

THE WORLD IS OUR PARISH
Ministry In The Wesleyan Spirit

**2012
General Conference
and
Jurisdictional Conference
Handbook**



*Prepared for the
North Georgia Annual Conference Delegation 2012*

2012 North Georgia Conference Delegation

Clergy elected to the 2012 General Conference Session

1. Sharma Denise Lewis
2. Jonathan Holston
3. James Cantrell
4. Phil Schroeder
5. Jane Brooks
6. P. Alice Rogers
7. Kyle Edward Tomlinson
8. John Anderson Simmons
9. Nora Martinez
10. Jamie Jenkins
11. Chuck Savage
12. Steve Wood
13. David Bevel Jones

Laity elected to the 2012 General Conference Session

1. Jane Finley
2. Lyn Powell
3. Mathew Pinson
4. Joe M. Whittemore
5. Jeff Jernigan
6. Bill Stikes
7. Tonya Murphy
8. Leon Jourolman
9. Dianne Spencer
10. Joe Kilpatrick
11. Richard Williamson
12. Bill Martin
13. Marjorie Kimbrough

Clergy elected to the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

1. Wiley Stephens
2. Elizabeth LaRocca-Pitts
3. David Allen Grady
4. Richard Winn
5. James Ellison
6. Dianne Parish
7. Joy Melton
8. Karen Kagiyama
9. Leon Matthews
10. Renita Thomas
11. Richard Hunter
12. Bridgette Young
13. Mike Cash

Laity elected to the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

1. Keith Cox
2. Gary Fuller
3. Jasper Russell Sr.
4. Hank Huckaby
5. Dianne Traynham
6. Debby Stikes
7. Micah Arrington
8. Janet Sligar
9. Elizabeth Corrie
10. Al Stocks
11. Sue Raymond
12. Robert Fincher
13. Jack Camarda

Clergy Reserve Members

1. Jimmy Moor
2. Susan Allen Grady
3. David Walters
4. Glenn Ethridge
5. Davis Chappell

Lay Reserve Members

1. Charles Miller
2. Tom Cook
3. Ida Florine Tarver Jones
4. Lowell Kirkman
5. Christian Higgins


Table of Contents

SECTION 1: WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?	5
1.1 PURPOSE	5
1.2 AN OVERVIEW OF GENERAL CONFERENCE	5
1.3 DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE	5
1.4 2012 GUIDELINES AND POLICIES	5
SECTION 2: PER DIEM, TRAVEL AND EXPENSES	5
2.1 PER DIEM	5
2.2 GENERAL CONFERENCE LODGING AND RESERVATIONS	6
2.3 TRAVEL AND RESERVATIONS	6
2.4 PAYMENT OF DELEGATE EXPENSES	6
2.5 EXPENSES COVERED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE	6
SECTION 3: PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE	6
3.1 DELEGATION MEETINGS	6
3.2 PURPOSE OF DELEGATION MEETING	7
SECTION 4: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES	7
4.1 OVERVIEW	7
4.2 PROCESS FOR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SELECTION	7
4.3 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES	7
4.3.1 Church and Society (1)	<i>Link</i>
4.3.2 Church and Society (2)	<i>Link</i>
4.3.3 Conferences	<i>Link</i>
4.3.4 Discipleship	<i>Link</i>
4.3.5 Faith and Order	<i>Link</i>
4.3.6 Financial Administration	<i>Link</i>
4.3.7 General Administration	<i>Link</i>
4.3.8 Global Ministries	<i>Link</i>
4.3.9 Judicial Administration	<i>Link</i>
4.3.10 Independent Commissions	<i>Link</i>
4.3.11 Local Church	<i>Link</i>
4.3.12 Ministry and Higher Education	<i>Link</i>
4.3.13 Superintendency	<i>Link</i>
4.4 NORTH GA DELEGATES IN ORDER OF ELECTION	8
4.4.1 LIST OF DELEGATES BY ORDER OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	8
4.4.2 PARTNERING OF DELEGATES	8
4.5.1 THE ROLE OF THE RESERVE DELEGATE	8
4.5.2 RESERVE DELEGATE REIMBURSEMENT	9
4.6 DELEGATES UNDER THE AGE OF 18	9
4.7 OFFICIAL REPORTING OF DELEGATION INFORMATION/COMMITTEE SELECTION ...9	
4.8 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS/CONTACT INFORMATION	9
4.9 OFFICIAL PRE-CONFERENCE MATERIALS	9
4.10 LOBBYING MATERIALS FOR CONFERENCE DELEGATES	10
4.10.1 LIST OF LOBBY GROUPS	10
4.11 LIST OF UM STUDY GROUPS	10

