

## **Organizational Motion (2023 Annual Conference Session)**

1. This is a Special Session of the Upper New York Conference held on March 25, 2023.
2. To accommodate the limited agenda of this special session and to be good stewards of conference resources, this Special Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference will be held by remote communication via an online video platform consistent with New York State's Religious Corporation Law, section 28.
3. For all purposes, this electronically conducted meeting is deemed to be the equivalent of an in-person meeting in accordance with applicable New York State law.
4. The bar of the Annual Conference shall contain all conference members who log in by electronic device or phone through the secure login information for this Special Session provided by the office of the Conference Secretary of the Upper New York Conference.
5. Members of the Annual Conference are responsible for ensuring that all necessary technology on the member's side of the meeting is in proper working order prior to the meeting.
6. The roll call of attendance shall be taken from the login to the secure online meeting.
7. To maintain an open meeting, the Special Session of Annual Conference will be livestreamed and recorded for playback.

### Agenda and Rules of Order

8. The published agenda available on the Annual Conference website shall be the official agenda for this Special Session of Annual Conference. Questions about the agenda may be directed to the Assistant to the Bishop.
9. Holy Conferencing affirms our covenant with God and one another. At any time during the proceedings, the bishop may call for a moment of discernment and prayer before a vote is taken.
10. No reports will be received for this Special Session of Annual Conference.
11. The session shall be governed by the rules of General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Roberts Rules of Order 11<sup>th</sup> edition shall govern all procedural questions where the rules of General Conference cannot be applied.
12. Securing the floor: Conference members wishing to be recognized to speak to the Conference shall use the "Get Recognized" feature in the GNTV voting system website. They will be asked to provide name, gender, status as clergy or laity, race/ethnicity, and their reason for the request to complete the "Get Recognized" form.

Upon completion of the form their request will be placed in a queue to await recognition to speak by the bishop according to the rules of order. Upon being recognized to speak they will be given the floor and able to unmute their microphones. At this time, they should speak to the request for which they were recognized.

13. No person shall speak more than once upon the same question and shall be limited to not more than three minutes, except the maker of the motion or the chairperson of the agency submitting the motion, who shall have up to five minutes to open and three minutes to close debate.
14. No amendments may be made to any of the legislation that will be on the agenda for this Special Session of Annual Conference.

#### Conference Membership

15. Lay members are those specified by the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶32, Article I, and ¶602.4. The election of lay equalization members, as required in ¶32, Article I, and ¶602.4 (i.e., “the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference”) was determined according to the *Rules for Determining and Selecting Lay Members to the Annual Conference*, approved by the Annual Conference May 31, 2012 (i.e., “[t]he Chair of the Rules Committee shall create a prioritized list of potential nominees to serve as Equalization Lay Members...This list, with reserves if it exceeds the number of Equalization Lay Members needed as determined by the Conference Secretary, and reserves beyond that number, shall be published and distributed by the Conference Secretary with other pre-conference materials, and incorporated by reference into the Conference Secretary’s Organizational Motion so that these nominees to serve as Equalization Lay Members (and Reserve Equalization Lay Members) can be duly nominated and elected as a first order of business of the Annual Conference” ). Per conference rules, the election of lay equalization members will be accomplished with the adoption of the organizational motion.
16. Clergy entitled to vote are those specified by the *2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶602, subject to the limitations contained in the same paragraph.

#### Publications

17. The Daily Proceedings from this Special Session of Annual Conference will appear in the *Upper New York Conference Journal/Yearbook*, that will be published following the October 14, 2023, Special Session of Annual Conference.