

THE COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES

Report to the 2024 Annual Conference

Section 1: Changes regarding board, committee, council or agency membership requested by the Committee on Nominations or the named board, committee, council or agency.

Rationale (1) for the changes to Standing Rule 34: these changes allow the Conference Committee on Nominations (or other responsible group) to offer the annual conference a viable slate of nominees that will carry forward the institutional memory of the quadrennial agencies of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

34. Membership resulting from election by the Annual Conference on all boards, councils, commissions and committees which are considered quadrennial shall be for a quadrennium, and shall not exceed ~~two~~ **three (3)** quadrennia. Vacancies shall be elected to complete the quadrennium. In accordance with *The Book of Discipline*, members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive four year terms. After this period of service that member shall be ineligible for re-election to that same agency until a lapse of two (2) years.

Rationale (2) for the changes to Standing Rules 49, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 71 & 72: Reducing the membership of quadrennial agencies by approximately 25% reflects the membership changes experienced by the South Carolina Annual conference since 2023.

49. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall be composed of ~~sixty-five (65)~~ **fifty seven (57)** members. In accordance with *The Discipline*, no less than one-fifth (1/5) and no more than one-third (1/3) of the total membership shall be lay persons. The Annual Conference Coordinator of Clergy Services shall be an ex-officio member, with voice, but without vote. If the Psychological Assessment Vendor is United Methodist, the vendor may serve as an ex-officio member of the Board with voice but without vote, in accordance with the nominating process of *The Book of Discipline*.
56. There shall be a Board of Trustees of South Carolina Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry ("ASNМ"), a body consisting of **up to** sixteen (16) elected members ~~At least ten (10) members,~~ **a majority of whom** shall be members of United Methodist Churches in the South Carolina Conference and/or ministerial members of that conference.
- Trustees shall be nominated by the Outreach section of Conference Connectional Ministries for election by the South Carolina Annual Conference for four (4) year terms. Names of prospective trustees shall be submitted by the ASNМ Board to the Outreach section of Conference Connectional Ministries. Nominees shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary and the Office of Connectional Ministries by February 1. Vacancies on the ASNМ Board shall be filled by the Board for the remainder of that year.
 - Ex-officio members of the Board shall be a cabinet representative designated by the bishop, and the Executive Director of ASNМ (the executive director shall serve with vote).

- c. The Board shall be divided into four (4) classes. Trustees shall be eligible for re-election to a maximum tenure of two (2) consecutive terms. After a full tenure of service, a former trustee shall be ineligible for re-election until a lapse of one (1) year.
58. There shall be a Board of Trustees for The United Methodist Center composed of ~~nine (9)~~ **seven (7)** persons and one ex-officio member. It is recommended that of the elected members ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** be clergy and ~~five (5)~~ **four (4)** laity. They shall be elected by the South Carolina Annual Conference upon nomination by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations. The tenure of trustees shall be limited to eight (8) consecutive years, after which a person shall be ineligible for re-election until a period of two (2) years has elapsed. The Board shall be organized into four (4) classes with at least one lay and one clergy in ~~each~~ **three of the four** classes. In addition, one ex-officio member, without vote, from the employees shall be chosen annually by the employees of the United Methodist Center to meet with the Board. The business manager shall serve as an ex-officio member without vote.
59. There shall be a Board of Trustees of Spartanburg Methodist College composed of twenty-four (24) elected ~~or named~~ members **and the Spartanburg District Superintendent who will serve and an ex-officio non-voting member.** ~~one (1) Student Advisory Trustee who shall be a recent graduate of the college.~~
- Persons serving on this Board of Trustees shall be ~~nominated~~ submitted to the Annual Conference ~~by the Board of Global Ministries~~ for approval. Nominees shall be submitted to the Conference Secretary and the Office of Connectional Ministries by ~~February 1~~ **the pre-conference report deadline.** ~~Those elected and named Trustees shall be divided into three (3) classes of eight (8) each.~~ One class shall be elected each year to serve for three (3) years.
 - The tenure of the Trustees shall be limited to four (4) consecutive terms. ~~The tenure of the Student Advisory Trustee shall be one (1) year.~~
 - The Board of Trustees shall report to the Annual Conference through the Board of Global Ministries.
60. The Council on Finance and Administration shall be composed of ~~fifteen (15)~~ **eleven (11)** members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~seven (7)~~ **five (5)** be clergy persons and ~~eight (8)~~ **six (6)** be lay persons and such ex-officio members as The Book of Discipline may prescribe. (Para 612.2c) The chairperson of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be an ex officio member with voice but without vote.
61. The Commission on Archives and History shall be composed of ~~eight (8)~~ **six (6)** persons nominated by the Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** be lay persons and ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** clergy persons. Ex-officio members shall be: the President of the Annual Conference Historical Society, the Annual Conference Historian, the Conference Secretary, the archivist of Claflin University and the archivist of Wofford College. The libraries at Claflin University and Wofford College shall be designated as depositories of all Annual Conference minutes

and records. Where possible duplicate copies of all material shall be furnished; in case of materials which cannot be furnished in duplicate, the Secretary of the Annual Conference shall make the determination as to which depository shall be used.

