

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

What is the Annual Conference?

This is the basic body of the United Methodist Church, and it meets in an annual session to conduct the business of the conference.

Who attends Annual Conference?

All clergy, lay members and lay members-at-large.

Why is there a registration fee?

The registration fee helps to offset the cost of all the Annual Conference expenses, including facility and equipment rentals, speakers, materials, and various other costs. The Central Pennsylvania Conference absorbs the costs of meals and lodging.

What is the importance of nametags?

*Nametags designate the members allowed to vote. The nametags are important for admission to the Voting Area during plenary sessions, **and must be worn. Blue signifies Laity and White signifies Clergy.** Orange tags will be available for others if they choose to make one for themselves.*

Why is there a question about Ethnicity on the registration form?

The answers help the Conference ensure diversity in its membership, and for General Church reporting purposes.

Why is there a question about Age on the registration form?

The answers help the Annual Conference Registrar with housing assignments, and help the Conference learn the demographics of its sessions.

Terms used at Annual Conference:

- **Advance Specials:** *Mission projects that have been approved by the Conference Board of Global Ministries or the General Board of Global Ministries, and are “second-mile” giving after shares of ministry by the local church. These mission projects were so called for “the advance of Christ and His church.”*
- **Cabinet:** *There are two parts to cabinet: 1) The appointive cabinet consists of the Bishop and the nine District Superintendents, and 2) full cabinet is expanded to include the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Treasurer.*
- **Call for the Question:** *After debate of any matter before the Conference, any voting member can call for the vote, which ends discussion.*
- **Consent Calendar:** *Reports and Resolutions for approval by the Conference are listed on the consent calendar for automatic approval. Upon proper motion from the floor, any report may be lifted from the consent calendar and placed on the agenda by a one-third vote of the Conference.*
- **Lay Members:** *Each charge elects one Lay Member, except when the following rules provide for additional Lay Members:*

Only **ONE** of the following applies to any given Charge.

- a. *Charges comprised of **four or more churches** shall elect a second Lay Member, provided that no more than one person shall be elected from any one church.*
 - b. *Charges of **three or fewer churches, with a total membership of 400 or more** shall elect a second Lay Member*
 - c. *Charges with **membership of 1100 or more** shall elect **three Lay Members**.*
 - d. *Charges with **multiple Pastors** shall elect **one Lay Member for each Pastor**.
(Exception: Local Pastors must be full time.)*
- **Lay Members-at-Large:** *Additional lay members elected by the Conference to equalize lay and ministerial membership of the Annual Conference. (See “Lay Equalization” under “Policy and Procedures” on the CPC website; located under “Resources.”)*
 - **Plenary:** *the definition of plenary is 1) full; complete; entire; absolute; unqualified: plenary powers; 2) attended by all qualified members; fully constituted: a plenary session of Congress.*
 - **Resolutions:** *One of the special expressions of the United Methodist polity is the opportunity for members of the connection to offer a resolution for consideration to a conference. The founders of our movement believed that in conferencing, the Holy Spirit of God could guide us to consider the prompting of our members.*

A resolution typically is formatted with a series of statements beginning with “whereas.” These statements provide the rationale of the petitioner. These statements demonstrate the assumptions that the petitioner holds. They belong to the petitioner. After the series of “whereas” statements, there appears at least one statement that begins “Therefore, be it resolved.” This becomes the main motion that is put before the Conference. If more than one action is being petitioned, another statement may be added beginning “be it further resolved.”

The Board of Church and Society is charged with receiving these resolutions and passing them on to conference with either a vote of concurrence or non-concurrence. The deadline to receive resolutions is usually the end of January.

- **UMCOR:** *the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church.*