

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



2021





Agenda

Presentation title



- Welcome
- Prayer Chaplain Langston
- Review the Annual Conference - PRETEST
- Look at what happens on the way to Annual Conference, during the Annual Coherence and even after Annual Conference
- Reminders....Electoral College
- Post Test How much do you know?

20XX

2

Composition

The Annual Conference shall be composed of all traveling elders and deacons (including Chaplains), all local elders and deacons, and the Presidents of the Conference Lay Organization and Women's Missionary Society, and the Conference Directors of Christian Education, MCAM, Women in Ministry, Sons of Allen, YPD, RAYAC, CONN-M-SWAWO, CDMC, and all other conference level leaders of Connectional Organizations together with one (1) elected lay member and at least one (1) elected lay person between the ages of eighteen to thirty-five (18-35) when possible, from each charge within its bounds.

2021 Discipline – p. 281

Travel and Expenses

Travel and Expenses shall be paid by the local church.

2021 Discipline – p. 281

Paid for What?

As an Annual Conference Delegate, you should:

Attend the meetings of the Annual Conference, including worship, business sessions, component activities.

Be on time and be attentive.

Take notes and prepare to report and share your experience.

Give a presentation, report or accounting when you return to your local church of your stewardship as a delegate.

In the words of Bishop John Hurst Adams, “Don’t Make the Lobby your hobby!”

Responsibilities & Requirements

Every Annual Conference shall be incorporated. In those instances in the United States where the conferences cover more than one state, the incorporation will be in the state with the largest membership. The Annual Conference, so incorporated, shall be a legal and sovereign body.

2021 Discipline – p. 281

Responsibilities & Requirements

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal District in which an annual conference is located shall be the president of the Annual Conference.

Although each Annual Conference, may vote to open or close an annual conference on any given day within a seven (7) consecutive day period, the **bishop shall choose the number of days** for each session, but not to exceed five (5) consecutive days.

Responsibilities & Requirements

Each episcopal district at its first planning session by majority vote, set the opening and closing days of the Annual Conference within the boundaries of the district.

All active duty military and VA Chaplain must report annually to his or her annual conference and to the endorsing agent. One of the annual reports during the quadrennium must be made in person, or the chaplain must have his or her absence certified by the Endorsing Agent.

Sessions

1. Every Annual Conference shall designate the place where the next Conference will be held.
2. The time for holding the next Conference shall be set by the Presiding Bishop, which should be done at each current conference.
3. An annual conference year shall begin when the appointments are read in the conference and shall continue until they are read the next session.

Attendance

1. It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual Conference to attend its sessions.

2. **Absence from the Annual Conference**

a. Any member unable to attend the annual conference shall report by **letter**, setting forth the reason for his or her absence. Should **any minister** in active service fail to be in attendance at an annual conference without satisfactory reason for his or her absence, said minister shall be referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee for the disobedience to the order and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Attendance

2. Absence from the Annual Conference

- a. After hearings on this matter, the Ministerial Efficiency Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Annual Conference, which shall vote on said recommendations.

2021 Discipline – p. 284

Organization

How it all comes together

1. After devotional services, the secretary of the preceding conference by order of the president, shall call the conference roll.
2. The Annual Conference, to expedite the transaction of its business, shall adopt an agenda. A suggested agenda shall be prepared by the bishop, presiding elders, and such others as the bishop may select and be submitted to the Annual Conference for adoption.
3. The Annual Conference, by majority vote, shall elect its officers, and for its own government may adopt rules and regulation not in conflict with *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.

Organization

How it all comes together

4. The officers of the Annual Conference shall be a President (the presiding bishop), recording secretary, engrossing secretary, statistical secretary and treasurer.

NOTE: engrossing secretary: Engrossing Office performs the following duties: **Processing Committee Reports**. The Engrossing Secretary checks the committee report for correct drafting of amendments, proper wording, clarity, engrossability, internal references, title amendments, statutory references, grammar, punctuation and other details.

Organization

How it all comes together

5. The President of the Annual Conference unless otherwise ordered, shall appoint all committees except the Finance Committee and the Judiciary Committee which shall be nominated and elected by the Annual Conference.

Organization

How it all comes together

6. At least one (1) bishop shall be present and preside at each annual conference, but in the absence of the bishop, the conference shall elect a president pro tem. The bishop or chairperson and the secretary shall sign the record at the close of each annual conference and at the close of the quadrennium present the journal to the General Conference.

Finances

1. **All conference monies shall be paid to the Finance Committee**, which shall disburse the same as directed by law, subject to the approval of the conference at least one (1) day before the conference adjourns. The public offerings of the annual conference shall be used for local contingency, benevolence and expansion.