62. The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall be composed of ~~twelve (12)~~ **nine (9)** elected members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~six (6)~~ **five (5)** be lay persons and ~~six (6)~~ **four (4)** clergy. One ex-officio member shall be designated from each of the following boards: Global Ministries, Ordained Ministry and Laity, and an ex-officio member from the executive committee of the Committee on Congregational Development. (Note: In accordance with Para. 625 of *the Book of Discipline*, one district superintendent is named by the cabinet as a member. At least one of the elected lay persons and at least one of the elected clergy shall be from a church of fewer than two hundred (200) members.)
63. There shall be a Committee on the Annual Conference. In accordance with paragraph 605.2 of *The Book of Discipline*, membership includes the Bishop, the District Superintendents and Conference Lay Leader. There shall be twelve (12) elected members nominated by the Committee on Nominations for election by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that these twelve (12) elected members be lay persons with no more than one (1) lay person from a district; ~~up to four (4) additional clergy may also be nominated.~~ The ex-officio members shall be: the Director of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries; The Annual Conference Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian; and one (1) representative of ~~the Commission on Worship,~~ the United **Methodist Women in Faith**, the United Methodist Men and **the South Carolina Ministry with Young People** ~~United Methodist Youth Fellowship~~ (who is elected by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries). The pastor(s) of the host church(es) of the next Annual Conference session shall meet with the Committee in the pre-conference meetings.
- a. The Bishop shall serve as the chairperson of the Committee.
 - b. The Committee shall prepare a proposed agenda for adoption by the Annual Conference, giving due regard to any special orders required by the Discipline or as ordered by the Annual Conference. The Committee shall determine the compensation and expenses to be paid speakers invited by this Committee, and the Treasurer shall make such payments from the Conference expense funds.
 - c. The Committee shall receive all invitations to host the Annual Conference. It shall recommend to the Annual Conference the place for the entertainment of the Annual Conference at least two (2) years in advance.
 - d. The Committee shall conduct all matters of courtesy and make such introductions as are necessary during the sessions of Annual Conference.
 - e. The Committee shall arrange for an appropriate Memorial Service to be held annually and shall select the speaker.
64. ~~There shall be a Committee on the Conference Journal composed of nine (9) persons nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that three (3) be clerical~~

~~members and six (6) lay members. The following shall be ex-officio members: the Conference Secretary; the First Assistant Conference Secretary; the Editor of the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate; and the Statistician.~~ The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for the publication of pre-conference reports and the publication annually of the South Carolina Conference Journal (see *The Book of Discipline*, Para. 606.3).

~~a. The Committee shall cooperate with the Conference Secretary in the publication of the pre-conference reports.~~

4. a. The Conference Secretary shall inform the boards, councils, commissions and committees when reports shall be due in order to maintain the printing schedule for the pre-conference reports.

2. b. No report by any board, council, commission or committee shall be considered by the Annual Conference that has not been distributed to the members of the Annual Conference at least four weeks prior to the Conference session. Excluded from this requirement are the reports of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Committee on Nominations, and the Committee on Standing Rules.

b.c. The ~~Committee~~ **Conference Secretary** shall determine the accuracy of the Journal of Proceedings where differences exist.

e.d. ~~The Committee and the Conference Secretary shall be responsible for the publication annually of the South Carolina Conference Journal (see The Book of Discipline, Para. 606.3) and shall have~~ tThe Journal shall be ready for the printer by November 1st following the close of Annual Conference. The Journal shall include the informational reports included in the pre-conference reports, the proceedings and actions of the Annual Conference, and the Statistical Reports.

1. The Conference Secretary shall edit the conference journal.

2. The Conference Secretary shall annually request of the Council on Finance & Administration the funds needed to publish and distribute the pre-conference reports and the Conference Journal, and shall provide for the printing at least one year in advance.

3. The required number of copies will be sent to those mandated by The Discipline. Other copies may be ordered by subscription at a cost to be set by the ~~Committee~~ Conference Secretary and Conference Treasurer.

d.e. The memoirs of the ministers and ministers' spouses who have died during the conference year shall be printed in the Conference Journal; those of the ministers shall not exceed 600 words and those of the spouses shall not exceed 250 words.

