



## **Business Items @ Regional Conference**

### **Elections**

**Regional Superintendent/Chief Towel Carrier** – Although a vote was taken at Regional Conference on August 24, 2018, the Discipline outlines the fact that whenever two Districts merge, an election is to be held for the District/Regional Superintendent. With the Wisconsin District voting to join the GLR in March of 2019, and with the subsequent approval of this merger by the General Board in May of 2019, it is required that the Chief Towel Carrier be voted on again.

**Delegates to General Conference** – In this packet, you will find the names of those individuals who have been nominated by the GLR Nominating Team to serve as your General Conference delegates at General Conference 2020. The GLR has been assigned a total of 46 delegates to General Conference. In line with The Discipline, half of these individuals are ordained clergy and half of these individuals are laypersons. Each of the individuals nominated are “in good standing” in The Wesleyan Church and have agreed to serve in this capacity. During the merger discussions, the Chief Towel Carrier made a commitment to each of the existing (former) Districts that nominations to General Conference 2020 would be in line with what each (former) District would have been assigned as delegates from that (former) District. As an example, prior to merger, the former North Michigan District would have had a total of 10 delegates assigned to them for General Conference (five ordained clergy and five laypersons). Therefore, in the names being brought forth to the Regional Conference floor from the Nominating Team, there are a total of 10 individuals (five ordained and five laypersons) from the former North Michigan District. This practice was carried out for each of the five former Districts.

**Nominating Team Members** – In this packet you will find the names of those individuals who have been nominated to serve on the 2019-2020 Nominating Team. Each of the individuals nominated are “in good standing” in The Wesleyan Church and have agreed to serve in this capacity.

## Memorials

For those who are new to District/Regional Conference and perhaps new to The Wesleyan Church, it might be helpful to know that every four years Delegates gather from around the United States and Canada to conduct the business of the Church. One of the important aspects of this gathering is to consider memorials that are being brought to the General Conference body by (among other places) Regional/District Conferences. Quite often Memorials begin at the Local Church level. The GLR has chosen to put in motion what is called a “Conference Action Team” to assist in making sure the Memorial is in line with The Wesleyan Church’s constitution as stated in The Discipline and to assist Regional Conference Delegates by making a recommendation to the Delegates concerning the passing of a particular Memorial. (For those who want more information about the duties of the Conference Action Team, you can read them in The Discipline in paragraphs 1165 & 1168).

Delegates at Regional Conference 2020 will be asked to consider three different Memorials. These Memorials can be found in this packet, a brief explanation of each Memorial is offered here.

### Urban Missional Church

At the 2016 General Conference, a new designation for a church was considered and made. As the name indicates, the designation was an attempt to serve those churches that serve within the urban core of our major cities. Many of the delegates who passed the legislation at General Conference 2016 had a sense that this subject would come back on the table in 2020 simply to clean up the language and to make any adjustments that were deemed appropriate to make at that time. A group of pastors from throughout the GLR met to discuss the present Urban Missional Church distinction and to discuss possible adjustments. The Memorial being brought to GLR is a result of their work. There is a recommendation in changing how an “urban center” is defined, a recommendation that an Urban Missional Church can be either a developing church or an established church, and a recommendation in how USF is assigned to Urban Missional Churches. This Memorial is being recommended to you by the Conference Action Team.

### Membership

Also at General Conference 2016, a Memorial was passed concerning individuals who are members of a Local Church needing to indicate their commitment to remain a member each year (for the coming year). Two churches within the GLR came together and wrote a Memorial based on the fact that they believed this practice of having to “re-up” every year, did not serve members well. While there was great discussion concerning both sides of this issue by the Conference Action Team, in the end, the Conference Action Team voted not to recommend this Regional Conference Delegates. It should be clearly understood, however, that this is simply a recommendation. Regional Conference Delegates are free to vote as they see fit, regardless of the recommendation by the Conference Action Team.

### **Developing Church Status Addition**

Within The Wesleyan Church, there are basically two broad categories under which churches operate: Established Church and Developing Church. Although this is an oversimplification, typically a church plant begins as a Developing Church (paragraph 510 in The Discipline) and once they reach a certain place of health (as outlined in paragraph 518 in The Discipline) they can move into Established Church status. Unfortunately, many times a church ends up running it's "life cycle" and due to church decline, moves towards going back into Developing Church status. According to The Discipline... (paragraph 517:7)

(7) An established church may be reclassified by the district conference or the district board of administration as a developing church if such is recommended by the district superintendent and:

- (a) If its membership drops to twenty or fewer (cf. 1180:24; 1233:30;5320); or
- (b) If no new converts and/or believers' baptisms have been reported by the church within the previous two years; or
- (c) If no intentional investment of financial and human resources into the needs of those outside the church has been demonstrated within the two previous years; or
- (d) If it ceases to meet one or more of the other conditions set forth in 518:2–5 (cf. 4670).

This Memorial would add a fourth possibility to why a church might be brought back into Developing Church status. This Memorial is being recommended to you by the Conference Action Team.