

2024 Arkansas Conference Annual Conference Vocabulary

ARUMC - Abbreviation for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Bishop Laura Merrill - Leader of the Arkansas Conference; presides over the business sessions of Annual Conference

District Superintendents - Clergy leaders of the Districts that make up our conference.

Appointive Cabinet - Made up of Bishop Merrill, Rev. Jim Polk, who is the Assistant to the Bishop, and the District Superintendents

Cabinet - The Appointive Cabinet plus Directors and the Conference Lay Leader

Laity - Members of the legislative body who are not Clergy

Clergy - Members of the legislative body who are Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastors serving in churches and ministries beyond the local church

Secretary of the Annual Conference - An officer of the Conference responsible for minutes, tellers, session rules, and other items that help order the Annual Conference session.

Pre-Conference Journal - The packet of information containing the conference agenda, resolutions, proposed legislation, committee and board reports, and other important information needed for voting members to prepare for Annual Conference.

Conference Journal - Published after the completion of Annual Conference; includes the conference agenda, legislation, statistics, minutes of Annual Conference, and a directory of clergy and laity present.

Plenary Session - The session of the conference where all the members are present, as opposed to the clergy session or the laity session.

Setting the Bar of the Annual Conference - Naming the area of the conference floor where members of the conference must be seated to be able to vote; the conference secretary sets this during the first plenary session.

Adoption of Agenda—Approval of the agenda as proposed in writing. Once it has been adopted, the conference follows only what is listed in the agenda, unless it is later amended.

The Floor of the Annual Conference—The area where conference members are seated and speak from microphones when recognized.

Session Rules - These rules only apply to the current annual conference session.

[Click here to review the current Session Rules](#)

Standing Rules - The set of rules that define our conference structure and guide our business throughout the year. These rules remain in effect until or unless modified by a future annual conference. [Click here to review the current Standing Rules](#)

Consent Calendar - Items that need conference approval but are not expected to require debate. These items are grouped together and voted on at the time they are listed on the agenda. Items can be removed from the consent calendar to be considered separately.

Voting Rights - [Click here to review the Voting Rights Chart](#)

Robert's Rules of Order - General Rules for a legislative body to abide by. This is what the Conference uses when not in conflict with Arkansas Conference Session Rules, Standing Rules, or The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

[Click here for a Simple Guide to Robert's Rules of Order](#)

[Click here for a Cheat Sheet to Robert's Rules of Order](#)

Moment of Personal Privilege - Time allotted to an individual or a group of individuals by the Conference Secretary for time to address the floor on something pertaining to the Conference.

Call to Question - Stop debate and begin to vote

Point of Order - Addressed from the Floor to the Bishop making sure Robert's Rules of Order are being followed

Daily Digest - The daily recap of the official events, happenings, and work of the Annual Conference electronically published at the end of the close of business each day of Annual Conference.

Ordination - The ceremony recognizing a person as a fully ordained clergy member of the United Methodist Church and the Arkansas Conference

Jurisdictional Conference—Held every four years (usually), the body that elects bishops and sets conference boundaries. The ARUMC is a part of the South Central Jurisdiction.

[Click here to learn more about the South Central Jurisdiction](#)

General Conference—Meets every four years (usually), the highest legislative body of the church, includes all conferences across the globe, and is the only body that “speaks” for the United Methodist Church.

Book of Discipline - Sometimes referred to as “The Discipline”, it contains the rules, doctrine, and structure of the United Methodist Church.

Social Principles- established by the General Conference, they speak to the issues in the contemporary world from a sound Biblical and theological foundation and are contained in the Book of Discipline.

BOM - The Board of Ordained Ministry proposes to work within the framework of the current Discipline of the United Methodist Church. The BOM is responsible for the process whereby persons enter into ministry. The process covers candidacy, licensing, ordination, membership and transfers. In addition to the process where person enter into ministry, the BOM also is charged with exiting, retirement and the gathering and publishing of memoirs.

CF&A - Conference Committee on Finance and Administration; this committee oversees the conference budget

ACCYM - Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries; the group of youth and adults who represent their local churches and districts on the conference level to plan events for youth such as Refuge, Veritas, Jr. and Sr. High Assembly and YSF fundraisers

YSF—Youth Service Fund-- A fund set up by youth, for youth to promote and support missions; raises money at youth events then awards grants with money raised to youth in local churches to do mission work