

**2020 Organizational Motions  
California-Nevada Annual Conference  
September 14, 2020**

1 The 172<sup>nd</sup> Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is  
2 scheduled for Thursday, September 17 through Sunday, September 20, 2020.

3 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference session will be conducted on a digital platform.

4 The session agenda will include only those Recommendations deemed essential by *The Book of Discipline*  
5 *of The United Methodist Church* and/or the Conference Standing Rules for conduct of conference business  
6 until the 173<sup>rd</sup> Session, scheduled for October 28-31, 2021. Resolutions mandated by the previous Annual  
7 Conference will also be included on the session agenda.

8 The Standing Rules, Division I. C. (pages 324-327 of the 2019 Journal) shall serve as the Rules of Order,  
9 unless otherwise stipulated below.

10 The following additional organizational rules and instructions apply to the 2020 Annual Conference Session.

11 **A. General Rules Pertaining to the Digital Platform**

12 1. The digital coordinator for the conference is GNTV Media Ministry (“GNTV”) in cooperation with the  
13 Office of Conference Communications and other support personnel. Together they have developed  
14 and published instructions for registration, debate, voting and other processes.

15 2. The digital platform for the annual conference session is Zoom Webinar.

16 3. Zoom Webinar uses the following key terminology:

17 a. “Panelist” is an individual who is leading, presenting, assisting leadership, or a promoted  
18 attendee allowed to speak and be seen by everyone attending the conference.

19 b. “Attendee” is an individual who is able to see and hear what is happening but must be given  
20 access to speak and be seen by the presiding officer.

21 **B. Setting the Bar of the Conference and Membership**

22 1. The bar will be set through the registration process.

23 2. Membership and formulas for lay/clergy equalization shall be those in effect for the 2020 session of  
24 the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

25 3. Roll of conference members will be recorded by the registration list.

26 **C. Voting and Quorum**

27 1. Registered members authorized to vote will issued a Voter ID for use in voting.

28 2. Only persons using their Voter ID will be permitted to vote.

29 3. The Voter ID issued to each person secures the ballots so that only registered and authorized  
30 attendees can vote. Voting privileges are accorded to lay and clergy members of the California-  
31 Nevada Annual Conference who are authorized to vote by *The Book of Discipline of The United*  
32 *Methodist Church* (2016) and the Standing Rules.

33 4. The Voter ID relies on the technology of the digital platform process and will not be independently  
34 monitored by human eyes unless a proper challenge is made to the qualifications of a given voter  
35 and this challenge is recognized by the presiding officer.

36 5. The digital voting platform is designed to provide an accurate vote count following the close of a  
37 vote. A report will be made on each vote taken in as timely a manner as permitted by the limits of  
38 the digital platform, technology, and human efforts.

39 6. All motions and amendments made during the annual conference session must be submitted in  
40 writing prior to being recognized on the floor. This shall be done by using the “Q&A” feature  
41 discussed below under “Debate”.

42 7. Recommendations, Resolutions, Reports, and other materials to be distributed to conference  
43 attendees shall be submitted to the conference secretary prior to the annual conference session.  
44 Deadlines apply for submission of such materials.

45 8. For all purposes, a quorum shall be all members present and able to vote.

1 **D. Debate**

- 2 1. The debate process during the annual conference session will generally follow these instructions:
- 3 a. Individuals wishing to speak can only be recognized by using the “Q&A” feature to express why
- 4 they want to be recognized. These expressions are queued for the presiding officer.
- 5 b. Use the “Q&A” feature to indicate why you want to speak. For example: Ask a Question; Motion;
- 6 Amendment; Second; Call the Question; Point of Order; and so forth.
- 7 c. When asking the presiding officer to be recognized in order to speak, please format your request
- 8 to identify your purpose. For example, “Motion: \_\_\_”, “Question: \_\_\_”, or “Point of Order: \_\_\_”.
- 9 d. When submitting a motion or amendment, the text must be submitted in writing as provided
- 10 above in Rule C. 6.
- 11 e. Once recognized by the presiding officer, the attendee should use the “Raise Hand” feature to
- 12 be identified in the attendee list and their microphone will be enabled by GNTV. The attendee
- 13 then needs to unmute and begin speaking.
- 14 f. A timer should appear on the speaker’s screen once recognized to speak by the presiding
- 15 officer.
- 16 g. Please note that the “Chat” feature will only be used for general announcements by the
- 17 leadership. Attendees cannot use the “Chat” feature to be recognized or take other action during
- 18 debate or voting.

19 **E. Procedural Matters**

- 20 1. All items, including late items, on which *The Book of Discipline* and/or the Standing Rules of the
- 21 Conference do not require action by the Annual Conference Session shall be referred to the Core
- 22 Team for implementation *ad interim* or consideration at the 2021 session.
- 23 2. Division I, Section C. 5. a. is suspended to allow all legislative items and matters requiring a vote of
- 24 the conference to be considered by the full plenary body without consideration in a Legislative
- 25 Section first.
- 26 3. The Conference accepts reports not requiring action by the Annual Conference Session and directs
- 27 the conference secretary to make editorial corrections as required.
- 28 4. Where presentations are scheduled on the agenda, invited speakers from outside the California-
- 29 Nevada Annual Conference membership may address the conference session.
- 30 5. The agenda is adopted as published, and permission is granted to the Agenda Chair, in consultation
- 31 with the bishop, to make any changes deemed necessary.