



# Pre-Conference Handbook

## About our Theme

In her invitation letter to Annual Conference members, Bishop Elaine Stanovsky wrote:

*"The theme for annual conference for the next four years will be 'Do This and You Will Live!' taken from Luke 10:26-28. Jesus' instructions are a rich lesson, '...You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

In this short exchange with a legal expert, Jesus explains the why of our faith, and the mission of the church. The reason Jesus came, the reason we follow and love is so that we can live a truly abundant life."

## Visual Expression

The logo for Annual Conference 2017 is built around these words of Jesus from Luke's Gospel (10:26-28), where he defines a fully engaged love of God and neighbor as the key to abundant life. Jesus prioritizes this summation of the law in a way that suggests that we cannot accomplish the love of one without the other. The colored quadrants are intended to symbolize the four demands of the Shema, to love God with all of our heart, being, strength, and mind.

Our logo also incorporates a visual element from Dorotheus of Gaza, a 6th century Christian monk and abbot. Dorotheus asked people to "imagine that the world is a circle, that God is the center, and that the radii (like spokes on a wheel) are the different ways human beings live." As we move closer to God, we also move closer to others who live, walk and think differently. As we intentionally move closer to these, our neighbors, we also move closer to God. The arrows on the circle are intended to represent people on the journey oriented toward God and ultimately heading toward one another as well.

Jesse Love, Graphic Designer & Print Manager for The Pacific Northwest Conference, served as our primary designer working to incorporate these ideas into a coherent and flexible visual image.

## Approved by

**Anna Conklin**

Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for Office of Connectional Ministries

## Cover designed by

**Annual Conference Planning Team**  
with Jesse N. Love

## Approved by

**The Rev. David V. Valera**

Executive Director of Connectional Ministries



Facebook:  
[fb.com/GreaterNW](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterNW)

2017 AC Updates:  
[greaternw.org/ac2017/updates](https://www.greaternw.org/ac2017/updates)

Website:  
[greaternw.org](https://www.greaternw.org)



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Website:  
[pnwumc.org](https://www.pnwumc.org)

## SECTION A-3

# Preliminary Conference Schedule for Annual Conference

As different parts of the Annual Conference Session are set into place, they will be added to the schedule on this page. Everything is subject to change, but every effort will be made to keep this page up to date.

\* Events marked with an asterisk are not official parts of the Conference schedule. They are shared here for your information.

### Day 1 - Wednesday, June 14

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

\* SANCTUARY MOVEMENT TRAINING  
Camas United Methodist Church  
OR-ID BOARD OF ORDAINED  
MINISTRY

PNW BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY  
Overton, Pettygrove Rooms, the OR-ID  
BOM is also meeting on June 13 from  
1:00-8:00 p.m.

1:00-7:00 p.m.

MINISTRY DISPLAYS SET-UP  
Lobby Areas

UMCOR KIT DONATIONS  
Front Porch

UMW QUILT DONATIONS & SORTING  
Pendleton Room

1:00-1:30 p.m.

1ST TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
Whitestag Room

2:30-3:00 p.m.

2ND TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
Whitestag Room

3:00-7:00 p.m.

CHECK-IN  
Clark & Washington Rooms  
CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE SET-UP  
1st Floor - Mt Bachelor wing

4:00-5:00 p.m.

MEMBER ORIENTATION  
Timberline Room  
YOUTH MEMBER'S ORIENTATION  
Lovejoy Room

5:00-6:30 p.m.

\* SOCIAL JUSTICE PATIO EVENT

Multnomah Room, Patio

\* LLPS, CLMS, LAY ASSIGNED, ASSOC.  
GATHERING  
Overton Room

7:00 p.m.

INSTALLATION SERVICE &  
OPENING PLENARY

Grand Ballroom

Following a Native American  
welcome, an Installation Service for  
Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky will  
mark the beginning of the conference  
session. It will be followed by an  
opening shared plenary.



9:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom

### Day 2 - Thursday, June 15

6:00-9:00 a.m.

BLUEPRINT FOR WELLNESS HEALTH  
SCREENING

Oxford Suites

6:30-8:30 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Mt. St Helens, Timberline Rooms

7:00-9:30 a.m.

CHECK-IN

Lounge near Grand Ballroom

8:00-9:15 a.m.

