

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents Pro Tem, TCAT/TDAT Chairs, and Other Leaders

FROM: Keith Boyette, Transitional Connectional Officer

RE: Convening General Conference Delegate Elections

DATE: January 15, 2024

Earlier today, the Transitional Leadership Council amended the referenced portions of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline as indicated:

Amended relevant portion of ¶ 403 as follows:

Following the historic practice of Methodism, those who serve as clergy within the Global Methodist Church shall be both elected by their peers and ordained by the bishop on behalf of the whole church. Election is the action by which the clergy of an annual conference, after carefully examining the qualifications, abilities, and readiness of a candidate for ministry, incorporate individuals into the membership of the covenant fellowship of those called to serve the church. Election carries with it the right to vote and participate in the business of an annual conference provided the person is under appointment or senior clergy who meet the qualifications of ¶ 418. During the period prior to the convening General Conference, under the provisions of ¶ 419.2a, transitional local pastors who have been approved for ordination as elders or deacons shall be clergy under this paragraph and have the right to vote and participate in the business of an annual conference. During the period prior to the convening General Conference, those persons licensed as transitional local pastors under ¶ 419.2b shall also be clergy under this paragraph and have the right to vote and participate in the business of an annual conference, except as limited by ¶ 419.2b. Ordination is the action by which the church sets apart those who have been so elected to a particular order of ministry for the good of the whole church. Ordination is conferred by the laying on of hands by a bishop and others among the people of God in conference.

Amended ¶ 610.1 as follows:

1. *Composition.* Annual conferences shall be formed for the purpose of connecting clergy and laity for shared ministry and accountability across a geographical region. A special annual conference or district that is not geographically bound and overlaps the boundaries of other annual conferences or districts can be formed by the decision of the Transitional Leadership Council at the request of a group of churches. The voting membership of an annual conference shall be composed of active those elders, deacons, elders, and transitional local pastors under appointment (except as limited by ¶ 419.2b), and senior clergy who meet the qualifications of ¶ 418, as well as at least an equal number of lay members elected by each charge or by the district or annual conference. Each charge shall be entitled to as many lay

members as it has appointed clergy. The annual conference may add lay members of the annual conference who are serving in conference leadership positions. The annual conference shall determine the method of electing additional lay members to equalize the number of clergy members. Only laity shall vote in the election of equaling laity. Such members may be elected by a charge conference, district conference, or the annual conference, but they must be elected and not appointed.

Amended ¶611.6 as follows:

6. Elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference according to the formula determined by the General Conference. Clergy delegates shall be members in full connection in good standing of the Global Methodist Church, ~~or its predecessors~~, who have served a minimum of two years preceding their election in the Global Methodist Church or its predecessors. During the period prior to the convening General Conference, under the provisions of ¶ 419.2a, transitional local pastors who have been approved for ordination as elders or deacons shall be members in full connection and may be clergy delegates provided that they are in good standing and have served a minimum of two years preceding their election in the Global Methodist Church or its predecessors. Lay delegates shall have been professing members of the Global Methodist Church, or its predecessors, for at least two years. Both clergy and lay delegates shall be elected by a minimum of fifty percent of votes cast plus one, with clergy voting for clergy delegates and laity voting for lay delegates.

The following persons are able to vote for clergy delegates to the convening General Conference:

- Elders and Deacons under appointment
- Transitional local pastors under appointment
- Senior clergy whether or not under appointment provided that the requirements of ¶418 of the TBDD are met.

The following persons are not able to vote for clergy delegates to the convening General Conference:

- Supply pastors (¶ 412 of the TBDD)
- Valid Elders and Valid Deacons (¶416.2 of the TBDD)
- Candidates for ministry as they remain laity

The following persons can be elected as clergy delegates to the convening General Conference:

- Elders and Deacons, including senior clergy, regardless of whether they are under appointment

- Transitional local pastors who have been approved by the Transitional Leadership Council for ordination as an elder or deacon, regardless of whether they are under appointment.

The following persons can not be elected as clergy delegates to the convening General Conference:

- Transitional local pastors licensed under ¶419.2 of the TBDD
- Valid Elders and Valid Deacons
- Supply Pastors

Candidates for ministry are laity.