

# Proposal for a Special Session of the Allegheny West Annual Conference

Approved by the Presiding Elders and the Conference Council of the Allegheny West Conference  
November 15, 2023

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## Background

The Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church has announced that the Convening Conference of the Global Methodist Church will be held September 20-26, 2024 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Allegheny West Annual Conference will need to elect lay and clergy delegates. Waiting until the regularly scheduled AWAC session May 22-25, 2024 will limit the time to make hotel and flight arrangements, and minimize the time available for the delegation to complete the critical preparations needed for their service at the Convening General Conference. Therefore, the following proposal for a Special Called Session of the AWAC is presented to the Presiding Elders<sup>1</sup> and the Conference Council.

## Proposal for a Special Called Session of the Allegheny West Annual Conference

Be it resolved that President Pro Temp, Jeff Greenway, is authorized to call a Special Session of the Allegheny West Annual Conference for the sole purpose of electing lay and clergy delegates to the Convening Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

1. The Special Session shall be held on **Saturday, March 16, 2024 at the Reynoldsburg Community Church; 1636 Graham Road, Reynoldsburg, OH**. Bishop Mark Webb, or his designee, shall preside at the business of the Special Called Session.
2. The Special Called Session shall elect sufficient lay and clergy delegates to provide the full number of delegates assigned to the AWAC by the Commission on General Conference, as well as provide a minimum of five alternate lay and five alternate clergy delegates.
3. Election of Delegates
  - Holy Spirit-Guided Discernment: We are trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us through this election process as the Allegheny West Annual Conference. In such, we will prioritize praying for those individuals nominated, and committing to full support of the delegation as elected through the discernment of the Spirit in our gathered body.
  - Eligibility: As required by The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline (Paragraph 611.6) ..." Clergy delegates shall be members in full connection in good standing of the Global Methodist Church, or its predecessors, who have served a minimum of two years preceding their election. As per Paragraph 411 of The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, Senior Status clergy must notify Joy Perry at [jperry@alleghenywestgmc.org](mailto:jperry@alleghenywestgmc.org) by December 18, 2023 which is 90 days prior to the Special Session. US mail notifications

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 610.7 of The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline requires that when the call does not come directly from the Annual Conferences Session, three-fourths concurrence by the Presiding Elders must concur with the call for a Special Session to be called.

must be post-marked by midnight on December 15, 2023 and mailed to Joy Perry; c/o The Allegheny West Conference; 1636 Graham Road; Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Lay delegates shall have been professing members of the Global Methodist Church, or its predecessors, for at least two years.” To be eligible for election otherwise eligible clergy must be members of the Global Methodist Church no later than January 31, 2024.

- ✓ No expense allowance will be available from the Global Methodist Church. The AWPAC *may* provide a small amount of assistance. Delegates should expect to supply or raise funding for their own expenses to the General Conference.
  - ✓ Interested persons are encouraged to stand for election regardless of personal ability to supply their own expenses. Many options exist to raise funds in a fashion similar to seeking funding for a mission trip: e.g Requesting support from one’s local church, relatives, friends, or circuit.
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- Nomination: Eligible clergy and laity interested in standing for election to the Convening Annual Conference shall self-nominate, by submitting a nomination form and photo. Self-nominations shall be received no later than February 15, 2024. Nomination form attached.
  - Campaigning: It is our hope that this experience will be spiritual as opposed to political. Therefore, persons standing for election shall not engage in campaigning (including but not limited to production and distribution of campaign materials such as letters, brochures, leaflets, video or audio materials, advertisements, or requests for support on social media). Slates or distribution of slates will not be permitted. The Conference Council (or its designated task force) will distribute the nominee forms and photographs, and determine any other forums or avenues for introduction of nominees.
  - Distribution of Candidate Information and Voting Numbers: All clergy and lay members of the AWAC shall be assigned a voting number. Those self-nominated for election will be identified in a manner determined by the Conference Council (or its designated task force). Information, photos and the individual voting number for each person standing for election shall be digitally distributed no later than March 6, 2024.
  - Balloting and Election: “Both clergy and lay delegates shall be elected by a minimum of fifty percent of votes cast plus one, with clergy voting for clergy delegates and laity voting for lay delegates.” (TTBDD, Paragraph 611.6) Clergy and lay members of the Allegheny West Annual Conference must be present to vote for delegates to General Conference. Voting shall be by electronic ballot with material for paper ballots available in case of electronic failure.

The Nomination Form can be viewed here