65. There shall be a Committee on Congregational Development (CCD) composed of ~~eight (8)~~ **six (6)** at large members, nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference; one representative from each District Board for Congregational Development; and one representative from each of the following: the Board of Global Ministries, Board of Evangelism, Board of Laity and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. The purpose of the CCD shall be to work with the Bishop and Cabinet to provide long term planning and provide the framework for all the efforts of the Annual Conference related to new church development, church redevelopment and congregational revitalization.

67. There shall be a Conference Committee on Nominations ~~of twenty-four (24) members~~ composed of ~~two representatives~~ one (1) member nominated by each district and elected by the annual conference. ~~It is recommended that these be one clergy and one lay representative from each district.~~ The additional members shall include: the resident Bishop; a ~~youth and~~ young adult nominated by the Discipleship Area of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries; up to ~~six (6)~~ eight (8) at large members, who may be nominated by the Bishop to ensure adequate representation; and the following members: the Conference Lay Leader (or his/her designee), an elected representative of United ~~Methodist~~ Women in Faith, United Methodist Men, a retired member of the Annual Conference selected by the chairpersons of the Orders of Elders and Deacons and Fellowship of Local Pastors, and two superintendents named by the Bishop. The Conference Council on Youth Ministry or its equivalent may elect a representative. The Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations shall be elected by the Annual Conference. A nominee shall be presented by the Committee on Nominations for consideration at the beginning of each quadrennium. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall elect additional officers at its first regular meeting in the new quadrennium. The following shall be ex-officio members without vote: the chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules, the Convener of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries, and two representatives of the Advocacy Area of Connectional Ministries responsible for the monitoring functions of the committee on Status and Role of Women and The Committee on Religion and Race.

- ~~a.~~ ~~It is recommended that there be one clergy person and one lay person nominated by each district committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference.~~
- ~~b.~~a. If a member of the Committee on Nominations, who has been nominated by the District moves beyond the boundaries of the District in which he/she was nominated, his/her membership on the Committee shall be terminated, except for the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary, who should continue to serve as members-at-large on the Conference Committee on Nominations until the end of the quadrennium.
- ~~c.~~b. When district vacancies occur on the Committee, replacements shall be nominated as per rule 67.a to serve the remainder of the quadrennium. In the event that the elected chairperson of the Nominating Committee is one of the ~~two~~ elected representatives of a district, that chairperson shall become an additional member-at-large and the respective district shall elect another representative for that district, both of whom shall serve until the end of the quadrennium.
- ~~d.~~c. Current members of the Committee on Nominations shall not be nominated for membership on any board, council, commission or committee whose membership arises from nominations from this committee.
- ~~e.~~d. Ex-officio members of the Nominating Committee shall be excluded from rule 67.~~d.~~c.
- ~~f.~~e. The Committee shall make all nominations needed by the Annual Conference except as provided elsewhere by the Discipline or Standing Rules of the Annual Conference. When the Discipline or Standing Rules require nominations be made by other agencies of the Annual Conference, those nominations shall be reported to the Committee no later than March 15 of each year for information only. These nominations will not be

submitted to the Annual Conference through the Committee on Nominations.

- ~~g.~~f. Nominations of chairpersons of all quadrennial boards, councils, commissions and committees, whose election is not prescribed by the Discipline or other sections of these Standing Rules shall be a nominated member of that board, council, commission or committee and shall be submitted by the Committee on Nominations to the Annual Conference for election.
- ~~h.~~g. When nominations are made, the persons nominated shall be consulted and their consent to serve received; whether nominated by parent boards, the Committee on Nominations or from the floor of the Annual Conference.
- ~~i.~~h. The Annual Conference Committee on Nominations shall make nominations so that approximately ~~one half (1/2)~~ one third (1/3) of the membership of all boards, councils, commissions and committees shall be rotated each quadrennium.
- ~~j.~~i. The report of the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations shall include the full name, current mailing address, email address, and phone number(s) of each nominee. When a nomination is to a Board of Trust, the report shall identify any nominee who is not a member of The United Methodist Church by indicating the denomination or religious affiliation of the person being nominated in parentheses following his or her name.
- ~~k.~~j. It is recommended that the Nominating Committee nominate at least 25% ethnic minority representation to all Conference Boards and Agencies where such nominees originate with the Conference Committee on Nominations. When vacancies are filled and nominations from the floor are offered it is recommended that at least 25% ethnic minority membership be maintained. It is also recommended that until this representation is achieved, if from one to four members are to be elected, at least one be an ethnic minority; if five to eight are to be elected, at least two be ethnic minority persons.
- ~~l.~~k. Unless otherwise provided in the *Book of Discipline*, a vacancy in the membership of a board, council, commission or committee may be filled, ad-interim, by the board, council, commission or committee for the remainder of the Conference year in which the vacancy occurs. At its next session the Annual Conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. The respective board, council, commission or committee shall inform the Committee on Nominations of the vacancy and its action.