4.12 OTHER GROUPS NOT SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE	11
4.13 ELECTIONS AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.....	11
4.14 HELPING THE LOCAL CHURCH UNDERSTAND THE "CONNECTION".....	12
SECTION 5: GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION.....	12
5.1 VOTING PROCEDURES	12
5.2 CONSENT CALENDAR	12
5.3 DAILY UPDATES OF THE DAILY CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE (DCA).....	12
5.4 WORSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS.....	13
5.5 ORDER OF SEATING AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.....	13
5.6 GUIDELINES FOR HOLY CONFENCING	13
SECTION 6: WHAT IS JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE?.....	13
6.1 PURPOSE	13
6.2 AN OVERVIEW OF JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE	14
6.3 DELEGATION SEATING AT JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE.....	14
SECTION 7: JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/EXPENSES.....	14
7.1 LOCATION AND DATE.....	14
7.2 PER DIEM	14
7.3 LODGING AND RESERVATIONS	14
7.4 TRAVEL COSTS.....	14
SECTION 8: PREPARATIONS FOR JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE.....	14
EPISCOPAL	
8.1 EPISCOPAL NOMINATIONS.....	15
8.2 EPISCOPAL ELECTION	15
8.3 A GUIDELINE FOR DISCERNING AN EPISCOPAL NOMINEE FROM AC.....	15
8.4 SEJ PRE-ELECTION PROCESS.....	15
8.4.1 NOMINEE/DELEGATION LEADER ELECTION COVENANT	16
8.5 EPISCOPAL SERVICE DATA	17
8.6 MEETING THE EPISCOPAL NOMINEES.....	18
8.7 AFTER EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS...../.....	18
SECTION 9: JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES & INFORMATION.....	18
9.1 PRE-CONFERENCE MATERIALS	18
9.2 JURISDICTIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE	18
9.3 JURISDICTIONAL COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY	18
9.4 ADDITIONAL JURISDICTIONAL BUSINESS.....	19
9.5 SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING SEJ MATERIALS.....	19
9.6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: DRESS, LODGING, PACING, MEETING LENGTH	19
9.7 DELEGATION MEETINGS.....	20
SECTION 10: CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS HANDBOOK.....	20

Section 1: What is General Conference?

1.1 Purpose

The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, ¶16, Article IV states: “The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, and in the exercise of this power shall have authority as follows:” . . . Click link  to view ¶13 – 16, Division 1, Section II General Conference, Article I- IV, 2008 UMC Book of Discipline (BOD).

The General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, and meets once every four years to consider revisions to church laws, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years. The General Conference has a unique role as it is the only official body that speaks for the denomination known as The United Methodist Church.


1.2 An Overview of General Conference

The 2012 General Conference will be held April 24 - May 4, 2012 at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa Florida. During the eleven-day session, delegates will consider revisions to the UMC Book of Discipline, which regulates the manner in which local churches, annual conferences, and general agencies are organized and elects members of the Judicial Council and University Senate. The Book of Discipline also sets policies regarding church membership, ordination, administration, property and judicial procedures. Delegates also revise the Book of Resolutions, a volume declaring the church’s position on a wide variety of moral, social, economic and social justice issues that are considered instructive and persuasive, but are not binding on members.

1.3 Delegates to 2012 General Conference

General Conference is composed of equal numbers of lay and clergy delegates that are selected/elected from each annual conference. Every annual conference has a minimum of one lay and one clergy delegate. The number of lay and clergy delegates allocated to each annual conference is determined by a formula based on its number of lay and clergy members. The total number of delegates to General Conference is limited to 1,000, but not less than 600.

1.4 2012 Delegation

The delegation is governed by the Book of Discipline, the Guidelines for North Georgia Annual Conference Delegation included in the 2010 North Georgia Annual Conference Journal and any policies not in contradiction with the BOD and Journal that are adopted by the 2012 delegation. 

Click to View Guidelines and Policies (Click for Open Meetings, Click for Prayer) for the 2012 Delegation.

Section 2: Per Diem, Travel Arrangements and Expenses

2.1 Per Diem

Each delegate will receive per diem set by General Conference for lodging and food for the period of service of General Conference. Any cost above the per diem allowance is the responsibility of the delegate. The first two lay and clergy Jurisdictional delegates will serve as reserves to General

Conference, and will receive per diem from the North Georgia Conference for actual expenses not to exceed the per diem of the delegate.

2.2 General Conference Lodging and Reservations

Blocks of rooms are reserved by General Conference with special negotiated rates in hotels surrounding the convention location that are designated for delegates, bishops and staff. Delegates will receive information regarding lodging locations and instructions for making necessary reservations as a part of the official General Conference correspondence.


2.3 Travel and Reservations

The official General Conference correspondence to delegates will include information regarding prearranged discounted airfares. By completing the form for General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), travel requests will be processed through the designated travel agency with the delegate's approval. Delegates choosing to make their own travel arrangements will be reimbursed providing the fare is within the guidelines established by General Conference. Delegates may choose to travel via other conveyance; however, the amount of reimbursement will be the lesser amount for actual documented cost/mileage or approved airfare.

2.4 Payment of Delegate Expenses

The *Plan of Organization and Rules of Order* of the General Conference provides a proposal for the travel expense and the lodging and meal per diem of the elected delegates which is voted on at General Conference. The North Georgia Conference has budgeted to cover one additional night for early arrival at General Conference at \$225 per diem rate (lodging and meals) for delegates. See 4.5.2 for information regarding reserve delegates. Upon receipt, additional information will be provided at delegation meetings.

2.5 Expenses Covered by the General Conference

The policy for reimbursement of the delegate expenses is set and adopted during the opening session of General Conference. Click to view the policies being considered. 

