

Delegates to Annual Conference

Responsibilities of Delegates

¶5020 In the Free Methodist connectional system, annual conference delegates have a two-fold responsibility: to represent their societies and to act for the good of the conference. Delegates shall be considered as liaison between the local church and the conference during the interim between conference sessions. They are expected to report significant actions of the conference to the society which elected them (see ¶6250.E.2).

¶6250

E. Annual Conference Lay Delegates

1. Adult members, with the exception of conference ministerial candidates, who conform to the conditions outlined for leaders in ¶6200.E.2, are eligible to be a delegate(s) or reserve delegate(s). However, a delegate who is received as a conference ministerial candidate during the current session of the annual conference shall not be disqualified to serve as a delegate. The society shall, from those nominated by the Nominating Committee, elect by ballot their delegate(s) and reserve delegate(s) to the annual conference, according to the provisions in ¶5010. The election of annual conference delegates normally occurs at a duly called society meeting. In some societies, however, the local Board of Administration, in consultation with the conference superintendent, may provide alternate means of electing its delegates providing that due notice is given (¶6250.C) and all members of the society have opportunity to participate in the election. The election of the delegate(s) and reserve delegate(s) shall be by separate ballot and shall require a majority vote of those present and voting. The secretary will provide credential(s) for the delegate(s).

2. Delegates serve as liaison between the society and its appointed personnel, as well as between the conference and the society. Their primary tasks include: representing the local church at annual conference; participating in conference activities as requested; representing the church to the superintendent; preserving unity within the body by promoting peace and harmony among the members.

3. Delegates are to support pastors and staff in the planning and promotion of Great Commission strategies.

¶6200.E Selecting Leaders

1. Leaders of the local church give substance and direction to the church as they seek to fulfill our Expected Outcomes. They pray, strategize and focus the energies, spiritual gifts and passion of the whole body.
2. Leadership and/or policy-making positions shall be filled by members who:
 - a. live consistently within scriptural guidelines (expectations) for leaders, e.g.: Exodus 18:21; Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:1-13 1; Titus 1:5-9 and express Christ-like attitudes in life and in relationships e.g.: Matthew 20:26-28; John 15:12-17; Acts 6:1-7; Ephesians 4:1-17.
 - b. give evidence of spiritual gifts such as leadership, faith and administration;
 - c. agree with and sincerely seek to live out the goals for their maturing life in Christ (i.e. the principles of the membership covenant);
 - d. continue in harmony with our doctrine and mission, and;
 - e. are vital in faith, faithful in attendance and financially supportive of their church to at least the level of a tithe.
3. Leadership and/or policy-making positions are defined as: Leadership Team, delegate(s), nominating committee, financial chairman and/or treasurer, plus other key ministry or teaching positions as determined by the local Leadership Team.