



The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church
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Clergy and Lay Members of the 2019 Annual Conference,

We have had questions regarding voting at the 2019 Arkansas Annual Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to those questions as we prayerfully anticipate our gathering in Hot Springs.

There will likely be many opportunities to vote at Annual Conference 2019. **Only the votes of the official lay or alternate lay member elected at charge conference may be counted on the church or charge's behalf.** The vote cannot be transferred to someone else except by having another charge conference and selecting them as the lay member.

By way of review: every church or charge is allowed a set number of lay members and alternate lay members to vote at Annual Conference, depending upon the number of clergy eligible to vote who are serving in the congregation or charge. This set number balances the lay and clergy votes at Annual Conference.

Lay and Alternate Lay Members of Annual Conference from your church or charge are the church members elected at the charge conference meeting that took place in the fall. If there is uncertainty about who fills that role, please review your charge conference forms or call your district office.

To ensure each church is represented, it would be wise for clergy to contact lay and alternate lay members from the church or charge and ask them to confirm again that they will be able to attend for all days of the session. If there is a reason the lay member cannot attend one day, or even a portion of a day, ensure the alternate lay member is informed and will be present.

If the voting member or the alternate is no longer able to attend for whatever reason, I recommend contacting your District Superintendent as soon as possible and allow them to guide you through the next steps in electing a new lay or alternate lay member.

Thank you for your dedication in serving and your cooperation in this process.

Blessings,

Rev. Aubrietta Jones,

Secretary of the Annual Conference