Section 3: Preparations for General Conference

3.1 Delegation Meetings

The schedule of delegation meetings as approved by the delegation are as follows:

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, August 27, 2011	St. James Atlanta UMC
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, October 8, 2011	Candler School of Theology
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, December 3, 2011	St. Mark UMC
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, January 14, 2012	Cliftondale UMC
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, February 25, 2012	Mt. Pisgah UMC
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, March 3, 2012	Gainesville 1 st UMC, Listening Session for members of local churches
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, March 24, 2012	Griffin 1st UMC, Listening Session for members of local churches
9:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Saturday, April 14, 2012 (Discussion of legislative issues among GC delegation)	Snellville UMC
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Saturday, June 30, 2012	Druid Hills UMC (Preparation for JC)

Any additional meetings will be announced and widely publicized. See event listing:

April 24-May 4, 2012	General Conference, Tampa FL
June 12-14, 2012	North GA Annual Conference, Athens GA
July 17, 2012, 1 p.m.	“Nominee Round-Robin” for Bishop Lake Junaluska Assembly, NC
July 18-20, 2012	Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Lake Junaluska NC

Agenda of meetings will include General Conference requirements, invited presenters, delegation business and information, task force reports and various issues for delegation discussion before General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Sessions may be conducted via e-mail and/or conference call as announced. Additional delegation meetings may include a gathering at the site of General and Jurisdictional Conference.

3.2 Purpose of Delegation Meetings

The North Georgia Conference delegation is committed to preparing spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually to fully and faithfully serve Christ and the Church. Each meeting agenda will be developed to prepare delegates by providing specific information regarding petitions and issues to be discussed and action to be taken by General Conference; as well as time allowance for delegation discussion and holy conferencing.

Section 4: Legislative Committees


4.1 Overview

Delegates will spend the first four days of General Conference in an assigned legislative committee. Action in the committees will include discussion, modification, rewriting and voting on petitions assigned to that committee for action. Each committee will form proposals based on the committee’s action on petitions to be sent to the General Conference plenary session for action by the body. Proposals from a committee are called “calendar items.”

4.2 Process for Legislative Committee Selection

General Conference delegates prioritize their first three choices of the Legislative Committees for which they prefer to serve at General Conference immediately following the close of annual conference. Committee assignments are made by the head of the respective delegations based on the delegate’s priority in the order of election. One lay and one clergy delegate will be assigned to each of the thirteen committees. Delegate assignments for 2012 General Conference are found in Section 4.4.1.

4.3 Legislative Committees

A summary of the 2012 legislative committees, their functions and the UM 2008 BOD sections pertaining to each committee is found by clicking on the [LINK](#) . Major structure changes in the boards and agencies are proposed in the petitions and will be subject to adoption by the GC body. Any petition/issue dealing with structure will be assigned to General Administration Legislative Committee.


4.4 2012 North Georgia General Conference Delegation in Order of Election

(See inside front cover for listing of 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates)

4.4.1 List of Delegates by Order of Legislative Committee

<u>Legislative Committee</u>	<u>LAITY</u>	<u>CLERGY</u>
1. Church and Society 1	Bill Stikes	Nora Martinez
2. Church and Society 2	Marjorie Kimbrough	Jim Cantrell
3. Conferences	Jeff Jernigan	David Jones
4. Discipleship	Jane Finley	Phil Schroeder
5. Faith and Order	Lyn Powell	Sharma Lewis
6. Financial Administration	Mathew Pinson	Jonathan Holston
7. General Administration	Joe Whittemore	Ed Tomlinson
8. Global Ministries	Tonya Murphy	Steve Wood
9. Independent Commissions	Dianne Spencer	Chuck Savage
10. Judicial Administration	Bill Martin	John Simmons
11. Local Church	Dick Williamson	Jamie Jenkins
12. Ministry and Higher Education	Joe Kilpatrick	Alice Rogers
13. Superintendency	Leon Jourolmon	Jane Brooks

4.4.2 Partnering of delegates


To expand our overall delegation's knowledge regarding petitions and resolutions before the legislative committees, the jurisdictional conference delegates and reserves are invited to review petitions and focus on issues within the various legislative committees with specific focus on the assigned committee. To view the partnership listing of legislative committees, click on the [LINK](#) . These assignments were made by partnering the Jurisdictional delegates in order of election with the General Conference delegates and the reserves by random assignment.

4.5 Reserve Delegates

4.5.1 Role of the Reserve Delegate

For various reasons, a delegate may be unable to be present during a General Conference plenary or attend an assigned legislative committee meeting. In such situations, a reserve delegate is called upon to serve in the absence of the regular delegate, participating and voting on issues that arise during the time while seated for the regular delegate. Reserve delegates must be seated in order of election in accordance with ¶134, UMC Book of Discipline, and the assignment is made by the delegation head in writing to the reserve.

The two designated reserves to General Conference (first two elected jurisdictional delegates-lay and clergy) are expected to be onsite and available during all scheduled plenary and legislative meeting times. In case of emergency preventing attendance, the reserve must inform the delegation head in writing as soon as possible prior to General Conference. Absences in the voting delegation arise suddenly on occasion; therefore, reserves must inform the delegation head of their seating location each day of General Conference.


Any reserve, including the five clergy and lay reserves to Jurisdictional Conference, are eligible to be seated at General Conference in the order of election if needed. ¶134, 2008 UMC Book of Discipline. Click on [link](#)  to view Paragraph 34, UMC BOD. A reserve (other than the two official clergy and lay reserves to General Conference) who will be attending General Conference should inform the delegation head in writing prior to General Conference, specifying the day and time of availability to serve if needed.

