

Tennessee 2020 Delegate Nomination Information

General Conference: May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota Southeastern

Jurisdictional Conference: July 15-18, 2020 in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Clergy Delegate Process

According to the *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶35: “The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.”

This means all Tennessee Conference ordained elders and deacons in full connection are eligible to be elected as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference. Those clergy who feel a calling and desire to serve as a clergy delegate and who are willing to make the commitment to serve on the Tennessee Conference delegation were encouraged to fill out a nomination form to help other clergy learn more about them.

Lay Delegate Process

According to the *2016 Book of Discipline* ¶36: “The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.”

This means all Tennessee Conference lay members in good standing are eligible to be elected as delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference and only nominated lay names will appear on the official ballot. Those laity who feel a calling and desire to serve as a lay delegate and who are willing to make the commitment to serve on the Tennessee Conference delegation were encouraged to fill out a nomination form to help other laity learn more about them.

From the Standing Rules of the Tennessee Conference (adopted at 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference)

Section 3 -- Election of Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference

- 3.1** Clergy and lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected as provided in the Constitution of The United Methodist Church (paragraphs 34-36 of *The Book of Discipline*).
- 3.2** Ballots:
 - a) Ballots will be provided by the office of the Conference Secretary.
 - b) 50% plus one valid ballots cast shall be necessary to elect.
 - c) Ballots with more or less than the number to be elected shall be rejected as invalid.
- 3.3** Candidacy of persons eligible to serve as delegates, whether clergy or lay to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference, may be established either by declaration or nomination:
 - a) To declare candidacy for election to serve as a General or Jurisdictional Conference delegate, the eligible person must submit to the Office of Connectional Ministries, no later than ten weeks prior to the opening day of Annual Conference, for inclusion in the pre-Conference materials a statement concerning:
 1. His/her activities at the local church, district, and annual, jurisdictional, and general conference levels;

2. An assessment of the principal needs of the General Church and how those needs should be met; and
 3. Any other information felt pertinent to introducing himself/herself to those members of the Annual Conference who may not be familiar with his/her views on issues confronting the Church.
- b) To nominate a person for candidacy to be elected to serve as a General or Jurisdictional Conference delegate and have the nomination included in the Pre-Conference materials, the nominator(s) must:
 1. Determine the eligibility of the person to be nominated.
 2. Secure from the person to be nominated and submit to the Office of Connectional Ministries the proposed nominee's written consent to accept the nomination.
 3. Submit to the Office of Connectional Ministries, no later than ten weeks prior to the opening day of Annual Conference, for inclusion in the pre-Conference materials, a statement concerning:
 - The activities of the nominee at the local church, district, and annual, jurisdictional, and general conference levels,
 - An assessment of the opinions of the nominee regarding the principal needs of the church and how those needs should be met, and
 - Any other information (such as age and ethnicity) felt to be pertinent to introducing the nominee to those members of the Annual Conference who may not be familiar with that nominee's views on issues confronting the church.
 - c) Statements submitted in the establishing of candidacy, whether by declaration or nomination, shall be limited to 200 words, and shall be submitted via e-mail.
 - d) Persons do not have to declare candidacy or be nominated for candidacy in order to be eligible for election to serve as a General or Jurisdictional Conference delegate.
 - e) The initial ballot for election to General Conference will have a ballot number assigned only to those who, by declaration or nomination, have expressed their desire to be considered as a candidate. All subsequent ballots will assign numbers to write-in candidates during the election process.
- 3.4** Reserve delegates: After the Jurisdictional Conference delegates are elected, on the next ballot reserve delegates shall be elected (the number of General Conference delegates) in order of the highest number of votes received without regard to majority. The delegation's budget will include funding for one lay and one clergy reserve delegate to attend General and Jurisdictional Conferences.