The financial report or budget report with accompanying budget funds collected at each annual conference including report of public offerings, **shall be sent to the Chief Financial Officer with copies to the General Secretary within two (2) weeks** following the close of the annual conference.

Finances

2. It is the responsibility of the bishop and the conference to monitor the receipt of the funds from local charges. **If a minister fails to raise the designated apportionment or a fair part of** it during the conference year, he or she shall be reported to the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency for inquiry.

Finances

3. If, on examination, the committee finds that the minister **has willfully refused or willfully neglected his or her duty in raising the apportionment**, he or she shall **upon vote** of the Annual Conference, be reproved by the bishop for the first (1st) offense. If he or she refuses to neglect a second (2nd), time, he or she, upon vote of the Annual Conference, shall be suspended or dismissed from itinerant work.

Conference Literary Exercises

One (1) day of each Annual Conference shall be devoted to literary sessions, such as discussions, essays, addresses and such other literary exercises as may be determined by the bishop and conference. If it is not convenient at conference, a literary convention should be held during the year at the call of the bishop of the district.

Conference Literary Exercises

2. The bishop or a president elected by the conference shall preside at the meeting held for these exercises and shall appoint the ministers who are to read and give addresses on these occasions.

2021 Discipline – p. 285

Ministerial Efficiency

Annual Conference



Presentation title



Committees

1. Ministerial Efficiency

- a. The bishop shall appoint a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency consisting of five (5) elders
- b. It shall be the duty of this Committee to pass upon the efficiency and moral conduct of such ministers as may be referred to it.

Surrender of Ministerial Orders

Any member of an Annual Conference in good standing who may desire to surrender the ministerial orders and withdraw from the Conference because of pressing secular business or illness, or because in incapacitation, may be allowed to do so upon majority vote of the Conference in regular session. Should a Conference locate him or her, his or her credentials shall be filed with the Secretary of the Conference and he or she shall become a member of a church or his or her choice.



Application for Location

Whenever a member of an Annual Conference applies to the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency for location, the member shall be examined as regards indebtedness to departments of the church. If it is found that he or she is so indebted that Conference shall demand payment or security for said debt. If he or she is found in good standing the Conference may grant a Certificate of Location, which shall be certified by the Presiding Elder. Such a preacher shall hold membership as local elder or local deacon in a Quarterly Conference of his or her choice and shall be amenable for conduct and the continuation of ordination rights to the Annual Conference wherein the Quarterly Conference is held.

Request for Location

by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency

Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency that a member of an Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or indifferent or that secular affairs disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee shall notify said pastor in writing six (6) months prior to Annual Conference session and ask the pastor to request location. If the pastor refuses or neglects to locate, the Conference may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency, locate the pastor without consent, which deprives the pastor of the right to exercise ministerial orders.

Request for Location

by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency

When any member of an Annual Conference is charged with having conducted himself or herself in such a manner as to be rendered unacceptable to the people as a traveling preacher, the case shall be investigated by the conference. If it appears that the complaint is well-founded and no satisfaction is given that ways will be amended and the accused will not consent to retire voluntarily, the Annual Conference shall locate him or her.

In this event. The minister shall be at liberty to defend himself or herself before the Annual Conference in person, by letter or by a representative. If the minister should be located while absent and without having been previously notified of the intention thus to proceed against him or her, he or she shall have the privilege to apply to the next session of the Annual Conference for a defense hearing, and shall have consideration of said case.

Request for Location

by a Presiding Elder

Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding elders of an Annual Conference that a minister should be located for the above specified reasons, they shall notify the preacher in writing six (6) months prior to the session of the Annual Conference. The Conference shall take such action as provided for regarding the report of the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency.

It Happens at the Annual Conference

RETIREMENT

No minister who is seventy-five (75) years of age by his or her Annual Conference shall receive an appointment as presiding elder or pastor.

Those who wish to retire before age seventy-five (75) must submit a letter to the Annual Conference requesting retirement.

WITHDRAWAL

When a minister in good standing desires to withdraw to unite with another denomination, the ministerial orders shall be surrendered to the Annual Conference and there shall be given a letter of recommendation to the church of his or her choice.

It Happens at the Annual Conference

WITHDRAWAL

When a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with another denomination and becomes a part of that denomination's ministerial program, administering the Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that denomination, he or **she shall lose** his or her membership in the Annual Conference, forthwith.

