
A Called Church Conference to Consider a Motion for ¶2553 Disaffiliation

Agenda and Rules of Order

- I. Opening Prayer and Convening the Church Conference
- II. Organization of the Conference
 - A. Introduction of recording secretary and ballot counters
 - B. Presentation of the Agenda
 - C. Explanation of Who May Vote
- III. Presentation of Session Rules of Order (*vote*)
- IV. Proposed Motion for Consideration
 - A. Summary of the Discernment Phase
 - B. Summary Presentations For and Against Disaffiliation (up to 15 minutes each)
 - C. Discussion of the Standard Disaffiliation Agreement
 - D. Reading of the Motion

Motion: For reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church related to these issues that follow, we, the _____ United Methodist, under the authority of ¶2553 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, choose to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church, and in accordance with ¶2529 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* we authorize the church's Board of Trustees to act on the church's behalf to complete and implement the disaffiliation agreement with the Arkansas Conference Board of Trustees.
 - E. Consideration of the Motion
 - F. Vote
- V. Report of the Ballot
- VI. Next Steps If Motion is Approved
 - A. Church Trustees will work to complete the Standard Disaffiliation Agreement
 - B. Arkansas Annual Conference must vote to ratify the Disaffiliation Agreement
 - C. Options for Members who Wish to Remain United Methodist
 1. Transfer membership to other UM church
 2. Start a new UM church
- VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Organization and Rules of Order for the Called Church Conference to Consider Disaffiliation (§2553)

I. Organization of the Conference (no vote)

- A. The agenda as printed will guide tonight's meeting.
- B. Member of the church conference with voice and vote if present:
 - 1. *all professing members of the church (§248)*
 - 2. *the appointed clergy (elder or LP; intro to §246)*
 - 3. *any retired ordained ministers (Elders and Deacons) and retired diaconal ministers who have placed their membership in this charge conference (§246.2)*
 - 4. *any clergy in extension ministry who have placed their membership in this charge conference (§344.3)*
 - 5. *any deacons who have named this charge conference their secondary appointment (§331.5)*
 - 6. *Only these persons who are present and in person at this conference may vote. Others in attendance may observe but may not speak or vote.*
- C. All business will be conducted in accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
- D. Amendments, substitutions, or deferrals to the proposed motion for disaffiliation will not be considered, because a called session of a church conference can only deal with matters that are in harmony with the purpose stated in the call. (§246.7)

II. Session Rules of Order (Requires a vote)

- A. The Presiding Elder of this Church Conference will establish the bar of the conference. Only those with the right to vote may speak within the bar.
- B. No ballot other than the official ballot distributed upon registration will be accepted.
- C. *Robert's Rules of Order, 12th edition*, will be the procedural authority for the business session of this Church Conference when not in conflict with these Session Rules or *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.
- D. Points of Order may be raised by any voting member of the church conference, who must first cite the Session Rule, *The Book of Discipline*, or Robert's Rules of Order involved and then state the point as briefly and concisely as possible.
- E. Debate of the motion shall be limited to no more than five (5) two-minute speeches for the motion and five (5) two-minute speeches against. This limitation does not include persons inquiring about points of order or asking questions of clarification.
- F. Upon closure of the debate, those with the right to vote as previously mentioned will vote upon the disaffiliation motion using the written ballot provided at registration.
- G. The ballots will be collected and counted by the named ballot counters and results will be announced by the presiding elder during this meeting.