69. There shall be a Committee on Petitions to the General Conference (see The Book of Discipline, Para. 507) composed of ~~six (6)~~ four (4) members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~three (3)~~ two (2) be lay persons and ~~three (3)~~ two (2) be clergy persons, at least half having been delegates to General Conference previously. This committee shall be considered a task force and neither a quadrennial committee nor a non-quadrennial committee. Petitions to the General Conference may be submitted to the Annual Conference for endorsement by any clergy member or elected lay member of the Annual Conference or by any local church board or council or any organization affiliated with the annual conference. Such petitions shall be referred to the Committee on

Petitions to the General Conference by the Conference Secretary and shall be reported by this Committee to the Annual Conference with a recommendation of approval or non-approval. The vote shall be on the petition itself, and not on the recommendation of the Committee. Petitions delivered to the Conference Secretary no later than March 15 of each conference year shall be printed in the preconference packet. Petitions received after the March 15 deadline shall be referred to the Committee on Petitions to the General Conference for consideration at the next year's annual conference. Petitions presented to the Annual Conference for endorsement must follow the provisions of ¶1507 and be submitted in the format determined by the Secretary of the General Conference. The Committee on Petitions to the General Conference shall meet during the session of the Annual Conference and provide time for persons or organizations offering petitions referred to the committee to come before the committee to discuss their petitions. Petitions endorsed by the Annual Conference are submitted to the General Conference by the Conference Secretary.

71. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules composed of ~~nine (9)~~ **six (6)** members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~six (6)~~ **four (4)** be lay persons and ~~three (3)~~ **two (2)** be clergy persons. The following shall be ex-officio members with vote: the President of the Conference United ~~Methodist~~ **Women in Faith**, the President of the Conference United Methodist Men, the President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry **or its equivalent**, the Conference Secretary, the Conference Lay Leader or their designee, the chairperson of the Conference Council on Connectional Ministries, at least one district superintendent and the Conference Parliamentarian.
72. The Conference Committee on Episcopacy shall be composed of ~~fifteen (15)~~ **twelve (12)** members. In accordance with the Discipline (Para. 637), membership shall consist of the following: ~~one fifth (1/5)~~ **two (2)** appointed by the Bishop, and the balance nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that one-third (1/3) be clergy persons, one-third (1/3) laywomen, and one-third (1/3) laymen, provided that one layperson shall be the Conference Lay Leader. Ex-officio members with vote shall be the lay and clergy members of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy.

Section 2: Changes in response to the request of the 2023 Annual Conference to the Committee on Standing Rules.

Rationale (1) for the changes to Standing Rule 70: Reducing the membership of quadrennial agencies by approximately 25% reflects the membership changes experienced by the South Carolina Annual conference since 2023.

Rationale (2) for the changes to Standing Rule 70: Changing the due date for Resolutions to be submitted allows the Conference Secretary and Parliamentarian time to review submissions to insure they were submitted in the proper manner and form. These additional changes will allow the Conference

Secretary and Parliamentarian to notify the authors of improper submissions in time for the authors to make corrections and resubmit.

70. There shall be a Committee on Resolutions and Appeals composed of ~~nine (9)~~ six (6) members nominated by the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. It is recommended that ~~six (6)~~ four (4) be lay persons and ~~three (3)~~ two (2) be clergy persons. Resolutions to the Annual Conference may be submitted by any clergy member(s), any elected lay member(s), or any organization affiliated with the annual conference.
- a. Resolutions initiated by a board, council, commission or committee are properly before the Annual Conference without the necessity of referral. Resolutions not initiated by a board, council, commission or committee of the annual conference may be referred to those agencies by the Conference Secretary. Any resolution not referred to a board, council, commission or committee of the Annual Conference shall be referred to the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals, and shall be reported by this Committee to the Annual Conference with a recommendation of approval or non-approval with rationale. The vote shall be on the petition itself, and not on the recommendation of the committee.
 - b. Resolutions delivered to the Conference Secretary no later than ~~March 15~~ **March 1** of each Conference year shall be published in the Pre-Conference Journal. **The Conference Secretary, in consultation with Conference parliamentarian shall determine if a resolution submitted to the Conference Secretary by the deadline is in the proper format. Resolutions not submitted in the proper format are referred back to the submitter by March 15 to be corrected and resubmitted by March 22.** Resolutions received after the ~~March 15~~ deadline shall be referred to the appropriate committee or similar body of the Annual Conference. They will be considered at the next year's Annual Conference and included in that year's Pre-Conference Journal.
 - c. The committee shall act on the resolution as offered and shall not offer its own amendments.
 - d. The Report of the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals may be an 'Order of the Day' the second full business day of Annual Conference.
 - e. The Committee on Resolutions and Appeals shall provide time for persons or organizations offering resolutions referred to the Committee to come before the Committee on Resolutions and Appeals to discuss their resolutions.