

Resolution: Changes to Order of Lay Equalization in Standing Rules

Rationale: In an attempt to increase the potential for young people's voices and representation at Annual Conferences, this change to lay equalization would provide not only more young people access as a voice and vote for Annual Conference, it would also emphasize the Conference body's commitment to mentoring and empowering younger generations to continue in the work of the United Methodist Church in North Alabama. Currently, the *2016 Book of Discipline* allows for one youth and one young adult from each district while the North Alabama Conference's Standing Rules provide one student representative from each Wesley Foundation. These changes would increase the possible representation from the current base of 21 persons to 65 persons. This increase would shift our lay representation of young people within the voting body of the Annual Conference from 1% to 5%.

Changes Suggested to Standing Rule 2.7.c:

- Increase youth and young adult representation to an additional four youth and four young adults per district beyond what the *Book of Discipline* provides
- Increase Wesley Foundation representation to five student representatives
- Shift the equalization of additional youth and young adult members, as well as Wesley Foundation student members to be higher in the formula of equalization

Standing Rules 2.7.c would then read as follows:

(c) Equalizing Members.

(1) In addition to the provisions for lay members of the Annual Conference as set out in the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶32, the following persons constitute members of the Annual Conference to the extent required to equalize lay membership with ministerial membership and in the following priority:

- (a) Four additional at-large youth members per district (ages 12-17);
- (b) Four additional at-large young adult members per district (ages 18-30);
- (c) Five student representatives from each Wesley Foundation (or Conference BHECM-approved United Methodist Campus Ministry Unit)
- ~~(d)~~ (d) Lay Team Leaders of Conference Ministry Teams;
- ~~(e)~~ (e) Lay persons serving on boards and agencies of the General Conference;
- ~~(f)~~ (f) Full-time lay employees of the Conference Staff;
- ~~(g)~~ (g) Former Conference Lay Leaders;
- ~~(h)~~ (h) District Presidents of United Methodist Women;
- ~~(i)~~ (i) District Presidents of United Methodist Men;
- ~~(j)~~ (j) Lay Chairpersons of District Councils (or equivalent body);
- ~~(k)~~ (k) Lay District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries;
- ~~(l)~~ (l) A student representative from each Wesley Foundation (or United Methodist Campus Ministry Unit);
- ~~(m)~~ (m) Former Conference Presidents of United Methodist Women;
- ~~(n)~~ (n) Former Conference Presidents of United Methodist Men;
- ~~(o)~~ (o) Others as needed, named and prioritized by the leadership and ministry teams of the Annual Conference.

Submitted by: Emily Nelms Chastain, Rev. Wade Langer, Rev. Stephanie York Arnold, Quinten Lochmann, Rev. Jay Robinson, Rev. Andrew Gamblin, Mike Galloway, Rev. Melissa Self Patrick, Rev. Reid Turner, Rev. Linda Williamson

Committee vote: 6 Yes (Concurrence) 0 No (Non-concurrence) 1 Abstain

The role of the Committee is not to approve or disapprove the content of a particular petition or resolution but to ensure that they have followed the appropriate process (as outlined in our standing rules) and that they are in agreement with the Book of Discipline, including our Social Principles, and our standing rules.