If he or she desires to stay in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she must show proof of his or her renunciation of his or her membership in the other denomination

A presiding bishop or an Annual Conference may allow a deacon or elder to pastor **temporarily** in another denomination for a period not to exceed 2 years. Said pastor must return to the Annual Conference or lose membership in the same.

It Happens at the Annual Conference

ABSENCE FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A deacon or elder who absents himself or herself from the Annual Conference two (2) years without lawful excuse shall, upon recommendation of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee lose his or her membership. A traveling deacon or elder shall not act as deacon or elder or preach in our churches if he or she ceases to travel without consent of the Annual Conference and certification to do so by the bishop, unless he or she is incapacitated by sickness, disability or unavoidable circumstances.

Other Committees

Annual Conference



Presentation title



Committees

2. Church Growth and Development

a. The annual conference, in conjunction with the Annual Conference Trustees, shall establish a Committee on Church Growth and Development. This committee shall make use of information and data from the Connectional Department of Church Growth and Development, local planning boards, Census Bureaus and such other agencies and resources available to make informed determinations on congregation location, based on population trends.

Committees

Church Growth and Development (contd.)

b. The Annual Conference shall have the mandate to support the presiding elder districts in achieving the goal of at least **one (1) new charge** per presiding elder district per quadrennium. Through the establishment of a Church Development Plan, the conference shall provide the resources necessary to effect the establishment of the new charge.

2021 Discipline – p. 286

Legislative Task Force

Legislative Task Force

1. Establishment

a. Legislative Task Force shall be established by the presiding bishop of each episcopal district for the purpose of receiving, hearing, editing, and preparing all bills agreed upon by the members of an episcopal district for submission to the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It shall be the duty of the Legislative Task Force to keep the Episcopal District aware of proposed legislation and encourage the members of the district to participate in discussions related to the same.

2021 Discipline – p. 286

Legislative Task Force

Legislative Task Force (contd.)

2. Composition

The presiding bishop shall appoint the chairperson and nominate the members of the Task Force. The Legislative Task Force shall organize itself and elect such officers and adopt such Bylaws as necessary to carry out its duties.

2021 Discipline – p. 286

Legislative Task Force

Legislative Task Force (contd.)

3. Standing Committee

a. The chairperson of the Legislative Task Force shall appoint such Standing Committee as necessary for the proper execution of its duties.

b. Standing Committees shall meet at the call of the Committee chairperson as he or she may deem necessary for carrying out the work of the Committee.

Legislative Task Force

4. Meetings

The presiding bishop or the chairperson, shall call such meetings as may be required to transact the business of the Legislative Task Force. General meetings of the Legislative Task Force shall be held at least twice annually.

5. Reports

The Legislative Task Force shall, from time to time, as the presiding bishop may see fit, report to the Annual Conference and seek the input and concurrence of the Annual Conference.

The Rights of Lay Members

1. Lay members of the Annual Conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures.
2. Lay members of the Annual Conference must serve on **all** committees, except those on ministerial relations and for the trial of ministers.

Committees

Preacher's Conduct in Conference

1. It is desired that all things be considered on these occasions as in the immediate presence of God, and that every person shall speak freely whatever in his or her heart.

2. In order that we may improve our time at conference, while we are conversing, let us set God always before us. In the intermediate hours, let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises. Therein, let us give ourselves to prayer for one another and for a blessing on our neighbors.

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

1. Composition

The Annual Conference shall elect a Board of Trustees, consisting of three (3) or more persons who are at least **thirty (30)** years of age and have been members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in A. good standing for three (3) years immediately preceding the election.

2. Term

They shall be elected for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been elected, and shall be the Trustee of the Annual Conference Corporation and shall administer all property of the Annual Conference.

Board of Trustees

3. Powers and Duties

a. They shall be make, execute and deliver in the name of the Annual Conference, either originally or in substitution or renewal, mortgage notes (containing clause for concession of judgement) and may pledge the property and assets of the Annual Conference Corporation as security against such obligations.

b. The Annual Conference Trustees by two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members may guarantee mortgage loans of any church within the Annual Conference for the purpose of securing such funds for use in repairing, remodeling or erecting of said church.

2021 Discipline – p. 287

Board of Trustees

4. Amenability

The Annual Conference shall be amenable to the General Conference to which shall submit the record of its proceedings for examination and approval.

2021 Discipline – p. 287

Board of Trustees

5. Meetings and Agenda

a. The Annual Conference Trustees are required to meet at least twice during the conference year, midway during the conference year and prior to the annual conference.

b. The secretary of the Annual Conference Board of trustees will notify trustees of the meeting date, time and place.

