

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

On March 19, 2020, the General Board of Administration of The Wesleyan Church made the decision decisions based on the COVID-19 reality presently being experienced in North America.

Paragraph 1530 of The Discipline gives the General Board the authority to declare a “state of emergency” and in so doing, change the date/time of General Conference. So, they did that, in their case, they chose to postpone General Conference until sometime in the late Spring of 2021. The exact dates of General Conference 2021 were released the evening of April 21, and have been officially set for June 13-16, 2021.

They also referenced paragraphs 1820, 1755, and 1605 and voted that those serving in positions elected by General Conference would continue to serve until 30 days after the adjournment of General Conference 2021.

In like fashion, paragraph 1112 & 1115 of The Discipline gives the RBA the authority necessary to change the date and time of Regional Conference.

Given the precedence set by the General Board and in consultation with the General Superintendent, the RBA voted unanimously on April 6th to cancel the business portion of Regional Conference 2020. We will not be coming together in one place as originally planned.

As it turns out, we subsequently learned the building we were planning to use @ Wheaton College would not be made available to us due to the campus shutting down through the end of July. So that all worked out nicely.

In accordance with the precedence set by the General Board in terms of General Board members continuing to serve until 30 days after the next General Conference and in accordance with paragraph 1262 in The Discipline, the RBA further voted that the present RBA members as well as the officers of the GLR will continue to serve in their present positions until the rise of Regional Conference 2021.

In short, Regional Conference is being re-Envisioned.

If you are an ordained elder in the GLR, you are asked to keep the morning of June 22 on your calendar as a time when we will all come together VIRTUALLY. Plans are already in the making for us to continue to build momentum for the vision God has for us as a Region.

Like Regional Conference, if you're an ordained minister, this event will be required for you to attend, but the great news is that the entire event will last shorter than most of us would spend to drive to Wheaton one way. So, we're taking MUCH less of your time and if you know me or are getting to know me, then you know that we're

going to do everything in our power to make it an enjoyable, meaningful and sharable virtual time together.

BTW... for those who are interested, the Discipline in paragraph 3070 subparagraph 5 gives the right for the RBA to vote on ordination candidates in those rare occasions where Regional Conference cannot take place or in between Regional Conferences. So, the ordination candidates who have been recommended by the Ordination Committee of the RBMD will be voted on at the RBA meeting in May and we will have two ordination services in September. One on September 13 @ Lennon, MI and the other on September 27 at Daybreak Church in the greater Grand Rapids Area.

So, one last time, the business portion of Regional Conference has been canceled, but Regional Conference-Re Envisioned will take place in the morning of Monday, June 22nd.

For what it's worth, there are at least 10 Districts who have already made this decision and are going down this road.

Now, let's move to subject matters that touch you even closer to home.

LOCAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

In consultation with the General Superintendent and with his full permission, the RBA further voted on April 6th to empower each local church, [in consultation with the chief towel carrier](#), to cancel their Local Church Conference for 2020.

If the Sr. Pastor, along with the Local Board of Administration votes to do so, you are allowed to request the cancelation of your Local Church Conference for 2020. You are NOT being required to cancel your LCC, you are being allowed to if you would like to.

If you want to cancel your LCC you would need to do the following things:

Have your LBA or its equivalent vote to cancel your LCC.

Reach out to me and let me know of your desire to do so. I promise that in 95% of the cases I will get back to you within 24 hours with an answer for you. Except in very unusual situations, I would assume that I will be granting the requests that come my way. All you need to do is write me at cconrad@thegl.org and ask for permission to cancel, once your LBA or its equivalent has voted to do so.

If you cancel your LCC, your board members may continue to serve on the board. However, if you have term limits or if you have board members that need to, for whatever reason, cycle off the LBA, [the remaining LBA members are empowered to recommend a replacement LBA board member who will serve until the rise of the next LCC in the Spring of 2021.](#)

CHURCH BUDGETS

Also in consultation with the General Superintendent, the RBA voted unanimously to, for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, authorize LBA's the power to pass the church budget in those cases where the church budget is typically taken to the LCC for their approval through a vote.

So again, your LBA or its equivalent is empowered to pass the church budget for this coming fiscal year. Your LBA is further empowered to change the budget during the fiscal year in those cases where economic realities or other factors make it prudent to make changes to the church budget mid-year. Again, no vote of the congregation is necessary during this time.

If you have any questions about these things, feel free to write me and we'll do our best to respond to you as soon as possible.

All the "official" documentation for what I've just shared with you can be found on our website under "Events" and "Regional Conference."