4.5.2 Reserve Delegate Reimbursement

North Georgia Conference has budgeted to pay the authorized expenses for the first two clergy and two lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference serving as reserves to General Conference. Per diem rate of \$225 (lodging and meals) plus airfare unless paid by General Conference. Other reserve delegates attending General Conference are responsible for their own expenses.

In the event that the two designated reserves are seated at General Conference and the next elected reserve delegate is seated for a full day, the delegate being replaced will be responsible for personally paying the per diem to the replacement. This only applies to additional reserves seated for a full day.

4.6 Delegates Under the Age of 18

When a General or Jurisdictional Conference delegate is under the age of 18 at the time of Conference, the North Georgia Conference “Safe Sanctuary” Policy will be observed for this person. The head of the delegation will be responsible for implementation of the Child Protection Policy.” The Safe Sanctuary policy is found on the North Georgia Conference web site. See the link. 

4.7 Official Reporting of Delegate Election, Committee Selection, etc.

Immediately following the close of annual conference, the secretary of the annual conference completes and submits all official forms to the secretary of the General Conference to validate the election, the order of election, and assignment of legislative committees. This is done within 30 days following the close of annual conference. Due to the varying times of annual conferences throughout the world, the names of delegates are not available at this time; however this information will be provided in the Advanced Daily Christian Advocate.

4.8 Official Communications/Contact Information

Official information will be communicated to delegates and reserves from the contact information provided on the credentialing forms. The database will then provide current contact information for official communications. If you change your address, email, or phone number before General Conference, please follow the instructions you received by email from the secretary of the General Conference by contacting Maleigh Dunaway-Sherrod, Credentials Secretary of General Conference at 615-369-2349, email mdunaway@gcfa.org. Also, please provide this information to the head of the delegation. Official communications of the General Conference will arrive by mail and/or email from either the secretary or business manager of General Conference.

4.9 Official Pre-Conference Materials


Information about General Conference and the business issues and petitions will be shared in preliminary form before General Conference on the web site <http://gc2012.umc.org>. You can subscribe to United Methodist News Service, which has prepared press releases on items of interest to United Methodists, including General Conference issues. Check the web site at www.umc.org. The direct link to General Conference is www.gc2012.umc.org.) General Conference delegates (and the first reserve, lay and clergy) will receive the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA) composed of several volumes and hundreds of pages. It contains all the petitions submitted to General Conference, arranged by legislative committee. These petitions propose changes to the Book of Discipline or the Book of Resolutions.

Additional important materials will be distributed at delegation meetings. Be prepared to organize hundreds, of pages of material distributed before and during General Conference. Concentrate on the material for your legislative committee especially. The discussions at delegation meetings will provide information on legislation from other committees.

4.10 Lobbying Materials for Conference Delegates

You will receive materials from groups and individuals across The United Methodist Church expressing their opinion about proposed General Conference legislation. You may also receive individual letters from members of churches in the North Georgia Conference and a short note thanking the author for the communication is advisable; no need to engage in debate.

4.10.1 List of Lobby Groups

For information on lobby groups and the variety of voices available for information, click here for the [link](#) . This information may be printed.

4.11 List of UM Study Groups for 2009-2012 Quadrennium

The following is a list of United Methodist study groups that may be of help as you study the issues that will come before General Conference in 2012.

General Information

Four Areas of Focus
www.umc.org/focusareas

State of the Church
www.umc.org/sotc

Those that could relate to organization and structure:

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Call to Action Steering Committee www.umcleadershipsommit.org , www.umc.org/calltoaction	Bishop Gregory Palmer
Committee on Faith and Order www.umc.org (search committee on faith and order progress report)	Bishop David Yemba
Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of The UMC	Bishop Scott Jones www.worldwideumc.org
Sustainability Advisory Group—General Board of Pension	Tim Koch, GBPHB

and Health Benefits appointed CFO

Council of Bishops Task Force on Theological
Education and Leadership Formation

Bishop Scott Jones

Committee to Study the Ministry
Sub-groups:
Guaranteed Appointment
Recruitment and Credential
Ordination and Conference Membership

Bishop Al Gwinn www.gbhem.org/studyofministry

Church Systems Task Force
www.umc.leaderships Summit.org (related resources link)
www.gbophb.org/health_welfare/cstf.asp

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters
www.umc.leaderships Summit.org (related resources link)

Bishop Patrick Streiff

General Secretaries—Agency Presidents

Bishop Bruce Ough

Apportionment Structure Study Group
(related resources link) (Birmingham, AL)

Reggie Holder www.umcleaderships Summit.org

4.12 Other Groups Not Specifically Related to Organization and Structure:

UM Hymnal Revision Committee (put on hold)

Committee on Relationship between UMC and Autonomous Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean

General Conference Study Committee

Study on Young Peoples' Ministry

Strengthening the Black Church in 21st Century

4.13 Elections at General Conference

Legislative Committees: The first order of business in the legislative committees is to elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary. Nominations come from the floor at the committee meeting. Delegates receive the list of all members of their assigned legislative committee in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate. All committee members are eligible to be officers. A bishop will preside over these elections.