PNW PLENARY SESSION

Grand Ballroom

## SECTION A-4

8:00-9:00 a.m.  
OR-ID HEALTHFLEX CHANGES MTG  
Overton Room

9:20- 10:50 a.m.  
SHARED PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

11:00-12:15 p.m.  
OR-ID PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

11:30-12:15 p.m.  
LUNCH - PNW CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Rooms

12:15-1:00 p.m.  
LUNCH - OR-ID CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Rooms

1:15-3:15 p.m.  
PNW CLERGY SESSION  
Vancouver 1st UMC | [Directions](#)

3:15-5:30 p.m.  
OR-ID CLERGY SESSION  
Vancouver 1st UMC | [Directions](#)

2:00-4:30 p.m.  
LAITY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

5:00-6:00 p.m.  
DINNER - PNW CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Rooms

6:00-7:00 p.m.  
DINNER - OR-ID CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Rooms



7:30 p.m.  
MEMORIAL WORSHIP SERVICE  
Grand Ballroom

A Memorial Service will provide an opportunity for members to remember and mark passings since the previous Annual Conference Session. A reception will follow.

9:00 p.m.  
RECEPTION  
Grand Ballroom

### Day 3 - Friday, June 16

6:00-9:00 a.m.  
BLUEPRINT FOR WELLNESS HEALTH  
SCREENING  
Oxford Suites

6:30-8:30 a.m.  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
Mt. St Helens, Timberline Rooms

8:00-9:15 a.m.  
OR-ID PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

9:20-10:50 a.m.  
SHARED PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

11:00-12:15 p.m.  
PNW PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

11:30-12:15 p.m.  
LUNCH - OR-ID CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Room

12:00-1:00 p.m.  
SHARED RETIREMENT LUNCHEON  
Mt. St. Helens

12:15-1:00 p.m.  
LUNCH - PNW CONFERENCE  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Room

12:15-2:00 p.m.  
PNW BUDGET FOCUS SESSION  
Overton Room

1:15-2:30 p.m.  
OR-ID PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

1:15-2:15 p.m.  
PNW CONFERENCE — FREE TIME

## SECTION A-5

2:35-4:05 p.m.

SHARED PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

4:15-5:30 p.m.

PNW PLENARY SESSION  
Grand Ballroom

4:15-7:00 p.m.

OR-ID CONFERENCE - FREE TIME

5:30-6:45 p.m.

\* CLAREMONT ALUMNI & FRIENDS  
Lovejoy Room  
\* TOWN & COUNTRY SMALL  
MEMBERSHIP CHURCHES  
Pettygrove Room  
\* DEACONS COMBINED MEETING  
Pendleton Room  
\* UNITED METHODIST WOMEN -  
GREATER NW AREA  
Overton Room

7:00 p.m.



CELEBRATION OF ABUNDANCE  
BANQUET  
Grand Ballroom

2:00 p.m.

ORDINATION & COMMISSIONING  
WORSHIP SERVICE

The Service of Word and  
Table for Commissioning  
and Ordination for the 2017  
Shared OR-ID and PNW Annual  
Conference Session will bring a close  
to our time together. A reception will  
follow the service and closing  
business if necessary.



4:00 p.m. (est.)

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

### Day 4 - Saturday, June 17

7:30-8:45 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
Mt. St. Helens, Timberline Rooms

9:00-12:15 p.m.

MINISTRY ALIVE OFFERINGS  
Various Locations | [LEARN MORE](#)

12:15-1:45 p.m.

LUNCH - BOTH CONFERENCES

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**THE BISHOP'S HYMN**

**Chorus:**

**Beloved, beloved, we are the children of God,  
And it does not yet appear what we shall be;  
But we know – that when God appears,  
But we know – that when God appears,  
We shall be like God  
We shall be like God  
We shall see God, face to face.**

**Come, O fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Chorus repeated.**

**NOTE: This hymn, written by George Robinson of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was first used in this Annual Conference under the leadership of Bishop Titus Lowe. It became the hymn to sing In welcoming each bishop of the Church who serves here. And, it has been sung in confident faith at the retirement celebration of the clergy each year.**

**Text amended to be inclusive**



## SECTION A-9

### INFORMATION for the CONFERENCE SESSIONS

#### HOW TO USE THIS PRE-CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

This Handbook will guide your work during the Annual Conference. Familiarize yourself with its organization and contents. Put it in a three-ringed binder and bring it to all sessions.

Note that it is organized into four sections: 1) Welcome and Orientation materials; 2) Reports; 3) Recommendations; 4) Miscellaneous

The **ORIENTATION** section includes helpful information for when you arrive at the venue, the floor plan for the Red Lion on the River and material for the plenary sessions such as the “Consent Calendar” and “How to Make Motions.”

The **REPORT SECTION** contains reports of various agencies and affiliated organizations of the Conference. Reports that are adopted in this section will become the permanent, historic record of the Conference for the year 2016-2017. These reports do not contain recommendations for action. The only action taken on reports is “to receive” them. Any action items referred to in the Report Section should be accompanied by a petition in the Recommendations Section.

