

2020 Lay Delegate Information for General/Jurisdictional Conferences

Interested and qualified lay members of our conference who are also able to meet the associated time, attendance and financial responsibilities are invited to consider placing themselves in nomination for election as delegates to the 2020 General Conference and/or Jurisdictional Conference of our denomination.

General Conference, which convenes every four years, is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The 2020 General Conference is scheduled for May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Laity elect lay delegates and clergy elect clergy delegates. The first delegates elected will fill both General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegation needs, with additional elections completing the South Central Jurisdictional Conference delegation. The number for election to the 2020 conferences are four (4) lay and four (4) clergy delegates elected to attend General Conference from North Texas and twice that number to Jurisdictional Conference.

The General Conference revises The Book of Discipline, our denomination's "Social Principles" and adopts resolutions on various current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years. Delegates may also propose amendments to the church's Constitution, but those must be ratified later in the annual conferences. General Conference also elects members of the Judicial Council and some members of churchwide agencies.

Our South Central Jurisdictional Conference, which also meets every four years for purposes generally including the election of bishops and selection of members of general boards and agencies, is scheduled for July 15-18, 2020, in The Woodlands, Texas.

In addition to meeting the basic qualifications for election, delegates should be able and committed to attend all preconference preparatory meetings, to read and study the substantial amount of proposed legislation, to participate in the interviewing of prospective candidates for the episcopacy, and to attend and actively participate in the approximately three weeks of General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The North Texas Conference has a long tradition for being one of the hardest-working and best-prepared delegations for the conferences.

Also, it is important to note that this year the first clergy person elected will lead the North Texas Conference delegation. This individual needs the experience and time to commit to spending the necessary countless hours in preparing and leading the delegation prior to and during General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Those wishing to place their names in nomination are asked to complete the North Texas Conference Lay Delegate Information Form, found on the North Texas Conference website, by April 5, 2019. At the Laity Session on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at First UMC Plano, persons wishing to be placed in nomination will be provided a brief time to address the laity. While all lay members of the 2019 Annual Conference may also be nominated, timely completion and submission of the forms will give conference delegates needed information about the qualifications and experience of those wishing to be considered for election as delegates.