

Lay Delegates

EVERY LAY MEMBER elected delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of said college and a person of good, natural, or acquired ability who knows and loves *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* and has maintained a full, good and regular membership in said Church **four (4) consecutive years** next preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member of **his or her local church for six (6) months** next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. No lay member shall vote or be voted for more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate to the Electoral College.

Every pastor shall publish a notice of the Church Conference that is to elect lay representatives or delegates for his/her local church to the Electoral College at least **two (2) weeks prior to the election**.

The election must be held at least **three (3) months prior to the** meeting of the Electoral College. **Only full members eighteen (18) years of age and over** of said local church shall be eligible to vote or to be elected a delegate. A majority of those present and voting shall determine the elected delegate and alternate delegate, and **no proxy vote** shall be counted, either at the election of the local church or at the election held in and at the Electoral College.

The young adults shall elect their delegates to the Electoral College at the same time, but in a separate place from the election of the adult delegates.

Two (2) members, one (1) adult and one (1) young adult between the ages of eighteen 18 and 35, in good and regular standing, shall be elected to the Electoral College from each local church. At least one (1) member of each Annual Conference lay delegation shall be a young adult between the age of **eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35)**. The combined number of young adult and adult lay delegates shall be equal to the number of elected ministerial delegates.

Anyone eighteen (18) years of age who votes for delegates to the Electoral College from the local church and to the General Conference from one (1) Electoral College may not vote where any other Electoral College is concerned.

Electoral College

LAY ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The electoral College shall be composed of one (1) adult and one (1) young adult between the age of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35), in good and regular standing, from each station, circuit, and mission in the in the Annual Conference, whose expenses to said College shall be paid by the station, circuit, or mission represented.

The **Electoral College shall assemble** at the place and hour designated by the Annual Conference and shall organize according to the custom of delegated bodies. The **adult lay delegate from the local church hosting the meeting** of the Electoral College shall take the chair for the purpose of presiding and processing the voting to elect **temporary chairperson** and temporary secretary.

AFTER DEVOTIONAL services, the college shall effect a permanent organization, electing a chairperson, secretary, two (2) tellers and two (2) clerks and then proceed to elect from its members by ballot, delegates, one (1) of who must be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35), and alternates, as provided by law under caption, "Composition of General Conference."
(See Part XIV, Section I-A)

The secretary of the Electoral College shall prepare and certify over his or her signature a report of the proceedings of the Electoral College, including and accurate list of the electoral and an accurate list of the elected lay delegates in order of their election, and forward the same to the presiding bishop of the district and to the secretary of the Annual Conference **within 30 days after the election** and to the Chief Information Officer one-hundred-twenty (120) days prior to the opening of the General Conference. (2021 Discipline P. 266)

In cases where ballots are required and the election is uncontested, a voice vote may be held.

The current edition of ***Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*** shall be the parliamentary authority for all elections.

Let's Go to College...

The Electoral College shall elect the same number of alternates, with the same qualifications, and by the same method as delegates.

If, when the results of the balloting are announced, a member of the Electoral College shall desire to contest the results of the election, the chairman shall permit the member who announces his desire to contest the election to count the ballots in the presence of the members of the College before the meeting in which the election is held either recesses or adjourns. If an error is discovered in the recount, the chairperson must declare the election void and the Electoral College shall be delivered to the Annual Conference when certification of the election is presented to the Annual Conference.

If, in the composition or activity of the Electoral College, a law of the church is violated, complaints may be made to and a hearing held at the next session of the **Current** Annual Conference which shall adjust the matter.

The Electoral College shall give each lay delegate and alternate a Certificate of Election, signed by the Chairperson and Secretary, to be presented to the Annual Conference for record.

The Annual Conference shall give a Certificate of Election, signed by the bishop and secretary, to every delegate.

It shall be **unlawful for any minister** to interfere in any way in the Electoral College.

Each **Episcopal District Lay President** shall be a member of the General Conference, by virtue of his or her position. He or she shall automatically be included in the number of delegates certified at the Electoral College. The District Lay President must be a member in good and regular standing in his or her local church and his or her local Lay Organization.



THINK ABOUT IT...

How can I participate in the
electoral college?
Where do I begin?