The **RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION** contains proposals for action by the Annual Conference. Annual Conference members should study each proposal carefully so they can enter into discussion and debate when the issues are presented in plenary sessions.

The **MISCELLANEOUS SECTION** includes pastor salaries, etc.

#### REFERENCE MATERIALS

Helpful reference works that you can bring with you or share with others include: *2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* and the *2016 Pacific Northwest Conference Journal*.

#### QUILTS AND CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

It’s a PNW Annual Conference tradition that **quilts** made for at-risk children be brought to Annual Conference in June. For more information, contact your United Methodist Women district president.

Other things to bring to Conference: **Jar\$ for Jamaa Letu** offerings (in check form) for Hope for the Children of Africa and **used cell phones** that UMVIM recycles for use in developing countries.

#### 2017 Conference offers two ways to help UMCOR

If you would like suggestions on how you can help UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) here is a link on ways to help: <http://www.pnwumc.org/news/2017-conference-offers-two-ways-to-help-umcor/> (you will need to type url into your browser)

## SECTION A-10

**For PNW specific questions, please see the following staff:**

### **TREASURER'S OFFICE**

- Brant Henshaw, Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services
- Rik Jamieson, Assistant Treasurer
- Bruce Galvin, Pension and Benefits Officer
- Traci Gibson

### **DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER**

- Sabrina Venture
- Kyle Franklin

### **OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

- *David Valera*, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries
- Kristina Gonzalez, Director of Leadership Development for an Inclusive Church
- *William Gibson*, Director of Strategic Faith Community Development
- Patrick Scriven, Director of Communications, Young People's Ministries
- Teri Tobey, Program Associate, Young People's Ministries
- *Lyda Pierce*, Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- Anna Conklin, Administrative Assistant for Connectional Ministries/Office Manager
- Patrick Ferguson, Program Assistant for Leadership/Congregational Development
- Jesse Love, Graphic Design and Print Manager
- Ian McKnight, Regional Media Center Manager
- Tyrone Olds, Media Center Assistant
- Alan Rogstad, Exec. Director of Camping & Retreat Ministries

## SECTION A-11

### What to Bring to Conference

- Printed materials from the [shared annual conference website](#). Or download these to your portable device in advance of the Session. Paper copies of the schedule will be provided for those who forget theirs. With concern for the environment and a desire to use the resources of the conferences with good stewardship, copies of items such as legislation, financial reports and pre-conference reports will be limited to those without computer access. Please plan ahead.
- 3 ring notebook with dividers if using printed materials, plus a pen or pencil.
- Checkbook or cash for offerings and shopping at the Cokesbury book store. Cash for tipping the hotel staff will be encouraged. Credit cards are accepted for registration and at Cokesbury.
- Payment for meals and late fee if you have not already registered.
- UMCOR kits or items for kits from your church. Health kits are especially needed.
- Sweater or light coat if desired. Plenary room temperature can be cool.
- Consider bringing small packaged snacks without nuts if you tend to get hungry in the afternoons. Friday's banquet begins at 7 p.m.
- Pack a raincoat or umbrella for Saturday morning when we will gather outside on the Columbia riverfront, rain or shine. If you pack it, it won't rain, right?

### Clergy Notes

#### Installation Service, Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.:

- Rehearsal – Wednesday night, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom
- Stole color is any bright color – including rainbows
- Robing room is the Glisan Room on ground floor of Red Lion on the River – West Wing [Mt Bachelor Wing] ...the room will be locked during the worship service
- Line-up will begin at 6:30 – Rev. Kay Barckley will be the marshal

#### Memorial Service, Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.

- Rehearsal – Wednesday night June 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom
- Marshals will be Paul Nickell and Wavell Mead

#### Ordination Service, Saturday, June 17, 2:00 p.m.:

- Rehearsal - Friday night June 16<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom
- Stole color is red
- Robing room is the Glisan Room on ground floor of the Red Lion on the River – West Wing [Mt Bachelor Wing]...the room will be locked during the worship service
- Photos for commissioning candidates and ordinands with the cabinet and Bishop 1:00-1:40 p.m.
- Line-up will begin at 1:40 – Rev. Alissa Bertsch Johnson will be the marshal

### PLEASE NOTE

**There will not be a used book sale this year. Please do not bring used books with you to conference.**

## SECTION A-12

### Tips for Enjoying the Shared Annual Conference Session 2017

The following tips are offered to help everyone enjoy the Session – knowing that we'll have many people needing to get to many places as efficiently and comfortably as possible. As we enjoy our time together, please be mindful that we have varying levels of mobility and familiarity with this new Shared Annual Conference venue and experience. Here are a few specific things to keep in mind:

