



Dear Wonderful Pastors and Leaders of the GLR,

My guess is, you've done it! Perhaps multiple times. Most pastors have.

You've read the sufferings that Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 11:22, the sufferings he has endured... and after reading it you've said... "Well Paul, try leading through a global pandemic, a politically polarizing season, and the racial tensions heightened by the murder of George Floyd. Try leading through seasons where people are more interested in fighting for their rights to wear a mask or not wear a mask instead of loving those around them and doing what love demands. Try leading during a time when people are much more concerned about their convenience rather than their convictions?"

The truth is pastors and leaders;... that is one of the MANY reasons why I am SO PROUD OF YOU!! You have led during an unprecedented time. You were so well thought of by your Heavenly Father that He knew He could trust you to live and lead during this season. He knew He could trust you to lead not in the flesh, but in the power of Holy Spirit!

So, to you amazing pastors and leaders, I have a few things to communicate to you...

1. Most of you have already heard that back in November the General Board voted to again postpone General Conference until May of 2022.
2. In like manner, the Regional Board of Administration unanimously voted to cancel our Regional Conference in 2021. There are a few factors that went in to making this decision:
 - a. The lack of business items that need to be covered (there are no memorials to deliberate and vote about since there is no General Conference).
 - b. We cannot predict today what the COVID numbers will be doing on June 11th, 2021 - the date of Regional Conference.

- c. We want to be the best stewards of both the money you send to us (USF) and of your time.
3. Also, like last year, the RBA has unanimously voted to give each church the right to make a decision concerning their Local Church Conference (LCC) (whether to have it or cancel it) based on what is right in their context. We assume many of you will go forward with your LCC based on significantly lower COVID numbers in your area. We are also aware that your church may find itself in the middle of a COVID “hot spot” and therefore will chose not to meet. We trust each local church to make the culturally correct decision. If you would like to dialogue with one of us on the GLR staff more about this, feel free to reach out to us, we are here to serve you and to help you discern if that would be helpful for you.
4. If you happen to be up for a pastoral vote this year, please see the attached document and again, please reach out to us if you have ANY questions. We are here to serve you!

Again, if we can serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out and let us know. We are here to serve you the best we can.

Believing in you,

Chris Conrad

AUTHORIZATION TO POSTPONE A DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Whereas, Districts need to make plans concerning 2021 District Conferences;

Whereas, It is reasonable to think that travel restrictions and social distancing will remain in place in the foreseeable future due to the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, The General Board has established precedent in moving the General Conference to 2022 in hopes of getting beyond the current pandemic; and

Whereas, Paragraph 1112 of *The Discipline* grants the district board of administration latitude concerning district conferences during times of emergency:

1112. Annual Session. The district conference shall meet annually at a place chosen by the district board of administration and at a time as decided upon by the General Superintendent in cooperation with the district board of administration (1233:6; 1935:28). The district secretary shall notify in writing all ministerial voting members, pastoral charges, and nonvoting members of the time and the place at least sixty days before the scheduled opening.

Whenever an emergency shall require a change in the plans adopted, the district board of administration may declare that such an emergency exists and authorize the necessary changes.

Resolved, That district boards of administration have the power and authority during this time of emergency to postpone the gathering of their district conferences until 2022 if they deem it in the best interest of their delegates specifically and the surrounding communities at large.

GENERAL SECRETARY
Janelle Vernon

General Board

Adopted

Not Adopted



Pastoral Vote 2021

Due to the COVID-19 crisis presently being experienced in North America, a special provision is being made for those pastors who were up for their pastoral vote following an already-held evaluation.

In consultation with the chief towel carrier, Local Boards of Administration may proceed in one of three ways:

1. Postpone vote until the spring of 2022
2. Conduct the vote via email and mail-in poll. Individuals would be required to indicate their name on some portion of the ballot so that the LBA secretary can confirm that the individual is member in good standing with the local Wesleyan Church. If desired, there could be a two-step process where the LBA secretary validates the ballot and then other individuals actually count the "yes" and "no" portion of the vote. A two-week notice should be given to all members that a vote for the Sr. Pastor is taking place either through email or "snail-mail" ballots, or both. This announcement could be made via live-streaming services.
3. Wait until gatherings are legally allowed and conduct the Local Church Conference (LCC) as normal.

To proceed with either #1 or #2 above, please send an email to cconrad@theglrl and Chris will get back in touch with you promptly concerning proceeding.

Please remember to also send in the voting documentation that is also attached to this email.

Feel free to contact the GLR office if you have any questions/concerns.



Pastoral Vote 2021

Due to the COVID-19 crisis presently being experienced in North America, a special provision is being made for those pastors who were up for their pastoral vote following an already-held evaluation.