Judicial Council / University Senate: During General Conference plenary sessions, elections are held for members of the Judicial Council and for the University Senate. Nominations come from the Council of Bishops and from the floor of the plenary.

Judicial Council: Prior to General Conference, the Council of Bishops nominates by majority vote three times the number of persons needed to fill Judicial Council vacancies. At the same session that these nominees are announced, nominations can be made from the floor by delegates. 100 word biographical sketches are published in the Daily Christian Advocate for each nominee at least 48 hours before the election. There are no speeches on behalf of candidates. Candidates are elected by majority vote.

University Senate: Prior to General Conference, the Council of Bishops nominates twelve persons—six CEO's of United Methodist educational institutions, and six with educational, financial, and/or church expertise. At the same session that these nominees are announced,

nominations can be made from the floor by delegates. Elections are held without speeches on behalf of candidates. Candidates are elected by plurality vote.

There will be various groups offering their opinions on the candidates for these positions. Anonymous lists will be shared. It is the responsibility of the delegate to become knowledgeable of the issues and the candidates, and to vote for the candidate that best meets the needs of the church.

4.14 Helping the Local Church understand the “connection” and General Conference

Lay and clergy delegates are encouraged to discuss the importance and function of General and Jurisdictional Conferences as related to the life of our denomination. This is an excellent opportunity for teaching about the structure, operational and fiscal aspects of The United Methodist Church, explaining how the “connectional system” of Methodism allows the local church ~ regardless of size ~ being connected to the annual conference and your election at annual conference provides the local church a voice in the decisions that are made for the future of our denomination. The sharing of issues and decisions to be made by delegates will further the emphasis of participation and better prepare congregations with understanding of the global church.

Section 5: General Conference Session

5.1 Voting Procedures

Voting in plenary session is done with electronic handheld devices with ballot results displayed simultaneously. Voting in legislative committee is done by voice vote, raised hands or written ballot.

The body of General Conference may modify paragraphs in the UM Book of Discipline by majority vote in plenary session. The Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote, followed by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the aggregate number of members voting in annual conference session during the following year. Delegates may not revoke or change the Articles of Religion or the Confession of Faith unless two-thirds of the delegates vote affirmative to change this provision and three-fourths of the annual conference members vote affirmative in annual conference session. See UMC Book of Discipline, Restrictive Rules, Paragraphs 17 – 22 for more information.

The items on the agenda of Opening Plenary include the adoption of the 2012 General Conference Rules. Many significant changes are being proposed. This is extremely important and delegates must have carefully studied the proposed Conference Rules that will govern the 2012 General Conference in advance.

5.2 Consent Calendar

2008 Conference Rules stated that a proposal that passes the legislative committee with less than 10 negative votes is placed on the ‘consent calendar.’ To save time, the entire consent calendar is approved with a single vote. An item on the consent calendar can be removed by a written request of 20 delegates. This may change with the adoption of the 2012 Conference Rules.

5.3 Daily Christian Advocate (DCA) and Daily Updates

Prior to the General Conference, delegates receive an Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA), which includes the names of delegates and legislative committee assignments, reports from general agencies and all petitions. Each morning during the conference, delegates receive a daily

update edition of the Daily Christian Advocate (DCA) containing the agenda, news, features, recommendations from legislative committees and a verbatim report of preceding plenary sessions. These daily editions enable delegates to know which proposals are being debated and actions taken on previous days. By the end of the eleven-day session, delegates will have received more than 2,500 ADCA pages.

5.4 Worship and Special Events

Delegates will receive proposed agenda and planned events in the DCA and advanced plans through the web site (www.umg.org) or www.gc2012,umc.org. Changes in the agenda from prior conferences have been proposed. Updates will be posted as info is available.


5.5 Order of Seating at General/Jurisdictional Conferences

Location of conference delegation "seating" in the conference hall (plenary) is determined through "drawing lots" by the General Conference Council and will be shared with the delegation upon receipt from the Council. The North Georgia Conference delegation head determines the order of seating within the delegation between clergy and laity. Traditionally, the North Georgia delegation leader (head) alternates between lay and clergy, and 2012 is clergy's quadrennium for the first elected delegate to serve as head or chair of the delegation and the first elected lay delegate to serve as Vice-Chair.

5.6 Guidelines for Holy Conferencing

Colossians 3:12-16a, 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2008 General Conference endorsed "Guidelines for Holy Conferencing - What God Expects of Us" as a blueprint for conversation during the conference. The guidelines provide reminders for delegates to maintain the higher expectations of spiritual interaction as a faith-focused group. Areas of expectation include respect, civility and mutual understanding as a means of discerning God's direction for the church, and that diverse voices be heard in the consideration of legislation and resolutions. Click the [LINK](#)  the Guidelines for Holy Conferencing.

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Section 6: What is Jurisdictional Conference?

6.1 Purpose

There are five (5) jurisdictional conferences in the United States. A major purpose of jurisdictional conference is to elect, consecrate and assign bishops to Episcopal areas within the jurisdiction,


although delegates have additional responsibilities related to the ministry and business matters within the jurisdiction. See UMC Book of Discipline, Paragraph 23 – 27 for specific information.

