

Methodism 101: Week 6
Conferences and Committees
March 1, 2022

General Conference

- the body that sets official policy and speaks to the entire denomination.
- the highest legislative body of the United Methodist Church.
- revises the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions.
- can initiate amendments to the UMC Constitution.
- meets every 4 years.
- Council of Bishops can call a special session.
- Any congregation, conference, organization, or person can submit a petition to the General Conference.
- most legislation requires a simple majority to pass.
- approves the budget allocating apportioned funds.
- Between 600-1000 people, equal amounts of lay and clergy.

Jurisdictional Conferences/Central Conferences

- Jurisdictional Conferences** are only in the United States
- Northeastern, Southeastern, Northcentral, Southcentral, Western
- provide programs and leadership training events to support the annual conferences.
- meets every 4 years to elect bishops and select members of general boards and agencies
- Central Conferences** are only outside of the United States
- Africa, Central and Southern Europe, Congo, Germany, Northern Europe, Philippines, West Africa.
- Function in the same way as jurisdictional conferences.

Annual Conferences

- 1.) Regional Body
 - a.) United States has 54
 - b.) Africa, Europe, Philippines have 75
 - c.) We are part of the Western North Carolina Conference
- 2.) Organizational Unit
 - a.) Central office and professional staff that coordinate and conduct ministry and the business of the conference.
 - b.) Has conference boards, commissions, and committees
 - c.) Where clergy hold their membership
- 3.) Yearly Meeting (Annual Conference Sessions)
 - a.) Attended by equal number of laity and clergy.
 - b.) Worship, fellowship, conduct business

- c.) Annual reports, adopt future goals, programs and budgets, ordination, election of delegates to jurisdictional conference and general conference.
- d.) Bishop presides over these meetings

Districts

- smaller areas within an annual conference.
- overseen by a district superintendent.
- we are in the Yadkin Valley District.

Local Churches

- run by clergy and committees
- where laity hold their membership
- have special meetings called charge conference and church conference

Committees

- Church Council: envisions, plans, coordinates and implements the administration and ministry of the local church.
- Administrative Committees
 - PPRC/SPRC
 - Finance
 - Board of Trustees
- “Nurture” Committees
 - Discipleship
 - Mission
 - Evangelism
 - Etc.

Special Meetings

1.) Charge Conference

- a.) Governing body of a local church
- b.) Composed of all members of the church council
- c.) Directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council.
- d.) Evaluates mission and ministry
- e.) Sets clergy salaries
- f.) Recommends candidates for ordained ministry.

2.) Church Conference

- a.) A meeting in which all members of a local church are invited to attend and are extended the privilege of vote.

How would you describe the UMC decision making process?

If I were to expand this course, what should I add? What could I have removed?