There are three provisions available to you as it related to Pastoral Votes. In consultation with the Chief Towel Carrier, the Local Board of Administration can proceed in one of the following ways:

1. Postpone Vote until the spring of 2022
2. Conduct the vote via email and mail-in poll. Individuals would be required to indicate their name on some portion of the ballot so that the LBA secretary can confirm that the individual is member in good standing with the local Wesleyan Church. If desired, there could be a two-step process where the LBA secretary validates the ballot and then other individuals actually count the “yes” and “no” portion of the vote. A two-week notice should be given to all members that a vote for the Sr. Pastor is taking place either through email or “snail-mail” ballots, or both. This announcement could be made via live-streaming services.
3. Wait until gatherings are legally allowed and conduct the Local Church Conference (LCC) as normal.

To proceed with #1 or #2 above, please send an email to Chris at Cconrad@thegl.org and he will get back in touch with you promptly concerning how to proceed.

To proceed with #3 send additional information below.

If the LBA chooses to go forward with either the 2nd or the 3rd option above, please remember to also send in the voting documentation to Shareen at sbradley@thegl.org or office@thegl.org for our records.

Feel free to contact the GLR office if you have any questions/concerns. Email office@thegl.org or call and leave a voicemail and our staff will get back to you.

Voting Procedures

Two Ways to Conduct the Vote

(All votes are by secret ballot - no hand vote or voice vote qualify)

1. Have a Local Church Conference, explain the procedure, and give out the ballots. After they have been marked, have them collected and counted (usually while the conference waits) and announce the results.
2. Have a ballot box available during the services, with 2 designated people by the ballot box giving out the ballots, checking off names on the member list as they vote, and monitoring the box the entire time. Results are to be communicated to the membership as soon as possible. (This procedure almost always results in more people voting).

Procedures for the Vote

- A public announcement is to be given at least 2 times prior to the vote, the first one not less than one week before the appointed time. (The vote may be taken on the same day as the 2nd announcement).
- All ballots are to be prepared ahead of time. A suggested ballot is:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I vote to give our pastor an extended call (or 2 / 4yr)
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I vote to not give an extended call to our pastor.

→ *This is just a sample. Be sure to insert the correct LBA recommended length of call.*

- Only members shall count in the official final vote tally. Many churches, however, also take a “friend” vote which is attenders, but non-members. This gives a broader reading of all who attend the church. If you decide to do this, you will need two colors of ballots to distinguish between the official votes and unofficial votes.
- Those voting need to be informed of the LBA recommendation of the type of call (extended, 4-year, etc.). If a ballot box is used a sign needs to be posted by the box or included on the ballots of the recommended call. If voting is done at a conference, this must be announced. (This is not a time to verbally evaluate or “discuss” the pastor. If there are issues to be dealt with, this should be done prior to the voting with the LBA and the pastor and/or regional superintendent).
- A favorable vote (which is a majority of the total members voting) is needed for a pastoral call to be renewed.
- Immediately following the vote, the vice chair should verbally notify the pastor of the results. However, within 24 hours, the vice chair needs to submit, in writing, the results of the vote to the pastor, along with the salary package amount for the coming year.
- Immediately following the vote, the vice chair should also notify the Great Lakes Region of the results of the vote. Please email that information to office@theqlr.com.
- If the vote is favorable, the pastor will notify the LBA by phone and in writing, of a decision of whether or not to accept the call within 7 days following the written notification of results.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are allowed if a member cannot attend because of confining illness, required employment or necessary out-of-town travel or seasonal residency. Conditions for an absentee ballot are:

1. The member must obtain a ballot from the local church secretary, identical to the ballots to be used at the session and submit the marked ballot prior to the vote in a sealed envelope identified with the name of the absent member.
2. The secretary must certify the envelope as being submitted by a person he/she gave a ballot to.
3. Absentee envelopes will be opened at the voting session, without inspection, and be placed with the other ballots prior to tallying.

If you have questions, please contact the Great Lake Regional office – 616.827.9450

Another Idea for Drive-up in person vote:

Announce 2 weeks in advance the date and time

There would be two stations

First station: The person at this station checks them in and gives the appropriate ballot (member or non-member).

Second station: drop off ballot in the ballot box

After the allotted time, two persons count and announce the results.

Vote Results:

Date:

Church:

Vice-Chair Contact if there is a question:

Pastor:

Type of Call: (Extended, 4 year or 2 year)

Vote Results:

Members

Non-Members

Ballot Sample

- 1. This ballot is made for an Extended Call Change the wording for the Call the members will be voting on.*
- 2. Suggestion, make Member and Non-Member ballot different color for ease of sorting.*
- 3. This same wording/ ballot can be used for an email vote. Send wording, include deadline for response.*

____ Yes, I vote to give our pastor an extended call

____ No, I vote to not give an extended call to our pastor.