6.2 An Overview of Jurisdictional Conference

The Southeast Jurisdictional Conference is the largest of the jurisdictional areas representing 2,909,072 members according to 2009 official figures (2,894,485 lay and 14,587 clergy). The make-up of jurisdictional conference is an equal number of lay and clergy delegates with the number of jurisdictional delegates being double the number of delegates to General Conference. The 2012 North Georgia delegation to SEJ Conference is composed of twenty-six (26) lay members, twenty-six (26) clergy members and five (5) reserve lay delegates and five (5) reserve clergy delegates.

Annual conferences that make up the SEJ Conference are Alabama-West Florida (AWF); Florida (FL); Holston (HOL); Kentucky(KY) and Red Bird Missionary (RB), Memphis (MEM); Mississippi (MISS); North Alabama (NAL); North Carolina (NC); North Georgia (NGA); South Carolina (SC); South Georgia (SGA); Tennessee (TN); Virginia (VA) and Western North Carolina (WNC).

6.3 Delegation Seating

Seating location for each conference delegation is through “drawing lots” and assignment notification by the Secretary of the SEJ Conference. Click the [LINK](#)  to see the seating chart indicating the specific location of our delegation in the Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska Assembly.

Section 7: Jurisdictional Conference Travel - Arrangements/Expenses

7.1 Location and Date

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held at the Lake Junaluska Assembly, North Carolina, with the official opening worship at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 and continuing through noon on Friday, July 20, 2012, ending with the consecration of new bishops. Meetings of Jurisdictional Nominating Committee and Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee are scheduled through individual notification of committee members.

7.2 Per Diem

The Local Arrangements Committee of SEJ has set the per diem rate at \$84 per day (food and lodging) for elected delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. The five lay and clergy reserves to Jurisdictional Conference will receive per diem not to exceed the per diem of delegates paid for by the North Georgia Conference .

7.3 Lodging and Reservations

The secretary of the jurisdictional conference will mail lodging information to all delegates. Forms must be returned to the stated address immediately to receive desired choices. The lodging list will include housing on the Assembly grounds (Terrace Hotel and Lambeth Inn) as well as privately owned motels located in close proximity to Lake Junaluska Assembly.

7.4 Travel Costs

Mileage will be paid at 55.5 cents per mile for delegates traveling via vehicle. Air fare (though not a feasible option for North Georgia delegates due to geographic location) will be reimbursed based on the mileage cost versus the airline cost. The Jurisdiction will pay the lesser amount.

Section 8: Episcopal Elections at Jurisdictional Conference


8.1 Episcopal Nominations

Episcopal nominees must be elders in full connection within the UMC. Nominees are frequently endorsed and/or sponsored by caucuses, associations and jurisdictional conference delegates from the various annual conferences although this is not a requirement. Nominees may also be nominated by the annual conference membership.

8.2 Episcopal Elections

All clergy delegates to SEJC will be issued a candidate number for the electronic balloting process. The election will be conducted with delegates voting by individual handheld remote voting devices that record each ballot and provide electronic tabulation of results. A candidate must receive 60% of the votes cast to be elected. Balloting will be continuous beginning immediately after the opening worship and will continue until all Episcopal vacancies are filled. The 2012 SEJ Conference delegates will elect five bishops.

8.3 Guidelines for Discerning an Episcopal Nominee from the Annual Conference

The North Georgia Conference delegation conducts the episcopal nominee election in accordance with guidelines in Section III, Selection of episcopal nominee, printed in the 2010 North Georgia Annual Conference Journal. Click on the link for the guidelines. 

Additionally, the following guideline is recommended by SEJ Committee on Episcopacy January 2011: In light of the need for apostolic leadership for the United Methodist Church and in the spirit of the call for the renewal of the United Methodist Church from all corners of our church, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy asks that every delegation from the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference prayerfully examine potential Episcopal nominees with the following criteria. At the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference each nominee will be asked to give tangible evidence of:

1. A life and ministry rooted in Wesleyan theology, spirituality and practice.
2. A proven record of pastoral fruitfulness. (Increase in worship attendance, professions of faith, small groups, etc)
3. A demonstrated spiritual gift of leadership. (Give examples of ministry context where spiritual leaders were enlisted, equipped, and released for a Kingdom task)
4. A demonstrated willingness to be held accountable for results and an ability to hold others accountable, with grace, for their results (staff or volunteers)
5. A track record of doing the “right thing” in difficult situations
6. An exposure to the Annual, Jurisdictional and General Conference. (Cabinet experience, service on a committee, board or agency, etc)
7. An experience in the global United Methodist Church communion. (Short-term mission teams, UMVIM, UMCOR, etc)

8.4 SEJ Pre-Election Process

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy (2008-2012) has adopted the following process to precede the 2012 episcopal election in the jurisdiction. This process will be conducted by an Election Process Team to be appointed by the chairperson of the committee:

