aol.com](mailto:jflrd435@aol.com).

### **Lay Delegates**

- TBDD 610.1 states that each charge shall be entitled to as many lay members as it has appointed clergy.
  - Each church/charge will receive one lay delegate for each pastor appointed to the church/charge.
  - Since there will be a limited number of lay equalization delegates, the Conference Council has recently approved the use of lay members of Conference Committees (Conference Council, Board of Ministry, FC&A, Nominating Committee and Conference Sessions) who are not lay delegates from their local church/charge to be the pool for lay equalization delegates for the Convening Conference to be held on October 13-14, 2023.
  - CLM (Certified Lay Ministers) are NOT automatically lay delegates in the GMC (TBDD paragraph 402); however, a CLM may register as a guest to attend Annual Conference.

## **REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE**

Register at [AlleghenyWestGMC.org/BecomingOne](https://AlleghenyWestGMC.org/BecomingOne). Choose registration eligibility type (Clergy/Lay Delegate/Lay Equalization Delegate/Guest). Spouses can also register.

**Note about Guest registrations:** Please know that seating in the Worship Center (the main plenary and worship space) will be limited to clergy and lay delegates with limited in-room overflow. All sessions will be live-streamed and there is on-site overflow seating.

## **TBDD PARAGRAPHS 416, 610.1 & 610.2**

416. Senior Status. Following the scriptural pattern, there is no retirement for clergy or laity from the work of God's Kingdom. However, clergy persons serving in appointments may choose senior status within the annual conference, with the approval of a majority of the board of ministry and a majority of the clergy session. There is no mandatory age for such status. Senior status releases clergy members from any obligation to accept an appointment to ministry from the bishop, though clergy in senior status may voluntarily accept an appointment from the bishop to any ministry setting for which they qualify. Senior clergy, including bishop emeriti, retain their active status and right to both voice and vote at annual conference if they fulfill either of the following conditions: a) they are within seven years of the effective date of their aligning with the Global Methodist Church or the end of their last appointment, whichever is later, provided that they notify the conference secretary at least ninety days prior to the annual conference session of their intention to participate as a voting member, or b) they are under appointment by the bishop for at least one-quarter time (no notification necessary). Senior clergy not qualifying under the preceding sentence retain voice, but not vote, at annual conference. Those in senior status, whether active or inactive, may be elected as a delegate to General or Regional Conference and serve on district or annual conference commissions, committees, or boards.

610.1 Composition. Annual conferences shall be formed for the purpose of connecting clergy and laity for shared ministry and accountability across a geographical region. A special annual conference or district that is not geographically bound and overlaps the boundaries of other annual conferences or districts can be formed by the decision of the Transitional Leadership Council at the request of a group of churches. The voting membership of an annual conference shall be composed of active deacons, elders, and senior clergy who meet the qualifications of ¶ 416, as well as at least an equal number of lay members elected by each charge or by the district or annual conference. Each charge shall be entitled to as many lay members as it has appointed clergy. The annual conference may add lay members of the annual conference who are serving in conference leadership positions. The annual conference shall determine the method of electing additional lay members to equalize the number of clergy members. Only laity shall vote in the election of equaling laity. Such members may be elected by a charge conference, district conference, or the annual conference, but they must be elected and not appointed.

610.2. When at any time a lay member is unable to attend the session, the alternate lay member, if present, shall be seated. The lay member or the alternate, whichever is seated, has the responsibility of the lay member to report to the local church on actions of the annual conference.