

“Be the Church”

CHURCH CONFERENCE (¶ 248) AGENDA 2023

¶125 “United Methodists throughout the world are bound together in a connective covenant in which we support and hold each other accountable for faithful discipleship and mission...we seek to proclaim and embody the gospel in ways responsible to our specific cultural and social context while maintaining ‘a vital web of interactive relationships’” (Book of Discipline, 2016).

Welcome and Opening Prayer

- 1.) Elect a Secretary (usually the secretary of the Church Council)
- 2.) Adoption of previous Church Conference Minutes
- 3.) Lay Leadership Committee Report (Nominating Committee)
- 4.) Membership Report
- 5.) Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Report

Presiding Elder
Presiding Elder
Presiding Elder
Pastor
Membership Secretary
S/PPR Chairperson

- a.) 2024 Pastor Compensation * **include amount in the minutes**
- b.) Furnishings Allowance (if requested)
- c.) Housing Allowance (if applicable)
- d.) Special Recommendations:
 - Lay Servants, Lay Speakers, Certified Lay Ministers
 - Candidates for ministry (Ballots must be used to vote the first year)
- e.) Ministry Shares Report: Year to date – Conference and District

8. Other Business (**Please let the DS know in advance**)

9. Pastor’s Report

Pastor

10. Closing Prayer

Pastor

Greetings ELDERS & PASTORS:

Thank you for presiding at Church Conferences this year and for being prepared.

PASTORS, please make sure that you have an agenda/business of the church conference for your presiding Elder.

ELDERS, thank you for your willingness to preside over these meetings. It is allowing our people to see the connection in action and for our congregations to build relationships within the connection.

Welcome people to the “Church Conference for _____ United Methodist Church(es) thank them for their attendance and PRAY.

Ask, “All those in favor of allowing NAME to be our Church Conference Secretary to say, “aye / yes.” Opposed, same sign. Remind persons that MEMBERS can vote, all others can be present with voice but no vote.

Invite folks to Celebrate ways that their local church is building relationships with people in their communities or ask what is going well - just to break the ice and for you to get to know the people you are working with.

Adoption of previous Church Conference Minutes (if available)

Lay Leadership Committee Report (Nominations) This is presented by the Pastor and usually changes are highlighted, or a few words are shared about how the nominations came together. **Please, let folks know that after the Church Conference vote, changes can be made to the nominations report by the NOMINATIONS TEAM recommending additions/changes to the AD. COUNCIL, and the AD. COUNCIL approving them.** If people want to make changes to the nominations from the floor, go slow enough that the secretary understands and receives all of the corrections/or changes. Sometimes Nominations are shared from the floor - I try to read the crowd to see if this feels comfortable. It is appropriate to do this, but sometimes this is a “game” people play and it is really better to vote on what is printed. The Lay Leadership/Nominations Team and Ad. Council can then have time to think about needed changes.

Membership report is just that, a report. If there are names that have been lifted for the first year to be removed, these names need to be read unless they are in printed form. I share with folks that reading these names for the first year affirms that we will all do everything we can to contact these persons in the coming year.

Names that are being read for a second year do need to be read and voted on. You may want to note that persons removed from this roll (Book of Discipline par. 215.2 - .3) may be placed on the “Baptized Members” roll (BoD par. 215.1). I ALWAYS PRAY for these persons—that they may find a church home wherever they are. You may also include those who have died in the past year in the prayer.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Report (“Motions at Church Conference Form”) These items your S/PPR Chair will present. As presiding Elder offer the motions one at a time, ask if there are any questions and then call for the vote. THE TOTAL SALARY FIGURE FOR A CHARGE is to be in writing. What each church gives does not –but that is nice or is often shared verbally. Remember the **Furnishings Allowance** is not any more money from the Church, it just allows the Pastor to have a tax break if this money is used for things in the home. The IRS requires that this be voted on at the Church Conference. **NEW CERTIFIED CANDIDATES** for ministry must be voted on with a **paper ballot**. Then you can announce the vote. **KEEP THE BALLOTS (and submit them to the district office).**

Pastor’s Report is the last item on the agenda. This may be a time when the Pastor celebrates the success of last year and names the dreams of the coming year. He or She may also share highlights from his or her own continuing education plans as he/she seeks to better equip himself/herself to lead the church into the coming year. He/She may thank the lay members present for their labors for the sake of the Kingdom.

Most Motions do not need “2nds” because they come from Teams/Committees. They just need to be voted on. At the end, “ASK FOR A MOTION to ADJOURN,” and a 2nd, All those in favor say, “aye.” And MANY THANKS!

Grace and Peace,

Jodie Flessner