

## GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE ELECTION

At the 2007 Iowa Annual Conference, the lay and clergy members will be electing delegates to the 2008 General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and reserves to those delegations.

As the chief legislative arm of the church, the General Conference meets once every four years to determine program emphases and budgets, review church law and the church's position on matters of social justice. It is the only body that can speak for the entire denomination.

The ten day meeting, set for April 23-May 2, 2008, in Fort Worth, Texas, will bring together approximately 1,000 delegates – half clergy and half laypersons – from around the world.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference, set for July 15-19, 2008, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will bring together delegates from the nine-state upper Midwest region. Members of this conference will elect bishops to fill vacancies within the region.

The Iowa Annual Conference will elect equal numbers of lay and clergy delegates to the General Conference, and additional delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, as well as reserve delegates. Those elected to the General Conference are automatically elected to the Jurisdictional Conference.

Those persons seeking election should carefully read the following procedures for election and note the following changes from previous elections:

- ⇒ Nominees are allowed a **250-word** biographical sketch.
- ⇒ There are **no write-in nominations** for this election.
- ⇒ All photographs and biographical sketches must be submitted to the Conference Secretary **electronically**. You can email those materials to [neys22@hotmail.com](mailto:neys22@hotmail.com), or send the material on a disk to: Sue Ney, 935 3<sup>rd</sup> St. E., Cresco, IA 52136.
- ⇒ The deadline for submitting materials is **February 1, 2007**.
- ⇒ There will be a maximum of **twelve ballots** for this election.

Nomination forms will be available from District Superintendents, the Conference Secretary, or from the Conference website ([www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org)). These must be signed by your District Superintendent, and then submitted to the Conference Secretary. This also must be completed by February 1, 2007.

Also included in this article are the guidelines for submitting petitions to the General Conference. If you wish Iowa Annual Conference need to have the petition to the Conference Secretary by February 1, 2007. If you wish to submit petitions directly to the General Conference, refer to the 2004 *Book of Discipline* ¶507.

### 1. Procedures for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the 2008 General

## **and Jurisdictional Conferences.**

### A. Qualifications.

- 1) The qualifications for clergy delegates and lay delegates are defined in The 2004 Book of Discipline, Article II, Article III, Article IV and Article V of The Constitution pages 31-33:

### B. Nominating Process

- 1) To become a delegate a person must submit the nomination materials, as defined below, to the superintendent of the district to which the nominee relates by February 1, 2007. The District Superintendent will confirm the eligibility of the nominee and send the nomination materials to the Conference Secretary.
- 2) Members of Conference are encouraged to continue a tradition of concern for inclusiveness in its elected delegation. Members of Conference are reminded that surveys and questionnaires are unable to reflect fully the qualifications of nominees and those nominees are not obligated to respond to such instruments.
- 3) Nominees should consider carefully their own abilities to give the necessary time and effort to prepare carefully for and to participate fully in the conferences.

### C. Nomination Materials

- 1) The Conference Secretary shall prepare a nomination form and distribute it to all district offices. The form shall ask for:
  - a. necessary personal data,
  - b. a **250-word (maximum length)** biographical sketch and statement of the nominee's position on critical issues facing the church,
  - c. a recent photo of the nominee, and
  - d. the signature of the nominee.
- 2) Nomination material received by February 1 shall be distributed by the Conference Secretary prior to Annual Conference by such print and **electronic methods** as s/he deems most effective.
- 3) Nominees are to limit promotional material to the 250-word sketches distributed by the Conference Secretary.
- 4) Because of stewardship issues, and in the interest of fairness for all nominees, mass mailings and other distribution of materials by nominees or their supporters is strongly discouraged.

### D. Balloting Procedures

- 1) The Conference Secretary or someone designated by the Conference Secretary shall coordinate the balloting process.
- 2) All nominees shall be assigned numbers and all voting shall be by the assigned numbers.
- 3) All voting must be on prepared ballots and must take place within the bar of the Conference.

- 4) Ballots shall be considered void if they have been marked with too few or too many selections; a ballot must contain only as many eligible names or numbers as there are delegates to be elected on that ballot.
- 5) A printed report of each ballot shall contain the names and assigned numbers of those nominees who received at least twenty-five valid votes and the number of votes each received.
- 6) The Bishop shall announce the results of each ballot and shall call immediately for another ballot, until all delegates and reserves have been elected.
- 7) A majority of all valid ballots shall be necessary for an election.
  - a. If more than the number to be elected at any one time receives a majority, those receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
  - b. In case of a tie on this occasion, those nominees with tying votes shall be declared not elected and shall become the only names to be voted on in a following and separate ballot.
- 8) If by the **twelfth ballot** all of the General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates have not been elected, then **on the twelfth ballot those receiving the highest votes shall be declared elected in order of the total votes received including the seven reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference.**

#### E. Delegation Meetings

- 1) Following election of the General Conference Delegation, including the first three alternates, the delegation will meet to select leadership for the delegation, select Legislative Committee assignments, set times and format for future meetings and share information.
- 2) Following election of the Jurisdictional Conference Delegation, including all alternates, the entire delegation will meet to elect two representatives to the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, set times and format for future meetings and share information.

## 2. Guidelines for Petitions to the 2008 General Conference

### A. Petitions submitted for Annual Conference Approval.

- 1) Persons or groups seeking Annual Conference endorsement for petitions must submit the petition to the Annual Conference Secretary by February 1, 2007. Petitions must originate or be sponsored by individuals or groups who are members of or related to the United Methodist Church in Iowa.
- 2) Each petition must be typed, double-spaced and on a separate sheet of paper.
- 3) Petitions should be checked for accuracy in spelling, terminology, punctuation and should be succinct, using as few words as possible.
- 4) For Disciplinary material, indicate proposed additions by double underlining and proposed deletions by single underlining.
- 5) After February 1, 2007, the Assistant to the Bishop will convene a meeting of the chairs of the following annual conference agencies to review the petitions for accuracy, duplication and compliance with Disciplinary guidelines: Boards of Ordained Ministry, Church and Society, Global Ministries, Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and Discipleship. In addition, the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Treasurer and the Annual Conference

Secretary will be included. The committee may refer the petitions to annual conference agencies for review but will not express an opinion on the subject nor change the substantive content of the petition.

- 6) The petitions will be printed in their entirety in the Pre-Conference Manual.
- 7) Petitions endorsed by the Annual Conference are sent by the Annual Conference Secretary to the General Conference Petitions Secretary for inclusion in the Advance Edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.
- 8) Petitions not approved by the Annual Conference may be submitted by individuals or groups directly to the General Conference Petitions Secretary, by the assigned date as set by General Conference.

B. For instructions on how to submit petitions for which Annual Conference endorsement is not sought (or which were not endorsed by the Annual Conference) please refer to 2004 Book of Discipline, par. #507