

Brothers and Sisters of the Arkansas Annual Conference,

During the June 2-4, 2021 Arkansas Annual Conference, we will once again entertain resolutions and petitions as part of our business. However, par. 213.1 of our current Conference Standing Rules mandates that in order to be considered by the Annual Conference Session any resolution or petition must be included in the Pre-Conference Journal, which has a **March 15** deadline for submission. If you are considering submitting a resolution or petition to the annual conference, it **must be received by the Annual Conference Secretary by March 15** to be considered.

A resolution asks an organization or individual(s) to address an issue or to take action regarding an issue. Resolutions do not change the *Book of Discipline* and compliance cannot be enforced by any legal measure. For more information on resolutions to Annual Conference, including a worksheet/template for creating a resolution, go to www.arumc.org/ac2021/ and click on "Forms and Documents."

A petition asks the General Conference to make a change to the *Book of Discipline* or the *Book of Resolutions*. An affirmative vote on a petition at our Annual Conference means the petition will be sent from the Arkansas Annual Conference to a future General Conference. While petitions from UM members or groups must be in the hands of the Petitions Secretary no later than 230 days prior to the opening session of the General Conference (currently scheduled for August 29 - September 7, 2021), petitions from an annual conference have a 45-day deadline for submission to future General Conferences.

At the time of this writing a final decision on whether or not petitions will still be accepted for the postponed 2020 General Conference has not yet been made. Out of an abundance of caution, until or unless we hear otherwise we will accept petitions to General Conference at this year's annual conference as long as it is received by our own conference's March 15 deadline. For information on how to submit a petition, go to www.arumc.org/ac2021/ and click on "Forms and Documents."

Please note that any resolution or petition not offered by a Conference agency must be signed by at least ten lay and/or clergy members of the upcoming Arkansas Annual Conference Session. These signatures must be obtained before the proposed resolution or petition may be submitted to the Conference Secretary.

Blessings,

Rev. Clark Atkins

Secretary of the Arkansas Annual Conference