1. The document “*The Election of Bishops*” (section 8.4.1 in this handbook) has been approved by the committee and will be distributed to all delegates (through the delegation leaders) and to other persons and groups expressing interest in the process.
2. Three criteria must be met in order for an eligible elder to participate in the official pre-election process:
 - a. The elder shall have been officially nominated by an annual or missionary conference of the jurisdiction, by the delegation from an annual or missionary conference of the jurisdiction, or by another group in the life of The United Methodist Church, with this action to be communicated in writing to the secretary of the jurisdictional conference.
 - b. The elder shall, by signing the document “The Election of Bishops,” express his or her intention to abide by the provisions contained in that document.
 - c. The nominating body shall, as witnessed by the signature of its chairperson or other designated officer on the document “The Election of Bishops,” express the intention of the group to abide by the provisions contained in that document.
3. Nominees identified prior to General Conference will be presented to the delegations at General Conference over the course of two days during lunch break with brief statements by candidates and an opportunity for conversation with candidates, and, if possible, with chairs for those who need to sit.
4. Each nominee and nominating body shall be permitted to distribute one biographical statement (Rule 17), submitted to the SEJ secretary and posted on the SEJ website and printed in the Advance DCA; one video (either taped or on DVD or both); and two general mailings (brochures, cards, etc.). Each nominee and nominating body may also develop a website.
5. Nominees will be presented to the delegations at Lake Junaluska on Tuesday, with a speech of no more than 10 minutes by each nominee. Following these presentations, interviews of nominees by individual delegation (or delegations in combination, as seems best), will be held. Although they refer, not to the pre-election process, but to the election itself, the following items have also been adopted:
 6. Any eligible elder who is not a nominee in this process and who receives 10 or more votes on any ballot will be permitted to address the conference for no more than 10 minutes and, as provided in Rule 17, submit a biographical statement to the SEJ secretary for publication.
 7. The executive committee of the Committee on Episcopacy will work with the College of Bishops to develop a plan which, when it is apparent in the process of election that the conference is in a deadlock, will allow for a suspension of voting for an agreed-upon period of time, during which prayerful conversation may be had in an effort to move the process forward.

8.4.1 Nominee/Delegation Leader Election Covenant

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference ~ ***THE ELECTION OF BISHOPS***

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy believes that the election of bishops is primarily a spiritual undertaking. We intend, therefore, that episcopal elections in the Southeastern Jurisdiction be held in an atmosphere in which:

- *delegates allow the Holy Spirit to work,
- *bishops are elected on the basis of their gifts in relation to the needs of the church,
- *each delegate is free to vote as he or she is led by the Spirit.

We strongly encourage all persons involved in the election process to join us in agreement that:

- *no delegate shall engage in exchanging (swapping) votes.

*no one shall communicate information concerning any numbers of proposed votes from his/her delegation or group for a particular nominee.

*No attempt shall be made to coerce any delegate to support a particular nominee.

*No effort shall be made within a delegation to ascertain numbers of votes for a particular nominee by straw vote or otherwise.

*No bishop shall be involved in the nomination and election process, other than as a spiritual leader and/or presiding officer of the jurisdictional conference in accordance with The Book of Discipline.

Such an understanding of our election process dates back at least to the 1996 jurisdictional conference, when delegation leaders first adopted a statement similar to this. It is crucial that all persons in the jurisdiction read, understand, and subscribe to it. While annual conferences and other participating groups rightly nominate elders deemed to be called to the life and work of a bishop, our election process must never be primarily a political matter. Spiritual leaders are called by God and, at best, affirmed by our process.

We call upon all persons to respect the feelings of those who offer themselves for the episcopal office, to avoid statements and criticisms that are mean-spirited and hurtful, to seek out the truth if negative comments surface, and to share only information which is known to be true.

We recognize that this approach cannot be legislated. It is a matter of the soul and heart. It is integral to the covenant life we are called to live together in Christ. Our calling is not to elect the nominee of our own conference or group. Our calling is to elect those whom God has equipped and is calling to the ministry of general superintendent. This, by God's grace, we intend to do.

8.5 2011 Episcopal Service Data

General Conference Archives & History is informational source. **Projected mandatory retirement dates reflect 2008 General Conference change in retirement age to 72. (BOD Paragraph 408.1)

Episcopal Area	Present Bishop	Elected	<u>When Elected</u>		Terms served	Add'l terms to Serve	**Mand- atory R'tiremt
			Yrs to Serve	Terms to serve			
AL-WFL	Paul Leeland	2008	12	3	1	2	2020
Florida	Tim Whitaker*	2001	19	4+	2	2	2020
Holston	James Swanson	2004	16	4	2	2	2020
KY/Red Bird Mission	Lindsey Davis	1996	20	5	4	1	2016
Mississippi	Hope Morgan Ward	2004	16	4	2	2	2020
North Alabama	Will Willimon*	2004	12	3	2	1	2016
North Carolina	Al Gwinn*	2004	8	2	2	0	2012
North Georgia	Mike Watson	2000	20	5	3	2	2020
South Carolina	Mary Virginia Taylor	2004	16	4	2	2	2020
South Georgia	James King	2000	16	4	3	2	2016
TN/Memphis	Dick Wills*	2004	8	2	2	0	2012
Virginia	Charlene Kammerer*	1996	20	5	4	1	2016
W. No. Carolina	Larry Goodpaster	2000	16	4	3	1	2016

* Announced retirement 2012

EPISCOPAL SERVICE DATA (CONTINUED)

Year	Mandatory Retirement(M)/Voluntary Retiring(V)	Bishops to Elect
2012 Retiring	Gwinn (M), Kammerer(V), Whitaker(V), Willimon(V), Wills (M)	5
2016	Davis(M), Goodpaster(M), King(M)	3
2020	Leland (M), Ward(M), Watson(M), Swanson (M), Taylor(M)	4

8.6 Meeting the Episcopal Nominees

On Tuesday, July 17, 2012, delegates from the annual conferences will be assigned individual meeting rooms to hear speeches from each Episcopal nominee in preparation for election of bishops. This process is known as “nominees’ round robin” that will begin at 1 p.m. All general and jurisdictional delegates and all lay and clergy reserves are expected to be in attendance. The location of delegation meeting room will be announced later.