- Be flexible. Know that things will go a bit differently this year, as we attempt to honor each Annual Conference's traditions and try some new ways of being together.
- Attend the Member Orientation led by OR-ID associate lay leader, Emilie Kroen and Kathryn Garnett, from the PNW on Wednesday, June 14, 4:00-5:00 pm at the Red Lion.
- If you are able, please avoid using the elevators by taking stairs or walking around outside the building. Save the elevators for those who require them.
- Travel light! You'll find it necessary to move in and out of meeting and eating areas quickly.
- That said, consider dressing in layers – the rooms may be too hot or cold for your comfort level. Bringing a light jacket or sweater might be a good idea.
- An Accessibility Desk will be available at check-in and outside the Grand Ballroom with assisted hearing devices for use. The accessibility volunteers are available to assist with questions. They will be wearing blue scarves with accessibility symbols on them.
- If you need printed material in larger type, ask at the Accessibility Desk.
- There are 16 ADA accessible parking spaces at the Red Lion, located by the entrance areas. You'll want to come early if you need one and have a permit.
- For members who requested special seating on the registration form, please look for a white chair reserved with your name. The help desk or accessibility staff can help you find it.
- If you are a MEMBER, you may choose any seat in the ballroom inside the "bar" for voting members (unless reserved for a special seating request). GUESTS may choose any seat in the guest gallery in the rear of the room.
- A sign language interpreter is available for some sessions. Ask at the Accessibility Desk about when and where.
- If you have reserved a scooter, it will be available near the Accessibility Desk for pick up.
- For the safety and consideration of some members, do not bring nuts into any of the shared spaces and avoid use of scented products or fragrances.
- Help is available if you need it. There will be a help desk at check-in on Wednesday and during the days Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the rear of the Grand Ballroom. Lost and found items will be at the help desk.