2021 Discipline – p. 288

Board of Trustees

5. Meetings and Agenda

c. At each meeting, any church with a mortgage or indebtedness to which the Annual Conference serves as guarantor, shall present from the lending institution a written report from the lender, stating the amount of indebtedness and status of the mortgage debt. The conference trustee shall take any necessary action to protect the property of the Annual Conference.

d. Minutes and actions of the Annual Conference Trustees shall be recorded and copies provided to the bishop and each member of the Board of Trustees and annual conference.

2021 Discipline – p. 288

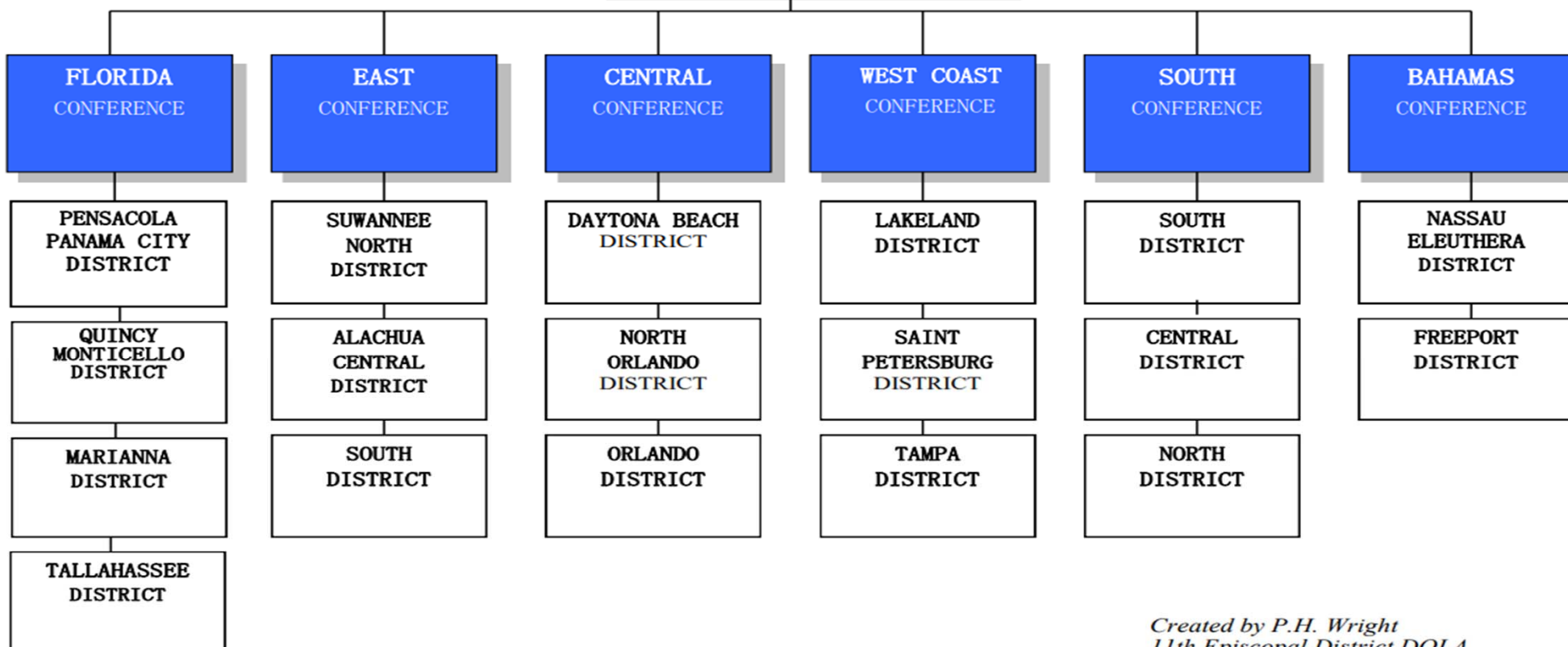


Eleventh Episcopal District

African Methodist Episcopal Church



ANNUAL CONFERENCES



*Created by P.H. Wright
11th Episcopal District DOLA
REVISED 11/29/16*

Electoral College

Annual Conference



Presentation title



Annual Conference Election

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

• b. 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 older 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.

• c. 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

Local Elections for Electoral Delegate

CONFERENCE	ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATE	ELECTION BY
FLORIDA	September 13-15, 2023	June 13
SOUTH	September 27-29, 2023	June 27
WEST COAST	October 4-6, 2023	July 4
EAST	October 18-20, 2023	July 18
CENTRAL	October 25-27, 2023	July 25
BAHAMAS	November 8-9	August 8



POST TEST

**Presenter
name**

**Email
address**

Website

Thank you...