8.7 After Episcopal Elections

On Thursday evening, the assignment of bishops to Episcopal areas will be announced and the new bishops will be consecrated in a special service on Friday morning. The newly elected and newly assigned bishops will take office on September 1, 2012. Bishops are assigned to Episcopal areas for a four-year term. Bishops may be recommended for assignment to the same residence for a third quadrennium. UM BOD Paragraph 406.1

SECTION 9 JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES & INFORMATION

9.1 Pre-Conference Materials

Since the primary focus and work of the delegates to Jurisdictional Conference is to elect bishops, the majority of material you will receive is information about Episcopal nominees and their sponsors.

9.2 Jurisdictional Nominating Committee

Another important work of Jurisdictional Conference is the election of delegates from SEJ to serve as members of the General Boards and Agencies. Each delegation member will be asked to complete a form prior to the Conference indicating individual preferences of possible service on a general board or agency. Section 4.3 of this handbook provides a brief overview of the ministry and focus of each board/agency. Each annual conference delegation elects one lay and one clergy representative to serve on the SEJ Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee begins meeting prior to Jurisdictional Conference and continues scheduled meetings during Jurisdictional Conference to select those who will be nominated to serve on general boards and agencies. Our 2012 Nominating Committee members are: Joe Whittemore, Laity and Jane Brooks, Clergy.

9.3 Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy

Reference the 2008 UMC BOD, ¶524 for Episcopacy Committee information.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee members (2008-2012)

Lyn Powell, Laity; Rev. Dr. Ed Tomlinson, Clergy

Southeastern Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee members (2012-2016)

Jane Finley, Laity; Rev. Sharma Lewis, Clergy

9.4 Additional Jurisdictional Business

Jurisdictional Conference has additional powers and duties:

- *To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the Church and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.
- *To elect and assign bishops and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.
- *To establish and constitute jurisdictional conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the Church as the need may appear and to choose their representatives on the general boards in such manner as the General Conference may determine.
- *To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences
- *To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Church.
- *To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

9.5 Suggestions for Organizing SEJ Materials

Create files or a notebook to retain information received regarding Episcopal nominees. You will refer to this information in delegation discussions and in preparation for voting. Review the information and develop questions to ask the nominees during our delegation's "round robin" session.

9.6 Additional Information: Dress, Lodging, Pacing, Meeting Length

DRESS: The SEJ Conference meets in Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska (LJ). The auditorium is now air conditioned and should be comfortable; however, come prepared for the unexpected ~ heat or cool. Dress attire is business casual.

LODGING: There are several lodging choices.

~The Terrace Hotel is across the street from the auditorium and is an air conditioned hotel. Lodging and meals are included in the pricing. Rooms have two beds.

~Lambuth Inn is located on the hill from the auditorium and is air conditioned. Trams are provided for transportation or you can drive and park in the area. Lodging and meals are included in pricing. Rooms have two beds.

~Private residences/cabins may be available for rent for the week. Check with Lake Junaluska. www.lakejunaluska.com or 828-452-2881, Ext. 217, 679 or 722, or 800-222-4930, Ext. 4 or 5.

~ Area motels are also available.

FOOD: Lunch and Dinner breaks are scheduled in the agenda. Delegates staying off site or in private cabins/residence, etc. will travel to area restaurants. At this time, no food court arrangements are planned for this purpose.

SCHEDULE/PACING/MEETING LENGTH:

~Long days are the norm – meeting from morning into the evening. The Conference concludes on Friday with the consecration service for the new bishop(s) Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. with adjournment at noon. It is imperative that delegates are in the assigned seating location at all times that the plenary is in session or a reserve delegate has been seated in your absence as voting will be continuous during the plenary

9.7 Delegation Meetings

See Section 3.1 for information on delegation meetings at jurisdictional conference. Any other meetings will be called by the delegation head with advanced notification as early as possible.

Section 10: Contributors to this Handbook

*Richard Peck, *General Conference 101: All You Ever Wanted to Know*, July 6, 2007

*Many paragraphs in the general conference portion of this document were copied with permission from J. Richard Peck's document. You can find this document at:

<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nl/content3.asp?c=lwL4KnN1LtH&b=2639513&ct=4068053>

*Portions of this handbook have been taken from information found at the www.umc.org website

*Other sources: 2008 UMC Book of Discipline

2010 North Georgia Annual Conference Journal

Virginia Annual Conference Delegate Handbook

South Carolina Conference Delegate Handbook

UMC Archives and History (InfoServe)

This 2012 North Georgia Conference Delegate Handbook is a working document created for informational purposes for delegates (lay and clergy) as well as persons with interest in the connectional process. The handbook is available on-line at <http://www.ngumc.org/pages/detail/1972>. Additional information provided through the links may be printed as a supplement to the handbook.