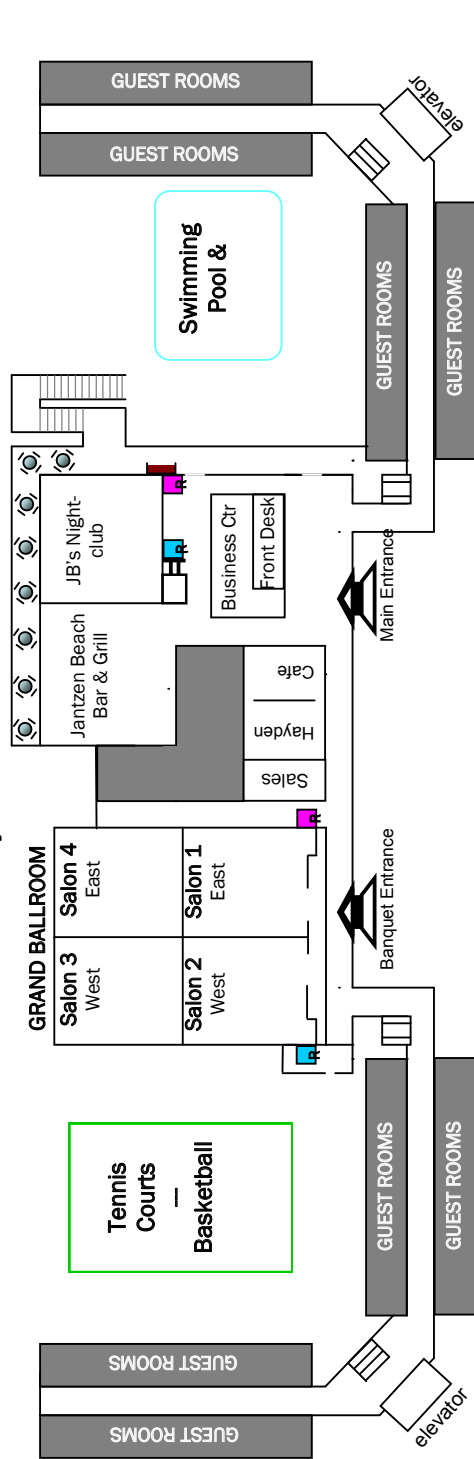
## SECTION A-13

### **A note about meals:**

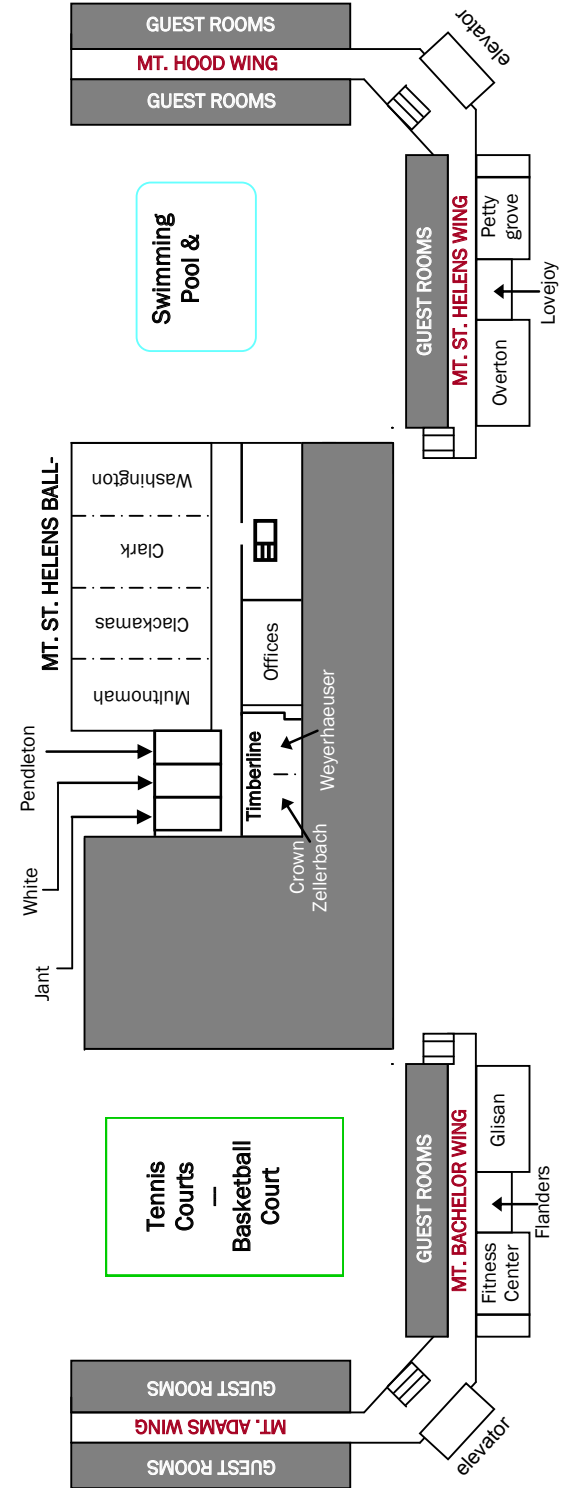
Most meals will be served in the ground floor meeting rooms, with the exception of Friday's banquet and Saturday's breakfast, which will be in the Grand Ballroom. Guests are invited to join for meals if they have purchased meal tickets in advance. Guests should place their meal tickets at their place setting for the servers to see. If you requested special dietary requirements, please place these cards at your place setting for the servers to see. Admission to Friday's banquet will be by ticket and no tickets will be available for purchase at the doors. Observers who wish to observe the awards portion of the evening are invited to sit in chairs along the walls. Please do not take an empty space at a table, as the hotel will charge even if no food is consumed.



**Lobby Level – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**



**Lower Level – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**



Lower level meeting rooms in the Mt. Bachelor Wing and Mt. St. Helens Wing are accessed through the 2nd floor WING elevators and stairs.

## SECTION A-15

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION: CONSENT CALENDAR

This year's Annual Conference session will be using the consent calendar when the reports are given. This is explained in Conference Rule V, Section 4(e).

1. Reports will be printed in two parts:
  - a. consent calendar
  - b. items for individual action.
2. The consent calendar will include action items that receive 90% or more of the vote. To determine the percentage, add the number of "yes" and "no" votes (exclude abstentions and multiply by .90.) This will determine the number of votes necessary to place an item on the consent calendar. Examples follow:

affirmative 55; negative 7; abstentions 2, = 62 votes

$62 \times .9 = 55.8$  affirmative votes necessary for the consent calendar.

The item is excluded from the consent calendar.

affirmative 57; negative 6; abstentions 3; = 63 votes

$63 \times .9 = 56.7$  affirmative votes necessary for the consent calendar.

This item is included on the consent calendar.

3. The consent calendar will be Report #1 and each item on the consent calendar will be lettered sequentially: Report #1A, Report #1B, Report #1C, etc.
4. Items for individual action will be numbered sequentially beginning with Report #2, Report #3, Report #4, etc.
5. A focus group may decide by a simple majority vote not to place an item for action on the consent calendar even if the item received 90% of the vote.
6. Items to be excluded from the consent calendar:
  - a. All new legislation generated by a legislative committee
  - b. Legislation which has been amended or substituted so as to change the original intent of the legislation. (This is determined by the majority of the legislative committee.)
  - c. Any item which would require more than a simple majority vote and would need to record that vote count as amending the Rules and Constitution.
  - d. All matters dealing with the budget of the Annual Conference.
7. To remove an item from the consent calendar, 10 signatures of Conference members must be presented on the appropriate form to the Conference Secretary before the legislative committee begins its report in the plenary session.
8. The focus group committee chairperson brings her/his report to the plenary session in the following manner:

CHAIR: "I present the consent calendar, Report #1A-#1H for adoption."

