

VOTING RIGHTS OF CLERGY AND LAY MEMBERS TO SOUTH CAROLINA  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY CATEGORY AND BADGE COLOR GUIDE

**LAY MEMBERS**

BLUE BADGES

- Lay Professing Members elected by each charge
- Certified Lay Ministers assigned to a Charge
- Active Deaconesses & Home Missioners under SC Episcopal Appointment
- Conference Co-Directors of Lay Servant Ministries
- Conference Presidents of the United Women of Faith and MennMinistry
- Certified Lay Ministers assigned to a Charge
- Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay)
- President or representative of conference young adult organization
- Wesley Foundations/Fellowships Representative served by an appointed UM Clergy
- Diaconal Ministers
- Conference Co-Lay Leaders
- District Lay Leaders
- Conference College Student Organization Chair
- District Youth (between 12-17)
- District Young Adult (between 18-30)
- Elected Lay Conference Officers (if lay)
- Wesley Fellowship Directors (if lay)
- Conference Young Adult Organization Chair.

Lay Members (Blue badges) may vote on all business matters before the Annual Conference including election of lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference and constitutional amendments. If a Lay Member is a sitting member of the Board of Ordained Ministry they may also vote on matters before the Clergy Session.

**FULL CLERGY MEMBERS**

WHITE BADGE

- Active Elders in Full Connection
- Active Deacons in Full Connection
- Elders on Personal/Medical Leave of Absences
- Retired Elders in Full Connection
- Retired Deacons in Full Connection
- Deacons on Personal/Medical Leave of Absences

White badges may vote on all matters before the Annual Conference and Clergy Session. (Note: Full Clergy Members on Involuntary Leave may not elect Delegates to General & Jurisdictional Conference. They will receive white badges this year since delegate elections are not taking place in 2026.)

**LICENSED CLERGY MEMBERS**

YELLOW BADGES

- Active Associate Members
- Retired Associate Members
- Provisional Members
- Full Time Local Pastors (appointed)
- Part Time Local Pastors (appointed)
- Retired Supply Local Pastors (appointed)

Licensed Clergy who have completed all of their educational requirements may vote on all business matters before the Annual Conference including clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, but not matters before the Clergy Session and not constitutional amendments. ¶35 of [The Discipline](#), defines which local pastors may vote for General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference delegates.) Licensed Clergy who have not completed all of their educational requirements may vote on all business matters before the Annual Conference, but not: clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference, constitutional amendments or matters before the Clergy Session. (Note: Yellow badges are also issued to local pastors who have not completed their education this year since delegate elections are not taking place in 2026.)

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS AND RECOGNIZED RETIRED LOCAL PASTORS**

RED BARADGE

- Affiliate Members
- Recognized Retired Local Pastors (not appointed & technically Laity)

Red badges have the privilege of voice but not vote in the Annual Conference.

**OTHER CLERGY AND OTHER LAITY**

PURPLE BADGES

- Pulpit Supply (Laity)
- Other Annual Conference Clergy Serving in SC
- Other Methodist Denomination Clergy Approved to Serve in SC
- Other Non-Methodist Denomination Clergy Approved to Serve in SC
- Certified Lay Ministers not assigned to a charge
- Certified Lay Ministers assigned to a Charge
- Persons Approved to be Licensed if appointed, but not now appointed (Laity)
- Honorably Located Clergy
- Alternate Lay Members elected by charges
- Certified Candidates (Laity)
- Clergy Spouses
- Guest and Other Visitors
- Exploring Candidates (Laity)

Other Clergy and Lay Persons (Purple badges) have no voice or vote in the Annual Conference. If an Alternate is to be seated in the place of a Lay Member and thus become the Lay Member with the right to speak and vote, that Alternate must obtain a new badge from the Registrar Table after approval by the district superintendent. OD,OE,OF OM & OP clergy retain their membership in their home conference or denomination. Honorably Located clergy have no conference membership.

**MEDIA MEMBERS ARE IDENTIFIED WITH PINK BADGES**

**2020/2024 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE:** The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in conflict with the Discipline of The United Methodist Church, provided that in exercise of its powers, each annual conference shall act in all respects in harmony with the policy of The United Methodist Church with respect to elimination of discrimination. (§604.1)

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:** The procedure of the Annual Conference shall be governed by the following in the order listed: The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, The Standing Rules of the Annual Conference, The Rules of Order of the preceding General Conference and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. (SR 1)

### **RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS**

#### **HANDLING A MOTION**

1. Member makes a motion.
2. Another member seconds the motion.
3. Chair states the question on the motion.<sup>1</sup>
4. Motion is pending and open for debate.<sup>2</sup>
5. Assembly decides on the motion: adopts/rejects.
6. Chair announces results of vote.

<sup>1</sup>Until the chair states the question, the maker of the motion has the right to modify the motion or withdraw it entirely. i.e. with the agreement of the Second.

<sup>2</sup>After three speeches for and three against, the question shall be put automatically. However, the chairperson or designated member presenting the report shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. (SR7)

#### **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LAW:**

- Only one question can be considered at a time; once a motion is before the assembly:
  1. Adopts or rejects.
  2. Or disposed in some other way.
- SECONDARY MOTION:
  1. Made and considered while the main motion is pending.
  2. Must be acted upon or disposed of before direct consideration of the main question can be continued.
- Subsidiary Motions can be amended except: Motion to "Postpone indefinitely", "Previous Question", or "Lay on the Table".
- In cases where there seems to be no opposition in routine business, time is saved by procedure of GENERAL CONSENT: example: "If there is no objection ...". If there is objection, chair states the question and allows debate and vote.
- AN AMENDMENT of the THIRD degree is not permitted.
- It is possible to introduce a "Substitute for the substitute" which CANNOT be amended, since it is a Secondary Amendment.

#### **TO SUBSTITUTE:**

- A substitute offered for a main motion or resolution (or paragraph), is a PRIMARY AMENDMENT and usually is in order ONLY when no other amendment is pending.
- HOWEVER, superseding this is GENERAL CONFERENCE RULE OF ORDER NO. 28 – "PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING BY SUBSTITUTION": Rule of Order No. 28 used when substitutes are offered for ORIGINAL Conference Reports of Boards, Committees, or Resolutions "even if amendments are pending, a substitute may be offered by any delegate moving that the same be substituted for the report, resolution, or amendment under consideration. The substitute shall be an alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main motion."
  1. Steps For GENERAL CONFERENCE RULE OF ORDER NO. 28:
    - a. Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution only, no amendments allowed.
    - b. Vote on substitute, if prevails by majority vote, becomes main motion.
    - c. Debate, amendment moves forward on main motion.
    - d. MAIN MOTION is voted upon with minimum of two speeches on each side of question.

#### **IMPROPER AMENDMENTS ARE THOSE ...**

1. not germane to the question.
2. merely making adoption of amended question equivalent to rejection of original motion.
3. making question identical, or contrary to, one previously decided during the same session.
4. proposing to change one of the forms of amendment (i.e. "to insert or add; to strike out and insert; to substitute") into another form.
5. having the effect of converting one parliamentary motion into another.
6. that strike out the word "Resolved" or other enacting words.
7. frivolous or absurd.
8. having incoherent wording or no rational purpose.
9. converting a primary amendment into an improper form.