BISHOP TO THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY: "Are there any items to be removed from the consent calendar?"

CONFERENCE SECRETARY: "The only request to remove a report from the consent calendar is for Report #1E, dealing with minimum compensation schedule."

BISHOP: "Report #1E is removed from the consent calendar. All those in favor of Adopting the consent calendar, signify by raising the hand. The motion carries."

CHAIR: "Our next report is #1E, dealing with minimum compensation schedule. Bishop Stanovsky, the focus group moves concurrence."

Each of the items removed from the consent calendar will be dealt with in this manner. When that is completed, the chair will move on to Report #2, etc.

## SECTION A-16

### HOW TO USE MOTIONS

**Parliamentary motions have become accepted and are used because they meet a need. They help members of groups to transact business cooperatively in meetings.**

COMMON PROCEDURE: Usually an item of new business is presented for action in a meeting with a main motion as follows:

1. Member addresses the chair (when no one else has the floor) saying, "Mr./Madam Chairperson."
2. Chairperson recognizes the speaker.
3. Speaker then presents his/her motion stating, "I move that \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Motion is seconded by another member (until it receives a second it is not open for discussion.)
5. Motion may be discussed and amended.
6. Motion is passed or defeated by a majority of vote.

OTHER MOTIONS: Often a special kind of motion is needed for a particular purpose. Accepted references such as **Robert's Rules of Order** classify these and state certain distinctive characteristics of each. These make it easier for complicated business to be conducted efficiently. They are classified below.

Users of this guide are urged to do three things:

1. Note the following letters designating "characteristics".

- A. May not be **amended**
- C. Permitted by unanimous **consent** (without vote)
- I. May **interrupt** speaker
- P. Is ruled upon by **presiding** officer without vote
- R. Cannot be **reconsidered**
- S. Does not require a **second**
- T. Requires a **two-thirds** vote
- U. Is **undebatable** (must be voted on immediately)
- V. **Vote** taken if chair desires it
- (?) **Privileges vary** with the situation

2. Choose from the thirty-one kinds of motions listed below the one best suited to their purpose.

3. Observe the "characteristics" and the "rank" of the motion used. (A motion having a higher number is out of order when one of a lower number is pending. X indicates that it is in order at any time if situation demands it.)

#### MOTIONS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

	Rank	Characteristics
<b>To Introduce New Business, Use:</b>		
1. A main motion (when no motion is pending)	14	See "Common Procedure"
<b>To Modify the Motion, Move:</b>		
2. To amend (striking out, adding or substituting)	12	Same as main motion
3. To substitute a motion (of same general meaning)	12	
4. To consider seriatim (step by step)	11	A-U
5. To divide the question (making two or more)	11	A-R-U
6. To modify the motion (by member making motion)	12	A-C-S-U.
7. To withdraw the motion (by member making motion)	12	A-C-S-U



## SECTION A-17

	Rank	Characteristics
<b>To Suppress the Motion, Move:</b>		
8. To object to consideration (when discussion undesirable)	X	A-I-S-T-U
9. To postpone indefinitely (killing the motion)	13	A
<b>To Postpone Action, Move:</b>		
10. To postpone to stated time (then considered as unfinished business)	9	
11. To lay on the table (until called up by vote)	6	A-R-U
12. To refer to a committee (considered when committee reports)	10	
13. To make a special order (stating definite postponed time)	9	T-U
<b>To Limit Debate, Move:</b>		
14. The previous question (forces vote on pending motion)	7	A-T-U
15. To limit debate (specifying time)	8	T-U
<b>To Bring Up a Postponed Motion, Move:</b>		
16. To call for orders of day (considering planned agenda)	5	A-I-P-R-S-U
17. To take from the table (renews tabled motion)	14	A-R-U
<b>To Consider a Question a Second Time, Move:</b>		
18. To reconsider (by one who voted with prevailing side)	X	A-I-R-U-(?)
19. To rescind (cannot undo partially executed contracts)	X	T-(?)
<b>To Make a Request During Debate, Rise to:</b>		
20. A point of privilege (to secure convenience, etc.)	4	A-C-I-R-S-U
21. A parliamentary inquiry (to determine status)	X	A-I-P-R-S-U
22. A point of information (to ask chairperson for information)	X	A-I-P-S-U
23. Ask the speaker a question (to clarify facts)	X	A-I-P-S-U
<b>To Correct a Parliamentary Error, Rise to:</b>		
24. A point of order (to insist on adherence to rules, etc.)	X	A-R-S-U-V
<b>To Correct or Reverse Chairperson:</b>		
25. Call for a division of house (to check vote)	X	A-I-R-S-U-V
26. Appeal from decision of chair (to approve or disapprove ruling)	X	A-I-S-U
<b>To Take Action Violating Standing Rules, Move:</b>		
27. To suspend the rules (constitution excepted)	X	A-R-T-U
28. To take up question out of proper order	X	A-R-T-U
<b>To Arrange for Next Meeting, Move:</b>		
29. To fix the time to which to adjourn	1	U
<b>To Dismiss the Meeting, Move:</b>		
30. To adjourn (loses privilege if follow-up lacking)	2	A-R-U
31. To take a recess (for specified length of time)	3	R-U

## Guide to Constitutional Amendments for Annual Conference Members

During our 2017 Annual Conference, members will be voting on five proposed amendments to The Constitution of The United Methodist Church. The 2016 General Conference approved these changes at its meeting in Portland, Oregon and now, members of United Methodist Annual Conferences around the world will have the opportunity to support or reject the proposals. Since these proposals come from the General Conference, they may not be amended by annual conferences. In order for our Constitution to be amended, the Discipline requires that the General Conference first approve a proposal by a two-thirds majority of voting delegates, followed by approval by at least a two-thirds majority of Annual Conference members across The United Methodist Church. This means that the votes of every Annual Conference member around the world will be aggregated to determine if a two-thirds majority has been obtained for any proposed amendment. The Council of Bishops will certify the vote after all Annual Conferences have completed their voting and announce the results early in 2018.

This guide is designed to provide members of our annual conferences with information to assist in making informed decisions concerning the proposed Constitutional amendments.

Proposals are identified by the Petition Numbers assigned at General Conference. Words that appear with a strike-through are proposed to be deleted, while words in bold and underlined are proposed to be added.

- Jan Nelson, Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, OR-ID and PNW Heads of Delegation

### Amendment I (Petition 60659)

Add a new paragraph between current paragraphs 5 and 6.

**As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women and girl's equality and well-being.**

*Perspective supporting the proposal:*

This amendment would add new language to The Discipline acknowledging the equality of men and women in the eyes of God. It would help us to remember that girls and women are of equal worth to boys and men and require that the UMC be especially sensitive to and work with other people and organizations to eliminate all forms of discrimination that limit the rights, opportunities and value of women and girls in our churches, our communities, our nation and around the world. Many such discriminatory situations exist, such as a lack of pay equity, rights to property ownership, limits to advancement in the workplace, perceived limitations of intelligence or skills and sexual objectification, among many others. This amendment clearly places the UMC in support of equality and equity in all aspects of human life.

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### *Perspective opposing the proposal:*

The UMC already has several expressions of equality for women and men throughout the Social Principles, for example, Paragraph 161 E. We do not need a new paragraph to support the same idea.

### **Amendment II (Petition 60163)**

Amend Paragraph 4. Article IV. "*Inclusiveness of the Church*" Delete existing Paragraph 4.IV. and replace it with the following:

**The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any continent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.**

### *Perspective supporting the proposal:*

This proposal makes clear that there should be no barriers to membership in The United Methodist Church by adding gender, ability, age and marital status to the existing list of characteristics that may not be used to exclude people from membership. We want to state that no one should be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship and governance of the church.

### *Perspective opposing the proposal:*

This proposal unnecessarily extends another list of people who are already protected from discrimination in other parts of the Discipline. It just complicates our polity to put such a level of detail into our Constitution. On the other hand, if we have such a list, it should include sexual orientation and gender identity.

### **Amendment III (Petition 60568)**

Amend Paragraph 34. Article III. "*Elections for General, Jurisdictional and Central Conferences*" as follows:

The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its jurisdictional or central conference in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. **Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference**

## SECTION A-20

**and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.** The persons first elected ...

### *Perspective supporting the proposal:*

This proposal seems obvious to us in the US, but for our Central Conference (international) sisters and brothers, this is quite important. There have been annual conferences in which elections have not been democratic and delegates have been appointed by Bishops or others in authority. This proposal insures that elections are open and democratic, with all members of an annual conference having an opportunity to vote and to be elected to General Conference.

### *Perspective opposing the proposal:*

Sometimes, local situations require that delegates be selected for expertise and experience. An open election may result in unqualified people being elected to serve as General Conference delegates.

## **Amendment IV (Petition 60525)**

Amend Paragraph 46, "*Election of Central Conference Bishops*" and Paragraph 542.2 as follows:

46. The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, **provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held during a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.**

**NOTE:** Our vote will be limited to the proposed change to Paragraph 46, which is part of The Constitution. The following change to Paragraph 542.2, not a part of The Constitution, will take effect only if the change to Paragraph 46 is certified by The Council of Bishops.

542.2. Each central conference shall meet within the year succeeding the session of the General Conference at such time and place as the central conference itself or its bishops may determine, **for the purpose of electing Bishops when vacancies occur and for attending to other matters as required. The central conference has the** right to hold such adjourned sessions as it may determine. The sessions of said conference shall be presided over by the bishops. In case no bishop is present, the conference shall elect a temporary president from among its own members. The bishops resident in a central conference or a majority of them, with the concurrence of the executive committee or other authorized committee, shall have the authority to call an extra session of the central conference to be held at the time and place designated by them.

## SECTION A-21

### *Perspective supporting the proposal:*

This proposal provides that Bishops in Central (international) Conferences be elected at a regular session of the Central Conference, rather than at any special session. The practice of holding episcopal elections at a special session often results in all delegates not being able to attend, thus potentially skewing the results. Adopting this proposal puts Central Conference episcopal elections on the same footing as elections in the US Jurisdictional Conferences.

### *Perspective opposing the proposal:*

Often, in large conferences with many members living great distances away from meeting sites and facing hardships in traveling, it is necessary to hold elections with fewer than a full complement of delegates. This situation is unique in Central Conferences, therefore special consideration is necessary. This proposal would place undue burdens on elections in Central Conferences.

## **Amendment V (Petition 60912)**

Amend Paragraph 50 “*Council to have Accountability Authority*” by adding the following after the last paragraph:

**These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.**

**NOTE:** Though not a part of the submitted proposal, the following paragraph that is not a part of The Constitution would come into force if the change to Paragraph 50 is approved. This paragraph is not in force at this time. The annual conferences may not change this paragraph.

Paragraph 413.3d “*Complaints Against Bishops*”

**(i) If the supervisory response results in the resolution of the matter, the bishop in charge of the supervisory response and the two episcopacy committee members appointed to the supervisory process (§ 413.3) shall monitor the fulfillment of the terms of the resolution. If the supervisory response does not result in resolution of the matter, the president or secretary of the College of Bishops may either dismiss the complaint with the consent of the College of Bishops and the committee on episcopacy, giving the reasons therefore in writing, a copy of which shall be placed in the bishop’s file, refer the matter to the committee on episcopacy as an administrative complaint pursuant to Paragraph 413.3e, or refer the matter to counsel for the Church pursuant to Paragraph 2704.1 to prepare a complaint to forward to the committee on investigation.**

## SECTION A-22

**(ii) If within 180 days of the receipt of the complaint by the president or secretary of the College of Bishops (as specified in Paragraph 413.2), the supervisory response does not result in the resolution of the matter, and the president or secretary of the College of Bishops has not referred the matter as either an administrative or judicial complaint, then the matter will move to:**

- (1) In the case of a bishop from one of the central conferences, a panel of three bishops, one from each continent, as selected by the Council of Bishops, or**
- (2) In the case of a bishop from one of the jurisdictional conferences, a panel of five bishops, one from each jurisdictional conference, as selected by the Council of Bishops,**

**who shall then continue the supervisory process and within 180 days, either dismiss or refer the complaint, as required above.**

**(iii) All costs associated with the actions taken pursuant to paragraph (ii) above, will be paid by the Episcopal Fund.**

**(iv) The Council of Bishops may, at any time in the process, after a complaint is filed, including after a just resolution, remove the complaint from the College of Bishops to the Council of Bishops with a 2/3 vote by the Council.**

### *Perspective supporting the proposal:*

There have been occasions in which Bishops have not been held accountable for actions contrary to the Discipline, because the Jurisdiction or Central Conference responsible for the supervisory process has not followed or adequately enforced provisions for holding Bishops accountable. This provision provides that the Council of Bishops may step in to enforce global accountability if the Council deems that a Bishop has committed a sin that rises to global importance.

### *Perspective opposing the proposal:*

Should this proposal be adopted, local responsibility for holding Bishops accountable would be threatened. Especially onerous is the proviso that the Council of Bishops may take over direct management of a complaint against a Bishop at any time, even after a case has been resolved according to the Discipline. In addition to obvious double jeopardy, this opens the way to second-guessing the actions of a College of Bishops (Bishops from the region where a Bishop facing a complaint resides), who best know the individuals and situations involved.

The real change that this proposal promotes is not contained in the new Paragraph 50 language. Instead, adoption of this proposal would bring into effect provisions of Paragraph 413.3.d, which is not in keeping with the current Constitution.

**SECTION A-23**